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# The Almanian

*serving Alma College since 1907*

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## College begins search for Vice President of Student Life

KIMBERLEY CRANDELL
Staff Writer

The process for selecting a Vice President of Student Life is a long and complex one. A search committee was formed to help select candidates and have been meeting since September 19. Michael Yavenditti, professor of history heads the committee and says, "This is a new position and no position like this has existed at Alma College since in the years that I've been here and I came in 1968." The executive staff of Alma College made the decision to create the position at the beginning of the school year.

In the process for selecting a Vice President for Student Life candidates send in applications which the committee started reviewing November 4. Then the committee will review references and have conference calls. The final stage will consist of the candidates will visit Alma College. A Vice President for Student Life will cover responsibilities held by Dean Kridler and formally by Dean Perkins "Student life is very complex and very few people are both enrollment specialists and student life specialists and both are critical for us," says President Saundra Tracy.

Faculty, students and administrators make up the search committee from a variety of areas. Students include **Jenesha Penn (03)** and **John Davenport (05)**, faculty and staff includes Julie Arnold, associate professor of French, Chris Brown, director of financial aid, John Putz, professor of mathematics, Aaron Brock, assistant football coach, Dennis Bergvall, vice president for enrollment, and Tom Morris, associate professor of theatre and dance. They meet on a weekly basis without President Tracy but she will assist in making the final decision. "We realize it is not just a case of candidates selling themselves to us but it is Alma College selling itself to the candidates," said Yavenditti.

Finalists will most likely be brought to campus after Christmas and hopefully the position will be filled by next school year. "There will be some applications that are not a good match for the position description and they don't have credentials and really don't fit. There will be others that look okay but aren't very exciting, and their will be some that have really great background experience and are a good match for Alma," said President Tracy of the screening process.

—See VP SEARCH page 2

## Physical Plant installs parking lot to alleviate student concerns

KIMBERLEY CRANDELL
Staff Writer

Alma College phyiscal plant has installed a new maroon parking lot next door to the Sigma Chi house to help alleviate parking problems on campus. As always with any college or university, lack of parking is a common complaint among students. Duane Knecht, director of the physical plant, comments on the difficult issue: "We aren't any different from any institution. At every institution one of the biggest problems is parking. One advantage is that our campus is tighter knit and the buildings are closer and you don't have to walk as far. We have to evaluate our money spent on putting black top down to park cars on or if we should use money for other academic needs or physical plant needs."

A parking lot at Alma College is a fairly expensive project. The cost of one spot alone is about $1,000--without anything added on. If a parking lot needs curbs or gutters a single space can cost up to $1,300. Parking decals cost $80.00 for the maroon decal, what used to be called preferred parking. It would take approximately twelve years to pay for the cost of a spot--about the same amount of time Duane Knecht has been the Director the of the Physical Plant at Alma College.

To get approval for the new parking lot the executive staff decided where it would be needed. They based their decision on the elevation of the terrain and where residence of Alma would not resist the new lot.

It took a planning committee thirty days to approve the plan in addition to a zoning appeals board that took three to four weeks to approve the plans. The last new lot built was put in by the Recreational Center three years ago.

*photo by Jason Garvin*

**The newly installed maroon parking lot is located next door to the Sigma Chi fraternity house and is within walking distance of South Complex.**

Some of the trouble with choosing a place to put a parking lot in comes from trying to balance the picturesque beauty of Alma's campus with blacktop. "Overall I think the college's attempt to preserve green space and to put parking is a good job in managing the balance. We've tried to find areas that fit both, and leave green space for us to enjoy on campus," says Knecht.

When asked what people typically get parking tickets, Knecht said, "A lot of students say they drove all over the place and couldn't find a place to park." This should no longer continue to be a concern as every maroon sticker sold has a maroon spot on campus close to a residence hall-although not necessarily each student's actual residence. The Silver decals that are are available for purchase are oversold. However, Knecht offered that the silver decal service provides freshman students the opportunity to have a car on campus-which is rare at most large universities. Students without the maroon sticker rarely will have to travel far distances on foot to reach their vehicle and the parking lots are lighted with better lighting on the way. Students may always call security if they have parked far away from campus and may be escorted to and from their cars if they wished. Overall Knecht says the new parking lot resulted from, "A shortage of adequate parking and the desire of the college to provide as much adequate parking as reasonably possible."

*photo by Jason Garvin*

Travis Crawford (04), Marc Kai (03), Brett Zubeck (04) and Wilson Nichols (06) perform as 'Eleven Arms To Hold You' during SongFest on Friday evening.

For more SongFest 2002 information, pictures, and highlights see page 5

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# NEWS

## Granholm asks lawmaker to aid in administration transition

KRISTEN BROWN
Staff Writer

Jennifer Granholm, newly elected Michigan Governor, named Lynn Johndahl to lead a transition team which will draft a plan to reorganize and help solve the state budget deficit.

Representative Lynn Johndahl, a Democrat, spent 22 years in the legislature and is widely respected by Republicans. Granholm said she would soon appoint the rest of the team, which also will plan her inauguration in January. The number of people to be appointed is not yet known.

Granholm said her administration would be open to ideas from the Legislature, and the public. Granholm told the Grand Rapids Press that she "wants to reach out to people and to be included in the governance of the state," and wants to "make sure that people are included on the transition committee." Granholm later said that she was "very aware that this was a close race, and if you're governor, you are governor for the entire state."

Johndahl, with his experience, will lead the effort to find talented people for the new administration. Johndahl will name a committee to draft a budget plan which will recommend cuts in state government spending. The state of Michigan currently faces a potential billion-dollar deficit.

In January, Granhom, will face a Senate with a 22-16 GOP majority and a House with a 61-49 majority over the Democrats. This is a wider margin than currently exists. Except for Granholm, Republicans swept everything in sight on Tuesday, including a contested race for attorney general.

During Granholm's campaigning, she promised to combine the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Environmental Quality. Because the DNR is governed by the Natural Resources Commission, composed gubernatorial appointments, she said reunification of the agencies must wait until she can appoint enough new members to the commission to get her plan approved.

However, Granholm said she would create a new Department of Labor and Commerce. This department would combine the Department of Consumer and Industry Services with the Department of Career Development.

Granholm said her first priority is to produce a budget-cutting plan that avoids layoffs and cuts in service.

Granholm met briefly with Engler last Wednesday, but no agreements were made regarding whether or not she will have any input in budget decisions before she takes office.

## Michigan elects Democrats into high office; Republican party dominates national elections, retakes Senate

KARI JOY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

As a result of the elections last Tuesday, the political party in control of the executive branch also gained seats in the Senate, which has only taken place in three elections since 1900. According to the Detroit Free Press, more than 47% of Michigan voters went to the poll, contributing to the election's outcome for control by the Republican Party.

In Michigan's election, Jennifer M. Granholm (D) succeeded in gaining the position of Governor over Dick Posthumus (GOP) with 51% of the vote.

As Michigan's first Democratic governor since 1990, Granholm "...faces the challenge of controlling two houses of the legislature and especially the state budget crisis, so she will have to confront that. If she does well, she will appear brilliant, but the challenge lies in her being able to control the State Legislature or not," said Edward Lorenz, Professor of Public Affairs and chair of the Political Science/History departments.

The Secretary of State, now Terri Lynn Land (R) led with 55% voters approval versus Melvin Butch Hollowell (Dem) with 43%. Representing in the U.S. Senate is Carl Levin (D) with 61% against Andrew Rackowski (R) 31%. With 49 percent approval, Mike Cox (R) succeeded over Gary Peters (D) for Attorney General. For District 4 in the election for U.S. Congress, Dave Camp (R) came out victorious as well.

While the Republican Party gained seats within the House of Representatives, the election itself indicated an evenly divided population. Lorenz added, "The country is very evenly divided...only by a small number of votes in places; we [are] very 50/50 in voting, but in this case, several cases broke it for the Republicans."

In response to the election, Sandy Hulme, Chair and Associate Professor of Political Science mentioned, "The election testifies to the events following September 11 and the concerns of Americans about security and terror related issues, deflecting concerns about the economy. Traditionally, [it is] expected the Democrats to do better in the elections, but with the boost of 9/11 to President Bush people's attention is focused in a different direction than where it usually is."

Although the implications of future elections and the approaching Presidential election remain unknown, many individuals and students speculate what is to come.

Said Matt Friar (03), "This election shows that the Republican and Democrats, or at least the electorate is still split on which party they favor. The overall downfall of the Democrats is due to the fact that they were not really proactive with any issue; they didn't come out strongly and a lot of them tried to side with George Bush on security issues. What they need to do is to get a strong candidate out there and to look forward to 2004 in the long run, the economy and jobs and how to get the country back on its feet again otherwise they are going to suffer the same kind of defeat as they did in this election."

In regards to the influence of the Republican Party's success and the involvement with Iraq, Dr. Lorenz said, "The Republican policies will probably be more easily adopted and while war with Iraq was a possibility, there are less fundamental hurdles now for the President."

## South Bruske sewage problems angers residents; physical plant unsure over cause of problem

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

South Bruske residents experienced a sewage backup on Sunday November 3, resulting in open sewage in the residence hall and lingering stench that lasted for several days. **Matt Seipke (06)**, a resident of first south Bruske, said, "It was really gross and needed to be fixed faster than it was." Not only was the smell permeating the hall, but several puddles were also beginning to form in the study lounges on the first and second floor and right in front of switch.

First floor resident assistant **Adam Sudia (03)** said, "Everybody knows there are certain problems with the college, but this should not have happened." Echoing a similar statement, **Kevin Beggs (06)** said, "It smelled horrible, I thought it was going to last all night, but luckily it didn't." **Joe Honkala (06)** added, "I think it is disturbing. It cannot be safe for the residents, and I was embarrassed to have two friends visiting me from Central."

Assistant Director of Plant Operations Bill Foor explained that the problem began with a clog in one of the main sewer lines. Some second floor residents discovered this and called security. The message was quickly relayed to physical plant. A maintenance worker came and tried to use a plumber's snake to unclog the drain, but he was unsuccessful in his attempts.

The worker then resorted to using sulfuric acid, which is a drain cleaner. Thinking that the problem was taken care of, he then left. That was just the beginning of the problem, however. Soon after the worker left, fumes began to rise out of drains all over south Bruske especially on first and second floor. Foor said that the acid had apparently reacted with some other substance that was present in the sewer lines. The gas that resulted from the reaction was what was causing the pungent odor.

Security was called yet again by several students who were complaining about the smell. After quite a while, the physical plant worker returned to see what had gone wrong. However, by that time the smell had began to dissipate because many students had opened their windows to ventilate the building.

Foor said the clog was not fully taken care of until the next day when the maintenance worker came back and finished the job by using his snake in another drain. Physical plant believes that the clog originally began in the kitchenette on second floor, but they still are not totally sure.

Normally, using a snake to unclog the drain is successful according to Foor. In fact, he could not recall another occasion in the three years that he has been at the college where a drain cleaner had to be used. Apparently, this was why the maintenance worker was not aware that a reaction with something already present in the pipes was possible.

## News Briefs

**Mutilated deer carcass found on fraternity porch**

**Alma, MI-**
An act of vandalism has come under investigation by Alma police after a mutilated deer carcass was found on the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house porch. The carcass was dropped by an unknown person between 1:30 and 1:40 a.m. on Friday morning. The tags found on the deer have been traced to an Ithaca resident. The police have several suspects but have not released names at this time. The Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity denounced the act and encouraged cooperation with local police. Anyone with information regarding the incident is encouraged to contact Alma police department.

**British royal family accused of rape coverup scandal involving former aide**

**London, England-**
Prince Charles and the British Royal family are under attack by the British press over an alleged rape coverup involving one of Prince Charles' aides raping a male servant to the royal family. George Smith, former valet for the British royalty claims he was raped in 1989 and was again assaulted in 1995 by the same unidentified princes' aide. Attorneys for the royal family have denied Smith's allegations and commented "all of George Smith's claims are wholly inaccurate." New Scotland Yard has issued a statement saying that the investigation was terminated last year due to lack of evidence.

## VP SEARCH from page 1

Student life has become more specialized over time, tying classroom experience to residential living. Almost all of Alma's students live on campus so it is important to have them represented in the executive committee through the role of Vice President of Student Life. President Tracy said, "What happens to a student when he or she comes here is that whole composite of experiences in and out of the classroom...I firmly believe that that composite of being in residence on a campus gives you an incredible value added to your education career. It allows you to grow and develop in ways that if you only had part of the pie you wouldn't. We have to make the most of that."

## Clarification

In last week's article, "Communication dept. receives grant for new technology lab," the communications department was inaccurately attributed with winning a grant from Charles J. Strosacker Foundation. Drs. David Lawerance and John Ottenhoff applied for the grant in the name of the College, and all equipment purchased with the grant money is owned by Alma College, not the communication department.

# OPINION

## The Almanian's VIEWS

On November 5, Americans were given a chance to exercise their constitutional right of voting, one that reaffirms how fortunate we are to exist in a democracy. There were candidates who held diverse beliefs, proposals that could potentially change lives, and with the national situation currently taking place, a chance to redistribute power. This sounds like a fantastic way to take advantage of what our country offers us – a voice. However, statistics have reinforced what was feared before Election Day. Only 30% of legible voters actually took twenty or so minutes out of their day to visit the booths. A whopping 70% of voices went unheard. Unfortunately, many of these voices belong to students of institutions of higher education...such as those at Alma College. How many times have we heard random conversations among students involving the statements "I am not even registered," "I don't know enough about the candidates to vote," "My single vote won't even matter"? Alas, 70% of people with that attitude have made turnout this year almost hit rock bottom.

None of these excuses are valid. Registering to vote is an extremely simple process, one that should take place immediately after turning eighteen. Reading any sort of literature or surfing the web for a short time can provide a load of information. You don't have to be a political science major to understand political science. And the argument that your vote doesn't count? Considering that Jennifer Granholm beat Dick Posthumous by only125,467 votes, a 3% increase could have changed the entire outcome.

There are always a number of unhappy campers who rant and rave about the current state of this country. There is absolutely nothing wrong with this; however, if those complaining belong in the non-voting majority, then they are just making fools of themselves. By not being involved in the first place, their arguments mean little. Students should take a step back and think about what they did on November 5. If you voted, pat yourself on the back. If not, then hopefully you have no qualms with the final outcomes, because you obviously didn't care enough to voice your opinion before. Why would anyone want to reinforce the stereotype that young people are ignorant and indifferent, and that those at Alma College really live in a "bubble"?

To encourage students to vote, the college could have put a little more emphasis on the procedure. Explaining the process of absentee ballots may have had an impact, as well as having more literature and discussion available for students in the weeks before, so they could learn the facts in the least complicated language. However, Alma College itself is not responsible for the ignorance that occurred, ultimately it is an individual decision.

This editorial is not meant to put down those who didn't vote; it is rather a reality check for those who may have taken the "easy" way out. November 2004 will be here before we know it, and it is up to you to make a difference.


## The Almanian

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**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**
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**Staff Editorial Policy**
Opinions expressed in the unbylined edtorials reflect the views of *The Almanian* editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.


## Strange news from across the pond

TIM SLADE
Opinion Editor

It's one of those weeks again – the international news scene is slow, at least as far as producing things upon which I can expound in any meaningful way. Last time this happened, I blathered on about Jerry Falwell and how much I dislike his representing me to the rest of the world. This time, I am going to alert everyone to some of the funnier stories I encountered during the three and a half hours I spent surfing the internet in search of inspiration. Most of these come from Reuters.com's "Oddly Enough" category.

The first article I encountered profiled yet another terrorist situation, although it was slightly different than the international furor spawned by Al-Qaeda. To contrast this situation to our lives here at Alma, I'd like to tell a story about a buddy of mine named Will Hill (01). Over the course of his 4 years at Alma, he noted that the squirrels here are abnormally fearless (except for the one who hangs out above the steps down to Bruske's main entrance and pelts me with nuts on a regular basis). Thus he made it his goal to spit on a squirrel just once before he graduated, figuring that it would take most of the year to accomplish this somewhat off-color project. I don't know if the squirrels mistook 6'4" Will for a tree, or what; either way, it took him 10 minutes on the second day of school to stand still long enough for a squirrel to come up and sit at his feet. Needless to say, the target was easier to hit than he'd expected and his college career was made complete. Fast forward to Friday, when a British grandfather decided to take up arms against a squirrel that had been terrorizing his neighborhood. The squirrel held the neighborhood's denizens in such a state of fear that children were no longer being allowed out to play; however, Geoff Horth's 2-year-old daughter Kelsi was playing in the front yard, and she was bitten on the face. With that, Horth snapped, and the 61-year-old proceeded to stalk the squirrel around the neighborhood with his airgun. He finally ended the reign of terror by shooting the squirrel as it charged out of a tree and came after him, taking it out just before it jumped.

In a totally unrelated matter, there are some countries where the economy gives rise to extremely weird job situations. One such instance occurred in Germany, where unemployment is so high that the government has made it difficult to fire people regardless of the severity of their transgressions. In this case, a German zookeeper was awarded six months' severance pay after having been fired a month ago. His crime was taking five Tibetan mountain chickens and two Cameroonian sheep that are popular with the children at the zoo's petting section, and having them for a barbecue. After being dismissed from work, he challenged the dismissal by stating that the zoo had not given him the required six months' dismissal notice. Strangely enough, they acquiesced and paid up; however, they informed him that he need not return to work after his month-long hiatus.

Neither of these stories is earth-shattering, but they were amusing products of three hours of bleary-eyed staring at my PC. If nothing else, sometimes it is nice just to know that the world's bizarre quirks can be benign.

## Muted display of intolerance at Songfest shameful

WHITNEY HOPKINS
Staff Writer

There are certain things in life that take a lot of guts. Bungee-jumping off cliffs, giving presentations, touring Pakistan...getting up on stage in front of over a hundred of your peers...

Props to the 20 groups of students who stood up in front of not just 4 judges, but dozens, and showed off their talent at Songfest on Friday night. We know we're scary people and that it's hard to finger-pick guitar when your hands are shaking from nervousness. We know we're a finicky audience, and we honestly appreciate you braving it and entertaining us. Thank you.

However, I must say that I suffered a rude awakening in regards to the open-mindedness and tolerance levels on this campus, or the lack thereof. When three wonderful young women stood up on stage to sing, dance, and play, worshipping their God, the students in the audience responded in one of several ways: they applauded, they were tolerant, they were annoyed, or they laughed. Myself, I applaud that group, for braving the intolerance they knew they'd encounter. For those of you who were annoyed, I ask you to consider this: is there something that's important enough to you to make you get up and sing about it?

I never realized the need for a gay-awareness group before this year, and last year Lambda Epsilon Pi, a campus human rights organization, fell apart. This has not been one of the most open-minded campuses around, and though many students fervently protect their freedom of opinions, freedom of speech, and freedom of expressions, I often find that they are only concerned with protecting their own. As soon as someone else's opinions differ from your own, their rights to the expression of that opinion suddenly don't seem to exist anymore. And either does the compulsion to respect that opinion.

When a situation arises in which you may actually be called upon to testify to your opinions, and possibly be persecuted for them, could you do it? You can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk? Or would you be the Peter (of Biblical fame) of the day?

Picture this: you and your friends are lounging at a table in Saga when one of your buddies starts bashing a particular group, insulting them and spreading hurtful rumors. Inside, you cringe and are offended. But what do you actually do about it?

Scenario A, you clamp your lips shut and sit on anything you were going to say. Hey, they're just kidding, right? Who's it gonna hurt? Scenario B involved you interrupting and putting a stop to the insults, only to be the next target. Which one are you strong enough to do?

When it comes down to it, do you hold your own opinions strongly enough to defend them if called upon? Do you respect other people's opinions; mirroring what you hope is their respect for yours? What do you actually care about enough to get up and sing to your school about?

This is my last opinion article for the *Almanian*. Instead of me talking about things important to me and quite probably irrelevant to you, if there is an opinion you feel strongly enough about that you could sing about: be it love, war, or peace, feel free to exercise your right as a human being to express it. I don't care if you shout it out from your dorm room window or if you write it in chalk all over campus. Heck, why not go crazy, and send it to the *Almanian?*

# FEATURE

## WQAC TOP 30

01. NIRVANA - Nirvana
02. BJORK - Björk's Greatest Hits
03. LOT SIX - Animals
04. ELVIS COSTELLO AND THE IMPOSTERS - Cruel Smile
05. FOO FIGHTERS - One By One
06. TORI AMOS - Scarlet's Walk
07. KICKED IN THE HEAD - Salita
08. STREETS - Original Pirate Material
09. LOUDERMILK - The Red - Sides: B-Sides And More From The Red Record Sessions
10. VAUX - On Life; Living
11. BADLY DRAWN BOY - Have You Fed The Fish?
12. JOSH ROUSE - Beyond Cold Blue Stars [EP]
13. FLAMING LIPS - Yoshimi Wins: Live Radio Sessions
14. GILMORE GIRLS SOUNDTRACK
15. PORCUPINE TREE - In Absentia
16. HOBEX - U, Ready, Man
17. QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE - Songs For The Deaf
18. DIVISION OF LAURA LEE - Black City
19. SIGHTS - Got What We Want
20. BLEU - RedHead
21. WANDERJAHR - EP
22. COLDPLAY - A Rush Of Blood To The Head
23. SPARTA - Wiretap Scars
24. BIC RUNGA - Beautiful Collision
25. DONNAS - Spend The Night
26. MADGESDIQ - The Rebirth
27. PAVEMENT - Slanted And Enchanted: Luxe And Reduxe
28. SPITVALVES - Movin On
29. REUNION SHOW - Kill Your Television
30. SUM 41 - Still Waiting CD5

**WQAC Present's "World Music" Tuesdays 7-8 p.m.**

**The latest from around the world can be heard every Tuesday night. From Celtic to Caribbean, Indian to Greek. A huge and always interesting variety makes up this always-upbeat show.**

## Alma College prepares for the semi-annual "Nutcracker" performance

JENÉ SHAW
Staff Writer

After almost two months of practice, the Alma College Dance Company (ACDC), the Alma Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and fellow cast members of "The Nutcracker" are ready to present some excellent performances this week.

Written by E.T.A. Hoffman and scored by Tchaikovsky, "The Nutcracker" is a well-known holiday story that has become a performance tradition around the world. The ACDC has performed the show every other year since the first full-length show in 1998.

Associate professor of theatre and dance Thomas Morris, who is the director and choreographer for the show commented, "It has been a very long process to get this production up and running because there's a huge amount of scenery that has to be put back together, and the lighting and technical aspects are quite extensive."

The Alma performance of "The Nutcracker" incorporates a small amount of Scottish heritage. These include bagpipes, and kilts instead of tuxedos in one scene.

There are over 110 parts/roles in the show, including all ACDC members, 41 local children, and added male parts from other volunteer students. The cast has practiced every night of the week (Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings) since September.

Steven Draheim, former scenic and lighting designer/technical director at Alma College, is the set designer for the show. Kristeen Crosser, assistant professor of theatre and dance, is the lighting designer, performing arts coordinator and technical director. David Heuvel, the costume designer, is a professional costumier for ballet companies. Douglas Scripps conducts the ASO through the difficult Tchaikovsky score, which he has conducted over 200 times.

This is the first year "The Nutcracker" has gone without professional dancers for the main roles. "I'm very pleased that it's an all student cast," Morris said. "It's the first time we've been able to do that."

**Anna Long (04)** and **Lynsay Masters (04)** share the three prominent roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Chinese dancers, and the Snow Queen. The two dancers trade off the roles every show. "It was such an honor to get these parts," Long said. "We're very nervous, but there's no part higher than this that we could ever hope for, so we were really surprised." Masters added, "I'm quite nervous about the performance and I really want people to come watch. All the support from the audience helps me feel better."

According to Morris, "The Nutcracker" gives the company a great opportunity in the fall. **Jackie Winnell (05)**, ACDC member, said, "I've seen the Nutcracker many times since I was a little girl, and this is the first time I get to perform it; I'm really excited about it."

Wednesday, November 13, will be the final dress rehearsal for the cast and Alma students are encouraged to go watch. The remaining shows take place Thursday-Saturday, November 14-16, at 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17, at 3 p.m. All performances will be in the Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall. Tickets are $10 for adults; $5 for children 12 and under. Admission for Alma College students is free. For reservations, call the Heritage Center Box Office at (989) 463-7304 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Trinity Bible Fellowship provides opportunites for celebrating Christian Faith

OLGA WROBEL
Feature Editor

Every Wednesday evening, student's diverse religious backgrounds come together to celebrate God in their lives. Trinity Bible Fellowship is the organization that makes this possible. Led by president **Lee Owens (03)**, TBF gives Christian students a chance to develop their spirituality. He is assisted with a leadership team who are involved with the group's functions.

TBF was founded in 1995, and has been going strong ever since. At a typical meeting there are often up to 65 people attending, with the average around 45. Students come from many religious backgrounds including Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist and Lutheran.

Meetings take place on Wednesday evenings at 9 pm in Jones Auditorium. A typical session involves various speakers, bible study and song and prayer. Students may have noticed signs advertising Deirdre, a relative of a TBF member who recently spoke about how God has worked in her life. In the past, the group has held concerts and small group bible studies. The group has also helped people find a church to attend, and has sponsored mission trips.

"Trinity Bible Fellowship is in the business of changing lives – it is a God focused world view," Owens said when asked about the importance of this group. Students are overwhelmed with responsibilities, personal issues, and daily struggles, which often become the center of their lives. TBF is here to remind students about the place that God can have in their lives, and to give them a small break from the hassles of reality. "TBF brings a moment to reflect and relax during a stressful week," said **Alex Newton (04)**.

*Photo by Melanie Szewczyk*

**Rachel Dyke (05), Ryan Kluzak (03), Alex Newton (04) and Bethany Doran (05) come together at TBF to celebrate their faith in God, despite their religious backgrounds. TBF is a non-denominational organization.**

## Service learning and communication studies come together in Gilbert's COM 301

KARI JOY JOHNSON
Staff Writer

As part of the service-learning course COM 301 with Joanne Gilbert, associate professor or communication, students meet with elderly members of the community for a series of interviews. The upper division class involves creating a memoir for the community partners, but the ultimate objective include interpersonal skills such as listening, empathy, and respect.

Made a service-learning course in 1999, COM 301 typically includes 6-15 students, this year involving only six.

"I really prefer to have the class as small as possible and it's great because COM 301 is one of my very favorite classes to teach. It's always the case where students say, 'these are skills I am going to use my whole life.' It's different from other classes in that it's not just learning facts and things that you may or may not remember, it's actually using yourself as data," said Gilbert.

When the project was initially conceived, the class included working with people in hospice care, but in talking to the survivors and individuals who lost someone in hospice care, the class evolved.

"This time it's different because these are people who are much older than the students: 80s, 90s, and one who turned 100 this November," added Gilbert.

While the community members are not necessarily individuals who have lost someone in hospice care, they all experienced losing someone at one point during his or her lifetime, making the interview process a challenge, yet a reward.

"At first the interview was slightly uncomfortable because it was someone I didn't know, but after my second meeting it was a good visit and her life stories are remarkable. Learning about someone else's life is just incredible, especially with a woman who is 84 years old. The most exciting part is how listening to stories that touch the heart, especially hearing about people who are special to her. So there's a definite connection there," said **Sandy Patrick (04)**.

Before interviewing, the class practices reflective listening skills and also develops a protocol of questions to ask, although deviating from this list often occurs. "It generally takes one meeting to put the students' minds at ease because they really are giving such a gift to these individuals."

"The biggest challenge was knowing I had to stop, talk slowly and to learn how to enunciate with the woman I am interviewing; she is 100 and she lives by herself, so it's pretty amazing. It's also hard to know what questions to ask and where one's boundaries are because I want to learn about her personal life, but I just have to feel it out," said **Angela Wilcox (03)**.

Despite the challenges involved with meeting someone completely new and of a completely different generation, the students involved in the class easily recognize the positive aspects.

"With the whole service learning I find that meeting with George, my community partner, I have fun doing it because every time I go to meet with him I brighten his day. He appreciates me visiting. Even though we only have four meetings I still want to keep talking with him. It gives me a lot of satisfaction knowing I can spend an hour with someone and that it means so much to them," said **Erin Carson (04)**.

# FEATURE

## Adam Sandler's *Eight Crazy Nights* has grown up humor in cartoon form

WENDY WOHLFEILL
Staff Writer

*Eight Crazy Nights* has all the ingredients of a classic Adam Sandler flick, yet throws one more element into the mix: animation. This modern-day animated comedy gives Sandler a chance to show off his recent songs while providing a sappy yet hilarious holiday message.

The story revolves around a young man by the name of Davey (voice of Sandler) who hates the holidays and is determined to make everyone else around him as miserable as himself.

On the first night of Hanukah the continually irritable Davey goes on a drunken rampage and is arrested. Since this wasn't even close to his first display of destructive behavior, Davey is given the sentence of ten years in prison; this is until an old man by the name of Whitey (also voice of Sandler) intervenes and agrees to take responsibility of Davey. Whitey, who is a local basketball referee, decides to make the hilariously ungrateful Davey his assistant.

After making many more disrespectful yet humorous displays, Davey isn't taken seriously by anyone, especially his high school sweetheart Jennifer who has returned to town with her son Benjamin. When Davey loses his place to live, he is forced to move in with Whitey and his bizarre sister Eleanor (voice by Sandler).

The odd bond that is created softens Davey's character just long enough for audiences to see a better side until it is ripped away once more by crudity. The story progresses with a somewhat heart-touching holiday message about a boy who is more of a lonely and hurt person himself then the grouchy mask that he portrays.

The story is a classic one: a young boy finds happiness from the help of his friends. Although we have all seen this storyline before, Sandler adds a unique twist that isn't common in animated films.

Viewers searching for a deep storyline and plot, will find this movie not for them. However, if searching for a movie of pure laughs and "Sandler-like humor", then look no further. Don't let the animation fool you, this is no typical cartoon, the age group to be reached is the same as in past Sandler films. The same kinds of vulgar jokes are present which make this movie not suitable for a young child audience.

Although the animation in this movie allows for fantasy elements, it is still mostly based on reality. Many elements in the film were made to look extremely realistic. This helped to make the line between cartoon and reality a bit more blurred.

I found myself enjoying this film purely from a comedic standpoint, yet still enjoyed the overall message that was presented. It becomes obvious that in trying something new, Sandler has succeeded. What can I say? It made me laugh.
Overall grade: B

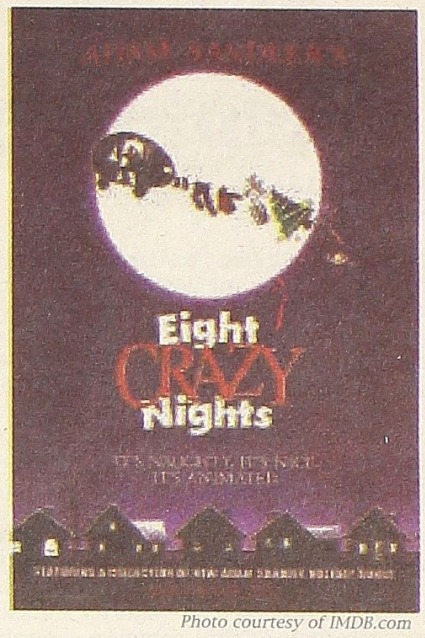


Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

## SongFest 2002
### a showcase of student musical talent

KRISHA LARSON
Staff Writer

The popularity of ACUB's annual event of Songfest was again evident this year as anxious students waited impatiently in a line outside of Dunning Memorial Chapel that ended at the street. At 8:00 p.m. on last Friday the show began as the crowd fell silent with attentive eyes towards the stage.

The hosts for the 2002 Songfest were **Bill Dever (03)** and **Robin Paige (04)**. Dever and Paige took the audience through the night, while keeping audience members entertained with their prize give-aways. They had participants acting out a bowling ball and a pin and walking on their hands, to doing cartwheels and summersaults down the aisle.

The Solo Acts began the show with the country singing of **Dan Draper (03)**, a familiar Songfest face. The solo acts showed several Alma College students musical talents, including their singing ability and ability to play an instrument. The passion was so intensely obvious across the face of each participant and in his or her voice.

**Emalee Sutherland's (04)** act gave the audience a feel of romance as the lights in the chapel were dimmed and the candles on the piano were lit. This setting set the mood and feeling in the air as she sang "Kissing You," by Des'ree. For her performance, Sutherland won second place in the solo acts.

Taking the breath away from listeners, **Katie Karjalainen (04)** was awarded first place (solo) for her outstanding singing of Sarah McLachlain's "Angel." The audience was silent as they listened to her voice, sounding as beautiful as McLachlain herself, fill the chapel.

Firing the crowd up in between the solo and small group performances were special guests, Dever, **Andy Brege (03)**, and **Alan Kast (03)** performing the Greek Week Mock Rock special of "The Devil Went Down to Georgia."

The Small Group Acts kept the audience entertained and impressed with the amount of musical talent here on Alma College campus. Performances included everything from Irish Medley's, to the sounds of boy bands, to the sounds of Billy Joel to Tom Petty.

Earning second place was Eleven Arms to Hold You who was back again this year, after winning first place last year for their version of "Chicago." This year they humored the crowd with a song titled, "Title of the Song" with **Wilson Nichols (06)** as the lead singer. Before the song began, Nichols informed the audience this song was "the key for all boy bands."

"Travis Crawford thought it would be a perfect Songfest song," said Nichols. "It felt nice winning, but all we cared about was sounding good and we hoped the crowd would enjoy it and I think they did."

The B-Sharps earned first place with "For the Longest Time" by Billy Joel. They initially grabbed the attention of the audience by ripping their pants off down to shorts before the song began, however one member dropped to his boxer shorts. They held onto the audience's attention throughout the song with their singing ability and humorous dancing ability. Lead singer, **Bill Sterling (05)** said, "it felt good winning. We left it all out there, and it was up to the judges to decide. Songfest is a fun thing to do. Its just people getting together and doing what they like to do."

The large group category was won by Scots on the Rocks, eight males in pajamas with roses singing "Insomniac." The crowd loved the performance of this group as applauses rose through the chapel.

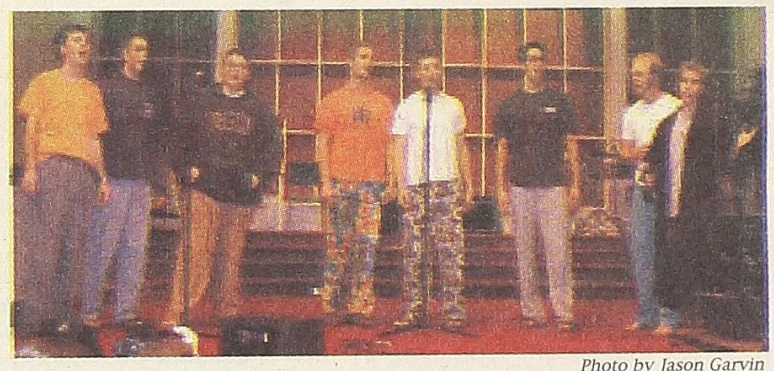


Photo by Jason Garvin
The eight talented males known as "Scots on the Rocks" won in the large group category with "Insomniac."

The Collective who was awarded second place sang Led Zeppelin's "Fool in the Rain." The crowd enjoyed the musical talent from this group as instruments were played intently and passionately.

Each act in every category was entertaining keeping audience members in suspense of who would be the winners. This year's judges were: Dr. Mark Seals, associate professor of education; Denise Snearey, Administrative Assistant to the vice-president of Advancement; Linda Hollabaugh; and Pete Browning, a member of the community.

Again this year the popularity of Songfest was evident in Dunning Memorial Chapel as audience members clapped with the beat for many songs, danced in their seats, sang along, and many standing ovations were given after several performances.

Photo by Jason Garvin
Bill Dever (02), Alan Kast (03) and Andy Brege (03) provided crowd pleasing entertainment between the competitions performing to "The Devil Went Down to Georgia" by the Charlie Daniels Band.

Photo by Jason Garvin
Katie Karjalainen (04) blew the crowd away with her rendition of Sarah McLachlan's "Angel," taking first place in the solo category.

Photo by Jason Garvin
The B-Sharps, consiting of Bill Sterling (05), Brian Hancock (05), Will Heyd (05) and Matt Bryan (05) won first place in the small group category, singing "For the Longest Time" by Billy Joel.

# OPINION

## Point COUNTERPOINT

### *Granholm leads state into uncharted waters as Republicans consolidate power through elections*

KYLE WELLFARE
Guest Columnist

Despite the fact that Dick Posthumus lost the election race for governor (in case some of you hadn't heard), things are looking bright for the GOP.The Republicans captured 64 of the 110 seats in the state house of representatives. Republicans also kept control of the state senate. Not only that, the Michigan Attorney General position has been filled with a Republican for the first time in 40 years.

These two things are going to give governor-elect Jennifer Granholm quite a challenge to overcome during her 4 years in office. Ken Sikkema, who is expected to become the state senate majority leader, says he wants to "find common ground and move ahead". However, Democrats are skeptical of this, and quite frankly so am I. It is true that the Republican senate and house will have to work with the governor, but it is doubtful they will let her do anything that is too far outside their beliefs.

It is also highly likely that Granholm will end up drawing a lot of national attention to Michigan. Not only because she happens to be the first woman governor of this state, but because she is known to have a tough stance on certain issues. One which I am sure will be brought up in the next four years is her stance on abortion. Another is her stance on environmental issues. She will most likely try to pass a bill to make abortions easier to have, which in turn will be rejected by the senate and the house.

Another issue, which, as I recall, was something that Dick Posthumus was fighting for, is giving oil companies permission to drill for oil in the Great Lakes. Granholm will try to prevent this from happening, and we will see another colossal butting of heads in Lansing. I can say with a fair amount of accuracy that we will most certainly be hearing about this at a national level if she decides to make oil drilling a large issue during her governorship. During this time of bickering I predict we will see the media at the local and national level keeping a close eye on her actions.

To be completely honest it is hard to tell what will happen to Michigan with Granholm in the governor's seat. It's going to be interesting to see how the house and senate work with her, and when all is said and done, how much they will actually accomplish together. It will also be very interesting to see how different areas of the state respond to her future actions. Especially in Western Michigan were there are greater concentrations of conservatives than other places in the state.

If you voted and helped campaign you have every right in the world to complain. However, if you did not vote and were not involved you are only a part of any problem that may occur. The lesson being taught here is spelled out in Rocky: "Stay in school, use your brains. Be a thinker, not a stinker." and of course "Vote, it's your national duty."

### *Looking forward to a future of bipartisan cooperation and consensus-building*

SEAN WILSON
Staff Writer

The elections are over, and Attorney General Jennifer Granholm is now Governor-elect Jennifer Granholm. She is the first female Governor of this state and faces the stiffest partisan opposition that a Governor here has encountered since the 1970s. However, there is much that her administration will be able to do to bring about change in Michigan.

Her first major problem will undoubtedly be the state's budget crisis. Michigan currently faces a financial shortfall potentially as high as $1 billion, and though she promised while campaigning to cut Government spending, she did not present a coherent plan detailing which programs would suffer, or by how much.

The state's first Democratic Governor in 12 years must address many other items, however. Environmental laws must be stiffened, to prohibit oil drilling in the Great Lakes and to provide closer and stiffer regulation of 'factory farms' and heavy industry. Her plan to combine the Departments of Environmental Quality and of Natural Resources will aid her in this endeavor, but she will still face stiff opposition from conservative Republicans in the legislature. Granholm's well-known and strongly held pro-choice stance on abortion will be another area of fairly serious dispute with the state's lawmakers. She will have to work very closely indeed across traditional partisan lines to accomplish these measures, and concessions obviously must be made on other issues in order to strengthen her position on these.

Other hopes for the Granholm administration include increased influence by the Michigan Education Association, which endorsed several of Tuesday's victorious Republican lawmakers, as well as Granholm herself. Perhaps inadequacies and stagnation in Detroit's impoverished schools may be redressed as a result.

On the other hand, some causes are probably completely lost in the face of the new division between the legislative and executive branches of the state; while it would be wise and beneficial to the majority of the population here to reverse the recent relaxation of concealed weapons laws, Granholm herself shies away from this issue. A politically sound, if disappointing, decision.

In the four years to come, much may be accomplished for the good of this state and its residents; it will be done only through cooperation and understanding on the part of both parties and their supporters, however. "This is going to be a process of bipartisanship and consensus-building," Granholm said in a press conference on Thursday. Her election was a great victory for Democrats, women, and many other groups in Michigan. Let us celebrate it and its aspiration to cooperation and improved cross-party relations, while we look forward to 4 more years of prosperity and health for this State.

# Working toward the future, one step at a time

WENDY WOHFEILL
Staff Writer

How do you picture yourself in five years? Are you truly happy with this image? If so, are you taking the right steps now to accomplish this? If I had been asked this question a few weeks ago I'm still not sure what my immediate response would have been, but recently I have found myself pondering this idea more and more.

Two weeks ago, while attending a National College Media Convention held in Orlando, Florida with fellow members of the Almanian, I found myself staring my future competition in the face. Students from all over the country attended this conference with the same goals in mind, to become better at communicating to the public through radio or journalistic writing. In my sessions on journalism, I came to the realization that the people surrounding me would one day be turning in applications to the same places I desire to work for. With this in mind, I started comparing myself to them in every aspect. I asked myself questions like: "What did they have in common with me?" and "How much more experience did they have?" Being in this environment at first made me feel inadequate; I realized I had yet to take my future seriously. Of course, like everyone else, I looked to the future to see myself somewhere in the professional world, but I still hadn't taken any steps to set myself apart from others. In the past I had always justified my lack of writing experience to being busy like "all other college students." Constantly telling myself I would eventually find time to participate in job-related activities that would be necessary in landing a good job or internship, I still put off the inevitable.

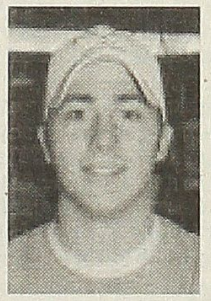
This year, after joining the Almaninan, I figured I was one step closer to becoming the kind of writer I wanted to be. This comforting idea was enough for me until I attended the convention. I came in contact with so many people who truly put everything they have into their writing. I discovered the one thing I had lost over the process of schooling was passion—passion for what I do now, and passion for what I will become in the future. After coming to this revelation myself, I started to wonder how many students are out there wandering around without passion.

Students really need to become involved in outside activities that involve the career that they want to pursue. By doing this they get the chance to become passionate about the job they may do for the rest of their lives. Of course we have all heard lectures on statistics of today's job market, but none of this could ever mean as much as actually meeting people that are pursuing the same long-term goals as ourselves. Apart from meeting students, I also came in contact with many veterans of the profession that made it obvious they truly loved what they have done with their lives. Hearing them speak of the accomplishments they have made and seeing the excitement that they feel makes me hope that I will someday be so lucky.

I believe that too many students get caught up in everyday college life. They essentially forget the main reason we are here is to find and master the career that will become a huge part of our existence. Involvement outside of the classroom can help students to see if they are on the right path and hopefully help them develop passion for what they do.

The sessions of the convention I attended alone may have taught me the logistics of writing, but the experience itself is nothing I could have ever learned in a classroom.

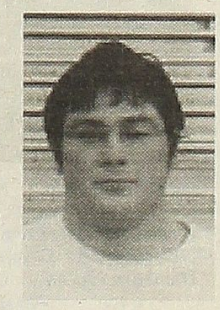
# "Do you feel safe at Alma College and why?"



"It's a small enough campus that almost everyone knows each other so people would stop what was going on if something happened."
John Behring '05

"Yes, it's a small campus so problems really are not likely. I also think that the maturity of our students is a lot higher than at some other schools I know of."
Joe Bush '03

"I feel safe all the time because there are lights everywhere especially the [more distant] lots, and there are no scary people here either."
Janet Van Zoeren '06



"While I know that campus crime has increased slightly, I still feel like I'm in no personal danger."
Adam Stack '05

# SPORTS

## Cheer team completes sucessful season under new coach

KRISHA LARSON
Staff Writer

The Alma College Cheer Team overcame several barriers this season, but all in all, had a very successful and exciting season. The 2002 Cheer Team for the Scots looked entirely different from last year's, beginning with a new coach. After having try-outs for the squad last spring, the squad was not set until another try-out was administered at the beginning of the school year.

Amy Beth Place, who graduated last spring from Alma College, took over the reigns as head coach this year. **Tara Britting (06)** said, "Amy Beth was an awesome coach. She helped us in many ways. She was like our friend, not just a coach, which is good."

**Amber Millikin (04)** described the team this year, "everyone was so wonderful. They were all so exceptional and had unbelievable talent."

The Cheer Team for this year consisted mainly of first year students. Coach Place says, "The barriers we had to overcome had to do with indifferent pasts. The squad's small number was a real problem. Many of the cheerleaders were from bigger squads in the past, it is hard to have to go back to easier stunts, but they learned quickly and came together as a team."

Millikin said, "The main barrier I think we overcame was doing new stunts." This entails the new faces on the squad, the low number of cheerleaders, and trying to improve on their skills and ability as a team throughout the season.

At the start of the season, the team had to begin with easier stunts. However, as the season continued they strived to improve on their team performance and were able to increase the level of difficulty in their stunts and cheers. "We had really good teamwork," said **Chelsey Thurston (06)**.

Thurston enjoyed her first season as a Scot cheerleader. "I really liked the squad. Amy Beth did a really good job bringing us together; we all just clicked together. We had a really good time and never had any problems."

Millikin and **Courtney Cuttitta (04)** were the two returning cheerleaders and helped with bringing this team together and helped to ensure the team would reach their true potential. "Everyone helped out. Amber and Courtney really helped in showing us how to do things," explained Britting.

Every member on the Cheer Team has high hopes in improving for next season. This year they are trying to recruit more students to try-out. "We are hoping for a full team," stated Place.

"For next season, I hope for a new and bigger squad," said Thurston, "a bigger and stronger one so that we will be able to do more stunts." Aside from hoping for a larger turnout, Britting also hopes everyone from this year will stay on the team for next season. "I loved everyone on the squad this year and they are all really good," she explained.

A date for try-outs has not been officially set but they will be sometime at the end of March said Place.

*Photo by Jason Garvin*

**Members of the cheer team practice a stunt. The team recently finished their 2002 season.**

## Men's and women's swimmers and divers drop league meet to Kalamazoo

KRISTEN BROWN
Staff Writer

The Alma College men's and women's swimming and diving teams both lost to Kalamazoo College on Saturday in a Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) meet.

The Scots were outscored 160-51 in the men's meet. Alma scored 99 points to Kalamazoo's 138 in the women's meet.

**Keith Hansen (05)** was Alma's sole winner in the men's meet. He won the 200- yard breaststroke in 2:24.45.

Alma's two relay teams – the 400 medley relay squad and the 400 freestyle relay team – both finished second.

The 400 medley team clocked a 3:59.07 and the 400 freestyle team finished in 3:41.75.

In the women's meet, **Stephanie Druskinis (05)** won the 100 yard freestyle in 56.01 seconds, **Morgan Hansen (05)** won both the 1 meter and 3 meter diving competitions, and **Jaci Wilkie (06)** finished the 200 yard breaststroke in 2:35.41.

Second place finishes were turned in by Druskinis in the 50 yard freestyle (25.94), **Julie Fantone (04)** in the 1000 freestyle (11:40.94) and 500 freestyle (2:26.31), **Lindsy Carr (05)** in the 1 meter and 3 meter diving events, **Brianne Hauser (05)** in the 200 individual medley (2:23.61) and **Elizabeth Smith (04)** in the 200 backstroke (2:26.31).

In the relays, the team of Smith, Wilkie, Erin Wicker and Ashley Meyers took second in the 400 medley relay with a time of 4:14.56. Meredith Henry, Emily Dolan, Hauser and Druskinis took second in the 400 freestyle relay in 3:54.59.

Captain for the girls team, Fantone, commented on the meet saying, "We were looking forward to the meet because Kalamazoo is one of our biggest competitors. For us to get into the top three, we have to beat them. This is one of our goals. Overall, this was an opportunity to see where we both are, see where we can improve, and what we have to look forward to."

Hansen said, "I thought that the team swam very well, considering we have had a couple hard practice weeks. Also, K-zoo was 4th in nation last year so this was a good meet for us to watch and learn."

The Scots travel to Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio next Saturday for a four-way meet beginning at 1:00 p.m.

### 2002 All-MIAA Men's Soccer Team

**1st team:**
Midfield: Evan Hammontree

**2nd team:**
Forward: Jeremiah Roberts.
Backs: Tom Aceto, Mike Mansfield.

**Hon. Mention:**
Josh Morgan, Luke Oostinde, Wes Rasdorf, Jamie Shooks

### MIAA Volleyball Tournament

**1st Round:**
*Alma* d. Olivet (30-11, 30-15, 30-11)
Calvin d. St. Mary's (30-20, 30-15, 30-13)
K'zoo d. Albion (30-13, 30-21, 30-16)
Hope d. Adrian (30-25, 30-28, 30-12)

**2nd Round:**
K'zoo d. Calvin (16-30, 27-30, 30-26, 30-28, 15-5)
*Alma* d. Hope (30-28, 30-25, 30-22)

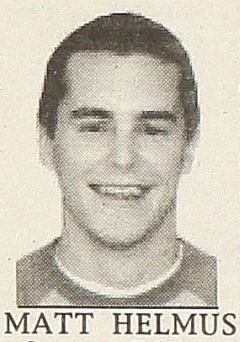
**Finals:**
K'zoo d. *Alma* (30-27, 26-30, 30-26, 30-20)

### Preseason MIAA Basketball Polls

**Men's:**
1. Calvin (4) - 8
2. Hope (3) - 9
3. K'zoo - 18
4. Albion - 19
5. Adrian - 27
6. Olivet - 30
7. *Alma* - 36

**Women's:**
1. Hope (7) - 7
2. K'zoo (1) - 15
3. Albion (1) - 18
4. Adrian - 28
5. Calvin - 31
6. *Alma* - 35
7. Saint Mary's - 43
8. Olivet - 46

## Best darn sports column ever



MATT HELMUS
Sports Editor

First off, congratulations to the volleyball team on a great season. Although the girls fell to Kalamazoo in the finals of the MIAA tournament they still had one of the most successful seasons in school history. The team should continue their winnings way in the next few years as all but three players are currently sophomores.

Second, congratulations to the football team. The team captured Alma's first outright conference title since 1968. The team had five titles since '68 but all have been shared with other schools. The Scots did a good job of not losing focus against an Adrian team that threatened to take a share of the title. The team will now continue practicing and hoping for a Division III playoff berth. They will find out

Here's the rundown on the football playoff situation. Twenty-eight teams make up the NCAA Division III playoffs. Eighteen of those teams are the conference champions of conferences with automatic bids. Three runners up in those conferences will get "Pool C" bids. The other seven spots in the tournament are "Pool B" bids. The Pool B teams come from any other Division III conference. They are chosen by a national selection committee that bases their decision on the team's records and their competition. Alma is currently hoping for one of the seven Pool B spots.

According to the Alan Babbitt, the *Grand Rapids Press'* expert on the MIAA, the Scots have a good chance of getting in. There are only three teams vying for a Pool B bid that are undefeated. That leaves four other spots. The Scots have been on a nine-game winning streak, a point that Babbitt believes may put them over the top. He also points out that the MIAA has a respectable record against other conferences and Alma's only loss came against Gustavus Adolphus, a respected school in Division III.

In Don Hansen's weekly football poll he ranks the Scots as the 19th best team in the country. It would be tough for the selection committee to leave the Alma out of the playoffs if they see the Scots this high. The American Football Coaches Association poll has the Scots in 26th place but that does not take into account this past weekend's game. Alma should at least crack the top 25 if not make a bigger jump after a few teams took unexpected losses this past week.

For the time being the team needs to enjoy their accomplishments to this point. They have had a great season until now but if they make the playoffs they are dangerous and could make a run. I'm sure that the team will stay in good physical and mental shape, and possibly learn a few new (trick) plays to head into the playoffs with.

# SPORTS

## Scots beat Adrian, hope for playoff berth

AMANDA BAUSHKE
Staff Writer

On Saturday the Scots won the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association title when they beat Adrian College in a game that ended 27-16.

It was a great way to end the MIAA season. "It was an unselfish year on everyone's part," said **Matt Piccirilli (03)**. "This was a great way for the seniors to end their year on an outright MIAA championship."

Adrian was the first team to score when Willie Perryman caught a 44-yard pass from Adam Tubaro with 4:59 left in the first quarter. The Scots blocked the extra point and Adrian led the game 6-0. Alma responded with 39 seconds left in the first quarter when **James Edington (04)** ran 9 yards for a touchdown.

Two minutes and 28 seconds into the second quarter Matt Piccirilli had a 51-yard field goal bringing the score up to 10-6. Piccirilli's field goal was the second longest field goal in MIAA history.

"Piccirilli changed the momentum of the game," said **Mark Boehms (03)**.

With 3:38 left in the first half the Bulldogs scored when Steve Kress recieved a 13-yard pass from Tubaro. The Bulldogs had pulled ahead and the score was 10-13. At the end of the second half Piccirilli kicked a 30-yard field goal to tie the score 13-13 at the half.

The Bulldogs pulled ahead again in the third quarter when Matt Brammer of Adrian had a 29-yard field goal. The Bulldogs led with a score of 13-16, but Brammer's field goal was their last score of the game. With 6:22 left in the third quarter **Ryan Mikulich (03)** recieved a 12-yard pass from **Steve Slowke (03)** putting the Scots in the lead 20-16.

Five seconds into the fourth quarter the scoring for the game was completed when **Clayton Sims (05)** caught a 15-yard pass from Slowke.

"It was a great way to end the season witha team victory," said Boehms. "The defense and offense both backed each other up. It was a great way to cap the end of the season."

This season the Scots set a school record for most wins in a season. This season they won nine games. Before this year, the most wins had been eight which the Scots had accomplished in 1999 when they tied with Albion and Hope for the MIAA title.

"We worked hard starting from the end of last year to the start of this season," said Piccirilli. "Everyone worked hardand wanted to win the championship. All of our hard work finally paid off."

The Scots finished the game with 400 yards in total offense. Edington had 90 yards on 12 carries and Jeremy Droptiny had 65 yards on 15 attempts. Steve Slowke completed 25 of 35 passes for 207 yards and two touchdowns while Boehms caught 8 passes for 76 yards to lead the receivers.

On November 17 the Scots will learn if they have been selected to play in the NCAA Division III playoffs.

## Scots fall in conference championship match

TIM SLADE
Opinion Editor

Saturday evening's MIAA championship match between Kalamazoo and the hometown Scots ended a memorable season in a most disheartening way, with the 13-1 Scots falling to the Hornets in 4 games (27-30, 30-26, 26-30, 20-30). Heading into the finals of the conference tournament as the favorites, the Scots had put themselves in position to be the MIAA representative to the Regional playoffs for the first time in school history, as well as securing the undisputed regular-season title.

Despite missing out on making school history, the core group of players from the team will be returning for another shot at it next year. The 2002 Scots were composed entirely of sophomores, with the exception of defensive specialist **Katie Moll (03)**, left-side hitter **Megan Cook (03)**, and middle hitter **Theresa Miller (03)**, meaning that there will be little turnover next year. After the addition of a few key f reshman and transfer recruits and a little line-up shuffling, the Alma juggernaut should return for a third consecutive run at the MIAA regular-season title. Finishing the 2001 regular season tied with Hope for first-place, the Scots came up short against them in the semifinals; this year, the Scots had swept through the regular season until dropping their final game against Kalamazoo's Hornets, only to falter again in the finals.

Alma's players were upbeat heading into the final match, looking to avenge their season-ending loss. As **Kristin Judson (05)** said "I was excited, because we had just lost the week before...there was no fear." Confident as they were, however, Alma's women recognized they would have to play very well to win the right to represent the MIAA in the playoffs. "They can hit, and so can we; [but] they covered the floor really well," said **Sarah Harrelson (05)**. "Everyone knew it was a good match, it could just turn out either way."

Going in, the Scots knew their offense would face a tough challenge from the Hornets' imposing defense, which includes two blockers taller than 6 feet. "Defense is one of their strong points," said Harrelson, a sentiment Judson shared as well. "Every ball I went to hit got touched," she said. "I tried to use the blocks, but it was very frustrating at first." Kalamazoo's defense served to alter the Scot's strategy a little, although the change was not expressly stated by interim Head Coach Steve Humm. With the Hornets getting a piece of nearly every ball the Scots sent over the net, Alma had to adjust to seeing everything come back. "We had this spot on the floor called 'the gold spot' - that was basically our focus," said Judson. "It's the most difficult spot to return the ball from on defense." Except for the occasional thunderous crater-producing kills from Kristin and **Kerri Judson (05)** and Theresa Miller, however, the Scots were unable to play their usual game, turning instead to more tips and finesse in order to bypass the Hornets' towering blockers.

If the only necessary adjustments had been on the offensive side, the Scots may have been more successful. Unfortunately, the defense that had held them in such wonderful stead all year long had to be tweaked as well in order to deal with Kalamazoo's offense. "We tried to concentrate more on tips - they killed us on tips during the regular season," said Moll. However, "their hits were a little deeper than we're used to, so we [also] had to concentrate on staying back more."

Overall, the women played a terrific match that was closer than the scores indicate. While it was not the end the Scots would have chosen for their season, there is a strong chance that next year at this time the school's first-ever berth as MIAA representative to the NCAA playoffs will be secured. The only disappointing thing about the match was the fan support. "It wasn't positive that the Kalamazoo fans were louder than the Alma fans," said Moll. Apparently, weak fan support (except from parents) has been a consistent feature of Alma's home matches. On the other hand, this group of fans was "the best we've had all season" according to Harrelson, and more upbeat than usual.

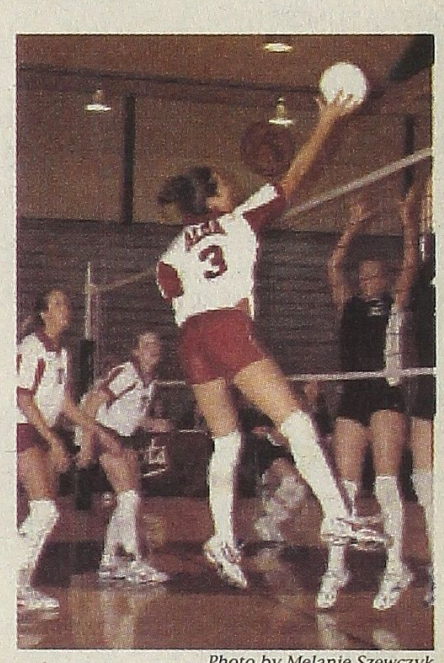


*Photo by Melanie Szewczyk*

Kerri Judson (05) tips a shot over the net in the team's game against Olivet. The Scots took second place in the MIAA tournament.

On a final note, the fans' behavior on Saturday following the match was disgraceful. Despite repeated requests by the play-by-play announcer for the fans to remain seated following the match for the presentation of the trophy to the Kalamazoo Hornets, approximately eighty percent of the student fans in Alma's section got up and walked out. This behavior displayed a remarkable lack of class and consideration on the part of Alma's students; both teams played their hearts out, and the Hornets deserved to be shown respect for their efforts, even if they weren't the home team.

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

**Wednesday, Nov. 13**

8 p.m. - Catholic Student Organization (Fireside Lounge)

9 p.m. - Trinity Bible Fellowship (Jones Auditorium)

**Thursday, Nov. 14**

8 p.m. - The Nutcracker (Heritage Center)

**Friday, Nov. 15**

8 p.m. - The Nutcracker (Heritage Center)

**Saturday, Nov. 16**

11 a.m. - Men's and Women's Cross Country NCAA Regionals @ Ada, OH

1 p.m. - Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving @ Baldwin-Wallace Meet, Berea, OH

3 p.m. - The Nutcracker (Heritage Center)

8 p.m. - The Nutcracker (Heritage Center)

**Sunday, Nov. 17**

3 p.m. - The Nutcracker (Heritage Center)

9 p.m. - Chapel Service

## Classifieds

#1 Spring Break Vacations! Cancun, Jamaica, Acapulco, Bahamas, Mazatlan, Florida, South Padre. 110% Best Prices! Book Now & get Free Parties & Meals! Group Discounts.
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