

# The Almanian

serving Alma College since 1907 [www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian](http://www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian)

## World renowned Russian poet comes to Alma for lecture and workshop

**RACHEL KINGSTROM**  
Staff Writer

A special, last-minute treat is in store for the campus: world famous Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko is

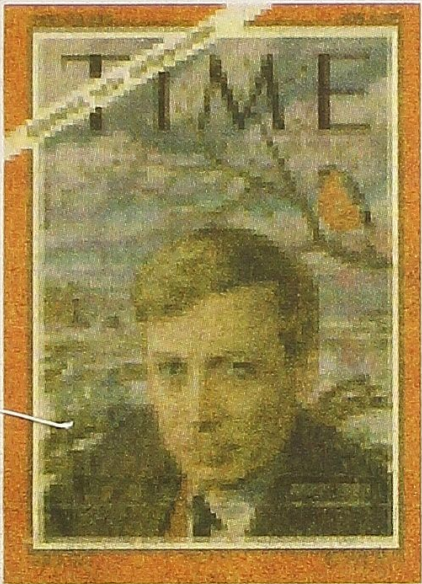


photo courtesy of [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)  
**Yevtushenko made the cover of TIME in 1962 for his work in poetry.**

coming tomorrow to speak. Yevtushenko will be here tomorrow afternoon to read his poetry, in its original Russian as well as the English translation. He will also be teaching a seminar to writing students in classes taught by Carol Bender, professor of English, William Palmer, professor of English and Robert Vivian, assistant professor of English. "I think it's great that the college continues to bring these important poets and authors to speak to the students," Palmer said. Yevtushenko was a late addition to the speaker series because he is serving as a replacement for Kadhira Hamza, who was scheduled to come in October. The committee who made Yevtushenko's visit possible is confident that he will be a worthy substitution. "The speaker series tries to bring in famous, controversial people, and he's one of them," James Mueller, associate professor of economics added. "I hope a lot of people come

to see him." When Yevtushenko was growing up in Zima Junction, Siberia, he was considered to be a rebel. He associated with Krushchev, Brezhnev, and other Communist leaders. According to a recent article published about the poet, he protested the invasion of Czechoslovakia, and then used his poetry to bring down the Iron Curtain. These are just some of the reasons he is considered so controversial. The poet's most well-known poem is "Babi Yar." The piece is about a Russian concentration camp. He has published nearly 50 books of poetry, which have been translated into 72 different languages. Yevtushenko worked closely with Dimitri Shostakovich, a famous Russian composer. Shostakovich has put many of Yevtushenko's poems to music. The pair worked together until Shostakovich's death in the 1960s. Yevtushenko was first invited to come to the United States in 1992. The invitation was given by University of

Tulsa President Robert Donaldson. Donaldson specialized in Soviet policy during his years at Harvard, and so knew of Yevtushenko's influence. Now, 62-year-old Yevtushenko lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma and has a two-year-old son, Mitya. Yevtushenko's most recent book released in the United States is called "Don't Die Before You're Dead." The book tells of his fear that Russians who were deprived much of their lives



photo courtesy of [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

**See POET page 2**

## Robert Kennedy to speak at Honors Day about environment and Pine River Superfund Site

**ALEXA BOYCE**  
Staff Writer

The portions of the Pine River near St. Louis, Michigan are among the most highly polluted sites in the United States. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) named the stretch of the Pine River that runs through St. Louis a Superfund site and a "megasite." The Pine River Environmental Project Website on Alma involvement in the Superfund task force states that, "A Superfund site is one of the top polluted sites in the country, and is a federal government program to clean up the nation's uncontrolled hazardous waste sites." Alma College students and faculty, led by professors Murray Borello, chair of environmental studies and Edward Lorenz, professor of political science and history, have adopted the site as

a cause and are attempting to help relieve the environmental abuse caused by Velsicol Chemical and the Gratiot County Landfill. Research and activism at Alma College has helped to form the Pine River Superfund Task Force. The task force also works closely with a community advisory group (CAG). Together they have forced state and federal agencies to alter consent judgments, adjust cleanup plans and ensure citizen input in protecting the community's environmental health. Pollution from area oil refineries upriver has also complicated the cleanup of the watershed. Cleanup has been estimated to exceed \$50 million, which makes the Pine River Superfund site the fifth most expensive site in the country. The laws governing this type of pollution cleanup are outlined in the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) laws.

In recognition of this work, the Alma College's Honors Day Committee has chosen Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to deliver the annual Honors Day Address March 31 at 8 p.m. in Cappaert Gymnasium. Kennedy has been an influential environmentalist who fought for the health of the New York Hudson River and has now expanded to several other Superfund projects. That fight is similar to the one being fought now by many Alma students and faculty regarding the Pine River. Lorenz hopes that his visit "will inspire people to realize

that they can make a difference in their own areas. We have a responsibility to the community." Kennedy co-authored a book with **See KENNEDY page 2**



photo courtesy of [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)

**The Pine River appears pristine, but massive chemical pollution has damaged the ecosystem.**

In This Issue	Truman & Barlow finalists	Passions review	Letters to the Editor	Winter Sports Wrap-up
	page 2	page 5	page 6	page 7&8



# National/State/Local

## Selmon chosen as Provost by Tracy and search committee

**AMY WILLEY**  
Staff Writer

Starting March 1, 2004 Dr. Michael Selmon begins his new job as Provost and Vice President for Academic affairs at Alma College. Selmon began working at Alma in 1991 and has served as a professor of English and drama and Dean of Faculty as well as interim provost since June of 2003.

The job of a provost involves a wide variety of tasks including work with faculty, the library, the heritage center, the registrar's office, Discovering Vocation, the international studies office, and information and technology office. The major responsibility of the provost's office is academic affairs including faculty hiring, promotion, tenure, and questions of credit, curriculum, schedule, grades, grade appeals, academic dishonesty, and things that fall outside of the routine.

Selmon explains the job of the provost as "Helping coordinate, set the agenda, and lead discussions on how the academic affairs sector is working to advance the college."

According to Mel Nyman, professor of math and computer science, who was the chair of the eleven-member Provost Search Committee, the search for provost began in the fall. The search began by employment of a national search firm which placed ads and contacted potential applicants.

Nyman says, "We tried to find the really good candidates who didn't know they were looking for a job." The committee then narrowed the list to seven

off-campus interviews, and then three candidates for an intensive two-day on-campus interview process. Finally, the committee recommended one or more candidates, and then President Sandra Tracy made the final choice.

President Tracy has said that she is pleased with the selection, and that she believes Selmon will bring clear direction and strategies for change to the position. Nyman also expresses satisfaction with the choice. He says, "It is a very important appointment... the President made a good choice and has him in the office and working."

Selmon is also excited with his new job. "I am very pleased," he says, "I am very excited about the opportunities I think we have. I think the college has a lot of projects that it has been working with. I am very excited about possible ways of working together and moving forward."

For the future of Alma College, Selmon envisions many projects "moving forward" especially the work of the first year experience task force and the Discovering Vocation Project. Of the college he says, "Alma College is a college that does many things very well. What it does best is having a focus on the students, on engaging students in a time of life when there is a lot of discovery and ideas about what they can do," he says, "Alma has always done an excellent job in remembering that this is what we are about, but we always have to ask questions about how we can improve this. We have a very talented and dedicated faculty administration and students. It's a privilege to be here."

### POET from page 1

would die spiritually before physically. Several recent articles claim Yevtushenko is the greatest living Russian poet.

Various members of the college faculty are very much looking forward to having the poet come to visit the college. Yevtushenko's presentation is expected to be a very worthwhile one to experience. They hope that the students find it very rewarding and use it to expand their views of the world.

Having had so many interesting experiences, Yevtushenko has a great deal to offer the college and will provide a chance for students to improve their writing skills and help them become aware of another of the world's great writers. "This will be a great opportunity for students," Mueller said, "They get to rub shoulders with a very famous poet and talk about his poetry."

### KENNEDY from page 2

environmentalist John Cronin called *The Riverkeepers*. The environmentalists "challenged a status quo that said all was expendable in the name of business and profit."

Lorenz says that Kennedy will encourage activism, and send a good message to the students of Alma regarding the effectiveness of persistence. "Stewards of your world" is a good message for Alma students," said Lorenz.

*The Riverkeepers* will be available for sale in The Scot Shop starting Monday, March 8, 2004. Copies will also be available from 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. and from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Hogan Physical Education Center Lobby.

## Truman and Barlow finalists announced

**AMY WILLEY**  
Staff Writer

This past week Alma College students learned the names of the three Student Barlow Award finalists as well as the fact that a record three Alma College students are finalists for the nationally competitive Truman Scholarship.

The Barlow Trophy is the Alma's most prestigious annual award given to an outstanding graduating senior. The senior must be in the top 10% of the class, and must submit an application along with two letters of recommendation to the Academic Standards Committee for review. From these the Academic Standards Committee selects three finalists.

This year, 36 students were eligible, 16 sent back their applications, and the finalists are **Jennifer Hoorstra**, **Jessica Karbowski**, and **Timothy Throm**.

According to Tim Keeton, assistant professor of biology and chair of the academic standards committee, the committee uses the criteria described by Dr. Joel Barlow, the creator of the award, including academic prowess, and an active role on campus to promote campus life. However, Keeton stresses, "It's not just a matter of being an officer in a club, it's a matter of taking a leadership role on campus."

This Monday, by a secret ballot, the Student Congress voted on the recipient, and the result will be announced at Honors Day, April 1, 2004.

The Truman scholarship is one of the most prestigious nationally competitive scholarships in the US. The award is a \$30,000 scholarship to help with the expenses of graduate school for students planning to go into some form of public service. According to the Truman guidelines, students are chosen "On the basis of leadership potential, intellectual ability, and likelihood of 'making a difference.'"

There are 221 Truman Scholar finalists from 148 colleges (each college can nominate a maximum of four students) and 75 of are chosen as Truman Scholars. From the state of Michigan there are six finalists, three of whom are from Alma College. These three finalists are **Kelli Bissett (05)**, **Stacey Kowal (04)**, and **Taylor Heins (05)**.

Bissett is a Foreign Service and Spanish double major interested in pursuing a career in the Foreign Service in

the area of international political economy and Latin American affairs. Of the Truman application process she explains, "The Alma College Nationally Competitive Scholarship Committee really helps students prepare for the application process," she says, "The interviews are adversarial, even hostile, and are basically to see if you can think on your feet and work under stress." The three students worked together throughout the process in order, often debating about current events to make the preparation more efficient. "It's an honor to work with both Taylor and Stacie who are such gifted and dedicated individuals, and the faculty contributed an enormous amount of time to the interviews," she says.

Kowal is a Math major who intends to pursue a career in public health and the environment. When asked about the Truman, she says, "It's an extremely wonderful opportunity that I wouldn't have had if I didn't come to Alma College; if it wasn't for the professors and research opportunities I've had, I wouldn't be where I am now." Kowal says, "Just having this opportunity is something I will be proud of for the rest of my life." Heins, a foreign service major is interested in pursuing a career in the State Department working to protect endangered species.

According to Heins, "The Truman process has been an opportunity for me to define what's important to me," she says, "It has also been an amazing opportunity for me to work with two remarkable and inspirational women."

This is the first time Alma has ever had three Truman finalists. In the past five years there have been two winners and seven finalists, and, according to Derick "Sandy" Hulme, assistant professor of political science this is "one of the best records of any institution of our type in terms of performance for the Truman during these five years," he says. "We have never nominated a student who hasn't been selected as a finalist." Of this years finalists he says, "This is an exceptional group of students and the fact that three have been selected indicates that they are among the elite in the junior class in the US."

In the next two weeks the finalists are interviewed and will find out in the end of March who wins. The winners will be posted on the web at [www.truman.gov](http://www.truman.gov) April 1, 2004.



# OPINION

## 'Liberal arts' should not mean 'liberal-leaning'

**MATT HELMUS**  
**Sports Editor**

Liberal arts are defined as studies intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills. An education in liberal arts is intended to provide students with information from all areas and perspectives. Your beloved Alma College strives its best to deliver this education to you. Or does it?

Looking back on speakers the college has brought to campus over the last few years one can easily see that the college does not bring in experts from all perspectives. The overwhelming majority of speakers come from a liberal (meaning politically left-leaning, not as in liberal arts) background.

Speakers that have been recently hosted by the college include Patricia Ireland, the President of the National Organization for Women, Rev. Dr. Cynthia McCall Campbell, a feminist theologian, poet and activist Sonia Sanchez and

politician Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky. These people are all left-of-center to say the least. Other speakers include author Jewell Parker Rhodes, poet W.S. Merwin, environmental activist Glen "Dune" Lankard, and Democratic Senator Debbie Stabenow. It is difficult to find a conservative anywhere among the list of speakers (except for the controversial Andrew Sullivan.)

Certain speakers take their point of view a little too far when bringing their message to the students. Dr. Sandra Steingraber, an expert on the environment, used her speech on health and ecology to launch a vicious attack on President Bush. Dr. Steingraber may be an expert on the environment but is not at all qualified to speak on politics. Nor was she asked to. If the college wanted a political speaker, they could have invited a much more qualified individual. Another speaker, poet Lucille Clifton, made many students uncomfortable

when she implied that they should be ashamed about their heritage and the fact that they are white.

While these speakers may have a worthwhile message for campus, they only represent one side of their respective issues. The college has an obligation to present all points of view to students. The intent of a liberal arts education is not to brainwash students with one point of view, but to introduce them to all views and allow the students to decide.

The college seems to be off-based in many of their efforts in doing this. Their recent soup kitchen idea blew up in their face when many students became angry and skipped the lunch (not to mention the fact that it equated African-Americans with hunger and poverty, a very wrong and racist idea.) The administration seems to be obsessed with certain issues such as the environment and diversity. While these are very important

topics there are many other areas that also need to be focused on.

The college needs to realize that a liberal arts education entails many things besides the environment and diversity. Ideas of equality, freedom and heritage need to be dealt with by students as well. Tartan Day (April 6) and Dutch-American Heritage Day (November 16) are just as important as Martin Luther King Jr. day. Each day represents unique sectors of society that have valuable contributions to humanity.

I am hoping that next year we can see speakers from the Heritage Foundation, the Republican Party and maybe even the Michigan Militia as well as speakers from the NAACP, the Democratic Party and the National Organization for Women. As students we should be bombarded with ideas from all perspectives instead of pushed into a narrow mindset. This will cause us to become truly free thinkers in the liberal arts tradition.

## Freshmen: it's that time to learn something from your elders

**KEVIN BRADY**  
**Staff Writer**

When I was a freshman, many seniors gave me advice to how I should spend the remaining years of college and now it is actually my turn to do the same. I am writing this article not to preach to the undergrads but to share my thoughts on what I believe one's college experience should be.

First, the four years at college will be the most unique, offering you many opportunities to experience many dif-

ferent things. These four years are in a class all by themselves.

Secondly, do the things you want to do. These are the years in which you have to capture every moment and experience the adventures of college. If there is one concrete piece of advice any senior should give all undergrads, it is to have no regrets.

Some of you will get your heart broken, while others will be doing the breaking. Do not be afraid; college is the time when you meet your friends

for life, friendships which you will carry with you wherever you go.

Professors will be hard on you but there is always the one or two that affect you and make this educational experience that much more valuable. They are here to teach and guide; use the help they can give you.

When you reach the point where you are five weeks from graduation, some of you will know what you are about to do. Most of you will not, but never forget there is a whole world

out there.

To the freshman, enjoy college. Take school seriously but do not bury yourself in those books. Jump on the chance to make these four years some of the best ever. Finally, to all of my fellow seniors out there...live it up! Senioritis is kicking in full blast, but does it really matter now? We have five weeks and then it is all done. Have fun! Party! In the words of recent alum, "Go big or go home!"

## The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

<b>Brendan Guilford</b>	Editor-in-Chief
<b>Katherine Persitz</b>	News Editor
<b>Matt Helmus</b>	Sports Editor
<b>Olga Wrobel</b>	Feature Editor
<b>Whitney Hopkins</b>	Opinion Editor

<b>Melanie Szewczyk</b>	Head Photographer
<b>Tim Throm</b>	Copy Editor
<b>Joel Render</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Alexa Boyce</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Rachel Kingstrom</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Ok-Jin Ahn</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Laura Sachjen</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Amy Willey</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Scott Weir</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Kevin Brady</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Julie Bolitho</b>	Staff Writer
<b>Thad Hopkins</b>	Photographer

<b>Ryan Cannon</b>	Online Editor
--------------------	---------------

### 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](mailto:almanian@alma.edu) or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

### Staff Editorial Policy

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



**We asked, "What did you do over spring break?"**  
**You said...**

"I went to the UP for three days, then came back here."

**Adam Bauer (07)**



**Bauer**

"I did absolutely nothing."

**George Champion (06)**



"I drove all over the state and drank, but not while driving."

**Lorna Kilborn (07)**



**Orr**

"I drove all over the state with Lorna."

**Jon Orr (07)**

"I stayed in Alma to work on the play."

**Santana Vermeesch (07)**



**Vermeesch**

"It wouldn't be mentionable."

**Shirey Nault (06)**



**Kilborn**



**Nault**



# FEATURE

## Breast Cancer Awareness Week Begins Women's Month

**OK-JINAHN**  
Staff Writer

Women's Month started off with student organized breast cancer awareness projects. **Jessica Black (06)** is the student who initiated the breast cancer awareness week to raise student's awareness on campus and in the local community.

Black is planning to participate in the Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk with her mother in the Detroit area this August. It is a 60-mile walk hosted by the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Each participant raises a minimum of \$2,000 and Black has agreed to raise \$2,000 to participate in the walk.

Black's mother was diagnosed with breast cancer in March of 2003. Due to early detection, her mother is cancer free, however, Black and her mother's efforts to fight breast cancer are continuing.

"No one else will have to suffer?" Black said. "I met a woman who was diagnosed when she was 24. I walk for all those who have been affected by breast cancer."

In conjunction with Women's Month, Black and her friends, **Kristi Trinkle (06)** and **Ashley Sepeter (06)**, organized fundraising events called 3 Days for the 3-Day Walk. They started the projects through posting breast cancer statistics around campus on March 1. The signs state facts such as "A woman is diagnosed with breast cancer every three minutes," and "Every 13 minutes, the disease claims another life," caught student's attention.

Due to Black's campus-wide email to request student's help, the returnable can drive held on Tuesday night was a success. About ten students showed up at the can drive to help her.

"There were many students who supported Black's efforts," fundraising manager Trinkle said, "Even one student who was not on campus during the can drive left a message with pop cans."

On March 3, Registered Nurse, Diane Crites held a presentation about breast cancer, self-breast examinations, and mammograms in Newberry lobby. "This is a wonderful opportunity to educate young woman about breast cancer,"

Crites said. A video regarding the last year's 3-Day walk was also presented.

**Tristan Wilson (06)** was the only male participant at the event. "Breast cancer awareness is really significant for me," he said. "My mother has suffered from breast cancer for 6 years. This might not be as serious to some people, but everyone has mothers."

Jessica Black plans to keep doing fundraising on campus as well as her hometown. "To raise student's awareness was more important than reaching the fundraising goal of \$2,000. I really appreciate many students' help. We can make a difference," Black said after the 3-Day projects.

Dr. Chih-Ping Chen of the Women's Issues Advisory Board admired Black and her friend's efforts. She hopes students will continue to participate in upcoming programs of Women's Month.

"Women's Month festivities are well organized dealing with various issues, such as women and health, body, violence and religion," Chen said. "I hope many students have a chance to think about women's life through participation."

## WQAC Top 30

1. The Shins
2. The Emergency
3. Kieskagato
4. The Offspring
5. The Elected
6. Vast
7. Phantom Planet
8. Dope Smoothie
9. Paul Westerberg
10. Electrelane
11. Easily Amused
12. The Strokes
13. The Bens
14. Kinky
15. Oh My God
16. Roy
17. Stereolab
18. High Strung
19. Catch 22
20. Envy Corps
21. Ima Robot
22. Jason Coleltt
23. Mountain Goats
24. Buckra
25. Eisley
26. No Motiv
27. Magnetic Fields
28. Wheat
29. Yo La Tengo
30. The Special Goodness

## Bursting the Alma Bubble: Green, yellow and black food boom make Koreans Popeye

**AMY WILLEY**  
Staff Writer  
**HEA-JEONG NOH**  
Reporter of the  
Sogang Herald



Email:  
kukur7@sogang.ac.kr

If you go into the Starbucks in Korea, you can see an item on the menu, which you cannot find in the US. It's called "Green Tea Frappuccino". Green tea is thought to protect people from catching cold, prevent cancer, lower cholesterol, has 5-8 times as many vitamins as lemon, etc. Koreans are beginning to realize the good effects of green tea and what is known as the "green tea boom" has sprung up. Recently, many people (especially the young generation) are interested in so-called "well-being food," and are consuming more and more everyday.

"Well-being" is the search for inner beauty. In Korea, not only appearance, but health is also becoming important these days. As the "well-being"

phenomenon became popular, this influenced the food industry. These days, there are more and more demands for "well-being" food among Koreans. Broadly, there are three big booms: "green tea boom," "sweet potato boom" and "black boom".

Walking around campus, you can see many university students with a green tea can in their hands. Also, 25% of sale at Starbucks is "Green Tea Frappuccino." Furthermore, green tea is all around in people's lives and there are many things that are add green tea, such as green tea pork, green tea noodles, green tea milk and etc. There are lots of green tea cafes which sell green tea shakes, ice creams, cakes, cookies and so on.

Sweet potatoes are also known to lower cholesterol, have large amounts of vitamins and are good for those who are on a diet. Recently, Pizza Hut in Korea invented "Rich Gold pizza," which adds sweet potatoes. It was presented in May but the sales have been so super that it has sold more than 3 million pans already. 80% of customers eat "Jacket Sweet Potato" at the Outback Steakhouse, and KFC has made sweet potato salad, which is

also a big seller.

"Black boom" is a short name for the "black bean boom." Black beans have similar effects as green tea and sweet potatoes. Over half a million bottles of black bean milk have been sold in one day and there are also various kinds of food made of black beans such as black bean sauce, noodles, cookies, diet food and so on.

There are two big reasons why these kinds of "well-being foods" are so popular in Korea. As the economic wealth grew in Korea, Koreans began to think about their health more than they used to. The "well-being boom" has led people to find healthy food and consume those more. Also, the taste of "well-being food has been improved as the demand rose. The foods are not only good for people's health, but also have very delicious tastes.

The future prospect of "well-being food" in Korea is very hopeful. With the development of new "well-being food" products in Korea, Koreans are making new menus and exporting them to many countries. "Rich Gold Pizza" at Pizza Hut, will be exported to Japan, China, etc. Also, the "Jacket Sweet Potato" at the Outback steak

house will be sold in the US, England, Southeast Asia and Japan very soon.

These days many people realize that without health they can't do anything. Food habit is considered an important way of maintaining health. Koreans have developed healthy food in their own way and to their own tastes. These are not only popular among Koreans but also are gaining recognitions from foreigners. I hope you have a chance to experience the Korean "well-being food".

In the January 27, 2004 issue of *The Almanian*, Young-Bi Jang was misspelled. We apologize for the error.



## FEATURE

# Mel Gibson's *The Passion of The Christ* graphic and thought provoking

**KEVIN BRADY**  
Staff Writer

Mixed emotions have surrounded Mel Gibson's *The Passion of The Christ* since it opened in theatres a few weeks ago. There is a wide variety of support and criticism towards this film due to the graphic portrayal of Jesus' death. Despite this feature, the depiction and originality used by Gibson provides the audience with a more realistic view of the final days in the life of Jesus, played by James Caviezel.

Gibson wrote this film based on his own impressions of what he felt was the last moments of Jesus' life, based upon his Catholicism and the beliefs he holds deep to his heart. He also funded the entire production. The

movie is viewed with English subtitles because the language spoken in the film is Aramaic. This feature did not detract from the movie but rather added to the originality of the film.

The story of the last final moments of Jesus' life is gruesome and violent.

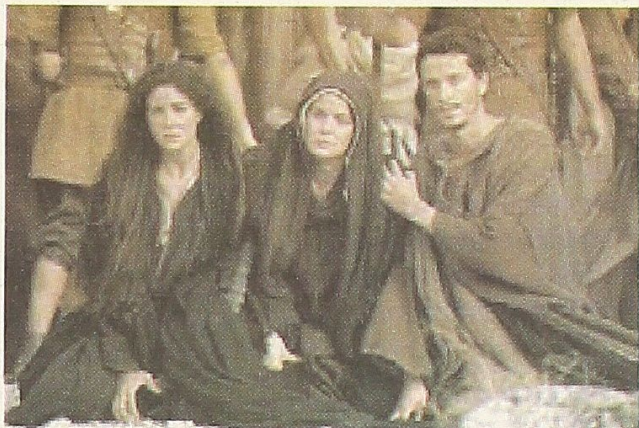


photo courtesy of imdb.com

Mary Magdalene (Monica Bellucci), Mary (Maia Morgenstern) and John (Hristo Jivkov) watch in anguish as Jesus is led to his crucifixion.

It is told with more realistic features than any other biographical portrayal I have seen. The effects of the countless beatings that Jesus endured are endless. This film is unlike any of the

other stories told regarding Jesus' life such as *King of Kings* or *Jesus of Nazareth*. There are gripping pauses that occur in the movie. There is an eerie silence that captivates the entire theatre throughout the film. This movie is gripping and keeps you on the edge of your seat from the very beginning when Judas gives Jesus up to the high priests.

Main characters that follow Jesus throughout the story of his crucifixion include Mary, mother of Jesus and Mary of Magdalene. Gibson also includes a character resembling Satan. This provides for much speculation of the inclusion of this character. Is it worth it to have Satan in the plot? It is because it shows the victory in which God and Jesus had over the forces of evil.

*The Passion* is a film that makes some people re-examine their own religious beliefs, and their own lives. One will be left with a chilling feeling after watching this movie. Gibson's film portrays a realistic, seemingly unnatural view of what the final hours of Jesus' life was

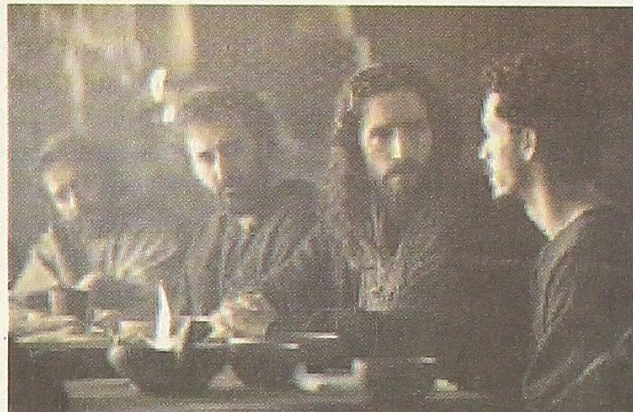


photo courtesy of imdb.com

Jesus sits with his twelve disciples during the Last Supper. Throughout the film, flashbacks of relevant moments in Jesus's life are shown.

like, and what possibly might be the closest truth in this greatest story ever told. It will, and it should, have a deep impact on anyone who sees this film: *The Passion of The Christ*.

## Students spend "Alternative Spring Break" working with less fortunate in D.C., South Carolina

**RACHEL KINGSTROM**  
Staff Writer

Instead of taking a week off from classes to relax, some students chose to spend their break helping others.

Three different alternative break trips were sponsored by Discovering Vocation and the chapel. The trips occurred from February 21 through February 28. "I've been on several trips with my youth group in which I've worked for Habitat, but this year has been by far the greatest trip of all," said **Sarah DeYoung (07)**.

One group went to Charleston, South Carolina for the Collegiate Challenge for Habitat for Humanity. Two other groups went to Washington, D.C. to deal with two different issues. One of the Washington, D.C. groups dealt with the issues of poverty and homelessness in an urban setting,

and the other dealt with the issues of AIDS and HIV.

**Kim Graor (06)** was the team leader for the Habitat for Humanity group, which took part in building houses for homeless. Graor went on the trip with 16 other students and



photo courtesy of Robin O'Neill

Over winter break, Habitat for Humanity traveled to Charleston, South Carolina, to build houses for the homeless.

2 faculty members, Kristeen Crosser, assistant professor of theatre, and Skip Traynor, media and publications editor. "Everyone got along really well and worked well together. The people

in South Carolina were really great and made us feel useful," said **Emily Kellerman (06)**.

Chaplain Christine Vogel and Sally Scheide of the Kirk Center led the groups going to Washington, D.C. They stayed in a youth hostel at the Pilgrimage, an old Presbyterian church. The Pilgrimage brings in groups and supports them in different mission outreach programs while they are there. Various Alma College alumni in the area supported the groups, either by visiting them or providing them with meals.

Students had the opportunity to serve in agencies that deal with either issues of homelessness or AIDS. Both groups went to Capitol Hill to speak with legislators about the issues. Both of the Washington, D.C. groups and the Charleston group had the opportunity to do some sightseeing in their respective cities.

The two D.C. groups worked on separate issues during the day but came together in the evening. "It [gave] the two groups a chance to reflect on major social and urban issues," Rev. Vogel said. They had evening speakers, including representatives from MetroTeen Aids and the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Each of the groups had the chance to work in the city. The group dealing with AIDS visited HIV/AIDS clinics. Students involved with the issues of homelessness and poverty worked in soup kitchens.

Many participants found the trips to be worthwhile. It gave everyone a chance to make new friends and work together to help out in the community. The trips also provided another escape from the infamous Alma Bubble. "It was an eye-opening experience," **Daniela Benitez (04)**.

Many students expressed the importance of going on service trips. "You get to see the needy outside of your community and spread love throughout the country," DeYoung said. Others shared DeYoung's views. "If people need service and you can provide it, then you should do it. It's just an amazing experience," said Kellerman.



# OPINION

## Antiquated words fuel same-sex marriage debate

RYAN CANNON  
Online Editor

US President George Bush's announcements over the past two weeks that he refuses to support same-sex marriages has begun a flurry of debate over the legitimacy of a legal homosexual union. His view imposes a belief system upon the American public and denies a freedom most Americans vehemently protect: the separation of church and state.

Marriage is essentially a religious and cultural ritual. Although it has existed since almost the beginning of civilization, most cultures celebrate marriage as a religious institution. According to CNN News, Bush claims that we must protect the "sanctity of marriage." One definition of sanctity from Webster's Dictionary is a "religiously binding force." The government protecting the sanctity of anything shreds this country's Bill of Rights, which assures that the government cannot assert religious dicta onto its citizens.

The government currently regulates this sacred ceremony. A couple seeking marriage must also pay the government for the privilege. In Wayne County, where I live, the fee is \$25 for in-state residents and \$35 if one partner resides out-of-state. Michigan law also stipulates that only "an ordained minister of the gospel recognized by a church that has filed a charter with the State of Michigan, Corporation and Land Development Bureau or an elected government official" may perform a marriage. Essentially, the law equates the authority of a magistrate or judge—chosen by the people—as a priest or pastor chosen by God.

The ritual of marriage has transcended religion in American society to include secular benefits not enjoyed

by homosexuals. Married couples can jointly file their taxes, automatically retain mutual possessions when one member dies, and can more easily apply for loans. Although divorce is a regrettable situation, at least there is legal help; if a same-sex couple breaks up, who gets the house? Current laws make perilous the fate of same-sex couples seeking a long-term monogamous relationship.

Homosexuals are not the only groups oppressed by current restrictions on marriage. While it may not be acceptable in Christian society, the Qur'an tolerates polygamy. Islam, the world's fastest-growing religion, allows for men to have up to four wives, so long as they can provide for them all adequately and equally. A Muslim man can seek a union approved by God, should US law not forbid it. In Africa, many emerging Christian churches struggle with extinguishing the culturally embraced practices of polygamy. The structure of marriage laws in the US now not only restricts religious and cultural practices; it represents the hypocritical xenophobia of our society.

The problem resides not in a corruption of our society, but the word itself—marriage. Neither Bush nor his strongest opponent in the presidential race, Democratic Senator John Kerry, opposes "civil unions" for homosexuals, only gay *marriages*. If the US government stays true to its Constitution, where "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," then it has no right to federally regulate—or even offer—marriages. Civil unions of two (or conceivably more) people should be the only legal union for homosexuals and heterosexuals alike. Leave marriage to a higher authority.

## Letter presents anti-Alma values

Editor -

Like most of the campus community, I was outraged to hear about the anti-Semitic death threat Dr. Gilbert received on 2 March. Unfortunately, I was not particularly surprised. The sociopolitical atmosphere has become charged, on the national scale, with the recent controversies over homosexual marriage and Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*, and more locally, by the recent fervor over Thaddeus Hopkins's letter regarding the Chapel.

While some have speculated that it was he who penned the death threat, I dismiss that immediately. Hopkins stated his opinions publicly, in contrast to the cowardly manner in which the letter-writer threatened Gilbert; likewise, Hopkins has never advocated violence in any of his public statements.

I wonder, though, if some have taken Hopkins's sentiments as a permission slip for more virulent rhetoric, especially in the light of Gilbert's strong opposition to Hopkins in *The Almanian*. I worry that this death threat might be indicative of deeper tendencies that have remained under our collective radar lately. Shortly after the tragedy of 9-11, I heard rumblings against "towel heads," "camel jockeys," and other epithets which I dare not submit for publication. Now I see that similar invectives have been hurled against another person of minority status. How successful has the College really been in "the liberation of people from ignorance, prejudice and parochialism"? (2003 Student Life Handbook, 2)

DAVID HENSLEY (04)

## What do you think?

Do you think the government should legalize gay marriage?

Yes: 42%

No: 15%

Not sure: 1%

Perhaps a Civil Union instead: 40%

Should the religious connotations of marriage be protected by the government?

Yes: 40%

No, that is why we have separation of church and state: 45%

No, there is nothing to be protected from: 6%

Not sure: 6%

Which of these is legitimate: a heterosexual marriage by a judge or a homosexual marriage by a church?

The heterosexual marriage: 49%

The homosexual marriage: 2%

Both: 42%

Neither: 5%

How many religions recognize marriage as different from the current legal definition?

Only a few, and they are not very popular: 43%

Some of the world's most popular religions support polygamy and other non-standard practices: 30%

Most religions have a different view: 24%

None, and if any do, someone should stop them: 1%

Would you or someone close to you conceivably seek a same-sex marriage?

Yes, and I support that decision: 35%

Yes, but it is wrong: 4%

No, but I would not object anyway: 16%

No, it is wrong: 43%

Due to the unscientific nature of this poll, and some participants not answering all questions, percentages may not add up to 100%. There is an unknown margin of error, and this poll should be interpreted only as an informal tool used to assess the opinion of those on the Alma College campus. To participate in this week's poll, visit the Almanian's website at [www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian](http://www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian), and visit the opinion section. To suggest questions you'd like to see posed to the campus, e-mail the paper at [AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com](mailto:AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com).

**Almanian**  
**Opinion**  
**@yahoo.com**

## Concert review should have presented objective views

Dear Editor,

As a reader of *The Almanian*, I was insulted by Thad Hopkins' article "ASO plays with power, accompanied by opera soloists." First of all, examining great pieces of music like *Intermezzo* and *Les Toreadors* based solely on their association with video games is an insult to their talented composers and the musicians that performed them. His description of the concert made the music seem like merely a soundtrack to a video game or Disney movie, not great pieces of music in themselves.

Second, the subtle insult of opera singing was completely unnecessary

and out of place. If the author feels this way about opera, that's fine. It does not belong in a feature article. Feature articles are supposed to attempt objectivism. Opinion articles are where writers express their opinions freely. As a side note, the comment: "Why are we clapping when the conductor walks on the stage, having not yet performed?", besides being unnecessary and drawing attention away from our accomplished orchestra, can easily be answered. The answer is the same to the question: why does the audience at a Red Hot Chile Peppers concert go crazy the second the band enters the stage? It shows excitement for the show and respect for the mu-

sicians.

A good example of an article that stays objective and is generally well written can also be found in this week's paper: "Theatre entertains audience with Dancing in Lughnasa", by Rachel Kingstrom. I would like to commend Rachel for remaining objective, but still keeping the article very interesting to read. I found the extra information about the hard work of the theatre company a pleasant addition to the article. I was also impressed by the apparent research that went into this article. If more feature articles were like this one, *the Almanian* would greatly benefit.



## SPORTS

# Women's basketball ends season with loss to K'zoo

**JOEL RENDER**  
Staff Writer

The old sports adage that it is very hard to beat a team three times in one year proved to be true, as the Alma College Women's Basketball team fell to Kalamazoo College in the first round of the MIAA tournament, which took place over spring break.

The Lady Scots played the Hornets both to open and close their MIAA season. Alma had defeated them by 10 points or more in both games, but the third time was not a charm for the Lady Scots as they lost 76-58 to end their season.

Alma managed to spread their scoring around between their starters in the game, but it would not be enough. The Lady Scots were led by **Rondi Lounds (05)** for the first time this season. Lounds finished with 15 points on 5 of 6 shooting from the floor. This included an amazing 4 for 4 from the three-point arc.

**Karen Hall (04)**, this year's MIAA Most Valuable Player, came in second with 13 points and 9 rebounds. **Katey Peacock (06)**, **Michelle Dettling**

**(05)**, and **Ashley Borcharding (06)** also added 11, 10, and 7 points respectively.

In the end, the major factors turned out to be field goal percentage and free throw shooting. The Hornets made a better percentage of their shots and made 22 of 32 from the charity stripe, which gave them an edge in a game that was otherwise equal statistically. Coach Charlie Goffnet said, "We just did not put together a great game."

Despite that game, the Lady Scots have a lot of statistics to be proud of. As a team, Alma was 1<sup>st</sup> in free throw shooting percentage in the nation and 3<sup>rd</sup> in field goal and three point shooting percentage. Many of these statistics are largely the result of the play of Karen Hall.

Hall has several new league records this season as well as being named MVP. Most amazingly, she has set the new all-time scoring record for one season with 561 points. Not only did she average 8 points more per game than the second place finisher, but Hall also finished 160 points ahead of her nearest competitor.

The fantastic season that Hall put

together makes it even more difficult to watch her leave when she graduates. Coach Goffnett said, "Karen is the type of player that can't be replaced." Nevertheless, the Lady Scots will certainly attempt to compensate for her loss next season.

The best news may be that Hall and only one other player will be graduating. In other words, the core of talented players that played together this season will return even hungrier.

This means that starters Ashley Borcharding, Rondi Lounds, Michelle Dettling, and Katey Peacock will all have to step up if the Lady Scots are going to remain competitive in the MIAA.

This includes playing better at home in the league next year as well. The Lady Scots final record of 7-7 in the MIAA hid their 3-5 home record in the league. Even though this means that Alma won 4 of 6 games on the road in the regular season, it did not help them in the first game of the tournament, which was at home.

Still, if that final game was any indication of the team's ability to play together, then next season could be very interesting for the Lady Scots.

## Best darn sports column ever

**MATTHELMUS**  
Sports Editor

Looking out the window at snow makes it difficult to believe that the spring sports season is here. Luckily for most of the teams they have been competing in slightly warmer climates.

The winter season was a bit of a disappointment for Scot sports. The men's basketball team never blossomed into the contenders, though they did get rid of that horrible MIAA losing streak. The women's team was better but even Karen Hall couldn't lead them to any tournament victories. The swim teams continued their extremely difficult battle against the likes of Hope, Calvin and Kalamazoo. Both squads will look to move up in the standings next season.

But with a new season (coming relatively soon) comes new sports. The team that has the most buzz around it is the softball team. Travelling to Florida for break, the Scots returned with an unblemished record. The team is ranked highly in national polls. This season could be very special for the senior-laden Scots. They have a very solid pitching staff to go along with their great bats. Look for the team to grab yet another MIAA title. They should then be poised to make a run deep into the NCAA tournament. Could this be the year Alma sees its second national title trophy? The pressure will be on the Scots as this is one of the best teams from any sport that the college has seen in a long time.

A few of the men's basketball teams in this state would be jealous of the softball team's expectations right about now. Michigan State began this season as a favorite to win the national title. After a horrible beginning to the year the Spartans have got back into the swing of things and hope to make some noise in the NCAA tournament. Their arch-rival Michigan will need a great finish to the season and possibly some good luck to see the tournament. Western Michigan also has NCAA hopes after plowing through their MAC schedule. However, if the Broncos do not manage to win the MAC tournament title (and automatic NCAA berth) a trip to the NIT looks more realistic.

# Swim teams end season on high note at MIAA championships

**SCOTTWEIR**  
Staff Writer

The Alma College Swimming and Diving team concludes another season with a strong performance at the conference meet held February 19-23 at East Grand Rapids High School. Although the points and standings don't seem to reflect this, the team still did very well with many strong individual performances.

The men's team had a difficult season this year and unfortunately they finished last place in both the conference meet and dual meet standings. **Nick Dunkle (06)** said, "The team swam really well and most of us had season and lifetime best swims although we're competing in a conference with Hope and Kalamazoo who are in the hunt for the national championship every year. So our record doesn't really reflect our ability and most of us were pretty happy with the way we swam." Dunkle placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the consolation finals of the 100-yard backstroke.

Also finishing strong on the men's side was **Brent Gostomski (07)** who posted a time of 0:53.61 to take 4<sup>th</sup> place in the 100-yard butterfly.

Other top twelve point scorers include **Cole Hughes (06)**, **Brandon Gostomski (03)**, **Lucas Livingston (07)**, **Kyle Ritsema (05)**, and **Will Heyd (05)**.

Head Coach Greg Baadte said for both the women and men, "Individually, we did well at the conference meet and had 90 % best times. That was phenomenal considering that some of our swimmers weren't able to swim for parts of the season due to injuries."

The women's team bettered their dual meet standing of 6<sup>th</sup> place to beat out both St. Mary's and Albion for a 5<sup>th</sup> place conference meet finish. **Julie Fantone (04)** placed a new school record in the 1650-yard freestyle, which earned her a second place finish at the meet. She said, "We went in sort of as the underdog and we had only beaten one team going into conferences. It was a good way to end the season for every one. It was a fun meet." Fantone also placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the 500-yard freestyle.

Many other ladies' earned top six finishes in their respective events including **Stephanie Druskinis (05)**, **Lynsay Masters (04)**, **Brianne Hauser (05)**, and **Liz Smith (04)**.

**Jaci Wilkie (06)** also added points to the teams score with a 9<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 200-yard breaststroke.

The men's team with graduate one person this year, **Colin McLaughlin (04)**, and they are hoping this will provide an increases in the number of swimmers for next year. The women's side will be a little bit harder to replace as they lose five members, many of which are consistent point scorers.

## MIAA Championship Results

### MEN

1. Hope 581
2. Kalamazoo 539
3. Albion 296
4. Calvin 291
5. Olivet 242
6. ALMA 149

### WOMEN

1. Hope 587
2. Calvin 422
3. Kalamazoo 318
4. Olivet 250
5. ALMA 207
6. Albion 193
7. St. Mary's 180



# SPORTS

## MIAA STANDINGS

### BASEBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Adrian	0-0	4-1
Hope	0-0	3-1
Albion	0-0	3-2
Calvin	0-0	0-0
ALMA	0-0	2-6
K'zoo	0-0	0-2
Olivet	0-0	0-3

Cornell (IA) 5, **ALMA 4**  
St. Vincent (PA) 20, **ALMA 7**  
**ALMA 6**, Seton Hill (PA) 5  
Franklin (IN) 3, **ALMA 1**  
Augustana (IL) 13, **ALMA 0**  
Concordia (IL) 4, **ALMA 1**  
Concordia (IL) 9, **ALMA 1**  
**ALMA 5**, St. John's (MN) 4

### SOFTBALL

	MIAA	Overall
ALMA	0-0	8-0
Olivet	0-0	4-4
Albion	0-0	1-1
Adrian	0-0	0-0
Calvin	0-0	0-0
Hope	0-0	0-0
K'zoo	0-0	0-0
St. Mary's	0-0	0-0

**ALMA 8**, Capital (OH) 6  
**ALMA 6**, Capital (OH) 3  
**ALMA 12**, John. & Wales (RI) 1  
**ALMA 5**, St. Mary's-Wds (IN) 1  
**ALMA 2**, Augustana (IL) 0  
**ALMA 8**, Loras (IA) 3  
**ALMA 6**, Hanover 0  
**ALMA 3**, Roch. Tech. (NY) 0

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

	MIAA	Overall
Calvin	1-0	2-1
St. Mary's	0-0	2-0
Adrian	0-0	0-0
Hope	0-0	3-1
Olivet	0-0	2-2
K'zoo	0-0	1-2
Albion	0-0	0-1
ALMA	0-1	1-3

Lake Superior St. 8, **ALMA 1**  
**ALMA 6**, Whittier (CA) 0  
Biola (CA) 9, **ALMA 0**  
Calvin 9, **ALMA 0**

### MEN'S TENNIS

	MIAA	Overall
Albion	1-0	2-2
K'zoo	0-0	3-3
Adrian	0-0	0-1
ALMA	0-0	0-2
Hope	0-0	0-4
Calvin	0-1	2-1

St. Thomas (FL) 7, **ALMA 2**  
Florida Gulf Coast 9, **ALMA 0**

## Young Scots looking forward to next year once again

JOEL RENDER  
Staff Writer

The end of the season has finally arrived for the Alma College Men's Basketball team with a loss against second seeded Albion in the first round of the MIAA Tournament. The final score of the game, 94-52, was largely the result of some torrid shooting from the three-point line by the Britons. The Scots had finished the regular season with a record of 1-11 in the MIAA and 3-23 overall.

Alma was led by its rising star **Anthony Jones (07)** who tallied 17 points on 6 of 10 shooting from the field and 5 for 5 from the free throw line. Jones also grabbed 8 boards, 4 assists, and two steals. The rest of the scoring was fairly evenly spread out amongst the rest of the team. In fact, only two players that were dressed for the game did not score.

Despite this disappointing loss and the resulting record that the team suffered this season, no one can claim that the Scots did not play hard in every game they participated in. Coach Ed Kohtala said, "We had the talent level to be competitive, but

not the experience."

In this second year of rebuilding, eight of the ten players that regularly played in games were either freshman or sophomores. Coach Kohtala believes that if his players utilize the valuable experience gained this season during the off-season, then the Scots will have a considerable chance to make a name for themselves in the MIAA next year.

Perhaps, the highlight of the season according to Coach Kohtala was Anthony Jones' naming to the All-MIAA First Team. Jones is the first freshman to be named to this honor in 20 years, and there is no doubt that he earned it.

Jones was in the top 10 players in the league in virtually every major statistic. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> in scoring, 6<sup>th</sup> in rebounds and assists, and 10<sup>th</sup> in blocked shots. The only major category that he was not in the top 10 was steals, which he was 11<sup>th</sup> in.

Given that this was only Jones first year playing college basketball, it can certainly be argued that he can only get better. Perhaps, next year he will be named Most Valuable Player of the league. Only time will tell.

Now that Jones and several of the other talented young players on the team, such as **Domonick Allen (07)** and **Joe Baysdell (05)** have the requisite knowledge and experience, the future looks much brighter for the Alma College Men's Basketball Team.

Coach Kohtala believes that in order to have a chance to win at least one game the MIAA tournament next season, the team must finish with a conference record at or slightly above .500. More than likely, this will earn fourth place at the end of the regular season. This will not be an easy feat to accomplish, however, since 7 of the top 8 players in the league will be returning next season.

Finishing in fourth place would grant the Scots the ability to host at least one home game, and home-court advantage has proven to be essential in the tournament. In the last several years, only 12% of the teams that did not have home-court advantage in the first round won their game.

Whether or not any of this actually occurs next season still remains to be written. However, Coach Kohtala said, "I've seen the excitement of my players and it is a very good sign."

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

### Tuesday, Mar. 9

7 - 9 p.m. - Dr. Lawrence Lipking, Phi Beta Kappa Speaker (Location TBA)

7 p.m. - AC Republican Meeting (Fireside Lounge)

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

### Friday, Mar. 12

Softball @ NFCA Leadoff Classic - LaGrange, GA

7 p.m. - 2 a.m. Lake Huron/Lake Michigan Youth Mix

8 p.m. - Alma College Dance Company Winter Concert (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

### Saturday, Mar. 13

Softball @ NFCA Leadoff Classic - LaGrange, GA

2:30 p.m. - Women's Tennis @ Kalamazoo

7 p.m. - 2 a.m. - Lake Huron/Lake Michigan Youth Mix

8 p.m. - Alma College Dance Company Winter Concert (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

### Sunday, Mar. 14

Softball @ NFCA Leadoff Classic - LaGrange, GA

3 p.m. - Alma College Dance Company Winter Concert (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

7 p.m. - 2 a.m. - Lake Huron/Lake Michigan Youth Mix

9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Service

### Monday, Mar. 15

Deadline for Graduate Theological Education Grants (Kirk Center)