

The Almanian

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Student Congress begins 2004-2005 budgeting process for student organizations

SCOTTWEIR
Staff Writer

Last month the Student Activity Fee was increased by \$30 per year to bring the new fee to an even \$200.

Svetlana Kobzar (04), Student Congress treasurer, said the Budget and Finance committee tries to be "as fair as possible" when they determine who gets how much money.

Organizations wishing to apply for a budget have to fill out a request form and provide a detailed list of receipts and expected expenditures for the year. Budget and Finance looks at these budgets and typically provides funds to groups that "provide programs for members, put on speak-

ers for campus, and hold awareness weeks" according to Kobzar. Groups can't request money for food or t-shirts.

A large portion of the budget goes to providing larger programs and services for campus, and because of this, ACUB, the Scot, the *Almanian*, and WQAC have been commonly referred to as the "big four" when it comes to budgets on campus.

ACUB receives roughly \$49,000 a year to provide services such as the Freshman All Nighter, Casino Night, and Bowl and Skate Night. The Scot uses roughly the same amount to create a yearbook for the campus.

WQAC and the *Almanian* both receive around \$30,000 to provide students with a radio station and a newspaper.

Michelle Monsour (04) said of WQAC, "At first glance one wouldn't think a radio station would need that much money, but more than half of it (the budget) is out of our control." This is because of mandated government fees to broadcast and insure the station.

A fifth organization, Model UN, uses its \$12,000 to cover their an-

nual competitions and conferences in St. Louis and New York. Model UN receives a fixed 6% of the budget every year. This comes from the Student Congress Constitution (Article X, Section V) in regards to organizations that have members receiving college credit for the organization's activities. Model UN is the only organization this year with this recognition.

Angie Touchette (04) commented, "It is frustrating when I see organizations that benefit the entire student body denied proposed funds, knowing that a generous portion of my student activity fee is funding Model UN—a class!"

Those listed above are just organizations receiving over \$10,000. There are several organizations on campus that received budgets between \$100 and \$6,000 for the 2004 school year.

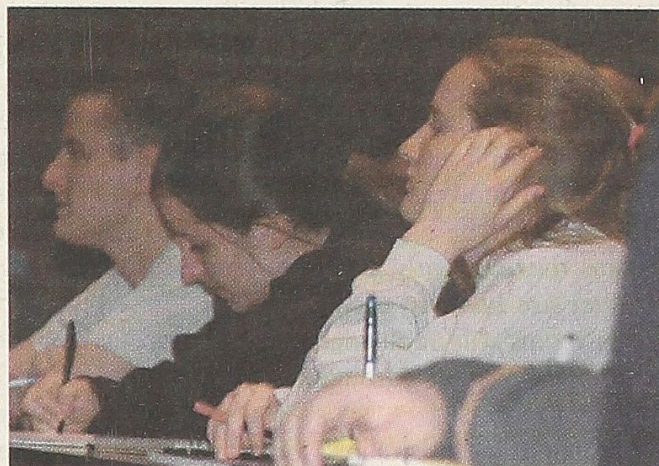


photo by Thad Hopkins

Student Congress representatives Erik Sanborn (06), Ashley Widrig (07), and Naomi Vance (06) attend Monday's Congress meeting in SAC 113.

A list of these budgets is available upon request from the Student Congress office.

With an expected increase in the overall budget to \$240,000, questions arise as to which organizations will receive additional money and to what extent. These questions are currently being answered by Student Congress, and all student input is welcome at their Monday meetings. Among things discussed is an increased contingency to provide extra funds for more ambitious and larger projects for next year.

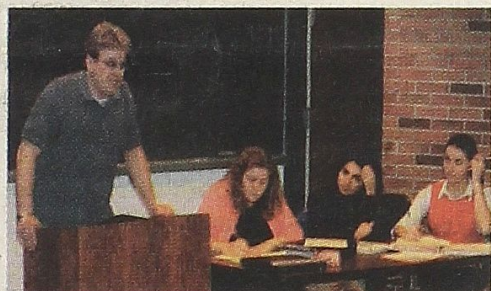


photo by Thad Hopkins

President of Student Congress Tim Throm speaks about budget concerns for the upcoming year.

Handicap accessibility strikes chord with students as petitioners confront President Tracy

ALEXA BOYCE
Staff Writer

Alma's campus has been inundated with talk about the handicap accessibility of dorms, bathrooms, and academic buildings.

Much of this discussion has been sparked by a project for Education 320, Growth and Development. **Nicole Devers (05), Katie Secord (05), Elizabeth Ritter (05) and Amanda Fritz (05)** have been assigned an advocacy project. Devers said, "I am hoping to make people more aware as well as to effect changes. It would be nice to see even some minor changes."

The students have done so through posting signs on doors to classrooms, bathroom stalls, and dormitory build-

ings. These signs ask questions such as "Is this handicap accessible?" "If you were in a wheelchair, would these rails be low enough for you (bathroom stall)?" and "Would you be able to come to Alma College if you were disabled?" Fritz said that some of the low admissions numbers could be due to the fact that a handicapped person could not physically attend Alma.

Aside from the signs, the students are also sending around a petition to the Administration and President Tracy. Students who sign the petition urge the administration to improve the accessibility on campus. Currently they have about two and a half pages of names.

Originally, the students were aiming for a third of the students and as many faculty as they can. They

already have a few signatures from faculty and staff who support them. While the girls aren't sure what kind of reaction to expect when the petition is delivered to the President, they are hopeful that they can make some sort of difference.

Several of the girls have personal reasons for advocating for the handicapped in particular. Devers works at a summer camp for those with physical or mental disabilities. Fritz has a mentally handicapped sister who has difficulty walking. Brandon DiGia, a former Alma student and friend of Secord, was in a swimming accident last summer and suffered a spinal cord injury. DiGia is now paralyzed below the chest and hopes to return to Alma in the fall. However, he cannot return to campus until major changes are in

place. He also is planning to make a case with President Tracy and the administration on this issue.

Devers also mentioned that they hope the plan for the new dormitory, Wright Hall, will include handicap accessible features such as an elevator and large bathrooms. The students are aware that it is unlikely that old buildings on campus will change, because they were built to codes thirty or fifty years ago. However, anything they can do that will give power to the disabled will make their project a success.

Fritz gave their general mission statement, saying, "I know [the administration is] not going to change everything, but even a few small, slow changes over a ten-year period would be great. We just want to make a difference."

In This Issue

**Housing
changes**
page 2

**Chorale and
Glee Club**
page 5

**Letters to
the Editor**
pages 3 & 6

Men's basketball
page 8

National/State/Local

Student Life comes up with new procedure that simplifies housing sign-up process

LAURA SACHJEN
Staff Writer

A new effort is being made by the Student Life Office to simplify the housing sign-up process.

"We're making a strong effort to streamline the process," Nick Piccolo, vice president of Student Life said. "We will not displace students."

The plan's main goal is to try to eliminate displacements and provide freedom of choice.

Students will be allowed to keep the rooms they currently are in, as long as they are filled to capacity. First-years rooms will be divided up after everyone has gone through housing sign-ups process.

The new process also allows for more freedom of choice in residence. There will be one lottery for the entire campus, and students can move anywhere, within regulations, on campus.

"We want to give people a little more control," Piccolo said. "We're hoping to make it a fair process."

The plan has received praise from students, as well as Student Congress and RHA.

"I think it will be a lot fairer for everyone because there will be more flexibility, and students will have the option of squatting their rooms," **Laura Powers (o6)** said. "I think the housing staff did a really good job coming up with it."

Under the old system, the Admissions Office gave a list of how many first-year rooms were going to be needed for the upcoming term. After rooms were designated, students in those rooms received notices telling them they could no longer keep their rooms. First-year students were given greater priority than upperclassmen.

"Sometimes the displacement pro-

cess was a source of frustration for students," Piccolo said.

Each residence hall also had its own lottery. Squatters were first, followed by displaced students, and then people moving around in the building. The hierarchy was arranged by graduation year as well.

This created another problem for students. Students could only move within their own buildings. If they wanted to move to another hall, they had to participate in that hall's lottery—and students moving into buildings were placed below everyone else.

This greatly reduced the chances of students getting a room in the hall of their choice, and students also missed their chance to go back to their old hall.

The old process was a confusing and frustrating one for many students, and organizers hope that the new plan will

help to relieve that confusion and frustration.

President of RHA, **Amanda Leppek (o6)** was one of the participants in a housing workshop. She got to see how the mapping out of the process, and the old way of housing sign-ups seemed overly complicated to her.

"I didn't even understand the process when I went through it," she said.

Leppek also agreed that the new plan would be fairer and give seniors more priority than the old process.

"It may not be a perfect system," she said, "but it's a step in the right direction."

The plan was brought about out of broad-based input from the Residence Hall Association (RHA), the Student Life staff, the Business Office, Admissions, and Resident Assistants.

Veto of ban on partial birth abortion incites students to collect signatures

LAURA SACHJEN
Staff Writer

Students may have noticed some different signs hanging up on campus during January. Anti-abortion signs started popping up at several places around campus.

Anne Westerman (o6) and **Julie Lee (o6)** are two of the students who began posting the signs on campus.

The time seemed right for the two as mid-January had the Sanctity for Life Week, as well as the 31st anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

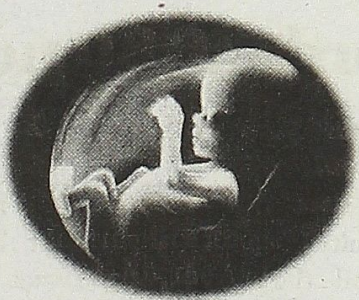
Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm vetoed a bill in October that could have banned partial-birth abortion, because the bill did not include an exception for saving the mother's life. Several groups are now taking steps to turn that decision around.

Abortion rights supporter **Eileen Cole (o4)** is not in favor of partial-birth abortion unless it is used to save the life of the mother, but she does not support a ban of it.

"It's not my decision what another woman does with her own body," Cole said. "She should be allowed to make choices for herself."

Gov. Granholm's veto could be overridden by citizen initiative. If 250,000 signatures are collected, then the veto would be overridden and Gov. Granholm would have no power over changing it.

Excuse me America,
this is tissue.



This is not.

poster courtesy of Anne Westerman
This is only one of the posters that has been seen across campus. "It's (abortion) something I've always been passionate about," Westerman said.

Westerman and Lee have been collecting signatures on campus. They currently have 111 signatures, and they will try to get more signatures after spring break.

"I was impressed that we were able to do that," Westerman said.

Westerman also had some thoughts on the wider issue of abortion. "I think in our society life is not given the dignity and respect it should be given," she said. "People need to start taking more responsibilities for their actions."

"You can't choose life if you don't have a choice," **Kate Williams (o6)** said.

BBC apologizes after incident with Prime Minister Blair

JULIE BOLITHO
Staff Writer

After a May 2003 radio report that claimed Prime Minister Tony Blair's ministry had purposefully exaggerated the threat of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq, the British government launched the Hutton Inquiry—a full investigation into the sources of the BBC claim.

Can a government challenge freedom of the press—especially in the developed world?

Currently, the United Kingdom is tackling this question, as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) is facing the possibility of a mandatory breakup.

Dr. David Kelly, the government's weapons expert, was later named as the BBC's anonymous source. Soon after the release of his name, Kelly killed himself. Following the suicide, BBC Chairman, Gavyn Davies resigned, as well as BBC Director General, Greg Dyke, and the claim's reporter, Andrew Gilligan.

Though the BBC is independently run, it is funded by public money through a compulsory television license, which means the British government can restructure the corporation. Currently, government proposals plan to break the BBC into regional entities in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The proposal also suggests giving the government's media watchdog greater limiting and striking powers of BBC outputs. Furthermore, the government is consider-

ing the closure of "non-public service" BBC outlets. The government may also force the corporation to share its' license fee revenue with other broadcasting companies.

Lord Birt, a former Director General of the BBC, said the current crisis the BBC finds itself in is due to "a piece of slipshod journalism." He also said the governors of the BBC were not cautious releasing the piece, and they further faltered by initially defending the report. The BBC has since publicly apologized to Prime Minister Blair and his cabinet.

Lord Ryder, acting Chairman for the BBC, said, "[The BBC] must now set its eyes on the future in the public interest." He commended BBC journalists "for upholding the highest standards of objectivity when covering the outcome of the Hutton report." Furthermore, Ryder said, "[The BBC] must remain as an independent organization that serves the public above all else."

What does this mean to an Alma College student? Not only does this affect us as citizens in a country that upholds freedom of the press, but it also affects information transfers. Many students on this campus look to the BBC for reliable world news. Furthermore, the BBC radio reports are heard daily on National Public Radio (NPR), and newspapers all over the world consult the BBC in Associated Press articles. Does the British government have the right to change the format of a corporation that delivers generally accurate and reliable news to the world community?

OPINION



We asked, "How do you feel about abortion?" You said...

I don't think the government has a right to tell a woman that she can't have one.

David Hensley (04)



Hensley

They are killing an innocent baby who hasn't done anything wrong. It's wrong; it's murder.

Mary Boyer (05)

I'm against abortion because I think it kills a baby before it has the opportunity to even live. That's not fair; that baby could be something great.

Toshia Williams (07)

I'm against it. Well, if the mom's really sick and needs to get the abortion, then I'm for it.

Mollie Smith (07)

I am against late term abortion... If you decide to have a baby, have the baby, just go through with it but make a decision one way or the other.

Brian Seery (07)

I'm definitely pro-choice.

Amanda Fritz (05)



Williams



Fritz



Boyer

The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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.

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Diversity impeded by the tearing down of signs on campus

Dear Editor,

If anyone wants to see the diversity in this school then all they would have to do is look at the signs posted up around campus. These signs give voice to the different opinions and viewpoints of this campus, and the fact that students are free to respectfully post their views around campus is one of the things I love about this school.

Lately, I have noticed that some signs are being taken down, crumbled up or thrown away. For example, signs for PRIDE on campus have been repeatedly torn down in certain buildings. These signs were not offensive nor did they slander anyone. PRIDE is a wonderful group of students who support the LGBTQ community and also teach acceptance. As a proud member of this group I have experienced the frustration and anger this blatant and unwarranted disrespect caused.

Also last month **Shakaira Kirk(07)**, a member of Black Student Union, planned and basically organized the Prejudice Games that occurred during Martin Luther King Jr. week. It was not two days into the games before signs were being torn down. As the vice president of Black Student Union and as a person that tries to respects everyone's rights, this upset, angered, and, quite frankly, annoyed me. When the signs that I made for Black History month were taken down(twice in one day)I was only a little surprised.

No one should have to go through this; it should not be expected that two minutes after you put a sign up someone will take it down or throw it away. Once again, I respect everyone's right to have their own opinion and to express it how they see fit— as long as it does not step on anyone else's toes. Is it too much to ask for this respect to be returned?

Melissa Draughn (06)

Attack on homosexuals, pluralism, and non-males ridiculous

Editor:

Thad Hopkins' insightful characterization of the Chapel Cesspool was excellent, though it's clear that he does not grasp the situation completely. After all, this problem is created by Alma's disgusting toleration of non-males and homosexuals as students, faculty, administrators, and staff. The College must weed out these temptresses and sodomites a.s.a.p. by requiring all students, faculty, administrators, and staff, both past and present, to sign a Gay/Female Disclaimer Affidavit (GFDA) that denounces such filthy lifestyles and gender preferences in the clearest of Christian terms. Those who identify themselves as non-males or homosexuals — or, horrible to contemplate, both (!) — or who refuse to sign the GFDA must immediately be either expelled or fired. In the case of former students, faculty, administrators, and staff, the College must rescind degrees and demand that former employees give up any continuing benefits the College sinfully permitted them to earn when they were employed here. Furthermore, our campus must be made purely male. Non-males distract men from their manly need to bond strongly with their male peers, while the presence of homosexuals is manifestly loathful unto the Lord. Some might object that the elimination of non-males and homosexuals would detract from the College's ability to provide a general education, but I say good, it's about time the College cuts out all this pluralistic crap and focuses on the Good Book as its sole instrument of instruction. The appropriate Biblical text is: "Verily, I say unto you, non-males and homosexuals are an abomination in Mine eyes" (III Thaddeus, 9:11).

Peter Dollard

*Note from the Editor—
Mr. Dollard's piece was specifically submitted to the Almanian as a satirical piece regarding the campus controversy over pluralism in the church.*

Nominees for the Alma College Walk of Fame in campus' control

WHITNEY HOPKINS Opinion Editor

It's about time for the second installment of the nominees for the Alma College Walk of Fame. Should my fabulous idea ever be implemented (wink-wink-nudge-administration), I have a few more suggestions for names to go on those fabulous bricks in McIntyre Mall.

You'll remember from its introduction last term that the Walk (imaginary and limited to The Almanian though it may be — for now) honors those who have made a positive impact on campus and deserve recognition. In an opinion section that has, of late, been focused on the

negative, I'd like to extend an invitation to the students, staff, and faculty on campus to send an e-mail or drop us a line via campus mail. Let me know who you'd like to see recognized for their contributions to campus. I'll include those that I can, space and propriety allowing.

Whether it be the cafeteria worker who remembers what you want on your omelet every morning, a group or organization that you think made an impact, or somebody who's performing random acts of kindness, let me know. Send it to Almanian@alma.edu, AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com, or The Almanian, in the Newberry basement.

AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com

Correction:

In the February 10 edition of *The Almanian*, the story on the search for the new Provost omitted Rev. Christine Vogel's name as one of the administrative members of the committee. We apologize for the mistake.

FEATURE

ASO plays with power, accompanied by opera soloists

THAD HOPKINS
photographer

The Presbyterian Hall hosted the Alma Symphony Orchestra on Thursday, February 19. The orchestra performed with the usual class expected from such an organization, led by conductor Glen Tuomaala.

The group displayed both talent and experience as it performed recognizable pieces from composers such as Rossini and Bizet. Such expertise was evident as the violins played with nearly perfect staccato, and the masterful blending and balance made the otherwise average performance surprisingly enjoyable at times.

As the orchestra began to play *Prelude* and *Aragonaise*, one couldn't help but be drawn back into childhood memories of Disney-style melodies and happy tunes from other cartoons. Any gamers would have enjoyed the *Final Fantasy* style of piano and melody during *Intermezzo* and *Les Toreadors*, such as that familiar song played while Cloud explores Aeris' neighborhood. For those fans of more traditional compositions, the orchestra ended the second act with *Dance Bacchanale*.

The classy performance was not limited only to audio, but also visual experience. The bows of the violins and cellos moving in synchronization and the tuxedos the men wore fit perfectly

with the tasteful attire of the ladies. The elder folk in the audience enjoyed the traditional style immensely.

Micaela Church (06), the assistant conductor, led the ASO Brass Choir in a march by Verdi to start the third act.



photo courtesy of Melanie Szweczyk

Kim Crandell (05) rehearses for the ASO 'Night at the Opera' performance that took place this past weekend.

Her face, features glowing with excitement, as well as her performance, lit the room with a light a majestic light of amusing harmony and emotion. Tuomaala joined the French horns to

support Micaela in her performance.

As Church left the stage, two forms took the stage to perform *Libiamo*—an opera also by Verdi. Nicole Presberry supported her male counterpart with her gift of voice and pronounced appearance, taking vibrato to a new level and blowing the audience away with her intense bursts of soul-felt energy. Shawn McDonald also added his talents to the opera performance, blending well with the voice of Presberry.

After Presberry's solo performance of *deh vieni non tardar* by Mozart, the classic operatic performance let way to—surprisingly enough—songs written in English, and which are probably quite familiar to a number of people in attendance. *On the Street Where You Live* and *I Could Have Danced All Night* showcased not only the individual talents of Presberry and McDonald, but also of Anthony Patterson. This man almost stole the show with his unbelievable talent. The orchestra must have been thankful for such a contribution.

After a cheesy Polka and an encore performance by the two opera singers, one was left with the same two questions that are asked at every performance of this type: Why are we clapping when the conductor walks on stage, having not yet performed? And, do people actually enjoy opera singing? Perhaps it's an acquired taste.

Bursting the Alma bubble: the perfect All-American woman

AMY WILLEY
Staff Writer

What is the perfect woman? The answer to this question depends in large part on a society's standard of beauty. This standard is set by a number of variables, including cultural influences. It has also been hypothesized that beauty standards are set by indicators of affluence, evolving over time from voluptuous curves to slim and trim.

So how does American society answer the above question? According to an article in the *Journal of American Psychiatry*, this depends on the cultural background of the American, as white women were found to be more likely to have certain eating disorders, like anorexia (although the numbers of minority women with the disease are on the rise). However, the results of a body image poll in *Psychology Today* found that more than 56% of women are unhappy with their overall appearance, combined with the fact that according to *Quest*, an online newsletter, Americans spent more than \$5 billion dollars on surgical cosmetic surgery in 2002, it is safe to say that American society promotes an image that is not entirely realistic.

Dr. Joanne Gilbert, Associate Professor of Communications and co-director of Women's Studies at Alma College, asserts that such perceptions can potentially be damaging, "American consumer culture capitalizes on women's feelings of inadequacy," she says. Gilbert explains that women and girls draw their opinions of themselves using societal signals,

"What we know from research," she says, "is that self-concept is a combination of reflected appraisal (significant others' opinions), and social comparison (comparing with a girlfriend or television star)." Gilbert explains that the danger comes from using the social comparisons with unattainable images. She says that it can lead to internalization of the "I'm not good enough because I don't look like Christina Aguilera or Britney Spears" mentality.

According to Gilbert this mentality correlates with other dangers, "There is a significant body of research on this topic, and links have been drawn between women's eating disorders and media influence," she says, "reading themselves through the lens of culture can be dangerous; although causality hasn't been proven, there is

a powerful correlation." This may be illustrated by the fact that, according to PBS's *NOVA online*, upwards of 8 million women in the United States are anorexic.

Of the bodies shown on Television and in advertisements, Gilbert also asks, "What percentage of the American population actually has these body measurements? Whereas the average American woman wears a size 12-14, the average model wears a size 4-6, and according to the article *Want the Skinny on Models?* on geocities, "Only 5% of the population would naturally stay model thin," and models weigh approximately 25% less than the average woman.

Finally, Gilbert advises what she calls "critical consumption of media," and recalls the actions of some stand-up comedians who do just that. She discusses these comedians in her book, *Performing Marginality* coming out next month, and explains that they make fun of the culture, criticizing it so as not to fall victim to it. Next month, March, is women's month so there will be many resources and further information on this topic and tools for women who might just be less than "perfect."

Theatre entertains audience with *Dancing at Lughnasa*

RACHEL KINGSTROM
Staff Writer

Alma College Theatre recently concluded their production of the play *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel.

Performances of the play were held Thursday through Saturday, February 12-14, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 15, at 3 p.m. in the Heritage center. The cast of the show included **Nathan Oliver (06)** as Michael, **Ashley Sawatzke (06)** as Kate, **Sandra Patrick (04)** as Maggie, **Taylor Gamble (06)** as Agnes, **Emily Aslakson (07)** as Rose, **Elizabeth Kimmel (06)** as Chris, **Brandon Gostomski (04)** as Gerry, and **Phil Himebaugh (07)** as Father Jack.

The story of the play takes place in Ireland in 1936 and centers around the lives of five sisters during the Festival of Lughnasa. The Festival of Lughnasa is a harvest festival that takes place during the first weeks of August. The heart of the story is the deep bond that exists among the five sisters.

The story is told by Michael, the son of Chris, one of the sisters who was a child during this time. "This is essentially a memory play," director Joseph Jezewski, associate professor of theatre said, "This is a time when [the boy's] family was all together. It's about looking at family." According to Jezewski, the play also deals with the pagan forces that are more powerful than people.

A lot of time and effort went into the preparation of the play. The company had rehearsals 6 days per week that lasted between 4 and 6 hours. "It was very stressful, but it was worth it in the end," **Sandy Patrick (04)**, who played the part of Maggie. The cast worked with Carol Fike, associate professor of dance, to learn the choreography for the show.

The actors took further measures to become more familiar with and try to accurately portray their characters. The actors also worked with dialect coaches **Matthew Hutchinson (07)** and **Santana Vermeesh (07)** to authenticate their speech for the performance. They tried to fully immerse themselves in the 1930's Irish culture by listening to Irish music and music from the 1930's. For his role as Father Jack,

FEATURE

Chorale and Glee Club celebrate Bach, other influential composers

RACHEL KINGSTROM
Staff Writer

Many friends, family members, and students showed up to support The Alma College choirs for their first concert of the term.

The concert, featuring the Alma College Chorale and Women's Glee Club, was held last Friday night, February 13, at 8 p.m. Members of the choir were very pleased with the concert's large turnout. "I was happy with the amount of people there," **Drew Coleman (07)**, "I hope everyone enjoyed it."

The evening showcased works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Benjamin Britten, and Christopher Smart. The Women's Glee Club performed Britten's *Missa Brevis in D*, which means "Short Mass". The piece consisted of Latin text which would have been used in

a regular mass. **Corie Brown (07)**, **Amber Hoaglund (07)**, **Elizabeth Sarkella (07)**, **Celina Delmont (07)**, and **Hilary Miller (07)** were soloists in the performance.

The College Chorale performed two works, *Rejoice in the Lamb* and *Poem from Jubilate Agno*. *Rejoice in the Lamb* featured four different soloists, each representing a different vocal part. The four soloists were **Amber Walker (05)**, soprano soloist, **Eliz-**

abeth Espinosa (07), alto soloist, **Brian Paul (07)**, tenor soloist, and **Jason Duika (05)**, bass soloist.

Poem from Jubilate Agno featured **Celina Delmont (07)**, soprano soloist, **Elizabeth Espinosa (07)**, alto soloist, **Brian Paul (07)**, tenor soloist, and **Jason Duika (05)**, bass soloist. Dr. Paula Romanau played the organ for each of the choirs' performances.

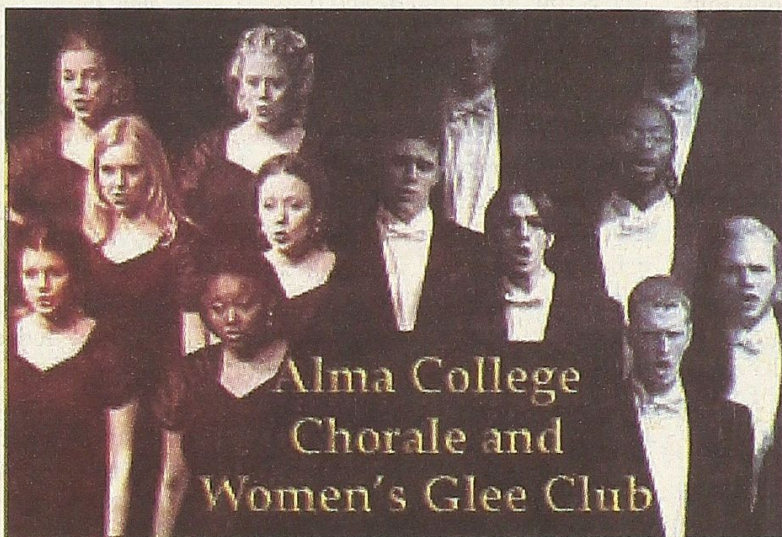


photo courtesy of alma.edu

The next Alma Choir performance will take place on March 1.

As usual, Anthony Patterson provided the piano accompaniment for the choirs.

Following a short intermission, Will Nichols, professor of music, gave a speech about what made Bach a good composer. "We weren't sure how well the audience would [accept] it, but they seemed to take it well," Walker said. Dr. Nichols discussed the Bach piece that the choir performed by breaking it down into segments.

He talked about various aspects of the piece and used the members of the College Chorale as vocal guides in demonstrating his point to the audience.

The choirs concluded the concert by combining to perform Bach Cantata #150, *Nach dir, Herr, verlanget mich*. The piece consisted of seven movements: Sinfonia, Coro, Aria, Coro, Trio, Coro, and Ciaccona. **Laura Bryan (07)** performed a soprano solo during Aria. **Alyssa Farley (06)**, soprano, **Jennifer Simms (06)**, **Kevin McCarthy (07)**, tenor, and **Drew Coleman (07)**, bass, each sang solos as part of a quartet during the last part of the cantata, Ciaccona.

Overall, members of the choirs felt that the concert was a great success. Even though it was a cold winter night, it didn't seem to keep the crowd from coming. "I think the concert went well despite the bad weather," Walker said.

Other members of the choir thought positively of the concert as well. "I think the concert went really smoothly," Coleman said. Soloist Laura Bryan was pleased with how far they had come on the pieces. "I think it was one of the best performances of those pieces we've ever had," she said.

The choirs' next concert will take

LUGHNASA from page 4

Phil Himebaugh (07) did studies of African culture and the rituals of an indigenous people. "It was really quite interesting," Himebaugh said, "I learned a lot."

Other members of the crew for the production included scene designer Kristeen Crosser, assistant professor of theatre, costume designer and poster illustrator Tina Hartley, lighting designer David Young, production stage manager **Jessica Vance (05)**, assistant stage manager and sound engineer Carin Ault, assistant stage managers **Darek Lane (05)** and **Susie Smale (07)**.

The cast and crew of the show were excited about the successful outcome of the play, especially on opening night. "I think opening night was really strong," Himebaugh said, "We had a really great crowd and a great cast. It felt great to open the show." Patrick agreed with Himebaugh. "I think it went really well. It was a good opening night," she said.

Alma College Theatre's upcoming production, *The Country Club*, will take place April 1 through 3 at 8 p.m. and April 4 at 3 p.m. in the Heritage center.

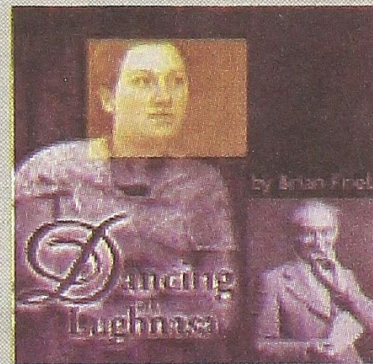


photo courtesy of alma.edu

Fairly new organization Alpha Phi Omega gains strong membership

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

The Alpha Phi Omega Coed Service Fraternity is celebrating their third year on the Alma College campus with an increasing number of members and broader goals to connect the campus and the community together.

Alpha Phi Omega first appeared on campus in the 1960s, but lost support in subsequent years. However, thanks to a few dedicated students, especially **Julie Frick (04)** and Timm Thorsen, professor of sociology, the organization was rechartered on campus in 2002. Based mostly upon word of mouth, this service group has grown to nearly 50 members on campus, which is certainly impressive given their young status.

On a regular basis, the organization partakes in the Adopt-A-Highway program, works at both the

Community Café and the Children's Hospital, and aids the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in any way possible. More specifically this year, the group is organizing the upcoming AIDS Walk and planning a Spring Carnival as another possible service program in the near future.

The organization has four fields of focus: Campus, Community, Nation, and Service to Members. All of the above volunteer programs attempt to fill one of those four fields of focus and possibly even more than one. In addition, the group meets its service to member's requirement through a variety of projects, such as treats during exams.

Another very important component of both the local and national agendas is the teaching of leadership skills especially to its members. Every year several regional leadership conferences are planned and executed by the

national organization in order to maintain this important component in all of the local chapters.

With that in mind, Alpha Phi Omega will host the regional leadership conference called Sectionals on campus next year. As another broader and less specific goal Alpha Phi Omega also plans to start sending out letters to the other local service organizations, such as the Commission on Aging, in attempt to organize joint activities that allow more community involvement.

Perhaps, the most important component of this organization is its ability to give opportunities to students. At least this is what the members of the organization indicated. The current Treasurer Julie Frick said, "I feel as though it gives me a really good opportunity to get involved in the community."

The current President, **Bethany**

Payton (05), agreed when she said, "I think it is a wonderful opportunity. There are not a lot of service things to do on campus. In addition, it teaches you valuable life skills." New member **Megan Stevenson (07)** summed up her experience when she said, "I love it. It is a good time, and you get to give back to the community."

If you are looking for a friendly atmosphere with lots of opportunity then Alpha Phi Omega is certainly the campus organization for you. Currently, the group meets on Monday evenings at 9:30 p.m. in the Bruske basement.

They are always open to new members and only have one main requirement. Each member must perform at least 20 hours of service work per semester, which may seem like a lot but can be spread out across many different activities.

OPINION

Vandalism to newspaper property is an act of ignorance, not free speech

KATIE PERSITZ
News Editor

I am beyond disgusted. What is wrong with people? I walked into the Almanian office this morning and what did I read? On the folder that is for applications it read, "If you want to work against free speech apply!"

How dare you? How dare you desecrate this paper? All this staff has ever done is print *your* opinions, research *your* articles, give publicity to *your* sports and arts of Alma, and all around this paper and this staff is here for *your* benefit.

So where does someone get off coming down to the office and purposefully destroy and vandalize *your* property! This staff works hard to produce the best product, for you, the student. We are here for you. You don't like it? Come down and apply and change it. Oh wait; we don't hire those who don't articulate themselves well.

This paper is here for the student body. We print *everything*. Agree or don't, this is our policy. Professional newspapers do it. Do you go and vandalize their property?

This immature and childish prank hurt me personally to the core. This paper is a huge part of my life and I put a lot of time and energy into making it the best possible production I can.

Would you like to come do it better? Or would you rather scribble all over folders and hide like a coward? I may not agree with how things are being run, but I am here and I am working hard. And the rest of the staff is too. Where do you think

those pictures you enjoy every week come from? They don't appear out of thin air.

Is that what this issue is still about? Thad Hopkins? Grow up! Do something constructive. Make a task force if you have to.

This has gone beyond my realm of patience. This is a liberal arts college and if you have a problem with someone you need to get over it, because believe it or not, it is those differing opinions that make this college worth going to. It makes life worth living. It makes daily existence not about merely existing, but about truly living.

Differences are what make mediocre people grow into good people. If everyone were the same then life would be flat and uninteresting. How dull it would be to attend classes you already knew about, and never meet new people because everyone was a carbon copy of the next with no real spice or new ideas.

Remember the ideals this country was founded on: freedom, liberty and justice. Have we forgotten that? Freedom of speech... isn't that exactly what Thad exercised and the Almanian promotes? Wouldn't it have been worse for us to have suppressed his opinion and really have been guilty of censorship? Liberty: the right to think your own thought, believe your own beliefs, live your own life. So Thad thinks this campus is a cesspool of sin, has he hurt you? Has he struck you? Has he demolished your property? He hasn't killed anybody, he hasn't stolen anything, he hasn't done anything even remotely harmful to anyone besides tell

his opinion. Or wait- should we only print "good" opinions? It that what free speech is about? Why don't you do scribble like children over the White House because of free speech they allowed a Nazi group to march through a prominently Jewish area a few years ago down in Indiana. Is that not allowed? It should be, I know, when my own entire being cries out with the unfairness, but true free speech is not free is you can't stand by and respectfully allow those with different opinions to speak. Now that is *real* free speech.

Part of being American is being tolerant of others.

Justice: is exactly what would not have been served if the article wasn't printed. And who would have made a stink about it being suppressed? Probably the same people that pitched a fit that it was printed. So, fellow Americans, what do *you* think that America stands for? Surely not freedom, liberty and justice from what I'm seeing written on our door.

It is my civil duty to serve others on the paper and I am proud of that position. Those who deem it okay not to, well then we have differing opinions and I respect that you have a different opinion. It enriches my life because it forces me to analyze why I think the things I do. It makes me stronger and braver and a better person.

Differences aren't weaknesses. They are *strengths*! Let's use them as strengths! Let's take this lesson and run with it! Let's be models of respect and tolerance, no matter what you believe. I truly think that it is not *what* you believe, as long as you have

something to believe in.

Progress is about working through differences and coming to an agreement. Sometimes you have to give a little. Sometimes compromise is the only way things will ever be accomplished. But let me tell you something, and listen well: *The Almanian publishes student opinions that are looked over and reviewed every week, are refused print space for libel and vulgarities only, and we welcome any and all opinions. If you would like to write in to the paper, please do so in a mature manner only.* We give no credence to irresponsible and rude commentators.

Just one more thing, if nothing else in this has made you believe that this action of vandalizing property was wrong then maybe this will: I hope the next time you feel the urge to vandalize, just remember that our budget is your money. We get it directly from Student Congress from your Student Activity Fee. So every time you destroy something, *you* are the one paying more to get it fixed or replaced. Just think about that. Even if you are selfish and uncaring, you will realize the common sense in not spending more of your own money.

And to those who have been so kind as to take the time out of their busy lives to write in, talk with others and clear up this matter, thank you for your maturity, your willingness to talk openly, to disagree respectfully and to honor the rest of us with an opinion that does not always match our own. I hope that you continue to do so. Food for thought.

Approaching elections chance to exercise privilege of voting

ALEXA BOYCE
Staff Writer

In recent months, the political situation in this country has been in a state of turmoil. Everyone has an opinion on President Bush, the war in Iraq and the proposed laws on abortion. However, on this campus I have noticed a general apathy toward the whole situation. There are a few minority groups who speak out very strongly one way or another, and this is fantastic. Life would be boring if everyone agreed: if there was no discussion or controversy. However, to simply not care enough to find out about the issues is a waste of your privileges as an American citizen.

Many students say that they do not have the time or will to research the issues, and therefore they have no opinion. I don't think that these students realize how deeply political issues affect each and every one of us. Have you had trouble finding a summer job? Are you upset that gas prices are rising at an alarming rate? These issues tie directly into decisions made in congress, or actions taken by

the President. Believe me, I understand that as students we are all busy. The good news is that it does not take much time to discover what these issues are about. Open up any newspaper, or turn on the TV. The facts (I use this term loosely when referring to Western media) are staring you right in the face. If that seems like too much of a time commitment, think about how much time you spend a day on the Internet; emailing your professor or doing research for the next big paper. Next time you are online, log onto bbc.co.uk, msn.com or un.org to look at the latest headlines. Five minutes out of your day- and think about how much more you will know about the situation in the world outside of Alma. You have between 3 months and 3 years left on this campus. After that, you will have to deal with these issues on a daily basis. You cannot hide forever in the 'Alma bubble'.

One comment I have heard over and over again when discussing issues pertaining to the war is, "I support whatever the President does, because he is the President." This comment worries me because it is

not only dangerous, but also un-American to think in such a fashion. Consider the ideals that this country was founded upon: democracy, freedom and power in the hands of the people. If you do not form opinions, or you do but you do not make those opinions heard, than the government is free to rule as it sees fit. This is not democracy; it is a dictatorship.

In case you have forgotten, I want to take this opportunity to remind you that a very important presidential election is looming this fall. I want to encourage you to register to vote if you have not done so already. (Check out freewebs.com/almacollegepeacecoalition/) After what happened in the last election, each person should make sure that they have a vote and that it is counted. It is a privilege to be able to vote, not a chore. It is sad that many of our peers do not use this ability to the fullest of their advantage. We have the power to make a difference instead of allowing things to happen. Speak up, Alma!

Wanted:

Child care provider for ages birth through middle school.

Must be available Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and religious holidays, and must be 18 years old.

Education majors encouraged to apply.

Applications available at

**Alma United Methodist Church
501 Gratiot St
Alma MI, 48801**

Monday - Friday 9am-3pm

SPORTS

Tournament time nearing for fourth-place Scots

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

The Alma College Women's Basketball Team had a successful week last week despite only winning one of their two scheduled conference games. Last Wednesday, the Lady Scots fell to the first place Hope Flying Dutch by a margin of 79-67 despite shooting a considerably better field goal percentage.

Throughout the first half, Alma and Hope battled back and forth in a fairly even contest. As a result of an amazing 72 percent first half field goal percentage, the Lady Scots went into the break leading 41-38. The second half would belong to the Flying Dutch, however. Hope continued to make free throw after free throw and Alma could not sink a shot.

The Lady Scots were led in scoring by **Katey Peacock (06)** who managed 26 points on 11 for 19 shooting including 2 of 5 from downtown and a couple of free throws. Peacock also added 8 boards and 6 assists in the loss.

Karen Hall (04) not surprisingly tallied 24 points on a blistering 11 for 12 from the field. Her percentage of 91.7 is the highest in any game for

any player this year in the MIAA. Hall chipped in just above her average with 7 rebounds as well.

In the end, the 21 free throws and 41-31 rebounding advantage was the deciding factor for the Flying Dutch. Still, Alma showed that when they play their best they can beat anyone in the conference even the number one ranked team.

In a change of fate, Alma hosted the last place St. Mary's Belles last Saturday in a game that was rough and tumble throughout. Despite the total number of fouls reaching nearly 40, the Lady Scots clear and away defeated the Belles 77-65.

Alma spread the scoring around but was led again by Karen Hall. Hall managed 28 points on 8 for 12 shooting from the field and 12 of 13 free throws. Her 13 rebounds, 4 of them on the offensive glass, were more than any of the two St. Mary's players combined. Katey Peacock added 14 points to the win, while **Michelle Dettling (05)** and **Ashley Borcharding (06)** each had 13 and 10 as well.

Perhaps, the unheralded player of the game was the Lady Scots starting point guard **Rondi Lounds (05)**. Lounds, who has been nicknamed

"Mighty Mouse", lived up to her namesake and played her heart out. She fought for all the loose balls and played some tough defense including 3 steals and 5 assists.

With the victory over St. Mary's and a narrow loss by Kalamazoo to Adrian, Alma has moved into a tie with the Hornets for the extremely important fourth place position. In the last two regular season games, Alma will host Adrian on Wednesday and then travel to battle Kalamazoo on Saturday.

Both of these games are crucial if the Lady Scots want to host at least one game in the MIAA Tournament in the very near future. Despite the result of the upcoming games and the tournament, Alma has several items to be proud of this season.

Alma is second in team scoring average and first in both free throw and three point shooting percentage. In fact, the Lady Scots free throw average of 83.7% is on pace to break the all time MIAA record of 76.5%, which was set both by Calvin in the 1984-85 season and Alma in the 1993-94 season. Karen Hall is nearly a lock to be the scoring champion and Most Valuable Player in the league as well.

Men's Track & Field stresses quality over quantity for 2004 season

SCOTTWEIR
Staff Writer

Coming off of a fourth place league finish last year in the MIAA, the Alma College Men's Track and Field team is looking forward to big things for this year. They are also looking for great things from their new coach, Matt Chovanec, who moves up to the position of Head Coach of Track and Field for this season.

The team brings back strong leadership under captains **Gavin Cornwell (04)** and **Mike Palmer (04)**. Palmer said, "The goal this year is to beat Hope. Really though, we just

want to have a steady year. We lost a lot of people, but we have quite a few individual stars that will stand out." Last season Cornwell and Palmer were both league champions. Palmer won for the Pole Vault and 400, and Cornwell for the Long Jump.

Also returning to the team this year are **Dirkus Callahan (06)**, **Paul Nottoli (06)**, **Chris Bacon (06)**, **D'Juan Hartsfield (06)**, **Rory Wildner (06)**, **Tony Cuttitta (06)**, **Joe Whitman (05)**, **Greg Jacobs (05)**, **Colin McLaughlin (04)**, and **Phil Neeb (06)**.

Along with the veterans, a few new comers are looking to strengthen the

team roster. These include **Matt Lambourn (06)**, **Justin McHugh**, **Justin Spaleny (07)**, and **Travis Eason**.

Chovanec commented on the season outlook saying, "We have quality not quantity. I am excited to see what he have as far as returning members is concerned. We have a very solid group, but the depth is just not going to be there." This depth could prove to be a huge detriment to the team's success in dual meets.

The Scots will see their first outdoor competition in Roanoke, Virginia on March 20th.

Best darn sports column ever

MATT HELMUS
Sports Editor

Ah, the week of Spring Break, excuse me - Winter Term Recess, is finally upon us. It means only one thing: a week of fun in the sun (or Michigan snow) for Alma students. It also means a very random column. Enjoy.

Spring Break is a week of ditching Alma, unless of course you are an athlete. If you are on an athletic team during winter or spring seasons odds are you get to spend your break with that team. The basketball teams and the swimming & diving teams get to end their seasons with the MIAA Championship meet and tournaments. The only thing extending their season would be to make it to the NCAA tournaments. Many of the spring teams will be traveling as a team to various hot spots around the country to gear up for action. It almost makes you feel sorry for them.

In case you haven't noticed, these past couple of weeks have been a pure delight for sports fans. The NHL all-star game, NBA all-star game, NFL Pro Bowl, and Daytona 500 do wonders to spice up the coldness of winter. There have even been blockbuster trades with A-Rod going to the Yankees and "Pudge" Rodriguez heading to Detroit. While this may not spell a Detroit v. New York ALCS it does mean good things for both teams. Could this be the year the Tigers get their roar back? It better be.

One point that has irked me since I was a freshman here was brought up again this week. What exactly are our school colors? If you listen to the cheerleading team and many people on campus the answer is maroon and white. They are however, WRONG. If any of these people bother to investigate they will discover that our colors are maroon and CREAM, not white. Some Alma sports teams back in the day were even nicknamed the 'maroon & creams.' Hopefully the cheerleading team can do something to correct their old "Fight. Fight. Maroon and White" cheer. It's pretty easy to find something to rhyme with cream (think scream, team, etc.) We're not asking them to rhyme with orange or anything. I can't imagine any Michigan fan cheering for the 'yellow and blue.' It's just doesn't work and neither does maroon and white. Be proud to be maroon and cream.

The Almanian Staff would like to wish everyone a Happy and Safe Winter Term Recess!

SPORTS

MIAA
STANDINGS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Hope	8-2	19-4
Calvin	8-3	15-8
Albion	7-3	17-6
Adrian	6-4	13-10
Olivet	4-7	10-13
K'zoo	2-8	7-16
ALMA	1-9	3-20

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Hope	12-1	22-2
Calvin	11-1	19-3
Albion	9-3	19-4
ALMA	5-7	12-10
K'zoo	5-7	13-10
Adrian	4-8	9-13
Olivet	2-10	8-15
St. Mary's	1-11	6-17

WOMEN'S SWIMMING &
DIVING

Hope	6-0
Calvin	5-1
Albion	4-2
Olivet	3-3
K'zoo	2-4
ALMA	1-5
St. Mary's	0-6

MEN'S SWIMMING &
DIVING

Hope	5-0
K'zoo	3-1
Calvin	3-2
Olivet	2-3
Albion	1-3
ALMA	0-5

LAST WEEK'S SCORES

Men's Basketball

Adrian 94, **ALMA 74**
Calvin 97, **ALMA 73**

Women's Basketball

Hope 79, **ALMA 67**
ALMA 71, St. Mary's 65

Men's & Women's
Swimming & Diving

Next Meet - Feb. 19-21 -
MIAA Championships - East
Grand Rapids High School

Scots on the rocks: Losses
continue to pile up

KEVIN BRADY
Staff Writer

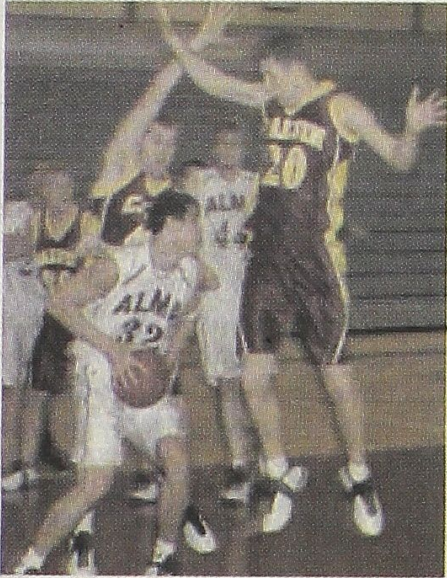
This past Wednesday, the men's basketball team took to the court against the Bulldogs of Adrian. The Scots led early but Adrian stormed back to take the lead at halftime 40 - 34. From there, Alma could do nothing. The Bulldogs closed out the victory in fashion, 92 - 72. Standout freshman, **Anthony Jones (07)**, led the

Scots with 31 points and four assists. **Eric Jones (04)** contributed with 10 points and five boards. **Brian Hall (07)** also added 10 points.

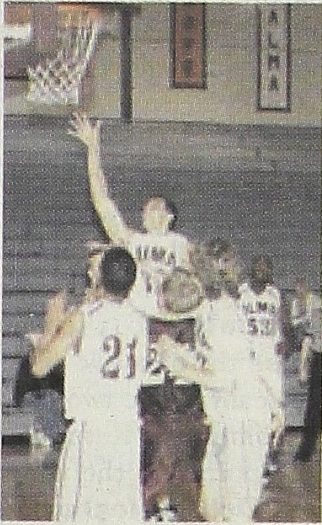
On Saturday, February 14, Alma played host to Calvin College. Calvin took control from the tip eventually beating the Scots 97 - 73. Once again leading the way for Alma was the Jones duo. Senior Eric had 16 points, five rebounds, and four assists. Freshman Anthony also added 16 points. **Mike**

Thompson (07) had nine points, **Isaac Smith (07)** with eight, and **Jayme Fazi (06)** contributed seven points with six boards.

The Scots' record now falls to 3-20 overall and 1-9 in the MIAA conference. Next up for Alma is a road contest against Albion College on Wednesday, February 18 at 7:30 p.m. Then on Saturday, they will travel to Holland to face conference leader Hope. Tip-off will be at 3:00 p.m.



Eric Jones (04) tries to go up strong during the Scots' loss to Calvin. Jones is the lone senior on his team and will be completing his college basketball career soon.



A group of Scots look for rebounding position after Senior Eric Jones goes up for a shot. The Scots lost to Calvin and only have a few remaining games in the season.



Freshman Greg Nelson goes up for a shot against a Calvin defender. Nelson is one of a slew of point guards Coach Kohtala has tried out this season.

Photos by Thad Hopkins

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Feb. 17

9 - 10 p.m. - Residence Hall Association (Fire-side Lounge)

Wednesday, Feb. 18

5:45 p.m. - Men's JV Basketball @ Albion

7:30 p.m. - Men's Basketball @ Albion

7:30 p.m. - Women's Basketball Home v. Adrian

8 - 10 p.m. - Hohner Institute of Percussion
- Percussion Ensemble (Heritage Center, Pres-
byterian Hall)

Thursday, Feb. 19

Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving @
MIAA Championships (East Grand Rapids
H.S.)

Friday, Feb. 20

Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving @
MIAA Championships (East Grand Rapids
H.S.)

3 p.m. - Women's Tennis v. Lake Superior
State @ Midland Tennis Center

3 p.m. - Men's Tennis Home v. Lake Superior
State

Saturday, Feb. 21

Winter Term Recess Begins

12:45 p.m. - Men's Basketball JV Home @
Hope

3 p.m. - Men's Basketball Home @ Hope

3 p.m. Women's Basketball @ Kalamazoo

4:30 p.m. - Men's Track & Field @ Skoog
Open (Mt. Pleasant)

Monday, Mar. 1

Classes Resume