

The Almanian

serving Alma College since 1907

www.newmedia.alma.edu/almanian

College's value ranking plummets

KRISHA LARSON
Staff Writer

Every year *U.S. News and World Report* publishes national rankings on colleges and universities. The rankings concentrate on the entire academic experience and a few categories that focus on one specific area of college. Again this year, Alma College made the lists in three categories, finishing almost as well last year.

Alma College maintained its ranking in the top 113 liberal arts schools in tier two for America's Best Colleges again this year. For the least debt to students upon graduation, Alma was strong again this year ranking 11th, but this year the College took a plummet in the best value category and finished 40th.

U.S. News and World Report offers this ranking to achieve the goal of providing students with a good starting point when searching for a college. However, it should be taken into consideration that although the results are based on widely accepted indicators of excellence, they do leave out several important aspects of the college experience and are calculated solely on the average.

The variables used for the general ranking of America's Best Colleges are: a peer assessment consisting of a survey completed by college officials across the nation on other college's academic excellence, the proportion of students returning to the school the following year, faculty resources including class size, the students past academic achievements such as ACT/SAT scores, acceptance rate, and the alumni giving rate.

"The different variables that are looked at don't give a total picture. They have a number of variables that count toward the academic quality," says Alma College President Sandra Tracy. Regarding the entire college experience, President Tracy also states, "it doesn't tell you as a first year student what your experiences will be."

U.S. News and World Report America's Best Colleges rankings show the top 52 liberal arts schools in rank, and then schools are placed in the second, third, or fourth tiers simply by alphabetical order. Finishing as well as last year, Alma finished in the second tier putting us in good company with excellent schools from across the nation. Also in the second tier were three other MIAA schools: Albion, Hope, and Kalamazoo.

The Least Debt category considers the average amount of debt a student has upon graduating. Alma ranks 11th this year, dropping only two places from last year.

See RANKINGS page 3

Student Congress restructures, plans 2002-03 goals

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

Over the past few weeks, the 2002-2003 Student Congress has been engaged in restructuring of responsibilities, but now they are ready to set and accomplish some goals. Newly elected Student Congress President, Robyn Paige (04), said, "We're still just getting things rolling."

Despite that comment, the Student Congress has already received three new constitutions from student organizations that wish to become formal student organizations. The Alma College Scrabble Club, a brand new organization, has already applied, as has the Residence Hall Association, which spent a lot of last year drafting their constitution. The Amnesty International is attempting to make a comeback as well.

All three organizations await the results of the vote on each of their constitutions, which are currently under review. Paige said that a few other groups have considered submitting new constitutions as well. If the constitutions are adopted then the new organization will have a year before they will be able to request money from the Student Congress budget.

Tim Throm (04), Vice President of Student Congress, whose duties include policy enforcement and constitutional review, said, "We are currently hiring a

webmaster that will be responsible for maintaining and updating the newly established Student Congress website on a regular basis."

Paige also said that last year's Student

and distribution of student activity fees, such as giving money to student organizations, and making sure students have a voice and presence on the various community governance committees.

Paige said, "Student Congress is the student's two-way link to everything on campus." Every formal student organization can send representatives to the meetings, and often is required to if the organization uses student funds. Also, Student Congress representatives are chosen and assigned to different committees all over the campus, thereby giving students a voice in just about everything that takes place.

You do not have to be a member of Student Congress to make your voice heard at any of their meetings. All students are welcome to attend the Student Congress meetings that are held on Mondays at 6:30 p.m., usually in SAC 113. All student organizations, whether they are official or not, are encouraged to voice their opinions as well.

Paige said, "We are a resource for all of those student organizations." All of this remains part of her belief that this year's Student Congress should try to allow every student to have more knowledge about what

types of goals and plans the Student Congress is undertaking.

She is also very thankful that last year's Congress left them in such good shape, especially with regards to the budget.

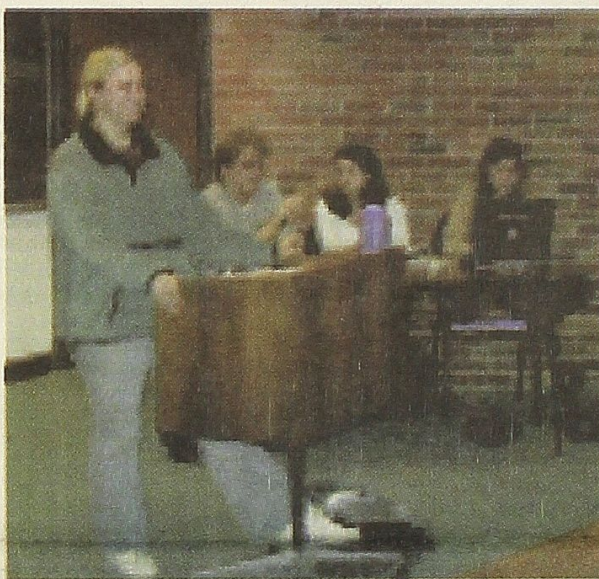


Photo by Melanie Szweczyk

Robyn Paige (04), Tim Throm (04), Svetlana Kobzar (04), and Lisa Miller (03) lead the Student Congress.

Congress members had a strong hand in the idea of the Coffeehouse.

These are just a few examples of some of the tasks that Student Congress does throughout the year. Specifically, their main responsibilities remain the handling

Big Brothers/Big Sisters hosts recruiting event

AMANDA BAUSHKE
Staff Writer

In 1903 a man named Irvin Westheimer saw a young boy and his dog looking through trash cans for food. He introduced himself to the boy and bought him a meal. Later he met the boy's family and became his mentor. The idea for Big Brothers/Big Sisters was born.

On Thursday evening Alma hosted a Big Brothers/Big Sisters event at the Service Learning house. It was part of a program called Bigs for a Day. Alma college students went through 12 hours training course, and then with the Littles for an hour.

The purpose of the event was to try to encourage people interested in volunteering to take the first step and apply. It was also an opportunity for volunteers to meet with the unmatched children that are involved in the program.

In the Gratiot county Big Brothers/Big Sisters program there are currently 33 unmatched children. "I would like to see that number go down to zero," said Jason Fox. See SERVICE page 2

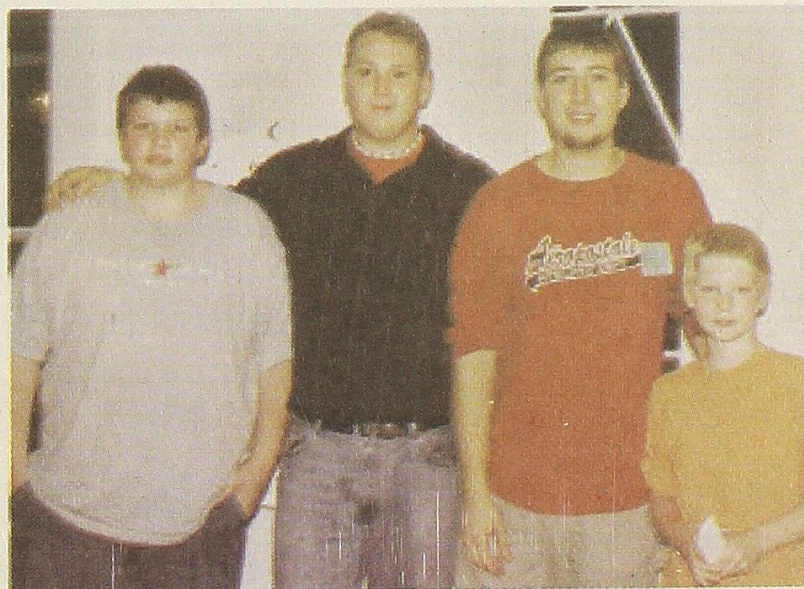


Photo by Dan Joyce

Jeff Ballinger (05) and Brett Zubeck (04) spend time with Gratiot County youth at the Service Learning house.

In This Issue

Merit award
elimination
page 3

Making sense of
rankings
page 5

Arizing rocks campus
page 7

Womens soccer
wins big
page 12

NEWS

Overseas spring terms filling quickly

WENDY WOHLFEILL
Staff Writer

Studying in an overseas country can be the most exciting and rewarding time for a college student. For this reason, Alma College offers a number of travel-spring terms that venture to different countries for weeks of learning and experience. Because these trips are very popular, many students may soon face disappointment when deadlines are not met. Important cut-off dates are quickly approaching and spots are filling up rapidly. It is recommended that anyone interested get the needed information to make a decision and sign up as soon as possible.

Ute Stargardt, professor of English and overseas spring term coordinator, states "We are trying to make students aware. If they want to go they need to get their act together in a hurry because deadlines are approaching."

Students who are interested are "directed to the glass case on first floor SAC across from the Provost's Office" said Stargardt. Here students can find needed information and handouts about the courses offered.

This spring there are seven classes that will be traveling to other countries. Marc Setterlund, associate professor of psychology, will be taking a class to Europe, where they will travel to countries such as Austria and Germany while studying psychology. Melvin Nyman, professor of mathematics and computer science, will be educating a math class while visiting the United Kingdom. John Arnold, professor of German, will be offering a service learning class in Poland where students will be "reconstructing a Jewish graveyard and traveling to Holocaust sites during the weekend," said Stargardt.

A research class will be venturing to England with Patrick Furlong, professor of history, where they will do research on World War II. James Mueller, associate professor of economics, will be taking an economics class to Ecuador where they will study the economic structure of South America. Julie Arnold, associate professor of French, will lead a course heading to Quebec of Canada. Stargardt comments, "This course is interesting in that students who do not know the language can do the work in English. This way students who don't know French can go and still enjoy it."

When asked about making decisions on which course to take, Stargardt comments that "the best way to know if the course is best fit for the student would be to sit down and talk with the professor about the trip."

Another unknown detail to most students about this program is the money that can be received to help finance these trips. "If students qualify for financial aid, or have a general financial need, then they may qualify for financial aid for this trip. There are grants that will go to about fifty students and they are in the neighborhood of five hundred dollars each," stated Stargardt. The deadline for these applications is October 31st, and they can be picked up at the Financial Aid Office.

With these numerous deadlines approaching, students should work quickly at deciding if they want to participate in an overseas course. When asked about student experiences on these trips, Stargardt said, "The response of the students that do go is generally very favorable and they all feel that they get an awful lot for their money's worth."

SERVICE from page 1

(04). Fox has been a Big Brother for the past "Being a Big is the best thing that I've done since being at Alma. It's better than being a part of Greek life. It's better than any class I've taken. It's nice to be able to make that big of an impact on someone's life—hopefully for the better."

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a program that matches an older role model, someone that is not a friend or parent, with a child. The mentor is there to share experiences with the child and guide them in the right direction. The mentor and the child get together to watch movies, play games or sports, cook, do homework, just hang out, or any of a number of things. The purpose is for the child to have someone there for them. Volunteers go through a screening process before they are matched up with a child, and the staff works hard to make the perfect match.

At the event on Thursday night the Gratiot chapter received 10 applications. Fox felt that they had a good turnout for the event. "It was nice to see that many volunteers. That was the first time that I have gone to an event on campus where more volunteers showed up than the number of people that the event was for."

On Halloween the Bigs will be taking the children through the dorms. If enough people show interest they can have more on-campus programs, but they need participation in order to have these events. Fox said, "If we tell the kids that they get to meet with a college student and they get here and we have to match two kids per college student, it disappoints the children."

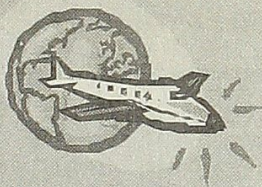
Fox feels that Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a great program for education majors to get involved with. "You learn patience quickly." Students that are interested in getting involved with the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program can contact Sara Nelson at (517) 463-3434.



Photo by Dan Joyce

Chase Leonard of Alma attended the Big Brothers/Big Sisters event on Thursday at the Service Learning house. Leonard is one of 33 children in Gratiot County awaiting a Big Brother/Big Sister.

ESCAPE the BUBBLE Study Abroad



Application Deadline:
October 5th for Australia & Scotland
October 15th for all others

Financial Aid

Consult with a financial aid advisor to determine exact amounts of financial aid that will apply. Exact amounts vary by award type and destination.

Foreign Language Not Required

You would learn more about your own language, yourself and open new cognitive boxes by learning a second language. You can, however, learn Aussie, Kiwi, Scottish or the Queen's English.

Earn Transfer Credits Toward Your Major, Minor

Studying abroad will probably NOT delay your graduation because credits count toward your degree requirements.

Meet "DR" and "S" Requirements

Studying abroad during a winter semester may fulfill an S course requirement.

Depending on program dates, enrollment may fulfill one of the two Spring Term requirements.

GET OUT OF TOWN

Contact the Office of International Education Lower level of the library or call
x7055

Local/State/Nation

West Nile infects two Michigan children

KRISTEN BROWN
Staff Writer

In Grand Rapids last Thursday, the Michigan Department of Community Health reported that two children have contracted the West Nile Virus. The nine-year old boy and six-year old girl were in the hospital earlier this month for three days. These two cases were added to the list of confirmed patients making a total number of 219 recorded in Michigan. There have been eleven deaths caused by West Nile in the state of Michigan thus far.

West Nile is an infection of the brain caused by West Nile virus. People get West Nile from the bite of a mosquito that is infected with West Nile virus. The Michigan Department of Agriculture reports that the West Nile virus is not transmitted from person to person. The mosquitoes become infected with West Nile virus when they feed on infected birds that carry the virus in their blood. After ten to fourteen days, the mosquito's salivary glands become infected and the infected mosquitoes are then able to transmit the virus to humans and other animals while biting them to take blood.

Most of the people who are infected with West Nile have no symptoms; however, some may become ill between three to fifteen days after the bite of an infected mosquito. About one in four infected persons will have mild illness with fever, headache, and body aches. People who are more severely infected may have headaches, high fever, stiff neck, disorientation, coma, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis. In the most severe cases, death may occur.

As of yet, there is no specific treatment for West Nile. Although there is no human vaccine available there are certain steps people can take to dramatically reduce the risk of contracting the virus.

Health officials recommend the following precautions:

- Maintain window and door screening to keep mosquitoes out of buildings.
- Apply insect repellent to exposed skin or clothing. An effective repellent will contain the active ingredient DEET.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever in mosquito-filled areas.

The Department of Community Health promises to continue to work closely with physicians, infection control practitioners, hospital epidemiologists, local health departments and laboratory directors to identify possible cases of human disease in Michigan. This active surveillance will hopefully enhance rapid detection of possible cases.

West Nile virus was first identified in Michigan at the end of August 2001. The majority of the reported cases have occurred in the elderly, with a small percentage in children. Dr. Anderson, associate professor of EHS states, "West Nile effects people with complicated immune systems...people whose bodies can't fight the virus." The chance of a college age student experiencing severe effects is extremely low. Adds Dr. Kay Grimnes, professor of biology, "This is something that is very rare in the county; however, people need to be alert and be aware of the actual symptoms as not to mistake them for the flu.

Upcoming vote may eliminate Michigan Merit Award

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

Voters, including many Alma College students, will have the ability to choose the fate of the Michigan Merit Award Program in the upcoming election when they vote on a new amendment that have recently been proposed. Chris Brown, Director of Financial Aid, said, "Basically the main issue is that the amendment would redirect some tobacco settlement money for health care purposes." The Detroit News reported that each year about \$325 million dollars would be redirected for a total of 6.5 billion dollars over 20 years.

Many of the proponents of the amendment, which will be labeled proposition 4 on the ballot, claim that the funds need to be used for health care related purposes. Specifically, a majority of money would go to Michigan hospitals and a new anti-smoking corporation. Michigan hospitals would receive an average of \$92 million annually, and the new anti-smoking corporation named the Tobacco-Free Futures Fund would obtain about \$50 million every year.

Opponents of the amendment challenge that when the state received the funding there was no mandate on how it was to be spent. Both groups especially the proponents have already begun emotional advertising campaigns.

One of the programs funded by some of the settlement money remains the Michigan Merit Award Program. Governor John Engler suggested this program shortly after the settlement money was given to the Michigan Treasury. It gives a one-time award of \$2500 to all high school

students that meet the state requirements. These requirements are assessed through the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP).

The proposition named the Healthy Michigan Amendment, if passed, would eliminate that program entirely beginning January 1, 2003. As a result, any student that had not used all of their \$2500 dollars would lose whatever remained of the reward.

Over the three years that the program has existed, so far about 140,000 college students have used at least part of their award. Here at Alma College, between 2000 and 2002 approximately 577 students utilized all or some of their award to augment the rest of their financial aid package.

The Alma College Financial Aid Office is recommending that all students that have not used their entire award yet should apply for the lump sum award by September 30, 2002, if they wish to receive the rest of their award money. Potentially, the elimination of the award or the acceptance of a lump sum could affect some Alma College students' financial aid package. The Financial Aid Office has been sending out updates on the situation to all students the amendment might affect.

Kevin Beggs (06), who could be affected if the proposal is passed, said, "The scholarship is a great opportunity that a lot of people have earned and it should not be taken away." Wilson Nichols (06) said, "I don't think that there is any better way to use tobacco money than to create scholarships."

This issue will remain divisive probably all the way up to the election, but in the end the election matters most.

RANKINGS from page 1

The significant change in Alma's rankings was in the Best Value category. Last year, *U.S. News* ranked the College at number 21 on the list. This year, we have plummeted to number 40, just barely making the list.

There are a few steps in the methodology used by *U.S. News* to make this category. First, to be considered, a school has to finish in the top half of it's categories that were used in America's Best Colleges rankings. The variables used to measure the best value schools were: ratio of quality to price, the percentage of all undergraduates receiving grants meeting financial need, and the percentage of total costs covered by the average need-based grant.

President Tracy explains our drop in direct relation to our discount rate. "Our discount rate, that's how much we actually give away, was lower than some of the other institutions above us. Our discount

rate, by the way, didn't change. But some others went to where they were over fifty percent." Again, these rates are on the average and do not specify who is receiving the discounts at other schools.

Robert Morse, Director of Data Research for *U.S. News and World Report* said, "The one main reason Alma College dropped in this category was that the average need-based grants given to students was smaller than other schools, increasing the total average cost to a student after receiving the grant. Overall, Alma has a higher cost to the student than schools ranked above."

Even with a drop in ranking, Alma still has recognition across the nation as an all around excellent academic institution. However, these rankings do not capture some of the more important aspects of college life and every variable used is on the average, which in some areas cannot tell us much about the overall academic excellence of a school for an individual.



AKA Sorority named in \$100 million dollar hazing-death lawsuit

Los Angeles, California-

The families of Kristen High, 22, and Kenitha Saafir, 24, are suing the California State University chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority for \$100 million dollars for their wrongful deaths in an incident of hazing. Saafir and High were placed in the Pacific ocean during rip-tide conditions where both students drowned while doing calisthenics. The families of both victims also claim that the women were forced to participate in difficult and embarrassing chores in addition to prolonged sleep deprivation. The lawsuit specifically names the AKA housing corporation and the regional chapter along with the members of the sorority that were present that night. An initial investigation by the Los Angeles police has determined that the two deaths "appeared to be accidental," and were "unrelated to the women's efforts to join the sorority."

New Miss Universe crowned after Miss Russia fired

New York-

The Miss Universe Organization announced Monday morning that Oxana Fedorova of Russia was fired from her position and has been replaced by Justine Pasek of Panama. Fedorova quickly issued a statement suggesting that she had quit the job rather than being fired. The former pageant winner is also a police lieutenant in her home country, currently preparing to defend her dissertation on detective techniques at the Russian Academy of International Affairs. Miss Pasek was the second runner up during the competition held in June and is "ready to work hard as an ambassador for women around the world," according to the website maintained by the Miss Universe Organization.

White House reported as "cool" to German Chancellor's re-election

Washington D.C.-

The Bush Administration acknowledged German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's close victory at the polls on Sunday but made no specific mention of the Chancellor or the recent anti-U.S. statements made by Schroeder regarding plans to take military action against Iraq. The White House made it clear that Bush will not be communicating with the German Chancellor in the immediate future and that "...Schroeder and his party have a lot of work to do to improve relations with the United States... to repair the damage done of the excesses of Schroeder's campaign." German Foreign Minister Joscha Fischer placed a call to Secretary of State Colin Powell Monday morning in an attempt to answer the grievances between the Bush administration and Schroeder.



**Alpha Xi Delta Open
(open to the entire campus)
Sunday,**

October 6, 2002

**The event takes place at the
Hidden Oaks Golf Course and
begins at noon.**

**The cost is a mere \$15 and
includes your very own Al-
pha Xi caddy. Contact Becky
Creguer at 8338 for more
information.**

OPINION

The Almanian's View

Get ready for the Stone Age

Network problems are no news to students on campus. In most dorm rooms even downloading a webpage can be an hour-long process, and peer-to-peer file sharing programs only a dream unless used during the wee hours of the morning.

This problem will persist. Dr. David Reed, director of information technology, said IT plans to have network issues resolved by the beginning of winter term.

In one evening IT found the Alma College network supporting 16,000 connections among machines on campus and the outside world. According to Reed, 70% were probably peer-to-peer file sharing. Even when something is not being downloaded, simply being connected to programs like KaZaA Media Desktop all day creates a drain on the network.

Norton Antivirus alarms go crazy simply by browsing through shared folders on the Alma network. Each encounter with a Klez, FunTime or Nimda virus represents more drains on the entire college's resources. On Sept. 11, 50,000 email messages were sent from computers on campus. Reed estimates that the vast majority of those messages were generated by viruses plaguing student computers.

Reed insists that the problem will not be solved unless students attack the problem from their end. Until then, we will simply have to suffer through the error messages.

Students are not limited to Alma's network for Internet access. For a price, Charter Communications will install cable modems and digital cable for students on campus. A 1.5 Megabyte per second cable modem will give blazing downloads, but costs \$64.95/month. Charter Communications offers different steps down to a 256 kbps option—slower than most modem speeds—for only \$39.95/month. Price is not the only trade-off for cable modem users, however; using them will disallow access to the campus' intranet and Monteith library resources such as First Search.

Merit Networks (www.michnet.net), the Internet service provider for many colleges and universities across Michigan, also provides free dial-up access to Alma College students. Ninety-six students at a time can dial in to the network via (989) 466-5322. Simply log-in with your campus email address as the username and MattII password as the password. The connections are usually unstable and slow compared to the access of a cable or DSL modem, but will get the job done in a pinch.

The network problems can very well be seen as a boon to student life. In the real world, problems arise. Things change. Adaptability is key. While trying to hunt for information through the library instead of Google.com and keeping contact with friends by calling them and visiting instead of instant messages and email may seem like a hassle, odds are that first post-college apartment will not come with free Internet access.

Instead of complaining about problems and clicking reload on your browser until the page comes up, get your news from the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, Wall Street Journal or Christian Science Monitor all of which are available for free from the library. Listen to WQAC. Human beings existed for thousands of years without the Internet.

Somehow.

Empathizing with the human face of environmental destruction



TIM SLADE
Opinion Editor

I have been told repeatedly that one of the greatest challenges that I will incur over the next few months of writing this column will be to make it relevant to Johnny Q. Student. While I chose this angle for my writing in order to open the eyes of my fellow Almanians to the outside world, the very reason many of them don't know what's going on outside of Alma is that very little of it directly affects us here, at least on the surface. It was therefore quite surprising to me when I found a story in the International section of Saturday's New York Times reflecting on an environmental disaster that occurred 18 years ago and that had a direct connection to Lower Michigan.

Saturday was the 18th anniversary of a lethal pesticide leak in Bhopal, India that killed in excess of 3,000 area residents over the course of a few days. While no one knows how many people were affected as time passed, at least 578,000 were awarded compensatory monies by tribunals monitoring the accident. The majority of the first 2,000 deaths occurred during the night that the methyl isocyanate leak occurred, and were officially due to "poisoning by irrespirable gases." The plant was owned by the Union Carbide Corporation, which now belongs to Dow Chemical Company.

The story resonated with me mostly because it is a classic case of a First World power exploiting cheap labor and land in a Third World country, creating a mess, and then leaving without cleaning up; it is a rough parallel of one of the reasons I have so little patriotism. The original reason has to do with having grown up in Latin America watching the American government providing military and financial support to help a corrupt government put down a revolution by a large group of poor, underprivileged peasants-turned-guerillas. I am sure it wasn't as black-and-white as all that, but

it certainly looked like it to this 10-year-old, and I began detesting American foreign policy at an early age.

Many years later, when I was beginning to think a little more highly of my nation, I read *The Massacre at El Mozote* by Mark Danner. The book is an account of the atrocities committed by the U.S.-trained Black Panther battalion of the Salvadoran Army; the village of El Mozote saw all its women and girls, regardless of age, raped and beheaded to the sounds of their husbands, brothers, and fathers being machine-gunned or burned in the village church. The Reagan administration ignored the reports of this incident, downplaying the news and attempting to discredit it in order to maintain popular support for the campaign in El Salvador. It was an excellent but very disturbing book, and I think it should be a mandatory read for all U.S. citizens, if only so people can have their eyes opened to the fact that we are not always the good guys. Even if we didn't commit those heinous acts ourselves, we turned a blind eye and continued our support.

In much the same way as El Mozote was swept under the rug, the leak in Bhopal was hushed up and largely ignored. The company paid off the Indian government to the tune of \$470 million, but failed to stick around to clean up the mess or make sure the money got distributed properly. To date approximately half of that money has been doled out, but the average claimant has received at most \$550; what is more, many of the officials of the tribunals that oversaw the case took bribes from the victims before they would process their claims. The most egregious dereliction of duty on the part of Union Carbide has been its failure to clean the area; toxic chemicals are still thought to be leaking into the groundwater, meaning that thousands more may yet be affected.

While not ordinarily a very environmentally-conscious individual, this sort of thing tends to kick me in the butt. In truth, we should all be kicked in the butt by this reminder of the dangers posed by large chemical companies that

See LEAK page 9

The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

Ryan Cannon Editor-in-Chief

Brendan Guilford News Editor
Olga Wrobel Feature Editor
Matt Helmus Sports Editor
Tim Slade Opinion Editor

Jessica Diggs Layout and Design
Amy Pratt Layout Editor
William Sawin Layout Editor
Tim Throm Copy Editor
Rachel Miller Copy Editor
Dan Joyce Photographer
Melanie Szewczyk Photographer
Kristin Oleszkowicz Dist. Manager
Amy Pratt Ad Manager
Megan Van Wyk Graphic Editor
Amanda Baushke Staff Writer
Kristen Brown Staff Writer
Kimberley Crandell Staff Writer
Whitney Hopkins Staff Writer
Kari Joy Johnson Staff Writer
Krisha Larson Staff Writer
Joel Render Staff Writer
Jené Shaw Staff Writer
Sean Wilson Staff Writer
Wendy Wohlfeill Staff Writer

Faculty Advisor
Robert Vivian

Statement of Purpose

The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and the lives it touches. The writers, editors, publishers, and distributors of this newspaper are dedicated to producing an interesting accurate, timely, fun, and error free newspaper on a weekly basis in order to inform and educate the people for whom it is intended about the culture and nature of Alma College.

Publication

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College's campus Tuesday evenings and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly, excepting College breaks.

Letter Policy

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at almanian@alma.edu or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in the unbylined editorials reflect the views of The Almanian editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

Ignorance begets hate; fight both

WHITNEY HOPKINS
Staff Writer

I recently heard of a young man in my hometown of Sturgis, Mich. who decided to wear a sign to school on the anniversary of September 11. The sign basically said that the USA got what it had coming, that this country should practice what it preaches, and that we need to learn from our mistakes. Freedom of speech, right?

Wrong. This boy of 17 was manhandled by a teacher (a respected football coach, supposedly a role-model) who shoved him around, threatened him in the school hallway and basically did everything he could to humiliate him. How convenient then, that this teacher forgot what happened when questioned by administrators.

This young man's car was beaten and oil was poured on the windshield. Derogatory remarks were made about his Christian beliefs and signs were hung on his locker. Administrators had to escort him out of the building because several other students were waiting in the parking lot to beat him. He's had to fear for his life.

I cried when I heard this story. Don't these people realize that by beating him up, by insulting him, assaulting him, and disrespecting him they are committing the very crimes we were victims of as a nation on September 11?

Judgment and action, based on no knowledge but on prejudices.

So you don't agree with the sign he wore. So what? I don't agree with people who like pecans in their ice cream, but I won't beat them up for it. More to the point, there are a lot of things I don't agree with: things going on in the world, opinions held by other people, lifestyles chosen. But this isn't the way to go about dealing with it.

Yes, let's take away rights. Let's get rid of freedom of speech and beat anyone who believes differently from us. Let's judge and be narrow-minded and think we're superior. Sure, let's do that. Let's become Nazis.

By the way, did you know that 20% of the people in St. Joseph County, where Sturgis is located, never graduated high school? This is the city where a high school teacher involved his students in building bombs and set one off in the school parking lot. He received a slap on the wrist. I offer you, with this city, the perfect example of ignorance in action, ignorance that can kill people. It's the same ignorance that has killed people.

This is not beyond your grasp to change. Don't surrender your beliefs. Educate yourselves. Be fair and open-minded. Be humble. I ask you to save this country. Salvage my hometown and yours. And remember my brother, the boy who was brave enough to wear the sign.

OPINION

Making sense, use of the rankings

TIM THROM
Copy Editor

This past week, Alma College was proud to announce that for a second straight year, it had maintained its ranking as a tier two national liberal arts college in the 2003 U.S. News and World Report College Rankings. Though it is an achievement to be recognized, a few problems exist with the methodology that is used to compute the rankings.

Out of the "16 indicators of academic excellence," a full quarter of the overall ranking comes from "academic reputation" which is determined by surveys of other college administrators. The other factors come from such areas as average ACT/SAT score, class size, alumni giving rates, and selectivity. U.S. News doesn't measure things like campus attitude, recreation opportunities, or administrative responsiveness, but those are three examples of factors that play a major role in student satisfaction. Certainly whether or not students will be heard by the administration is eminently more important than another college administrator's opinion while attending the college in question. The current system just does not take into account debatably important aspects.

Despite this, rankings, for all of their technical failings, matter. They matter because of one important fact: people read them. Not only do people read them, they believe that the score that U.S. News and World Report assigns to a school is an adequate basis for comparison between schools. I have a hard time believing the atmosphere at an Amherst or Carleton is anything like Alma College. Yet, our school is compared to these institutions by the rankings and more importantly, by those who read the rankings. For better or worse, we must compete in order to be visible.

How Alma is perceived in the outside world is vitally important to our survival as a school. Ranking well is a recruitment tool. Exposure through the rankings brings prospective students to campus. Better recruitment means more applications. More qualified applicants means more incoming students. If our incoming class does not meet the projections used to determine our college's operating budget, Alma is in trouble. Budget deficits affect everything from the number of books

the library can order to the ability of the IT department to work on upgrading our network. It keeps vacant faculty positions unfilled, leaving key gaps in departments. Incoming students pay a 170-dollar student activity fee that funds this newspaper as well as ACUB, Model U.N., and most other campus organizations. Rankings can affect us all.

Not only do prospective students read these lists, employers do as well. Having a degree from an institution that is nationally known is an asset that cannot be understated. If a manager has equally qualified applicants in all areas and recognizes the college of one as having a certain amount of prestige, whom do you think he or she will hire?

Last year our appearance on the "Best Values" list was the only showing by a Michigan college. This year we are joined by Albion. Normally, Albion being ranked higher on the list (#29 as opposed to Alma's #40) wouldn't be a good thing. But, it means that small Michigan liberal arts colleges are beginning to be recognized as national, prestigious institutions who offer quality education at a reasonable, in the exorbitant world of higher education, price. U.S. News itself says in its methodology that those colleges included on its "Best Values" list must "finish in the top half of its categories" to even be considered. Despite much-bemoaned tuition increases, Alma remains one of the best deals in undergraduate liberal arts education.

Furthermore, in two years we have made the leap from a Tier Three to a Tier Two college. Alma has positioned itself as a nationally competitive school. With the recognition gained by competitive scholarships, winning athletic teams, and new facilities Alma can position itself to join the elite colleges of our country in tier one. Not only will it affect future students choices, it will lend prestige to degrees earned by alumni. No matter how you look at it, better rankings are a good thing.

Our college should not forget how we came this far, though. Alma is where it is today because of its mission to put teaching first, and to make the undergraduate years a formative experience to shape tomorrow's productive citizens, not by emulating Harvard or Yale. This is how our college made it to tier two; it will be how we will rise to tier one.

Voices

"What is the nicest thing you have done for a stranger?"



"I helped build someone's house for Habitat for Humanity."
Stephanie Berner (05)

"I went to Poland this summer and we went to a camp where we taught Russian kids English, religion, arts and crafts and gave them music lessons."

Kat Farmer (03)



"I helped a deaf woman with a flat tire."

Andrew McCracken (05)



"I tutored a blind autistic girl in percussion."

Cori Wagner (04)



"I gave away my meal ticket to a homeless man in eighth grade in Washington D.C."

Tom Devore (03)

"I helped someone with a flat tire and then helped them get their car started."

Bill Simon (05)



Iraqi threat too great to ignore

Dear Mr. Slade,

As a longtime friend I would like to praise your efforts to turn the Opinion page of the Almanian away from the longtime tradition of whining about Alma's shortcomings into something that will hopefully enhance the thinking of John Q. Student.

I do have to express severe disagreement with your column dealing with the stance the President has taken against Iraq and the effects that it has on the world opinion of the United States. You referred to an impending [war? Skirmish? macho chest-thumping?] conflict with Iraq, when in fact any action taken against Iraq would be one of a defensive nature. President Bush did not wake up one morning and say, "Gee, that whole Afghanistan thing was fun, I wonder what country I can steamroll through this month?" What the President and his staff are doing is taking action to ensure the safety of ourselves and our country. Saddam Hussein is not a peace-loving man who leads a small country on the outskirts of the world. He is a diabolical killer, both of his own people and anyone

who opposes him. He has made every effort to collect weapons of mass destruction, chemical, biological, and nuclear in nature. He already has some forms of these weapons and is continuing to add to his stockpile, which he has been able to hide from U.N. inspectors with his violation of 16 different U.N. articles dealing with the matter. This is a man who hides these weapons not at military facilities out in the middle of nowhere, but in the basements of schools and hospitals, using innocent women and children as shields so they won't be bombed. His latest offer to allow weapons inspectors back in only allows for them to be at military sites, not civilian ones. Based on what we know about his tendency to hide weapons at civilian locations, do you think we are going to find much? The point, as you pointed out correctly, is not weapons inspections but a change in leadership. As long as Saddam is in power he is a threat to all of us here, or do we need another date like 9-11 to remind us of that?

You are wrong when you say that Bush's actions have less to do with securing peace

than with changing the regime. The reason is that changing the regime is the only way to secure peace. Saddam is not going to sit down at a table with Bush and strike out a deal that makes everyone happy, because he has not interest in it. His wish and plan is to help others kill Americans and destroy our nation.

If Saddam does end up getting nuclear weapons, on whom do you think he will use them? Last time I checked he didn't have much of an issue with countries like Germany or France, but against the United States and our close ally, Israel. On the international side of the issue, the only nations that have taken a stance to protect humanity from this madman have been the United States, the United Kingdom, and Israel. For all the others, they have found that it is much easier to criticize than to lead.

The U.S. does not act like we the rule the world, as you claim, but act as though we are a part of it. What other nation has liberated oppressed people around the world and freed them from the bounds of tyrants? Places like Kuwait, Kosovo,

Afghanistan, Haiti, Panama, and the list goes on, have had the U.S. come in and restore a society with morals, laws, and justice. The U.S. leads the world in philanthropy and is the first nation to step up when needed. Granted, our foreign policy has not always been a model to follow, but what country has a record to stand on either? China is willing to basically sell its vote in the Security Council on the Iraq issue in order to have more free will when dealing with Taiwan. Russia has jumped on the terrorism bandwagon simply to kill off more people in Chechnya. The world would be a far better place, I'm sure, if everyone got along, but they don't. Some people are simply evil and want to destroy you no matter how much you may want peace. As Americans we need to stop feeling guilty about our success and the prosperity with which God has blessed us, and continue to carry the torch of freedom and justice around the world through the dark nights and help bring other nations up to our level, not bring our nation down to theirs.

Tim Wolff, Class of 2003.

Greek Life

Bids Bash 2002

Alma College welcomes new Greeks:

ALPHA GAMMA DELTA Daniela Benitez Vanessa Jimenez Elizabeth Reeves Melisa Bower Amanda Fritz Bethany Payton Natalie Wiltse Anne Fuhrig Nicole Mills	GAMMA PHI BETA Lauren Phillips Erin McFarland Kristin Oleszkowicz Tifara Brumback Kristina Swartz Rebecca Ross Courtney Hilton Ashley Seppala Lindsey Thelen Adrian Rowe Megan Hlavaty Kaleen Sharp Kim Light Kristina Butts Alicia Kopen	ALPHA XI DELTA Carolyn Schulz Angela Zischke Shannon Nystrom Naryn Manczak Kira Cogswell Erin Stone Rachel Landuyt Lauren Dart Sarah Hunt Sarah Patterson Lindsey Moore
PHI SIGMA SIGMA Kelly Ross Amanda Buck	KAPPA IOTA Erika Kotecki	



Alpha Gamma Delta welcomed nine new women at Bids Bash.



Alpha Xi Delta welcomed eleven new women to their sisterhood.



Gamma Phi Beta had a strong turnout with fifteen new sisters.

Fraternities join to feed hungry

KARI JOY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

To mark the conclusion of the annual Zeta Sigma fraternity canned food drive, a formal gathering was held on Monday night at 5:00 on the fraternity's lawn. This year, the local fraternity raised over 800 food items for the Salvation Army with the help of the Fraternity sisters and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. The fundraiser managed to surpass everyone's initial goals for this year while also setting a new record high for the number of food items.

In response to the donated food items, Capt. Gary Gugala, a representative for the Salvation Army said, "This fundraiser is a good way for the community to work together to help other people who need food during this time of the year on until Christmas. There is always a food shortage in our pantries and there are always children and families who have food needs that aren't being met."

This is the 8th consecutive year for the canned food drive, an event the fraternity recognizes as something

important to the fraternity, but more importantly, the Alma community. By simply going door-to-door throughout the city, as well as camping out in front of the fraternity house, a vast supply of items beyond canned foods were collected. Among some of the toiletries were cases of ramen noodles from various college students and boxes of shaving cream donated by the college itself.

Also, as part of the project to send an Alma College flag to Ground Zero with college student signatures on it, the brothers raised \$140.00 strictly through college campus participation. The money raised will be sent directly to United Way, who generously decided to match the amount.

Beverly Lucas, a graduated sister of Zeta Sigma, said, "I'm very proud to be part of an organization that puts so much toward their community and that cares enough to help out every year."

Zeta Sigma brother and Food Drive Chair **Matt Kujawski** (03) said, "This year we set a new record and exceeded our hopes; it shows that this community cares in supporting causes it care about."



Members of Zeta Sigma and Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternities raised over 800 cans of food for the Salvation Army.

FEATURE

“Arizing” brings rock to campus



WHITNEY HOPKINS
Staff Writer

Even a timid and self-conscious crowd of Alma students couldn't help but jump and move to the music of Arizing, an up-and-coming band that graced Van Dusen last Friday with a beat that appealed to almost everyone in the room.

Johnny, Matt, Ryan, Nick, and Dennis make up the laid-back band. Arizing is not a band that can be set into one genre or subcategory of music. Rather, complex instrumentation and diverse influences set the stage for music in which anyone and everyone can find something appealing.

Arizing is based in New Baltimore, MI, and has been around for about 4 years, but only a year with the current line-up of musicians. They've had their ups and downs with the band, but have come through them stronger. Drummer Ryan, bassist Nick, and guitarist Dennis shrugged it all off saying, “that's the world of rock and roll.”

Their album, “Womb”, came out in March through Medea Records. For an album already knee-deep in metaphors, the title refers to beginnings and newness, making it an appropriate name for a debut. A candy heart graces the cover of the CD case. “Heart is what we have,” explains Johnny, who plays guitar for the group.

That much is evident as the band jumps across the stage during their first performance in three weeks, shouting out lyrics, and goofing off before sets playing Gameboys. The only descriptive word that applies to every song performed is “passionate.” There's no halfway with these guys, which is one characteristic that sent them to perform at the Detroit venue of Vans' Warped Tour this past August.

Michelle Monsour (04), general manager of Alma College's radio station, WQAC, arranged to have the band brought in. “We wanted to bring a band that is a little truer to what we play on the air.” Arizing's eclectic, raw sound has led it to the top of WQAC's charts, and the crowd definitely enjoyed the live show as much as the album.

Kevin Malburg (04) gave the band a B+ grade during the performance. “They have a good sound. Concise to what's mainstream, but altered enough to keep you interested.” First-year Jeremy Hix (06) agreed, saying, “Very good harmonics and sound. Not boring, but more original than most local bands.” Hix awarded the band a score of 9 out of 10.

“The Big L” provided a dance beat that the band claims can make anyone “shake their butts.” Sarah Halbert (04) made the band's point for them, saying, “the music is great to dance to.” Though “The Big L” is a crowd favorite, the band commented that, “people think it's a love song; they're so God-awful wrong.”

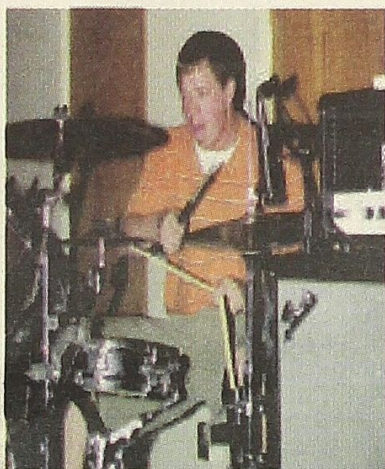
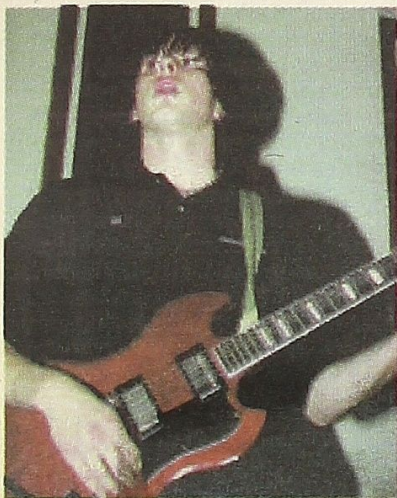
Meanwhile, “Sunbleached” starts out with Kissesque classic rock riffs. Ska beats peek through the middle of a heavier song. Staind would be proud of the lyrical efforts of lead singer Matt, and anyone who enjoys Papa Roach or 311 would catch some stylistic familiarity in guitar riffs.

When asked to describe their music, Ryan and Johnny decided on “rock and roll,” saying that “new school grunge” was too genre specific. The one description that the whole band could agree with was, “We're not Papa Roach.”

In general, the music was enjoyable and varied, if indecisive in style. The stage show was excellent and the instrumentation was tight, but it would have been nice to have the occasional change in lead vocals and better-defined lyrics. With everything from dance and metal to grunge, anybody could find a track to adopt on “Womb,” but ballad-enthusiasts might find the selection slightly lacking.

After hearing had returned to those brave enough to stand by speakers, t-shirts were bought, posters were signed, and judgment was thus handed down. The music is, as Nick put it, “musically incorrect,” and the album and the band receive a B rating for an enjoyably diverse base.

Tune in to 90.9 fm to hear some of the album, courtesy of WQAC, and for more on the band, visit www.arizing.com.



Photos by Dan Joyce

The Arizing performed at Van Dusen on Friday night for a lively crowd; the band is quickly gaining public attention, and even performed at the Vans Warped Tour last summer.

Dr. von Wallmenich: a new face with new ideas

WENDY WOHLFEILL
Staff Writer

With each new-year comes many new student faces that are added to the mix on campus. With the obvious freshman class addition, some overlook the new staff and faculty that are also new to the College. Out of a large group of new employees, one of these new faculty members is Dr. Laura von Wallmenich, assistant professor of English and American studies.

Her specialty is early American literature, and she joined the English department where she will be teaching a range of classes from Composition 101 to Senior Seminar.

After being born in the Chicago area and raised in New Jersey, von Wallmenich did her graduate studies at the University of Washington in Seattle. She continued at Seattle after receiving her doctorate where she did ten years of post-graduate teaching. When asked what drew her to Alma College, she commented “I did my undergraduate studies at a small liberal arts college very much like Alma. I had a great experience there and was very committed to the idea of a small liberal arts school.”

When comparing Alma to the University that she taught at prior to

coming here, said von Wallmenich. “After teaching at a much larger research university, I am very excited to get back to a small college environment.” Not only does she view the environment as different, but also has seen a change in the attitudes of students. “Alma has a very distinct identity and I am thrilled with the students here. They are very bright and are some of the most responsible students I have ever worked with”, comments von Wallmenich.

She stated that her number one goal in teaching is to “have students develop critical thinking, writing, and reading. To have them not only understand what they hear and read but what it assumes and how their own ideas and assumptions relate to it.” She wants students to be “critical thinkers”, and to be “very self aware.” In the future, she plans to contribute to the college by building up the American Studies program. Von Wallmenich adds that she believes “there are a lot of students here that if they knew what American Studies was, they could become really excited about it.” She ends comments saying “I am very happy, and hope to make my career here.”

Dance Company prepares for “Nutcracker”; exciting new season

KIMBERLEY CRANDELL
Staff Writer

Costumes are being fitted, lighting is being tested and the orchestra is tuning up. It is the beginning of the season for the Alma College Dance Company. Dancers have just started rehearsals for “The Nutcracker”, which will be performed November 14th-17th. There will be five performances and tickets usually sell out.

Carol Fike, associate professor of dance, said that “The Nutcracker” has been a “classic tradition that has brought smiles to youngster's faces for years.” The company performs the ballet every other year. Community members as well as the Alma College Symphony Orchestra are involved. It is a main stage massive production that involves hours of rehearsal time. Alma students work with community members from local dance schools to be a part of the production. Even with community involvement it is still difficult to find enough males to fill all of the roles. There are three men who belong to the company, two of whom are seniors. It is tough to find men that have the talent to be in the Alma Dance Company in such a rural area. To solve the problem, this year the company invited some Alma college students to join the group for “The Nutcracker”. Carol Fike told *The Almanian*, “it has always been a challenge to bring in men.” Members of the company have to audition to get in and have to have the background with training and technique that is often difficult to come by in the Midwest.

Costumes for “The Nutcracker” were designed by a well-known guest costume designer two years ago, and the set built and designed by some former faculty members. There will also be a few faculty members in-

involved this year. Tina Hartley is the current costume designer for the other shows and Kristine Krosser does the scene and lighting design for the rest of the season beyond “The Nutcracker”. Tina has been with the company for three years, but this will be Kristine's first year doing the lighting. Last year she held the position of the Heritage Center's building coordinator.

Carol Fike and Thomas Morris are associate professors of dance and Kathleen Francis is a part-time instructor. Thirty-two members make up the company, five of whom are freshmen. Two of the freshmen are Trustee Honor Award Winners, which means they have won scholarships for their dancing ability. There are also four high school students involved in the company.

A look at the rest of the season includes a student choreographed concert that is put on and run every year by seniors in the company. It is performed in the dance studio and offers a more intimate environment for the audience. Students design their own piece and set up the entire show and studio. Brooke Palm (03) and Anna Long (03) are two featured seniors this year. The show will take place January 18th-19th, with seating for only one hundred. March 21, 22 and 23 the company will put on their final show of the season. The winter dance concert includes a mixture of faculty and student work. Jazz, ballet, modern and tap offer something for everyone.

Tickets are on sale for the Nutcracker, and they have sold out in the past. With so many community members, students and faculty involved everyone is waiting in anticipation. Bree Brownlee (04) sums it up best by saying, “I am excited for ‘The Nutcracker’ and seeing my friends perform in lead roles. It is great because we are such a tight-knit group.”

FEATURE

Sullivan to speak about Catholic Church scandal

SEAN WILSON
Staff Writer

Dr. Andrew Sullivan is a practicing Catholic and a gay-rights advocate. He will address an audience at Alma at 8:00 p.m. on October 1 in the Heritage center about issues relating to the current sexual-abuse crisis in the Church.

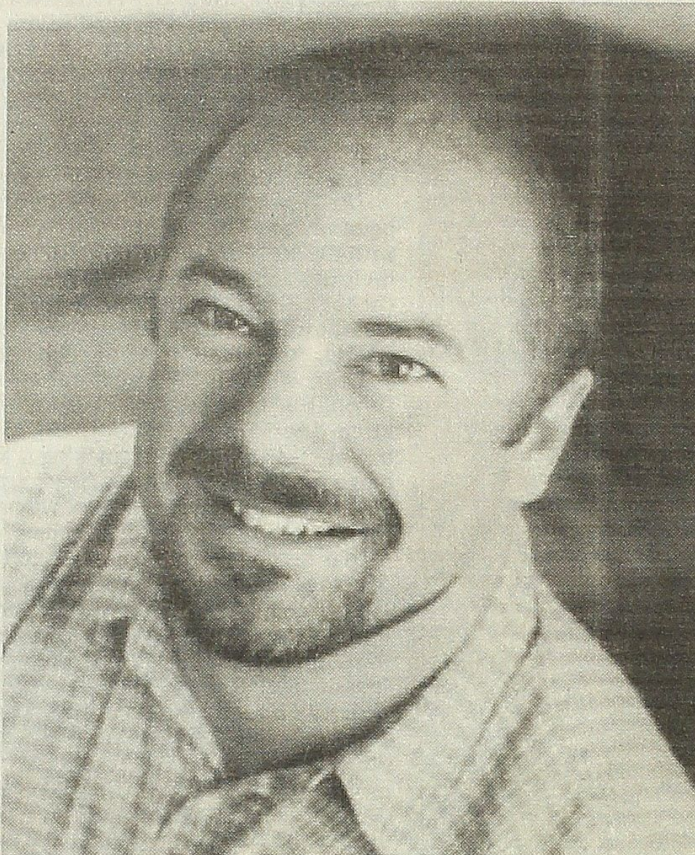
Sullivan has written several articles regarding these troubles in the Church. He was an outspoken and widely-read critic of Church sexual doctrine before the sexual abuse scandals of the last year. His recent writings on the topic include a Viewpoint column in the March 4 edition of *Time*, titled "They Still Don't Get It." Here he asks, "How can a church that preaches the impressibility of so many forms of consensual, adult sex simultaneously tolerate, ignore or cover up the sexual abuse of children by its own priests?" Two months later, May 6, Sullivan wrote another Viewpoint for *Time*, this time titled "They Know Not What They Do." In this, he mourns that "... a frank discussion of sexual morality, celibacy, women priests, or homosexuality [is] not likely to happen anytime soon," and cites an ABC news report alleging that the Vatican itself has concealed abuse claims. These incidents and opinions will form the backbone of his presentation on Oct. 1.

As a widely-known and respected journalist who has served as Editor-in-Chief of *The New Republic*, Sullivan is well-versed in contemporary political and social issues. His publications include articles in *The Washington Post*, *The New*

York Times and several other major newspapers, in addition to 3 books, the best-known of which is entitled *Virtually Normal: An Argument About Homosexuality*. He has spoken at Harvard, Yale, Notre Dame, and many other colleges and public forums and spoken on public radio programs such as *Fresh Air*, *Talk of the Nation*, and *The Diane Rehm Show*.

His appearance at Alma has been arranged by the Co-Curricular Affairs Committee, which is responsible for inviting 4-6 speakers to campus annually, to address fascinating or important issues in contemporary politics, society, and science. Co-Curricular Affairs, coordinated by James Mueller of the Economics Department, also schedules speakers for the Martin Luther King Day convocation annually.

Born in the city of South Godstone, Britain, Sullivan holds a Master's in Public Administration and a Ph.D. in Political Science, both from Harvard University.



Submitted photo

Temp. professor enjoys Alma's atmosphere

JENÉ SHAW
Staff Writer

Currently teaching as a sabbatical replacement for Dr. Joseph Beckmann, associate professor of biochemistry, Dr. Sundari Chodevarepu is a new addition to Alma's teaching staff this fall. Although she is only here for the fall semester, she is happy to join the Alma's Biochemistry department.

Before coming to Alma, or even the United States, Dr. Chodevarepu grew up in India, where she lived until February of 2001. She received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Hyderabad's Osmania University in India.

"I previously taught Physical chemistry for ten years at an undergraduate school in India," Dr. Chodevarepu said. Before her teaching job at Alma,

she studied with Dr. Beckmann for over a year. When Chodevarepu heard of the job opening, she quickly submitted her papers and resumes, obtained an interview, and was then selected to join Alma College for the upcoming term.

Chodevarepu was joined by her husband, who is also an MS and Infosystems professor. "He is currently working on Post Doctorate work at Central Michigan University," she said.

"I like the method of teaching here, it gives a lot of openings for students to do independent research," Chodevarepu said. "In India, there were not all of those opportunities." When comparing what she liked better about the United States, Chodevarepu said, "There are better job opportunities and the technology and instruments we have available are much better."

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, listening to Indian classical music, and occasionally she checks out American television.

The students at Alma are a real pleasure to work with, according to Chodevarepu. "They work really hard, put in a lot of effort, and they take the time to do everything," she said. "I really appreciate that."

Sarah Jewell (03), a student in Biochemistry 321, said Chodevarepu, "has been really patient in laboratory. I think she will do a great job with the class."

When Dr. Chodevarepu leaves Alma after this term, she plans to further her studies at Michigan State University in January.

Service Week turnout unsuccessful

OLGA WROBEL
Feature Editor

Throughout last week, students had the opportunity to make a difference in the community by getting involved in "Service Week". An idea that stemmed from the Service Learning house, this was the first time it took place. The Service Learning house is also relatively new; it became a residence just last year.

Many students may not be aware of what service learning is. This program combines education with community service, often in the form of a class. Every semester there is a good number of service learning opportunities, and for those very interested, there is on campus housing provided.

The activities throughout the week were not only planned by the Service Learning students, but other service organizations on campus, including Habitat for Humanity, Students Offering Service, and Alpha Phi Omega.

On Tuesday, Alma students had a taste of the various service groups and non-profit organizations in the community at the "Make a Discovery" volunteer fair. This was also a way for alumni to network the organizations they are involved with currently. Some of the campus and community groups focused on were SOS, United Way, Host (a tutoring program through the public schools), and Use for Christ, a Christian group from CMU, among others. Alumni who are in various environmental and service groups had booths set up to recruit students and create interest.

Alpha Phi Omega, the service honorary, sponsored the event that took place on Wednesday, which was adopted a highway. From 3-5pm students cleaned a two-mile stretch on US-27 right before the second Mt. Pleasant exit. Seven people took the time to take care of the land that the group has made a commitment to.

Thursday's activity was playful for all, as it was sponsored by Big Brothers, Big Sisters. Seven unmatched children attended, and were given a chance to hang out with Alma Scots. After an orientation session with the leaders of the program, students spent their afternoon having fun with a group of underprivileged, but charismatic and happy children.

The week concluded on Friday with two events. Habitat for Humanity held a fundraiser, collecting pop cans around campus. The money earned will go towards their build in St. Louis, which is going to be quite expensive. The College will be paying for the siding of the house.

From 5-7pm the service house held a barbecue to celebrate the successful week. All were welcome to come, whether they were involved in the programs, or just wanted free hot dogs.

Alicia Allen (03), a resident of the service house, was very pleased with the events that took place. "Even though this is only the first year, I am hoping it will become annual. The Big Brothers, Big Sisters event had a good turn out." Due to the freshness of the idea, many students may not have been too aware of the activities they could attend. "We didn't have huge involvement, but it was good to see a lot of new faces on campus. It's a great idea that will hopefully continue and interest more people," Allen said. Another resident of the Service Learning house, Angela Wilcox (03), was disappointed with the turnout. "Overall, we would like to have more people. However, those who came had a good time, whether the numbers were huge or not."

Alpha Gamma Delta would like to welcome our newest members:

Daniela Benitez
Anne Fuhrig
Melisa Bower
Vanessa Jimenez
Liz Reeves
Bethany Payton
Amanda Fritz
Natalie Wiltse
Nicole Mills



OPINION

Point COUNTERPOINT

Solution to Corporate Dishonesty: Empower the SEC

KYLE WELFARE
Guest Columnist

In the past month most media news coverage has been focused on Iraq, but several months ago the dominating headline was the corporate scandal that sent Enron to its demise. Then came WorldCom and its accounting scandal, which will soon total approximately nine billion dollars. The prevailing question through all of this has been; how can we prevent accounting fraud from occurring again? Basically, there are two sides that need to be looked at. One is the House of Representatives and Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) bill H.R. 3763. The other is the Senate Banking Committee bill S. 2673. Of these two bills the House of Representatives bill would create a structure that would be able to provide the American public with information regarding corporations' earnings and also create a new sense of trust in corporate America. H.R. 3763 recognizes that fact that auditing must be done by professionals with experience in business and not bureaucrats in a new government agency that would regulate from Washington. Under the House bill the SEC would have the power to create what they would call Public Regulatory Organizations (PRO).

These agencies would be private firms that would review the audits of corporations to make sure that no fraud was taking place. Not only that, but they would be able to track the auditors themselves to be sure that there were no unethical business practices taking place. These organizations, set up across the country, would report any findings directly to the SEC, which would then take the appropriate legal actions. The PRO teams would be made up of 5 members, and would be funded by private accounting companies and also the corporation being audited.

PROs would be under strict regulation by the SEC and state accounting boards. For the corporations themselves, strict enforcement of deadlines would be put into place so that the public would be able to review results of company earnings sooner.

The Senate Banking Committee bill that has been drafted is a poor approach to fixing the problem at hand. The Senate's Public Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act S. 2673 would essentially create a new government agency to try and govern accounting practices. The organization created by this bill would also have a five-person team; however, only two would come from the accounting profession. This team would report to the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

This organization could create specific rules as to who can or cannot serve on the board; this would place restrictions on hiring people who have experience in auditing. Companies would be required to rotate auditors every year, which would increase the learning curve, and create problems with accuracy. Plus, reporting back to the board would only create more government red tape when trying to solve an accounting problem. The SEC already exists for this purpose, so we don't need more agencies trying to do the same thing.

Overall, what we really need to do is pass legislation that keeps a new agency from being formed and leaves the power with the SEC, where it belongs. The reason we know about the accounting practices of Enron and WorldCom in the first place is because the SEC was doing its job. What we don't need is the Senate reacting to the media hype and rushing to pass a bill that will only confuse matters and create more problems than we originally had in the first place. What the Senate should do is simply strengthen the powers of the SEC and allow them to continue their work.

SEAN WILSON
Staff Writer

The stock market has lost approximately one third of its value over the course of the last year. This is indicative of a growing lack of faith in corporate integrity on the part of investors and of the American people as a whole. We've all heard of Enron and WorldCom, and while the staggering scope of the financial deception those two companies practiced makes them remarkable, it sadly does not make them exceptional. Tyco, Qwest, Arthur Anderson, Imclone, Global Crossing, and Xerox are a few more of the companies that have confessed to some form of financial dishonesty. In the words of former SEC chairman Arthur Levitt, "It is pervasive. This is a result of systemic failures and an erosion of corporate ethics. Undoubtedly, we will find more companies with problems."

The Bush administration has done much to try to stave off future failures of corporate integrity. The creation of an independent oversight board appointed by the Securities and Exchange Commission and charged with monitoring auditing procedures is one of the most important steps in corporate regulation since the creation of the SEC in 1933.

But much remains to be done. Stock options for employees and executives are a cost of running a corporation in this country. Under current legislation, however, companies are able to obtain a tax break for providing such options to employees, but are *not* required to report them as expenses. This unduly conceals from shareholders the true costs incurred by the company. Businesses must be made to choose between reporting stock options as an

expense or losing the tax breaks that go with them.

Companies that benefit from hundreds of millions of dollars in federal contracts (such as Tyco, Accenture, and PriceWaterhouseCoopers) have moved their headquarters overseas to avoid paying US taxes. This is not only dishonest, but it deprives the government of monies that could be spent on any number of valuable services. There is a loophole in the law today which allows this, and it must be closed.

Ultimately, though, corporate integrity will not be accomplished through legislation. Colleges and Universities across the country must add mandatory ethics courses to their business and finance majors. Clearly, somewhere along the line, some of the men and women at the highest levels of our economic system have come to believe that the standards of truth and honesty upon which we have founded a financial system and a government do not apply to them. This represents a failing in how our society portrays and interacts with its most important businesspeople, and Congress will not change it.

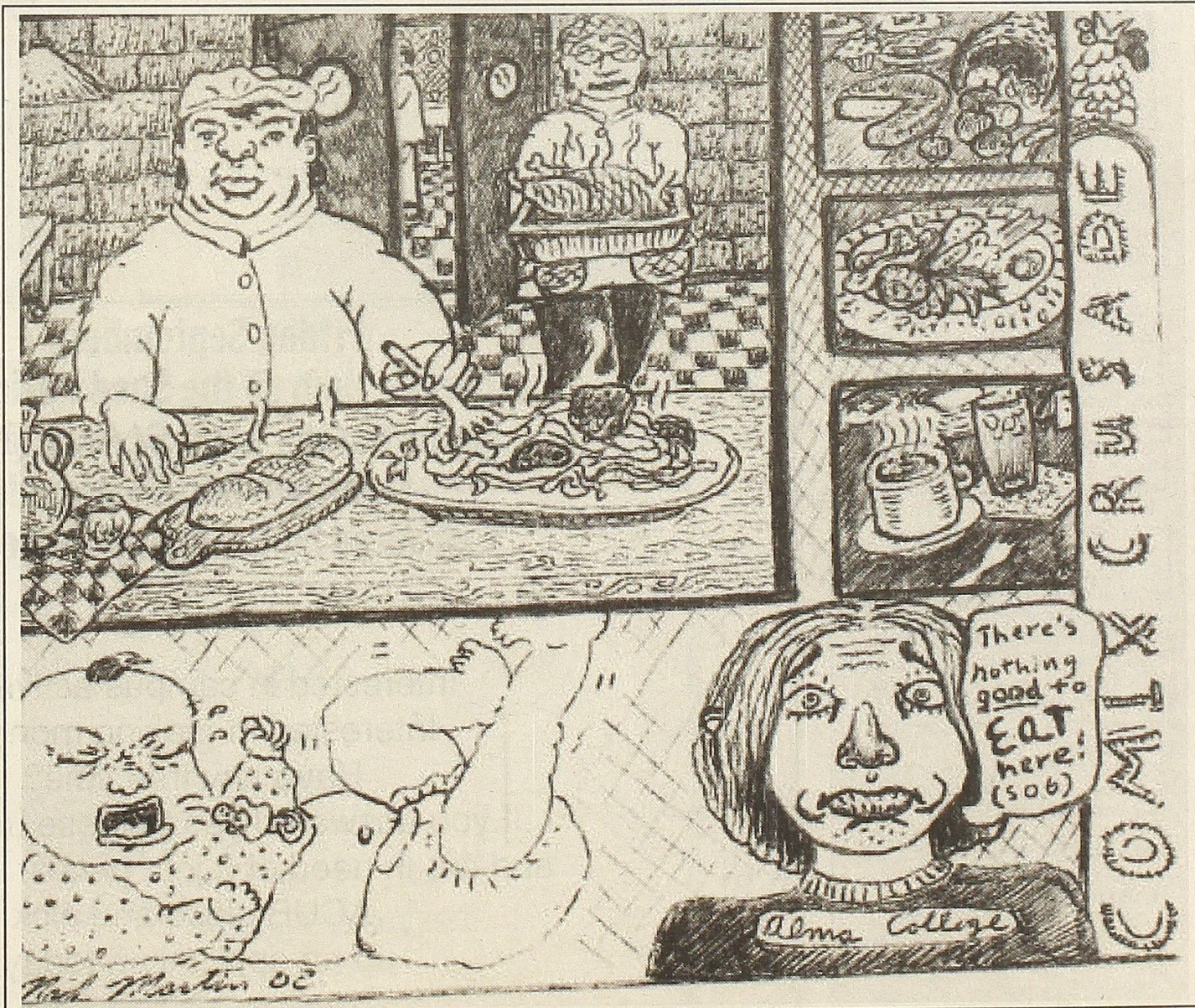
The CEOs and CFOs who make millions and billions of dollars by lying about their own work and about the performance of their companies have duped shareholders, employees, and the government for long enough. Attention has been drawn to the problem, and that is enough to bring back some measure, at least, of accountability. Their behavior has debased our stock market and our economy as a whole, and (whether this is good or bad) that's about as un-American a behavior as one could possibly practice.

LEAK from page 4

do not follow environmental regulations; I think familiarity with our own local Superfund site and the people affected thereby had bred contempt. We are far more likely to joke about the three-headed and eight-flippered members of the Pine River swim team than we are to actually consider what sort of action we could take to forestall a similar occurrence in the future. There is something seriously wrong with that picture.

"Night Owl" message

Last week, *The Almanian* received an anonymous letter from a concerned individual regarding the internet situation on campus. Due to ethical and legal issues *The Almanian* will not print anonymous letters.



SPORTS

Best darn sports column ever

MATT HELMUS
Sports Editor

First off, congratulations to the football team for their huge win over Manchester. The team used a lot of young talent in destroying the Spartans. I'm sure that many alumni, current students and other fans would love to see the Scots pound former-MIAA for Defiance in the same fashion.

Is it safe to turn off my TV yet? After a weekend of football nailbiters I am worried that I will miss a last ditch drive if I dare to sneak out and use the men's room. Fans all over Michigan are reeling from last second heroics (or flops, depending on who you talk to.)

The Michigan Wolverines started the trend when they squeaked by Utah in the fourth quarter. It is a sad day when a top tier Big 10 team struggles to defeat a Mountain West opponent, but at least the Maize and Blue won. (I'm currently talking with Lloyd Carr about transferring to UM to boost their kicking game.)

Catholics everywhere rejoiced when their beloved Irish pulled out a win in East Lansing a few hours later. This proves that the Almighty is more powerful than the Spartan Heisman hopefuls Charles Rogers and Jeff Smoker. It also proves that the Michigan State clock operator (along with the paid referees) can't win every home game for the Spartans.

Lions fans were forced to choose between rooting for the team's present or future on Sunday night. A win would mean Detroit wouldn't be the first team in NFL history to go 0-16 in a season. A loss would bring the team one step closer to the end of the Marty Morninweg era. Being an ignorant Lions fan (is there any other kind?) I cheered the team on for a W. Being the Lions, they disappointed me.

Aside from not cheering for the Lions, there is one crucial piece of advice I'd like to offer to the freshman class. If you want to avoid the dreaded "freshman fifteen" there are two things you must do. First, wander over to the Alan J. Stone Center for Recreation and have a good time. Amy Blackburn, the rec center director, has set up many new classes and intramural activities. The exercise room is a great option, even if the music leaves a bit to be desired.

In my humble opinion, the best part of the rec center is the rock wall. The \$10 cost to be certified is minimal when compared to hours of challenging workouts on the wall. Great instructors are available to teach you how to tie knots, speak French, and not die. After getting your classy, orange safety card you are free to climb whenever there is a staff member to supervise. Just remember to kiss the bar at the top after your first climb to make it official. The staff can also give tips to make your climb more or less challenging based on your level of ability.

I almost forgot the second way to avoid adding to your personal equator. Keep the visits to the ice cream machine to a minimum!

Duffers defend home links

KRISHA LARSON and MATT HELMUS
Staff Writer and Sports Editor

The men's golf team finished third on Saturday in the MIAA Jamboree with a score of 308. Calvin College took home the team victory with a 303, while Olivet College finished second with a 307. The Jamboree was held on Alma's home course of Pine River Country Club.

Ryan Riley (05) paced the Scots with an individual score of 73, finishing in a three-way tie for second overall. Ryan Munro (04) scored a 77 finishing 10th place and Chad Vietzke (05) finished with an individual score of 78 placing 14th. Justin Desjarlais (04) and Armand Samouelian (03) both scored an 80 placing 19th for the Scots.

Earlier in the week the Scots took fourth place at the MIAA Jamboree hosted by

Olivet. The team shot a 315 at the Bedford Valley Country Club finishing behind Calvin, Hope and the host Hornets. Desjarlais led the team with a round of 76, finishing in tenth place overall. Samouelian was the only other golfer on the team to card a sub-80 round.

The Scots success on Saturday sets them on the pace to achieve their goal of finishing above their fourth place finish last year. "Team unity is very strong this year. We are a lot more solid and consistent this year," Samouelian says. "Some of our success can be attributed to playing five guys this year and counting four of the scores."

The Scots will travel to Indian Run Golf Club on Wednesday for another MIAA Jamboree.

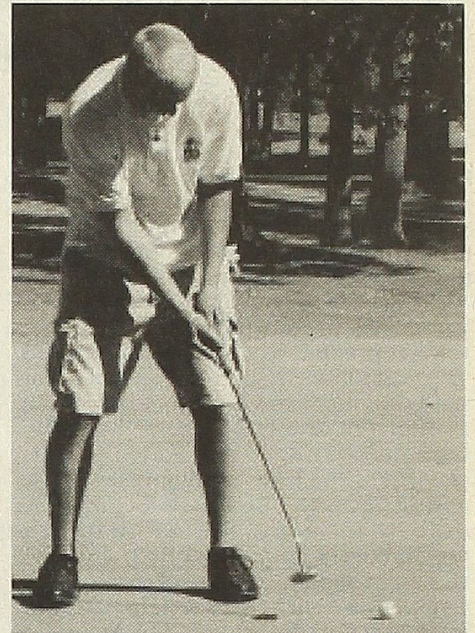


Photo by Melanie Szewczyk

Scot volleyball leading conference

KRISTEN BROWN
Staff Writer

The Lady Scots volleyball team remained undefeated in the MIAA and atop the standings with victories over two conference opponents this week. On Wednesday, the women swept Olivet College at the Cappaert Gymnasium 30-20, 30-13, 30-19. Sophomore Kelly O'Connor led the way with 14 kills. Senior Megan Cook and sophomore Kristin Judson balanced the attack with seven kills each.

On Friday the Scots faced 3-1, Adrian, on the Bulldogs' home court coming away with a 30-28, 30-21, 30-28 victory. Twin sophomores Kristin and Kerri Judson provided the fire-power. Kristin finished with 21 kills and 10 digs, while sister Kerri provided 15 kills and a team best 19 digs. Sophomore Kelly O'Connor and senior Megan Cook each added 11 kills. Alma's match total of 74 kills ties the team's second best mark. Theresa Miller (03) provided the defense at the net with 2 solo

blocks and 3 assisted blocks. Sophomore Lindsey Baker led the team with 55 assists.

On Saturday the team traveled to Defiance Ohio for a pair of non-conference matches. First up was the highly touted Mount St. Joseph (Ohio), ranked number five in the AVCA Division III coaches poll. The Lady Scots hung tough, but lost in three straight, 30-25, 30-25, 30-26. In the afternoon match Alma defeated Defiance College (Ohio), in four games, 31-29, 20-30, 30-27, 31-29 bringing their overall record to 11-4. Megan Cook and Kristin Judson tallied 12 kills each against the Yellow Jackets. Kerri Judson added 8 and Kelly O'Connor, 7. Kristin Judson racked up 24 digs, followed by Cook with 16, and Moll and Kerri Judson with 13 apiece. Lindsey Baker recorded 40 assists, while Kristin Judson ruled the net with 4 solo blocks and 2 assisted blocks.

The Lady Scots put their 5-0 conference record on the line this week with matches at Kalamazoo on Wednesday and St. Mary's College on Friday.

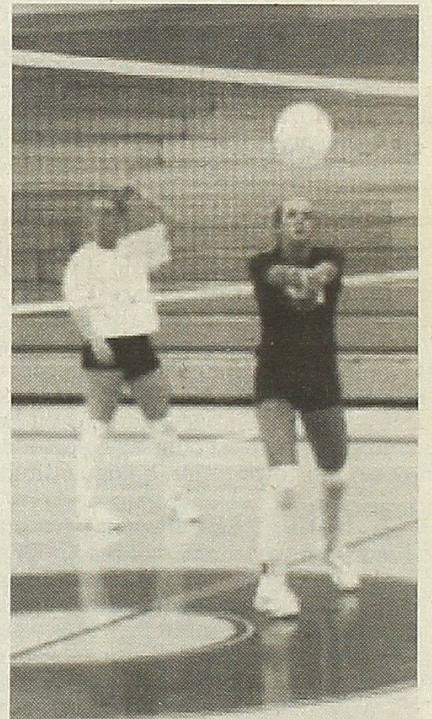


Photo by Dan Joyce

Friday September 27

Bonfire 9pm @ the Shed Parking Lot
Featuring the band SLANT @ 10 pm
Cider and Donuts provided
Sponsored by ACUB and Homecoming

Interested in campus activities?

Interested in making money?

Have any free time?

If you answered yes to these questions
 and are in need of a job, please stop by the
 ACUB office and pick
 up an application today!

SPORTS

Women's golf takes fourth at jamboree

JENE SHAW
Staff Writer

Even with multiple injuries, the Alma women's golf team still finished fourth at the MIAA Jamboree held at the Golf Club at Thornapple Pointe on Saturday.

The Scots ended with a score of 371, which set them behind the winning Saint Mary's team with a score of 338. Sophomore Courtney Rheinhardt led the team Saturday, and tied for medalist honors with Stacy Chapman of Albion and Stef Simmerman of Saint Mary's, all with 81's.

The team currently has four girls, which is just enough players to be able to take part in match play. Abbey French (06) followed Rheinhardt with a 93, Sarah Halbert (04) had a 96, and Autumn Pickhover (04) finished with a 101.

"I thought we played pretty well under the circumstances," Coach Charlie Goffnett said. "Courtney has been fighting a sinus infection for a week, so she was a little weak, Abbey has had some back problems, and Autumn walked around on one leg and still played. It was a pretty good day for us considering all of the injuries and sickness our team had."

Halbert scored her personal best Saturday, although it was only her second college game. "I was more re-

laxed this time around, and I played a lot better. I know I can still play better with every match I play," she said. "I thought we played pretty well Saturday. The course was tough and a lot of holes had water."

The girls will next play at Holland for an MIAA Jamboree at Winding Creek Golf Club at 1:00 pm. The Jamboree is the last this season before MIAA Championships. Coach Goffnett hopes to make some improvements from the past weekend, and hopes everyone can get healthy before next week's match.

"We also couldn't get a lot of practice in because of the weather," he said. "Hopefully we get a few good days where we can work on some weaknesses."

Goffnett says the team's unspoken goal is to get a third place. "Albion and Saint Mary's are clearly the strong teams," he said. "Realistically, that would be over achieving, but the girls have the ability to keep at it."

The coach is proud of his players strength when dealing with such difficulties. "They all persevered and played well under duress," Goffnett said. "This type of determination will continue. We're sticking with it and improving."

There are only two weeks left of the season, and Goffnett is "looking to finish up strong."

MIAA Standings

	Volleyball	
	Conference	Overall
	W-L	W-L
Alma	5-0	11-4
Calvin	4-1	10-3
K'zoo	4-1	12-4
Adrian	3-2	13-4
Hope	2-3	5-7
Albion	1-4	5-10
Olivet	1-4	2-13
St. Mary's	0-4	3-11

	Football	
	Overall	Total Points
	W-L	PF-PA
Adrian	2-1	72-62
Alma	2-1	81-69
Wisc. Luth.	2-1	73-61
K'zoo	1-1	73-33
Olivet	1-1	51-47
Albion	1-2	58-81
Hope	1-2	62-62

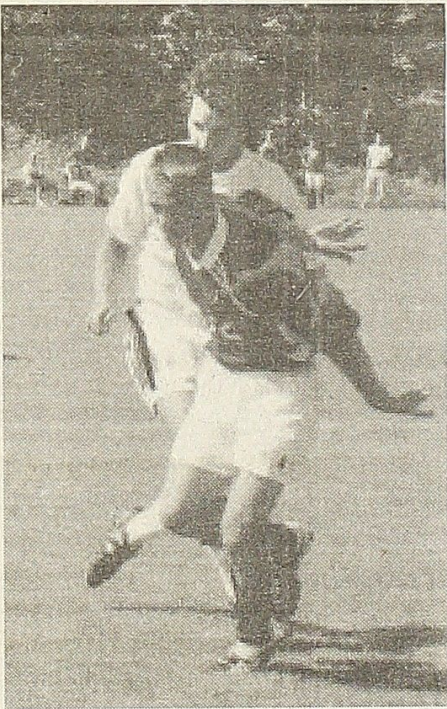
	Women's Soccer	
	Conference	Overall
	W-L-T	W-L-T
Albion	2-0-0	6-1-0
Alma	2-0-0	7-1-0
Hope	2-0-0	3-5-0
St. Mary's	1-1-0	3-4-0
Calvin	1-1-0	4-3-0
Adrian	0-2-0	3-2-0
K'zoo	0-2-0	0-6-1
Olivet	0-2-0	2-4-0

	Men's Soccer	
	Conference	Overall
	W-L-T	W-L-T
Alma	2-0-0	3-5-0
Hope	2-0-0	6-1-1
Albion	1-0-0	3-4-0
Calvin	1-1-0	5-3-0
Adrian	0-1-0	1-6-0
K'zoo	0-2-0	2-5-1
Olivet	0-2-0	3-6-0

Women's Golf	
	Total Strokes
Albion	677
St. Mary's	684
Hope	697
Olivet	770
Calvin	792
Adrian	861
K'zoo	881
Alma	371*
* Did not finish a tournament	

	Men's Golf	
	Total Strokes	
Hope	920	
Olivet	922	
Alma	949	
Calvin	955	
Adrian	961	
Albion	975	
K'zoo	1012	

Soccer wins first two MIAA contests



Photos by Melanie Szewczyk

The Scots defeated Kalamazoo (3-0) and Olivet (3-1) this week. On the left, Marshall Gray (03) goes for the header. On the right, Justin Dew (04) puts pressure on an Olivet player.

WQAC Presents

"Faculty Spotlight"

Thursday 7-8 pm

One show, one faculty member,
their type of music

SPORTS

Scots dump K'zoo, Olivet

MATT HELMUS
Sports Editor

The women's soccer game brought their record to 7-1 last week with wins over Kalamazoo and Olivet. The wins kept the Scots undefeated in the MIAA at 2-0.

On Wednesday the team squeaked by the Hornets of Kalamazoo by a score of 3-2 in the first league game for both squads. Alma controlled the tempo of the entire game until the last few minutes. The Scots led by three goals with under four minutes remaining in the game. Kalamazoo came alive for two quick goals but was unable to get the tying goal before time expired.

The Scots led 2-0 at the half thanks to goals by Sara Satterley (04) and Sara Monsere (04). Both goals were scored on free kicks that sailed over the goalkeeper's head. Early in the second half Sarah Ruddell (05) scored to give Alma the crucial third goal. The loss dropped Kalamazoo to 0-5.

The team beat another MIAA foe on Saturday, defeating Olivet 2-1. The Scots' defense led the way, allowing the Comets to take only 11 shots. The only one to find that back of the Alma goal occurred with late in the game when LaToyia Davidson converted on a pass from Jill Shufelt.

The first Alma goal came just before half and was scored by Angel Bushor (04). Ruddell and Megan Karchon (04) were given assists on the play. The eventual game-winner was scored by Kristin Kuzak (05) with an assist going to Karchon.

This is the team's fifth year under head coach Chi Ly. Before this season Coach Ly had a 22-46-3 record. He attributes this year's success to a strong junior class that "has been with me since freshman year." He is just now getting the results he wants from the team. He notes that on

the team Jessica Roberts (03) is a great leader looking to "go out with a bang." She is the Scots' leading goal scorer.

The goals for the rest of the season include winning the conference. Ly would like to see the team go undefeated in the MIAA. He wants the team to continue to "take it one game at a time." If the team wins the conference they get an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament. Ly is not sure how far the team could go but he would like to find out.

The team has already matched their win total from last year when they went 7-11-1. The Scots have never won a league crown but are currently tied with Hope and Albion atop the MIAA standings. The team has two games this week. They have a home game today against St. Mary's. They travel to Grand Rapids on Sunday to take on Calvin.

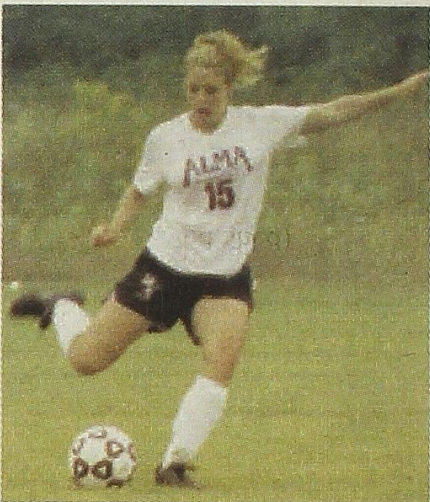


Photo by Dan Joyce
Junior Stephanie Krieg takes a shot during last week's win over Olivet.

Box Scores
Women's Soccer

Alma 2, Olivet 1

	1st	2nd	Final
Alma	1	1	2
Olivet	0	1	1

Goals - Alma 2 (Megan Karchon, Angel Bushor); Olivet 1 (LaToyian Davidson)

Assists - Alma 3 (Karchon, Sarah Ruddell, Kristen Kuzak); Olivet 1 (Jill Shufelt)

Goalkeeping - Alma 2 saves (Brandi Wright 2); Olivet 6 saves (Gretchen Ford 6)

Fouls - Alma 3, Olivet 7

Corner Kicks - Alma 3, Olivet 2

Football

Alma 52, Manchester 18

	1	2	3	4	F
Alma	23	0	9	20	52
Manc.	0	6	6	6	18

1st downs - Alma 27, Manchester 21

Total Yards - Alma 539 (204 Rushing, 335 Passing); Manchester 334 (75 Rushing, 259 Passing)

Penalties - Alma 15 (161 Yards); Manchester 7 (62 yards)

Fumbles - Alma 3 (1 lost); Manchester 3 (1 lost)

Sacks - Alma 1 (15 Yards), Manchester 1 (11 Yards)

Time of Possession - Alma 31:53; Manchester 28:07

AMANDA BAUSHKE
Staff Writer

Alma went 2-1 against non-conference opponent Manchester College with a win of 52-18 on Saturday afternoon.

Alma had a noteworthy start by scoring touchdowns on their first 3 drives of the game. The first was by Alan Montgomery (05), on a 1-yard run. The second was by Mark Boehms (03) on a 33-yard pass and the third was James Edington (04) on a 12-yard run.

Alma's defense posted two safeties. The first one was by Josh Funsch (03) who tackled the quarterback in the end zone. A bad snap to the punter led to the second safety.

Manchester first got on the board in the second quarter by a touchdown pass to Chris Welch from Jody Weldy.

At the half Alma was leading 23-6.

In the second half the Scots defense came out strong in stopping Manchester. Coming off a shoulder injury from the second quarter Montgomery had a 22-yard pass to Joe Galardi (04) and two touchdown passes to Clayton Sims (05). The first touchdown pass was 70 yards and the second was 3 yards.

Matt Lambourn (06) finished the Scots scoring late in the fourth quarter.

"It was a great team effort, especially by some of the younger players that stepped up on the offensive side of the ball," said Mike Abbey (03).

Along with the high-scoring offensive performance Alma's defense palyed a tough game holding Manchester at 12 points for most of the game with a touch-

down late in the fourth quarter. Scots defense caused three turn-overs, two interceptions by Kevin Vermeersch (05) and David Simpson (03), and one fumble recovery by Funsch. He also recorded nine tackles.

"On Saturday we played pretty well. The offensive line had a pretty good day and so did Montgomery," said Aaron Wallace (03). "Huntzinger did a real good job when Alan got hurt. The defense stepped up and played well. Overall it was a good team effort. It was a great win but we definitely have to focus for next week's homecoming game."

The Scots look to go 3-1 against Defiance College for their homecoming game on Saturday.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Sept. 24

4 p.m. - Women's Soccer
Home v. St. Mary's

8 p.m. - One Fish, Two Fish Dating
Game (Jones Auditorium)

Wednesday, Sept. 25

1 p.m. - Men's Golf MIAA
Jamboree @ Kalamazoo

4 p.m. - Men's Soccer
Home v. Indiana Tech

7 p.m. - Volleyball @ Kalamazoo

7 p.m. - Oh, the places you will go!
Scavenger Hunt (Rotunda)

Thursday, Sept. 26

7 - 9 p.m. - Tutor Orientation
(Jones Auditorium)

8 p.m. - Will You Eat Green Eggs and
Ham Fear Factor (Van Dusen)

Friday, Sept. 27

7 p.m. - Volleyball @ St. Mary's

8 p.m. - Bonfire (Behind Med Shed)

Saturday, Sept. 28

11 a.m. - Cross Country MIAA
Jamboree @ St. Mary's

Noon - Women's Soccer @ Calvin

1 p.m. - Women's Golf MIAA
Jamboree @ Hope

1:30 p.m. - Football Home v. Defiance

1:30 p.m. - Men's Soccer Home v. Calvin

Sunday, Sept. 29

9 p.m. - Chapel Service