

# The Almanian

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## Crosses displayed on Chapel Lawn in memory of fallen soldiers

**SCOTTWEIR**  
Staff Writer

Hundreds of six-inch tall crosses will grace the chapel lawn this Thursday in an effort by the Alma College Peace Coalition to raise awareness of the events taking place over in Iraq. This event will take place one day before the one-year anniversary of when the US entered the conflict in Iraq.

**Brenda Wickline (05)**, President of ACPC said, "We have made a white cross for every US soldier who has died in Iraq in the last year. The ACPC was against the war to begin with and this is just a way to commemorate the soldiers who died and show that it has been a horrible situation."

The number of soldiers who have died in Iraq last year is currently at 756. ACPC will update this number as it continues to rise. The approval was given by physical plant, to put

out the crosses, and ACPC chose the chapel lawn simply because it was a prominent place on campus.

**Amber Elenbaas (05)** told the *Almanian*, "We had originally wanted for the story to run after the event because we don't want people to make judgments before they see it. We hope that the display is visually simulating and that people will be moved. Formulated opinions would undermine the original intent of the project."

**Liz Wieland (07)** was disappointed at ACPC's choice to use the cross saying, "Well, I think it is a great idea so that they can get across the idea of just how many people died, but that they should use something more religiously neutral than crosses. They can't really assume that all those that died were Christian."

Another ACPC member **Alexandra Bartlett (04)** commented, "This is

a way of making the campus aware of what is really going on. We have no emotional attachment (to Iraq) unless we have loved ones over there. It is bringing home reality of it." As far the conflict is concerned she commented, "It is very simple, I feel that the US tries to act like the world police. Instead of protecting us we are going into other countries and pushing our belief on others."

In general though ACPC isn't doing this event because they are anti-



photo by Melanie Szweczyk

**Brenda Wickline (05)** stoops to help paint crosses that will be placed on the Chapel lawn in memory of fallen soldiers since the beginning of the "war on terrorism."

See CROSSES page 2

## Newly designed Wright Hall will incorporate tradition with modern needs

**LAURA SACHJEN**  
Staff Writer

A groundbreaking ceremony for the new Wright Hall is set for March 31, 2004.

"Part of the College's mission is that we have to be stewards of the world around us," Nick Piccolo, Vice President of Student Life said. "The hall is an educational tool, and it expresses the College's mission."

"Environmental consciousness" could be a few words used to describe the proposed features of the new residence hall expected for completion around Winter Term 2005.

Wright Hall will feature, among other things, solar panels, low-flow shower heads and a geothermal heat pump.

Another important aspect of the new hall will be its suite-style apartment, independent living space. Phase I of Wright Hall has 60 beds.

The hall will consist of connected single and double rooms with their own private baths, kitchens and

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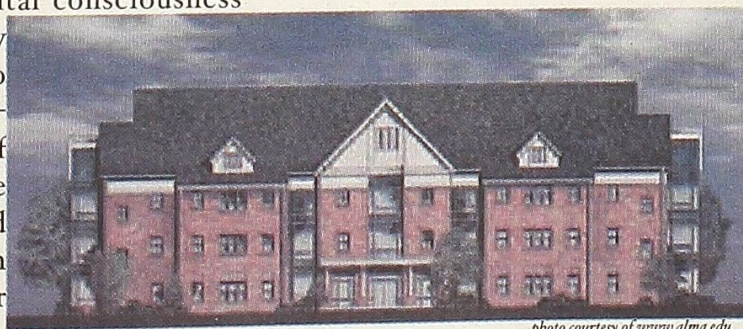


photo courtesy of [www.alma.edu](http://www.alma.edu)

This is the project look of Wright Hall, which will combine how the original hall looked with modern amenities.

## Amnesty International honors Women's Month with speaker

**JOEL RENDER**  
Staff Writer

In accordance with the theme of Women's Month, Amnesty International recruited former Alma political science faculty member Dr. Mahmood Monshipouri to discuss women's rights in the Moslem world in a completely packed Dow L4.

Edward Lorenz, Reid-Knox professor of history and political science and Director of the Public Affairs Institute introduced him as, "A real expert on human rights."

Monshipouri began his lecture with a discussion of women's rights and roles in general in the Moslem world. He then introduced a very important concept that he labeled the globalization factor. This factor has two major components: mass education and mass communication.

Monshipouri claimed that together these two processes are beginning to change perceptions of women in the

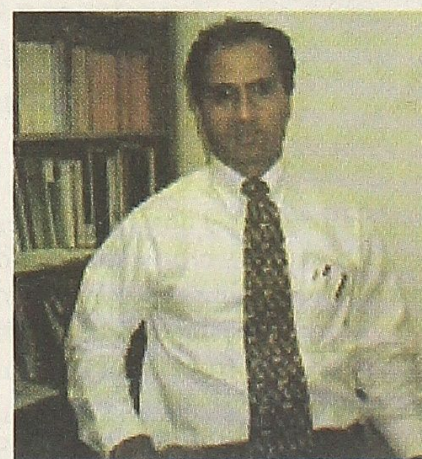


photo courtesy of [www.quinnipiac.edu](http://www.quinnipiac.edu)

Former Alma College faculty member, Dr. Mahmood Monshipouri, returned to speak on issues of women's rights in the Muslim culture.

Moslem world. He asserted, "The Moslem world is no longer operating in a vacuum."

In order to further explain the unique challenges that women face in these particular countries, Monshipouri attempted to describe the context of the conflict occurring around women. He elaborated that currently three groups are battling for control.

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# National/State/Local

## Professor receives community service award for work in service learning in Gratiot County

**RACHEL KINGSTROM**  
Staff Writer

Mark Seals, assistant professor of education, is receiving recognition for his efforts to incorporate service learning in the curriculum of his courses.

Seals has been awarded the Michigan Campus Compact Faculty/Staff Community Service-Learning Award for 2003 for his implementation of various service learning projects. He was nominated by Anne Ritz, Serving Learning Coordinator, to receive this extraordinary honor.

Seals' award is the highest annual award that MCC bestows on faculty and staff in the state of Michigan. "It was kind of a shock. I thought they had made a mistake," Seals said. "I put a lot of time into the grants, and I'm glad someone recognized the efforts."

Seals applied for two grants, which allowed him to do service projects

in different areas. The projects, called "Trashalysis" and "Seniors for Schools," involved both the college and local schools in Gratiot County.

"Trashalysis" was a project that involved taking a group of students out of the area schools and having them clean up an area of the city. Seals and the students worked with the local agencies and went to a local park to pick up trash. The grant paid for safety equipment and other necessary items.

After doing the actual project, Seals had the students analyze the data they had collected from it when they got back to the classroom. "It was a good experience for everyone," Seals said.

Since the program was a success, Seals used the experience as an example for his college students to teach them what a service project is. "The purpose of service learning is to link it back to the curriculum," he said. "It's not just a neat project."

The other project that Seals was in-

involved in was "Seniors for Schools." The idea of the program was to get as many senior citizens into as many of the area schools as possible. "Seniors have a world of experience," Seals said. "A lot of kids don't get enough attention at home, and the seniors can be there as support for the kids."

Seals places a lot of importance on incorporating service learning into the curriculum. A number of students from the college have experienced this philosophy first-hand and have benefited from it.

**Eileen Cole (04)** is an education student, and took one of Seals' classes in which the students did the "Trashalysis" project. "He made it fun," she said. Cole said that she particularly liked that. Seals provided the class with extra facts about the project, which made it more interesting.

Cole was confident that Seals is deserving of this prestigious honor. She feels that he is very dedicated to his work and is committed to making

a difference. "He's a really great guy, and he's easy to talk to when you have questions," she said. "He works really hard to incorporate service learning into all of his classes."

Seals was extremely pleased to receive the award, but said that it was not his ultimate goal.

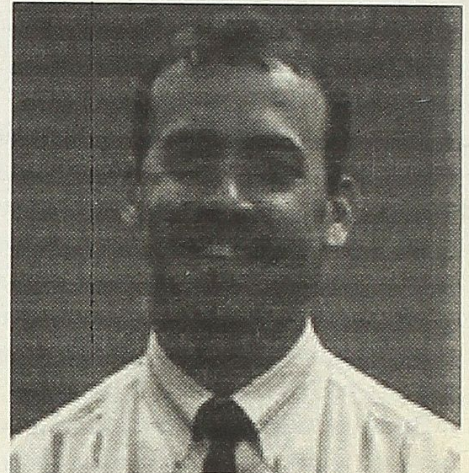


photo courtesy of intra.alma.edu/pigbook

"I didn't do the projects to get an award," he said. "It's something I enjoy doing. I wasn't expecting it."

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The first group is the reformists that were labeled as the globalizers. Their counterparts on the opposite end of the political spectrum are the conservatives that are primarily interested in local issues. Sitting between these two groups is the transformationalists who want to find some kind balance between these two extremes.

The issues that the three groups are battling over involve the control of three major social influences. Those influences are rationality, modernity, and power. After laying the contextual groundwork, Monshipouri began to discuss the four fronts that women must simultaneously battle on.

Muslim women must first battle the state elites, who usually consist of largely men wishing to retain the power that they currently enjoy. Second, women must compete with the predominating patriarchal values that continually oppress them.

The third obstacle remains women's exclusion from the political economic system. Finally and perhaps most importantly, women must fight Islamic extremists and neo-fundamentalists. After a discussion detailing some of the strategies used by women's groups to combat these obstacles, Monshipouri returned to the globalization factor that he has mentioned earlier.

He elaborated that the globalization factor has two paradoxical results.

First, it creates a transnational identity between women all over the world. Second, the globalization factor reawakens local differences. From this contradictory process, Monshipouri asked, "Can Muslim women preserve cultural integrity and universal ideas at the same time?"

After discussing his perceived solutions to this question, Monshipouri had just enough time to leave the audience with a few final thoughts.

At this point, Monshipouri left the audience with extremely provocative statement when he said, "Gender is a social and human concept. It does not enter the divine realm."

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war, but so that it can bring some conversation to campus as well as to act as a visual reminder. Elenbaas said, "ACPC is always for good conversation about various issues. We are hoping this sheds some light on the hard to address topics of war. We hope people are reminded of how many people that died, many who are close to our own age."

Because of this, ACPC has planned a follow-up conversation and time for discussion/ reflection in the Jones Rotunda the Monday following the event at 7:30 PM.

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lounge areas. This would give an upper-class student more freedom while still in college.

"Housing hasn't changed in a long time," Piccolo said. "The College is looking for lifestyle options that are more in keeping with this generation and future generations of students."

The Board of Trustees approved the plan at the last meeting in February because the required \$2 million had been raised to go further. The College is now at the half-way point to reaching the projected \$4 million cost.

More than half of the total cost is coming from private sources, and the College will continue to broaden fundraising efforts. The quiet phase in the fundraising campaign has just ended, and the College will now become more public with fundraising.

The College will begin using the mail and phone calls to get the message out, and proposals to corporations are also being made. The contacting of alumni who lived in the old Wright Hall is also going to play an important part in the fundraising process.

Wright Hall will be built on the site of the first Wright Hall in between the Alumni House and South Complex, and it will look similar in appearance.

The old Wright Hall named after College founder Ammi W. Wright served as a residence from 1901-1976, and was an immense structure that was a main focal point of the campus.

Pam Eldridge (70), Director of Annual Giving, and Sally Bowen (62), Grant Coordinator, were around for the final era of Wright Hall's existence.

"Wright Hall was the only hall on campus named for one of Alma's founding benefactors," Eldridge said. "By losing it, we have nothing on campus named for him, and without him there wouldn't have been an Alma College."

Bowen added that a new residence hall would help with student recruitment.

Jacob Acton, Mitchell Hall Director also agreed on the importance of the College having a new hall.

"One of the biggest draws to Alma is the attractiveness of its campus," he said, "and a new hall will help with that."

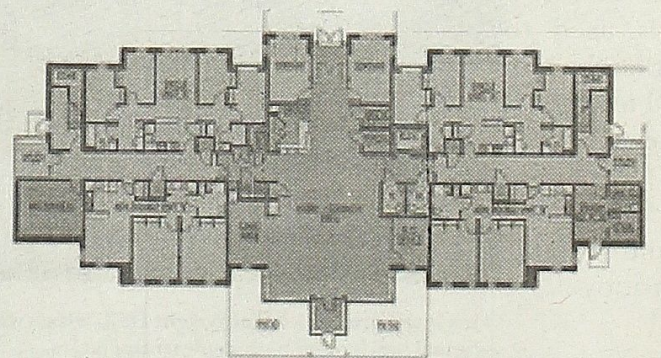


photo courtesy of www.alma.edu

This is the first floor plan of the new Wright Hall. It includes two single units and two double units that have a main hallway and lobby. It has an elevator to accommodate handicap students.



OPINION

With candidates like these,  
who needs real choice?

Threats undermine Alma  
College community and ideals

**BRENDAN GUILFORD**  
Editor-in-Chief

Presidential election campaigns often bring out the worst in both of the two major parties in our country. Both groups spend months bickering tastelessly in primary campaigns over whom will represent their party in the actual presidential race. The line over what is and is not acceptable seems to become blurrier every four years. I was unimpressed with the amount of time spent among the democratic candidates debating the past actions and decisions of the candidates instead of focus on issues.

I was most shocked however, by the newly initiated re-election tactics of our President. President Bush uses imagery of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack and its aftermath in his television advertisements. The highlights include him lecturing firefighters on their importance to our country (they have already been briefed, Mr. President), and a flag draped coffin containing one of the thousands of victims. I wonder if all the ardent Republican Party supporters who perished on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> due to terrorism would still support our President in November amidst the continuing allegations that the White House was negligent in its actions up to and after the terrorist attack.

After the furor over President Bush selling pictures of himself at

Ground Zero, one would think that his campaign would refrain from profiting from September 11 - related imagery. The fact that the pleas of some families who lost loved ones in the tragedy have requested that the Bush campaign cease use of September 11 imagery has fallen on deaf ears. Mr. Bush not only declined to directly comment on the families' requests, instead he stated that he must continue fighting on their behalf. The next step in Mr. Bush's profiteering from the suffering of thousands logically must be the selling off of pieces of the wreckage of the World Trade Center. Much like pieces of the Berlin Wall today, years from now each and every one of us will be able to say that not only do we own a piece of infamy, but we purchased it from the President of the United States of America!

Alas, the trouble in Washington is not restricted to the offices of the Grand Old Party. The Democratic Party is unwilling (or unable) to put forth a distinct, clear vision of their policy statements. If a Democratic candidate is bold enough to take a concrete stand on an issue, it now seems commonplace to adjust that viewpoint as public opinion polls change. When the Democrats do state a policy position on a topic of

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To the Editor:

As members of the Alma College Chapel Advisory Council, we represent a broad spectrum of Christian religious groups on campus. We deplore the recent threats made against Dr. Joanne Gilbert on the basis of her Jewish identity. We agree with Dr. Saundra Tracy's comment that the sentiments expressed in the anonymous letter are antithetical to our values and beliefs. We commend the way in which the College administration has spoken out against the intolerance expressed in the letter.

As Christians, we are called to be agents of reconciliation and peace-making. We are called to lift up love rather than hatred. Whenever we violate the primary ethic of loving God, self and neighbor, we fracture community and fail to honor the great commandment. We believe that the ethic of love transcends any and all denominational affiliations.

We firmly believe that the vast majority of students on our campus welcome religious and cultural diversity, and are deeply upset and offended by all forms of intolerance and prejudice. We recognize that our

differences enrich us and challenge us to find the common ground that unites us as human beings and children of God.

We strongly support Dr. Gilbert and her work at Alma College. She is a compassionate and dedicated individual, a valued faculty member and an important voice for advocacy in our community. That threats have been made against her and her family defy our understanding of what it means to be a member of our college community.

Yours truly,  
**Alex Bos**  
**Rachel Dyke**  
**Julie Frick**  
**Grant Kinney**  
**Breanne Harmon**  
**Marc Hong**  
**Michelle Monsour**  
**Rita Naomi**  
**Matthew Novakoski**  
**Kyle Pietila**  
**Anne Westerman**  
**Vicky Wilson**  
**Rev. Christine Vogel, Chaplain**

The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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

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



We asked, "If you had \$1,000,000 what would you spend it on?"

You said...



Jankowski



Palmer



Bryan

"Tap Shoes!"  
**Erin Murphy (04)**

"I would travel around the world for a year."  
**Sabrina Jankowski (05)**

"Pay off student loans, buy a house, and give the rest to a worthy cause."  
**Jen Bussel (05)**

"I'd buy a new car -- a '69 Shelby GT 500."  
**Mike Palmer (04)**

"A new car -- a Saline Mustang."  
**Chris Regan (07)**

"I would give 1 million to elect George W. Bush 2004."  
**Matthew Bryan (05)**



Murphy



Bussel



Regan

Photos by Thad Hopkins



# FEATURE

## 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 Colelitt
23. Mountain Goats
24. Buckra
25. Eisley
26. No Motiv
27. Magnetic Fields
28. Wheat
29. Yo La Tengo
30. The Special Goodness

## Urban Life Center gives students chance to explore careers in Chicago

**LAURA SACHJEN**  
Staff Writer

The Urban Life Center in Chicago is an experimental internship program that allows students the opportunity to explore career interests while also living independently in an urban setting.

"It's great for students to participate in if they've been from a small town," Mindy Sargent, Associate Director of Student Development said. "It gives students lot's of opportunities for street smarts."

ULC has been affiliated with Alma for at least 10 years. The program has two formal winter and fall terms, as well as a May Post Term and a summer session.

Students participating in the program live in furnished apartments in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. They are also given cooperative food accounts at a nearby supermarket.

For deciding an internship, students first look at the typical internship

sites and then submit an essay about what they would want to learn in that area.

After that, students go out to the sites with their resumes and 8 credits are earned for the interview process. They also decide which worksite is a good match for them.

On top of that, participants also engage in a "Communities and Cultures Seminar" or some independent

forums, cultural arts events or talk with activists or cultural artists.

Besides room, board, and books, tickets for cultural events and in-city transportation are built into the program fees. The cultural events may range anywhere from jazz and comedy clubs to art museums. While there, students also try to gain an understanding of the city's neighborhoods.

"Students come back more informed about their career field," Sargents said. "They're more enthused, and have greater contributions to make in class. I think they also enthuse the campus."

Sargent also said that in a large city there are opportunities, in fields involving bilingual speaking and public relations, which aren't available in a town of Alma's size.

**Sara Satterley (04)** worked for Chicago Public Schools in a Hyde Park grammar school during her time in the program.

"It's a big city, but it's not too far away," Satterley said. "You learn more when you're living there. You see parts of



photo courtesy of techmanage.com

The Urban Life Center provides students with an opportunity to live in one of the most exciting cities in America.

research of their own. Before going into the directed study option, students first work in a group and research a Chicago mural.

The four-credit seminar is designed as a way for students to learn about the city through first-hand experiences. They might go to community

## Bursting the Alma bubble: Unqualified but capable teachers come to Korea to teach English

**AMY WILLEY**  
Staff Writer

**SHI-EUN YI**

Reporter of the Sogang Herald  
sieunyi@sogang.ac.kr

Do you know how native English speakers are treated in Korea? It depends on which cities those foreigners are in. Unlike Seoul, my hometown did not have enough foreigners to teach English and that resulted in very polite and favorable attitudes toward foreigners.

English has become important internationally and Korea could not escape that trend. Nationally, English became the first foreign language subject taught in middle and high schools. Some students even go to English-speaking countries as teenagers to take advantage of it. The

number of these students is increasing so dramatically that it is becoming a social problem. That is, the Korean educational system cannot handle this outflow and it is considered a waste of foreign currency.

People also began to consider more efficient ways of teaching besides books: in order to reduce waste and because people realized books cannot cover everything in learning a new language, native English speakers were positioned in high schools. This is a big help when it comes to the suburbs like my little city because the students can practice English with native speakers.

In my high school students were very interested in learning English, especially with native speakers. We treated those teachers as more than "speakers." They got lots of presents on their birthdays or teacher's days. Their lunchtime was

always full of reservations. Then "Charlie's Angels" came to my city: Jessica, Fiona and Beth - Our Lucy was prettier though. Although they were all teachers in high schools, only Beth had a degree in education. Yet that did not matter that much. Students from three high schools hated them leaving and they are still remembered as good teachers for us.

Their majors were not a qualification for teaching, but their attitudes were. They tried to teach using American techniques, showed American culture and learned Korean culture as well. Yes, it was a mutual action, which could open the minds of even some of the most close-minded Koreans. They memorized many of the Korean students' names, which I am sure can be perfectly difficult. They believed in the Koreans and that made Koreans believe them, too. That

amplified the efficiency of education.

About a year ago, my friend Michael, who is also a native English speaker, came to Korea. The purpose of his visit was to travel, but he found it interesting to stay longer than he planned. Even more interesting is the fact that he got a job as an English teacher tutoring here. However, he was a web designer in London. Do you perhaps think I am going to contradict him? No, I am not. I know Korean students need conversational partners and the number of native speakers is not that satisfactory. We need people like Michael who can speak English, with English thinking. That is what we want when it comes to high schools.

The qualification itself is very ambiguous. The most important qualification is the readiness of those teachers.



# FEATURE

## ACDC showcases various styles and talent of dancers at Spring Concert

**KEVIN BRADY**  
Staff Writer

Over the weekend, the Alma College Dance Company ignited the stage, performing their spring concert at the Heritage Center. It was an eclectic show with styles ranging from tap and jazz to ballet and modern. Both students in the company and professionals choreographed the dances.

The show opened with *Back to Bach*, which first debuted when the Heritage Center originally opened ten years ago. The Dance Company dedicated this piece to all of the dancers who have graced Alma College. The style and manner was classical and colorful contributing to the positive vibe given off from the dancers. It was well chosen as the introductory piece of the night.

*Chicago*, choreographed by seniors **Bree Brownlee (04)** and **Lauren Giordano (04)** was then performed. It had been a success at the student show, which is one of the reasons it was performed once again. Due to its

mature content, signs were posted at the ticket booths to warn parents who may have brought young children. "This is definitely my favorite dance

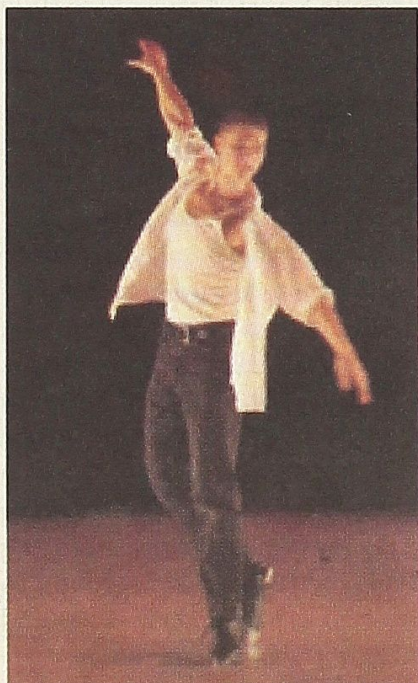


photo courtesy of [www.academics.alma.edu/theatre/dance](http://www.academics.alma.edu/theatre/dance)

**Ed Klonowski performs his piece, *Wax On*. Klonowski tap danced, which was one of the many genres of dance showcased at the concert.**

because it is very sexy and hot," said **Travis Kohl (04)**. *Chicago* has been a fan favorite since the first performance in the winter show.

Following this, dancers performed to a rendition of Michael Jackson's *Come Together*. This piece was fast paced and exciting, and was in part choreographed by Glenn Douglas Packard, who has worked with such artists as Usher, Mya and Whitney Houston.

One of the top features of the program featured **Ed Klonowski (05)**. His tap dance featuring the hit, *Wax On*, electrified the stage. He also choreographed the number, and had performed it in the student show once before.

The ten graduating seniors performed a dance together called *Daylight*. It celebrated the four years of work this group has put into the dance company, and had a very cheerful and positive energy surrounding it.

The mood darkened quite a bit during an emotional part of the show that portrayed the life (and death) of writer Sylvia Plath. *The Edge* was

choreographed by associate professor of dance Carol Fike, and beautifully performed by senior **Amber Nash (04)**. It was a touching, interpretive style of dance which included the music of *Spiegel im Spiegel*. This part of the program also included voices and images of little children that added to the sensitivity of the meaning behind the dance.

Other parts of the program featured included the classical *Brahms Interlude*, *Paquita*, and the *Grand Pas de Deux*. The *Brahms Interlude* featured the two dance pairs of Giordano and Klonowski, and **Carey Rademacher (06)** and **Glen Brylski (05)**. The four dancers performed with style and grace attributing to the classical aspect of ballet dance.

The show was an overall success and a pleasure to watch. It combines the seriousness and relaxing aspects of dance that catches the eye of the audience. All dancers and those behind the curtain deserve much credit and praise for the amount of work they put into this year's spring concert.

## College celebrates women's history month with variety of programs and activities

**RACHEL KINGSTROM**  
Staff Writer

The focus on the y-chromosome takes a back seat for the next few weeks as the campus celebrates women's history month.

The Women's Studies department and the Women's Issues Advisory board have scheduled a variety of events to celebrate women and raise awareness of issues facing them. "[This month] is a way for people to be visibly concerned about issues surrounding women; their bodies, health and creative capacity," Chi-Ping Chen, associate professor of English, said.

The month began with the Breast Cancer pop can and coin drive on March 1 and 2. Following the drive, on March 3, was the first presentation of "Knowledge from Within," held from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Fireside Lounge, and the Breast Cancer Awareness video shown at 7pm. The week concluded with t-shirt sales in Hamilton Commons and The Center for Student Development.

Students had the chance to take part in the Labyrinth on March 8, an interactive experience held in Jones Auditorium at 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. A presentation on breast cancer pre-

vention was held on March 10 from 11:45 a.m. to 1pm in the Thistle Room. The Black Student Union got involved by showing *Real Women Have Curves*, a movie that celebrates all women, on March 11 at 8 p.m.

Last Tuesday night, Maggie Hadleigh West visited the college to discuss street harassment of women. "Maggie Hadleigh West was a big hit last year,"



photo courtesy of [www.bbo.com](http://www.bbo.com)  
**The Black Student Union is showing *Real Women Have Curves*, a film celebrating all women. This is one of the programs during women's history month.**

Joanne Gilbert, associate professor of communications, said. "Never in nine years have I seen such a positive response. People actually wanted to stay for the hour-long question and answer session."

On March 15, speaker Helen Sterk discussed the politics of the birthing process. There are several more events planned throughout March to engage students' interest in this important

month. "Silent Legacy," a presentation sponsored by Alma Pride, will be held in Fireside Lounge tonight at 7pm.

Tomorrow, March 16, "Knowledge from Within" will be held again from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The week's activities will conclude once again with t-shirt sales in Hamilton Commons and The Center, but the month will still be going strong with plenty of activities to offer.

The Clothesline Project will take place in Dow lobby on March 23 and 24. In addition, there will be two final opportunities to experience the "Knowledge from Within" presentation, which will be held on March 24 and 31 in Fireside Lounge.

The estrogen-infused enlightenment will continue with a speech given by Brenda Russel called "Interdisciplinary Teams of the Future."

Russel was a mentor to Karen Ball, associate professor of exercise and health science and assistant provost, when she was in graduate school.

The final event to look forward to this month is the Women Composers Concert, which will be held Friday, March 26 at 8 p.m. "I encourage everyone to come [to the events] because they will be both educational and entertaining," Gilbert said.

The following students from the music department will be performing their senior recitals in the coming weeks.

**Diana Baer:** March 20,  
8 pm

**Teresa Sutter:** March 21,  
3 pm

**Angie Touchette:** March 21,  
7 pm

**Kyle Nester:** May 2,  
8 pm

**Tim Ricci:** May 2,  
8 pm

**Robin Paige:** March 28,  
3 pm

**Chris Ozinga:** May 1,  
8 pm



# OPINION

## New law example of state's failure to effectively govern

**JOEL RENDER**  
Staff Writer

Public policy formation and governing are supposed to be about two important goals: efficiency and effectiveness. Normally, most policy manages to accomplish at least one of these lofty expectations. However, every once in a while a policy fails on both fronts, and when it concerns the lives of many people, there is definitely a need for some publicity.

Of course, I am alluding to the Bad Driver Fee law passed last fall. This law was designed to recoup some of the debt that the state of Michigan currently maintains and was put into place last month. One of the areas of extra penalty involves a \$300 fine for the failure to produce proper proof of insurance during a traffic stop.

Now, the law has come under attack and probably will be repealed. You might be wondering what is wrong with the law. Well, last month approximately 32,000 Michigan residents were hit with the proof of insurance penalties going all the way back to October when the law was first passed.

It is estimated that nearly half of the residents pasted with a fine actually have proper insurance and did not deserve to be levied with such a heavy fine. As a result, the Michigan Senate has passed a bill rebating any fines for this particular violation of the bad driver policy.

This taxing failure should have never even occurred in the first place. After all, the Michigan House of Representatives passed a bill to repeal this section of the act three months ago. The Senate is only now about to pass a bill that will probably repeal the insurance penalty.

If the penalty is removed, the state will lose an estimated \$13 million in

perceived revenue for the general fund this year. Considering this an unacceptable loss, the Legislature has responded by essentially replacing this section of the act with a stiffer penalty for exactly the same offense with only a few minor adjustments.

This complicated story is of course fraught with several examples of the state of Michigan's lack of efficiency and effectiveness in governing. First, the Legislature failed to pass an effective bill after a series of debates. Second, the Treasury Department incorrectly assessed the number of drivers eligible for a fine.

As a result of this failure, the Legislature must again consider the issue. The new solution that they have suggested is strangely similar to the earlier policy that clearly failed on several fronts. Now it just remains to be seen the fate of this new possible bill, which many people already have expressed their displeasure with including some very influential members of the Michigan Legislature.

I know governing is definitely a difficult task, but it hardly seems that such outright failure can be possible given all of the intelligent men and women that have been elected to the highest positions in our state government. Perhaps, now we know why our state has amassed such a huge debt in just a few short years.

As citizens we need to be constantly aware of the new means that the government uses to regain some of its financial strength because quite frequently it involves removing the funds from our pockets. If you do not want this to happen to you with regards to this particular fine, then make sure you have the correct insurance in your car or you may find yourself slapped with a \$400 fine.

## Homelessness problem hits close to home

**OK-JIN AHN**  
Staff Writer

What do you do when you see homelessness on the street or in front of stores? I used to pass them by, only glancing at their appearances. If I see homeless people anywhere now, at least I will not look at them with prejudice.

The 7 days I spent in Washington, D.C. during spring break changed my negative beliefs toward homelessness and everyday life. I was a member of the Alternative Break Service Team. Our group dealt with the issues of poverty and homelessness in urban areas. We were busier than in Alma with various programs including working for soup kitchens, attending meetings with outreach groups to learn about urban poverty issues and meeting with congressmen.

In comparison with my city, Seoul, South Korea, homelessness and poverty are chronic social problems in Washington, D.C. The increase in homeless people is a new phenomenon caused by the financial crisis and unemployment since 1997 in South Korea. Therefore, most of the urban homeless are jobless, married men and they hope the government will create more jobs.

In the US, urban homelessness is the result of poverty and a lack of affordable housing. However, I wondered why homeless people choose to be homeless without efforts to find a job, because America is the so-called "land of opportunity." But it was my silly idea.

Our service team had a unique chance to reflect upon the root causes of urban homelessness at So Others Might Eat. We created a model, Willie, who is a homeless person and thought about the root causes why

he became homeless. After about 20 minutes of discussion, the black board was full of connected causes. Most homeless people do not choose to be homeless. Besides the housing issue, various factors contributed to the metropolitan area's homeless population such as lack of education, affordable health care, domestic violence and mental illness.

After the trip, participants, Chaplain Christine Vogel, and Sally Scheide of the Kirk Center had a reflection meeting. We brought up problems of rural homelessness especially in the Alma community. Rural homelessness is often regarded as a less serious problem. However, many people experience housing distress in rural areas. In Alma we have places such as the community café and Salvation Army to help the disadvantaged pay for housing and food. A number of Alma students continue to engage in community service through various classes and service learning projects.

There is another thing we can do for our community. The Campus Kitchen Project is a program of the DC Central Kitchen which brings colleges together with student volunteers, on-campus dining services, and community organizations to combat with hunger in the community. For instance, Saint Louis University has a Campus Kitchen training program. Volunteers are trained in kitchen safety and sanitation, and they make use of surplus food from campus cafeterias and deliver hundreds of meals every week.

We can make small differences in our community. Willie is not just a model. His problems are not imagined. Willie's problems are what homeless people in our community, country and the world face everyday.

## What do you think?

Can the state fairly charge offenders who have already paid for their crime?

Yes: 16.7%

No: 33.3%

Not sure: 41.7%

It is not like we can do anything about it: 8.3%

Does an extra fine for moving violations target different classes fairly?

Yes, it affects the wealthy and poor equally: 0%

No, it affects the poor more than the wealthy: 0%

No, it affects the poor more than the wealthy: 58.3%

Not sure: 41.7%

Do you plan on voting in the next election?

Yes: 85.7%

No, I will not be old enough: 0%

No, I choose not to: 0%

I have not decided yet: 14.3%

What is the most important issue to you in the upcoming presidential election?

The War on Terror: 14.3%

The environment: 7.1%

Jobs and the economy: 42.9%

Social morality (gay rights, abortion, religious issues): 35.7%

*This poll is an unscientific representation of the opinions of the Alma College community. Participate in this week's poll today at [www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian](http://www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian). To suggest a poll question you'd like to see answered, e-mail us at [AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com](mailto:AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com).*

### ELECTORAL ABYSS from page 3

debate, it seems to often mirror that of their Republican counterparts closely.

It seems that it is a difficult time to be an independent voter in the United States. I wonder what those voters out there in the electoral abyss are to do come November 2. John Kerry, the Washington Insider, will run against "Big Oil, Big War" Bush the Second in what is sure to be the most boring and frustrating election yet for those who still yearn for political debate more like Lincoln vs. Douglas and less like Pepsi vs. Coca-Cola.

**AlmanianOpinion**  
**@yahoo.com**

### \$500 Reward!

Alma College and the Alma Police have teamed up to investigate recent vandalisms to the Sigma Chi House. There is a \$500 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person(s) responsible for this school year's vandalisms to the Sigma Chi House. Please contact the Alma Police at 463-8317 (Mon-Fri 8AM-4PM) with information.

### CORRECTION:

In last week's issue, we omitted the author of the letter "Concert review should have presented objective views." The author was **Heather Dowding (06)**.



SPORTS

Tennis teams look forward to beginning conference play

SCOTTWEIR  
Staff Writer

Just back from their spring break trip to sunny California, the women's tennis team brought a 1-3 record to its match last weekend away against Kalamazoo College. Unfortunately for the women, though, a score of 2-7 added a fourth loss to their record, their second in conference play.

While in California the women played some tough competition including nationally ranked Biola University and Division II Lake Superior State University. Their victory came in California against Whittier College in a 6-0 shutout.

Captain **Lindsey Thelen (05)** commented, "We just got back from California and it was a time to get together and know each other. We were also hoping to get experience and get some playing done. It was a

fun time." Of the season Thelen said, "We all look forward to a successful exciting season. We have a challenging schedule ahead of us."

Head Coach, Chi Ly, added saying, "There's only three returners and six new faces. The team is young and inexperienced but the talent is there. It's a rebuilding year and we should finish in the middle of the pack for the MIAA." The women will see their next MIAA match at Calvin College this Wednesday.

The men's team also headed toward warmer climates over spring break, starting their tennis season with three matches in Florida. These proved to be tough teams and the men's team posted three tallies the loss column to start the season. These came in the form of a 0-9 loss to both Florida Gulf Coast and Lake Superior State University, and a 2-7 loss to St. Thomas University.

Head Coach Brandan Snook was still impressed with the team play. "It (the record) is not as bad as it sounds. I try to schedule hard teams leading into the season. The guys managed to play some great tennis and we were able to see what we really needed to work on."

Captain **Rob Nicholson (04)** is optimistic about the season as well. He said, "We will be strong through conference play if we can stay healthy. Overuse injuries became a problem over spring break and we were forced to take a week off after the trip. We are back to good health and are looking forward to playing fellow Division III athletes in the near future."

The men's team is looking to move up from a fifth place finish last year and knock out Albion for the fourth spot. The men's team will travel this Thursday to Grand Valley State University.

Best darn sports column ever

MATTHELMUS  
Sports Editor

Ah, summertime and the living is easy. At least the snow has stopped for the time being. Spring sports are now in full swing, allowing Alma students an opportunity to sunbathe in frigid temperatures while watching their favorite Scot team in action.

The softball team is off to a scorching start after coming out of Florida undefeated and taking fourth place at the NFCA Invitational in Georgia. The Invite is a very elite tournament comprised of 24 of the best Division III softball teams in the country. Alma won their preliminary pool and made it to the top bracket in finals play. Even taking two losses in this bracket left them as the fourth-best team at the tournament. This is a very significant accomplishment in such a prestigious event. It proves that the team could go very far this season if they stay on track. You can see your Scots in action this weekend as they host an invitational on campus. It's an event worth seeing.

The lacrosse team is also kicking off its spring schedule this week. They have games on Saturday and Monday against UM-Dearborn and Ferris State. The lacrosse team is a co-ed, club team that competes against teams of varying talent levels. If you're looking for a rough and tumble game (think hockey minus Todd Bertuzzi and ice) this may be your sport to watch. Even if the team gets killed, you're almost guaranteed to see a few good hits.

Many sports fans may not find time to watch Alma sports this weekend as it marks the beginning of March Madness. (No, Alma did not get an at-large bid into the tournament. Apparently their RPI was not high enough.) Michigan State was given a seventh seed and will face Nevada in the first round and likely Gonzaga in the second round. Only two other Big 10 teams made the field, Illinois and Wisconsin. None of the teams were seeded any higher than fifth. It will be an interesting tournament as there are no clear favorites. Teams such as Gonzaga and St. Joseph's also will be looking to prove that they deserve such high rankings while playing in relatively weak conferences. Illinois, Wisconsin and MSU may also need to do the same.

2003-04 MIAA All-Sports Standings (after the Winter season)

Commissioner's Cup		Men's All-Sports		Women's All Sports	
1. Hope	121	1. Hope	59	1. Calvin	64
2. Calvin	111	2. Calvin	47	2. Hope	62
3. Albion	85	3. Albion	43	3. ALMA	43
4. Kalamazoo	69	4. Kalamazoo	30	4. Albion	42
5. ALMA	63	5. Olivet	22	5. Kalamazoo	39
6. Olivet	40	6. ALMA	20	6. St. Mary's	31
7. Adrian	30	7. Adrian	17	7. Olivet	18
				8. Adrian	13

\* The Commissioner's Cup (MIAA All-Sports Award) has been presented since 1934-35. Hope has won the award 25 times, folloed by Albion 14, Kalamazoo 13, Calvin 8 and Alma 5.

\* In 2002-03, Hope won the Commissioner's Cup and both the Men's and Women's All-Sports Awards.

\* The standings after the winter season are based on five of six sports for men and five of six for women.

Please vote in this week's Almanian online poll.

The address is [www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian](http://www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian).

Results are printed each week in the Opinion section of the Almanian.



# SPORTS

## MIAA STANDINGS

### BASEBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Adrian	0-0	4-2
Hope	0-0	4-2
Albion	0-0	5-5
Calvin	0-0	0-0
Olivet	0-0	3-7
ALMA	0-0	2-6
K'zoo	0-0	0-2

### SOFTBALL

	MIAA	Overall
ALMA	0-0	12-2
Albion	0-0	6-4
St. Mary's	0-0	5-4
Olivet	0-0	4-4
Adrian	0-0	2-2
Hope	0-0	0-0-2
Calvin	0-0	0-0
K'zoo	0-0	0-0

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

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

### MEN'S TENNIS

	MIAA	Overall
Albion	1-0	5-4
K'zoo	0-0	3-3
Adrian	0-0	1-1
ALMA	0-0	0-2
Hope	0-0	0-5
Calvin	0-1	2-2

### LAST WEEK'S SCORES

#### WOMEN'S TENNIS

Kalamazoo 7, ALMA 2

#### SOFTBALL

ALMA 8, LaGrange (GA) 0  
ALMA 8, Pacific Luth. (WA) 0  
ALMA 1, Platts. St. (NY) 0  
ALMA 4, Muskingum (OH) 0  
Moravian (PA) 2, ALMA 0  
IL Wesleyan 5, ALMA 4 (8 inn.)

## Scots look to build on strong start in 2004 campaign

KEVIN BRADY  
Staff Writer

Talent and experience paves the way for the Lady Scots' softball team this upcoming season. There are 16 varsity letter winners returning for the defending MIAA champions.

The senior class contributes with returning MVP **Erin Carson (04)**, who plays at catcher. Infield consists of all seniors which have stepped up to be the main core of the production of hits and runs. They include: **Laura Rochon (04)** at third, **Stephanie Smith (04)** at shortstop, **Colleen Trybus (04)** at second, and **Lindsay Powers (04)** at first.

Rising talent will also contribute to another successful season for the Scots. The junior and sophomore classes bring pitching talent and big play ability to the squad.

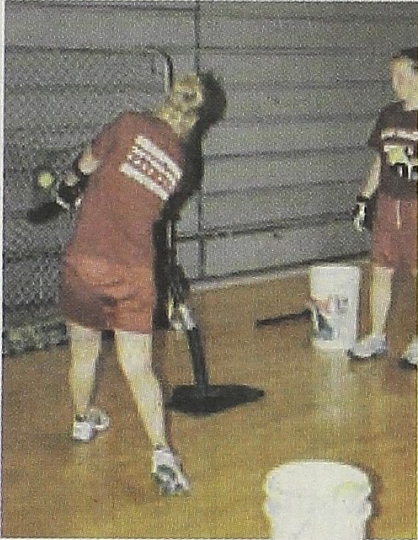
The schedule for this year is once again challenging. Their season started this past spring break in Fort Myers, Florida. The Scots were very successful going undefeated through eight games, setting the tone for the rest of the season.

Over the weekend, the Scots traveled to Georgia for the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) tournament. After winning their first four games, the Scots came up short against Moravian College 2 - 0. In the

consolation game of the tournament, the Scots lost their second in a row, bowing to Illinois Wesleyan College 5 - 4 in eight innings. Alma finished fourth in the NFCA tournament. The Scots record is now 11 - 2.

Upcoming games include the Alma Invitational this upcoming weekend. The Scots host Northwood at 9 a.m.

Look for the Scots to once again be the team to beat in the MIAA. They will be challenged by their conference rival Hope. The team is determined and ready to capture yet another conference title. Alma then travels to Grand Rapids on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to play Aquinas College at 3 p.m.



Left: Katie Eustice (04) practices hitting during softball practice. The Scots took fourth at the NFCA tournament this weekend. The tournament was comprised of 24 of the best teams in NCAA Division III. The Scots are looking forward to continuing their recent MIAA dominance this season.



Right: Tom Montgomery (07) practices pitching for the Scots. The baseball team will be looking to get back into contention for the MIAA title this season. The team lost a significant amount of talented athletes from last year and is hoping to replace them with younger players.

Photos by Melanie Szewczyk

## CAMPUS CALENDAR

### Tuesday, Mar. 16

8 - 9 p.m. - Speaker Chris Hackler, "A Genetically Improved, Bionically Enhanced Human: Frankenstein Redux?" (Dow LI)

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

### Wednesday, Mar. 17

3 p.m. - Women's Tennis Home v. Tri-State

### Thursday, Mar. 18

JV Softball @ Muskegon Comm. Coll.

5:30 - 8 p.m. - Living & Working in West Michigan (B.O.B. - Grand Rapids)

### Friday, Mar. 19

Softball hosts Alma Invitational Tournament

9 a.m. - Michigan Collegiate Job Fair (Burton Manor - Livonia)

### Saturday, Mar. 20

Softball hosts Alma Invitational Tournament

9 a.m. - Women's Track & Field @ Emory Invitational (Atlanta, GA)

10 a.m. - Women's Tennis Home v. Spring Arbor

1 p.m. - Lacrosse Home v. UM-Dearborn

### Sunday, Mar. 21

Men's Tennis Home v. Aquinas

9 p.m. - Chapel Service

### Monday, Mar. 22

9 a.m. - Men's Track @ Dick Small Invitational (Defiance, OH)

5 p.m. - Lacrosse Home v. Ferris State