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Wilson Fellow speaks on "the Frankenstein Myth for the twenty-first century"

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

The entire Alma College community had the opportunity to listen to a unique and interesting lecture by the 2003-2004 Woodrow Wilson Fellow, Dr. Chris Hackler, last Tuesday in Dow LI, and many students and faculty members were on hand for the Women's Month speaker. Speaking of his visit to Alma College, Hackler said, "It is one of the highlights of my year."

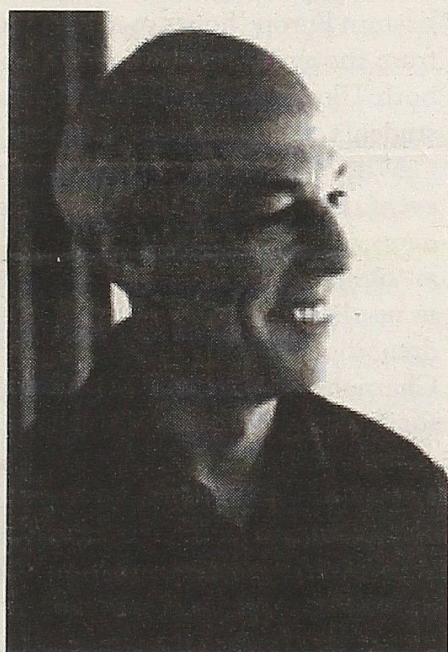


photo courtesy of www.cals.lib.ar.us

Hackler believes that "if we ban cloning, then ... we will only fall behind in this ... field of medical research."

Hackler's lecture was unique in both topic and style. The title of the discussion was "Genetically Enhanced, Biologically Improved Humans: Updating the Frankenstein Myth for the 21st Century," and consisted of a PowerPoint presentation integrated into the usual lecture format.

The event began with a recapping of the history of the Frankenstein story from its very first incarnation from Mary Shelley to the most modern day moviesthrough the use of several pictures and humorous stories detailing how the myth of Frankenstein and its surrounding ideas have evolved over the years.

Hackler used his interest in the Frankenstein myth to link its important themes with modern medical ethics issues. The first theme Hackler illuminated deals with unregulated experimentation on humans. He likened the creation of Frankenstein to a variety of studies and experiments that were both unregulated and directly harmed the participants.

One of the most important experiments that Hackler detailed at length was the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, which involved purposely withholding treatment to black men with Syphilis in order to determine the effects of the disease when untreated.

Hackler explained that this study and

many others were directly responsible for the creation of medical ethical codes and Institutional Review Boards or Human Subjects Committees. He stressed the most imperative ethical issue to be free and informed consent on the part of participants.

Hackler proceeded to the second theme of the unknown perils of creating or changing human life. This theme involved a discussion of modern day fertility techniques including In-vitro fertilization and the many means of manipulation and investigation that can be used.

Hackler also gave an in-depth comparison of the two major types of cloning that are in use today: Embryonic cloning and Adult cloning. Both types of cloning involve different processes, and of course as a result maintain different results.

The final theme that was introduced was abandoning one's creation much like Dr. Frankenstein did to his. Although Hackler was not discussing the direct abandonment of experimental creations by modern day medical researchers, he was alluding to the moral value implications that must exist in order for medical research to continue in an appropriate manner.

After the presentation concluded several questions were brought up. A question from a student in the audience was "what would the result be if cloning was banned in the United States?"

Hackler answered, "If we ban cloning in the United States, then the research will continue in other countries, and we will only fall behind in this extremely important field of medical research."

Is Scotties too expensive?

SCOTTWEIR
Staff Writer

For students on the 14 meals per week plan, Alma College and Sodexo provides students with \$155 each, depending on your plan, but ultimately is the "munch money" you receive really worth what they tell you that it is?

Mark Starkweather, General Manager of Dining Services, commented on munch money saying, "We think munch money is a really cool thing. Alma College and Sodexo set it up specifically for students who miss meals."

Believe it or not, Scottie's pricing policy is almost identical to other stores. "We take the prices from the supplier, and we take their recommended markup," Starkweather said. "We should compare with 7-11, but our prices won't compare to places like Glens's (formerly Ashcraft's) and Wal-Mart."

Students around campus commonly complain about high prices that Scottie's charges its customers. **George Champion (06)** said, "Scottie's prices are just a tad too expensive compared to most other stores."

However, **Jon Morris (06)** commented, "I think for the amount of

inventory they are able to keep, that their pricing is for the most part fair."

In a non-scientific study conducted by the *Almanian* comparisons of nine different item prices of 7-11, Glens, and Scottie's and the results yielded no surprises. It was found that Scottie's was in fact the most expensive of all three stores. It amounted to an average of \$0.21 higher per item than of 7-11 and nearly \$0.58 an item higher than of Glen's prices.

Scottie's actually does well in comparison to the other stores with bottled pop and chip prices, which varied by only \$0.10 at the most. This may be because the prices are on the bag from the company, making it very hard to change. As for pop, the demand is highly elastic, and Scottie's main competition is on-campus is vending machines.

However, Scottie's struggles with peanut butter and 12-pack canned pop. The biggest price difference was \$1.41, which is the amount you would save buying a 12-pack of Mountain Dew cans at Glen's as opposed to Scottie's.

Starkweather concluded that Sodexo is a "for profit organization" and that "Scottie's manages to cover it's costs."

Little Sibs Weekend Wraps Up



photo by Melanie Szweczyk

Little Sibs Weekend is "an opportunity for students to bring kids to campus," Little Siblings coordinator and Mitchell Hall Director Jacob Acton said, "and let them experience what they do."

This year's events started with a scavenger hunt, open swim and a tie-dye event. After a Double Dare Challenge in the style of the Nickelodeon TV show of the same name, all were treated to comedian John Casey and a juggling show.

The weekend included the Rock Wall and the Craft Fair, a Science Blowout, a Carnival, ice cream social and a movie night.

Ashley Widrig (07) had her niece and nephew up for the weekend, "They had a really good time and are looking forward to next year's weekend. I think they like the carnival the best, especially the holograms. They thought it was cool. It was a good all around weekend."

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National/State/Local

Jones Auditorium to be remodeled for student-run programs

SCOTTWEIR
Staff Writer

A small group of students on campus have recently presented two proposals to the Alma College administration in regards to remodeling the “rarely used” Jones Auditorium facility. According to the group’s website, “Jones is booked so infrequently, some wonder if it is even worth the price to heat the it.”

Jared Weir (05) and **Crystal Jacob (05)** generated the idea for a new Jones because they realized a need for a “student-run student-stage,” according to Weir. He added that there are really three reasons for a renovation to Jones, which are, “The need for a professional environment for groups performing at Alma, the lack of things to do on a Friday night in Alma, and the fact that Jones auditorium is so rarely used.”

There are actually two student proposals submitted which offer

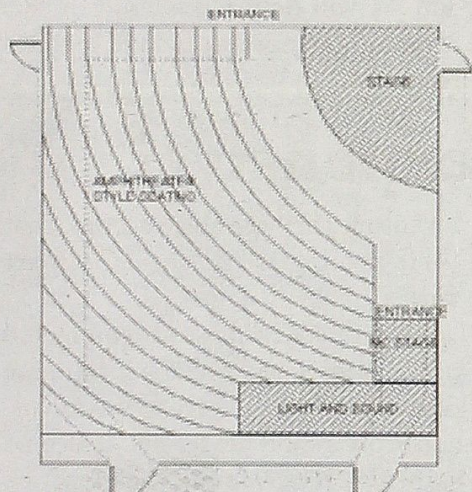


photo courtesy of www.geocities.com/Jonesauditorium

This proposal fits Jones as it is now. With seating along two walls and the stage set in the corner, it maximizes seating. An MC stage and or small concession stand will be new additions.

very different changes to Jones. The first proposal involves adding theater seating to the existing Jones among other things. The second proposal is a little more in-depth and requires expanding Jones into the current bookstore.

The proposals are currently being looked at informally by all of the vice presidents as well as President Saunda Tracy. Tracy comment that, “The first step is to understand the need that this might address, how wide spread the interest is, and what students would like to see happen there.”

After a letter published in the *Almanian* as well as a campus wide email announcing the debut of the website, Weir has already gotten overwhelming response from the Alma campus, including students, staff, and even alumni.

Scott Timmreck (02) wrote Jared saying, “I applaud your effort at fixing the No Place To Have Events Problem on campus; the fight has no doubt been going on forever, and I remember in my Alma days the complaining.”

“Our school desperately needs this,” said **Jaci Wilkie (06)**. “Jones is definitely a waste of space and out-of-date. I just hope that this proposal is not just wishful thinking. It really does need to be done.”

Corie Brown (07) said, “I think that the second plan to take out the bookstore is a good idea. The space is way worth it and I would not mind my money going towards a place where students run student programs. The possibility to have open-mic nights, movies, poetry readings, and good live bands etc. would be awesome!”

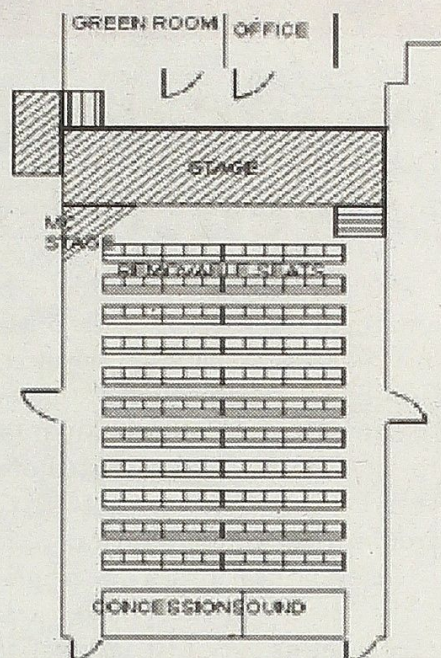


photo courtesy of www.geocities.com/Jonesauditorium
The second proposal expands into the bookstore. A small venue stage to a substantial student concert hall. A backstage arena, complete with green room and office for the Jones committee, plus the first rows of seats are removable.

It seems as though the only argument against the new Jones Auditorium at this point would be funding. Although Weir had previously proposed funding coming from the Student Activity Fee, he is searching for other sources. There is really no concrete source of funding at this time.

Both Weir and Tracy would enjoy any further input in regards to the Jones renovation, but ultimately the decision and timeline will be based on the “overall scope of the project,” and “the overall plan for Tyler-Van Dusen,” according to Tracy. The college is currently looking at remodeling Tyler-Van Dusen in about three years and administration wants to make sure that the plan for Jones fits into their schema for the whole project.

Model UN brings home two honorable delegations

AMYWILLEY
Staff Writer

The Alma College Model United Nations team was again successful at this year’s Midwest Model UN (MMUN) conference, February 18-21.

The conference, which is designed to be a “venture in practical education,” provides students with a simulation of the workings of the UN. The goals of the conference, according to the MMUN, are “To promote interest and understanding of the nations of the world; to help students gain a broader perspective of global issues and the role of the UN in world politics; and to encourage investigation into the field of international studies.”

Alma College represented three countries: Bangladesh, Nicaragua, and Senegal. The students researched topics, including topics as HIV/AIDS, post-war reconstruction in Iraq, en-

vironmental degradation, and many other pressing issues before the international community, and gave speeches and presentations in order to prepare for the conference.

The conference lasted three days, but turned out to be a success for Alma. Of the five delegations awarded Outstanding Delegation, Bangladesh and Senegal were awarded the top prize.

Bangladesh was represented by **Derek Harrison (07)**, **Katherine Cummins (07)**, **Bart Housman (06)**, **Svetlana Kobzar (04)**, **Kate Kohler (05)**, **Scottie Rumrill**, and **Matt Robinson (07)**.

Senegal was represented by **Hyun-Jung Um (07)**, **Taylor Brooks (07)**, **Ashley High (04)**, **Chris Adamec (07)**, **Kristin O’Neill (06)**, **Toshia Williams (07)**, and **Amy Willey (06)**.

Further, many of the delegates received individual recognition awards. As a result, Derick “Sandy” Hulme, faculty advisor to the Model UN and associate professor of political science at Alma College says, “The first time participants performed exceptionally well.” Team member **Lorna Kilborn (07)** said “I was very sleep-deprived, but it was a good experience.” Rumrill agreed, “I’m so proud of everyone. It was a blast.”

According to many of the students, this conference is both a culmination of the work prepared so far in the year, and a preparation for the national competition in April.

According to **Jessica Karbowki (04)**, who attended the conference for her fourth year, “It was a great learning experience and now we’ll be ready to give ‘em hell in New York.”

FCEE raises money for beds for Ukranian Children

RACHEL KINGSTROM
Staff Writer

Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe is holding its annual Walk for Orphans event. The 1.5 mile-walk will take place Saturday, April 3 at 2 p.m. and will start in front of the Morning Sun office on Superior Street in Alma. “This is something easy you can do to help someone else,” said **Caitlin Donegan (07)**.

Participants of the walk, which include members of FCEE and several other Alma students, went around collecting whatever donations they could receive from various people on campus. Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe hopes to raise \$5,000 from the event, which would benefit both Ukrainian children and Alma students.

With the money raised from the event, the group hopes to send students to the Ukraine to volunteer at an orphanage and help the children in need. The orphanage houses children who were directly affected by the Chernobyl disaster. “I think it is great for Alma students to be exposed to other parts of the world,” **Shabnam Mirsaedi (05)**.

The money raised from the walk will also go towards improving the Ukrainian children’s living conditions. There are a number of problems that are not being addressed because there is a lack of funding to take care of them. One problem is that there are not enough beds for the children, and the existing beds are too big for them. “This event makes us all realize how fortunate we are to be able to make a difference,” said FCEE founder **Svetlana Kobzar (04)**.

Last year, FCEE raised \$1,700 for the children in the Ukraine, which enabled them to purchase a new heating system. This year, the group hopes to get Alma students more involved, which is the reason they want to raise money to send them to work with the children.

FCEE has already started to see the positive impact that their effects have had on the children. “They think it is great that people across the globe are coming together to walk for their cause,” Kobzar said.

In addition to hosting events like the Walk for Orphans, members of the FCEE not only wants to help the less fortunate children in Eastern Europe, but also wants to help Alma students become more aware of the situation. “Our goal is to raise awareness about children’s issues,” Kobzar said. “I re-

OPINION

Seniors, time to look back -- how quickly time flies

OLGA WROBEL
Feature Editor

I wrote my first staff editorial months ago, during the first semester of my senior year. The piece was about this exciting year, when the class of 2004 prepared for life after Alma College. Encouragement was given to go out and achieve everything that was desired over the last 3.5 years. It is now the end of March and graduation is in less than 4 weeks, so this is the right time to ask everyone – will you look back at your college career with fond memories, or regret and resentment? Hopefully those who choose the second option will be few and far between.

I began working for *The Almanian* during the fall of 2000. Since then, there have been such changes in society and on this campus that it is difficult to recall what life for students was like back then. In fall 2000, no one thought about terrorism as a tangible threat, while in 2004 we fear traveling overseas. In 2000, going to war wasn't a reality, and now we have witnessed how awful the aftermath can be. Back during my freshman year, the Rec Center didn't exist; we had to work out at the PE center. Sandra Tracy was a name no one had ever heard – Doc Roc was the head of the school. Stir-Fry bar was available at SAGA, and the Greek system was much more prominent and popular

than it is today. If we try hard enough, we may even remember the computer problems the school used to have... oh, wait. All jokes aside, as seniors we are the only class who can recall some of these remnants of Alma, and this makes us a large part of the school's history.

What is the point of remembering all of this? Because it is unbelievable how quickly it all took place. The amount that the class of 2004 has matured throughout these years is amazing. We have evolved from nervous freshmen into leaders of the school, masters in our chosen fields of study, accepted students at renowned graduate programs, future teachers, employees for influential companies, etc. Some of us (myself included) are leaving unsure of where to go next, but this is also wonderful; nobody ever said that after graduation we should have our entire future planned out. No matter where you will be heading after April 17, 2004, it is safe to assume that Alma College has shaped that decision in some way.

When the fall comes, it is going to be a strange feeling not to return to the comfort zone that is this campus. No matter how many times we have complained about how much we hate Alma, how boring it is, how we cannot wait to graduate, etc., it is still home. How can anyone spend the

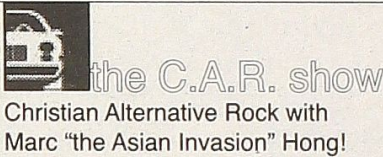
majority of four years in one place and not consider it a second home? Chances are, a piece of Alma will always be with us, from the friends we will keep in touch with to the alumni newsletter we will receive every few months.

This is not meant to be mushy and depressing by any means; I am as happy as most of us to get out and move on with my life. But it is important to look back at 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004 and realize what we have gone through together and how much as a class, we have grown. One of my first memories of Alma College was sitting in the chapel listening to Dean Kridler talk about how if we look around, "these are people who will become some of your closest friends, and possibly your future spouse." I laughed then, but now I see exactly what he meant. So to the seniors - adieu, good luck, have fun, and never forget Alma College and the impact it has made on you, whatever that may be.

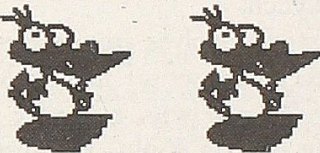
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\$500 Reward!

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 EXT 1022 with information.



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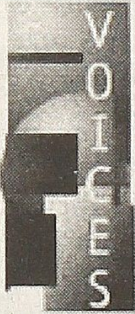
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Statement of Purpose
The Almanian is a newspaper published not only for the students at this institution, not just for the faculty on campus, and not solely for the administrators who work for Alma, but for all people interested in Alma College and 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.

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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, "Which speakers would you like to see at Alma?"
You said...



Sherwood



Volkova



Rousseau

"There are always speakers who are against the Iraqi war. I would have liked to see a speaker who supported the war in Iraqi... It would be nice to see other side."

Kevin Lucey (04)

"We have a lot of political type of speakers coming. Something other than politics... More writers ..."

Jenny Sherwood (06)

"Mel Gibson! The movie is great and there are a lot of controversies over it. That will be so awesome!"

Jared Stephens (07)

"I would like Democratic candidate for president to come in."

Inna Volkova (Exchange student)

"Phil Jackson and the Lakers to talk about the NBA Championship!"

Carlton Hill (06)

"C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien should come. They're fantastic writers and good friends."

Juliette Rousseau (07)



Lucey



Stephens



Hill

Photos by Thad Hopkins

FEATURE

Secret Window: A Secret Not Worth Hearing

TYLER BRIGGS
Guest Writer

The Secret Window, starring Johnny Depp, was recently released to the theatres. Director David Koepp, who has a history of making lackluster films (excluding Jurassic Park) that usually attract mediocre attention from critics utilizes his sub-par directing powers to resurrect a forgotten short story told by author Steven King. As a whole, *The Secret Window* adheres to the formula for typically entertaining summer blockbusters; but underneath the awkward plot and bland characters, exists an absorbing mystery, bearing many of the subtleties contained in the surrealistic films of David Lynch.

The story revolves around the life of an eccentric writer named Mort Rainey (Depp) who recently lost his wife (Maria Bello) to another man. Once a brilliant and successful novelist, Mort is confined to his sequestered cottage in the woods where he has conversations with his dog and consumes large amounts of Pepsi Cola. One day, a conflict arises when John Shooter (John Turturro-

Jesus in "Big Lebowski"), a farmer from Mississippi accuses Mort of stealing his story, titled *The Secret Window*. What begins as an unfriendly confrontation develops into a series of violent perpetrations that are way premature and seemingly unnecessary; King is known for doing too much too soon plot wise.

Mort's inability to prove the authenticity of his story to Shooter results in the death of a bunch of people and the mortal sin of movie making: the death of Mort's dog. The rest of the film depicts Mort's frantic search for answers, followed by an endless barrage of predictable, cheap scares and the repetition of curious images. Eventually, the mystery is solved. Mort learns of Shooter's true identity and comes to understand why this man would accuse him of plagiarism. Both revelations, in a way, confirm the old adage "the apple never falls far from the tree."

Seeing *The Secret Window* brought to mind a quote from a much better movie entitled *Adaptation*; "the only

idea more overused than serial killers, is multiple personality." Despite its wit and clever camera work, this movie is merely a collaboration of recycled ideas. Its only redeeming characteristic is the dizzying repetition of different events and objects that create a surreal



Johnny Depp plays a writer being stalked by John Turturro in Stephen King's *Secret Window*.

experience. This experience causes the audience to doubt the reality of the film, giving the viewer a taste of what it is like to be obsessive compulsive or delusional. This appeal to aesthetics absolves the film of its mediocrity, but fails to qualify it as anything else than a cliché psycho-thriller, lost in space.

Gratiot County Players celebrate family dysfunction in "Dearly Departed"

OLGA WROBEL
Feature Editor

If you have ever driven down Superior Street, you may have noticed the marquee for The Strand theatre, but not paid much attention to it. This theatre is where the Gratiot County Players perform and entertain the city and surrounding areas. Students may not be aware of the abundance of plays put on every year, nor the fact that there are professors in the organization. This past weekend and the coming one as well, the Gratiot County Players are performing "Dearly Departed," a play by David Bottrell and Jessie Jones, and directed by our very own Scott Messing, professor of music.

"Dearly Departed" is a comedy about family dysfunction and how life's unexpected events bring people together. In the first act of the show, Bud Turpin (Al Stevens) dies of a stroke in the middle of breakfast with his wife, Raynelle (Judy Stevens). From then on, the play focuses on the entire Turpin family coming together, arranging the funeral, and dealing with their own problems. The setting of "Dearly Departed" is described as "summer, in and around the towns of

Lula and Tomson, somewhere below the Mason-Dixon line," therefore the characters have thick southern accents.

As the family learns about the death, they make plans to visit Raynelle and attend the funeral. Bud and Raynelle's three children, Ray-Bud (Bill Federspiel), Junior (John Haller), and Delightful (Julie Phillips), are all very different, and provide comic relief for the audience. Ray-Bud is the most responsible of the three, but also struggles with a drinking problem. He feels pressure to pay for everything, especially since the others want the funeral to be a first class affair. Junior is the second born son, and he is dealing with his parking lot cleaning business going down and his wife Suzanne (Angie R. Ballard) accusing him of infidelity. Delightful has the least amount of lines in the play, as she spends all her time consuming large quantities of junk food. She is one of the most amusing characters, and even her name hints at irony and hilarity.

Other family members and friends who come to support Raynelle include Marguerite (Jean Kimball), Bud's bible thumping sister, Royce (Craig Zeese), her unemployed "demon" of a son,

Bud's wife Lucille (Laurie Harrison), Juanita (Deborah Suzanne Cline), a cousin of the family who is more interested in her rivalry with Suzanne than the actual death, and the intestinally challenged preacher, Reverend B.H. Hooker (Kevin Fitzgibbon). Dr. Melissa Strait, Professor of Chemistry, plays Veda, a pill-popping family friend who has to take care of her old husband, Norval (Sam Bush), who has every affliction in the book.

These characters are what makes the play as good as it is – they are like stand up comedians on the stage, and turn something so depressing as a funeral into an amusing situation. The direction is also excellent; it is often hard to focus on one character when there is so much other great action taking place on the stage.

Students should take more advantage of the city's theatre. This is a committed and talented group of community members who work all year to present such warm plays as "Dearly Departed." It will be on stage again this coming weekend, Friday and Saturday at 8pm and Sunday at 3pm. For more information, visit the website at www.gratiotcountyplayers.com.

Senior Art show begins at Clack Art Center

LAURA SACHJEN
Staff Writer

Colorful butterflies floating over a scene of black and white. Jeans loosely hugging a waist. A sprawling tree in a forest. These are only a few examples of what can be seen at this year's Senior Art Show.

An opening reception for the event was held Saturday in the Clack Art Center. The seniors' work will be on display in the gallery until April 17.

This year's show features the work of 12 seniors. Those students and their majors/concentrations are **Nick Martin** (ceramics and printmaking), **Claudia Eaton** (art and design), **Megan Wertz** (art and design, psychology), **Rebecca Kinney** (drawing and painting), **Beth Horgan** (drawing), **Matt Johnson** (art and business), **Kristi Jonikas** (graphic design and business), **Megan Van Wyk** (art and design), **Anna Lukezich** (art education), **Kristi Bartholomew** (drawing and painting, Spanish), and **Julie Wiest** (digital art and printmaking).

"It's a well balanced show," said Carrie Parks-Kirby, professor of art and design. "It shows there's a lot of energy in all areas of the department."

The senior exhibition is a graduation requirement for the art major. Students must submit 10-12 pieces of work to be put on display. Besides submitting their art, senior art students must also create professional résumés to put on display in the gallery.

"They have done a good job of presenting their work," Parks-Kirby said. "It's very professional."

Mediums worked with by the artists range from digital art, graphic design, and painting to ceramics and photography.

"There is a wide range of media for such a small department," Parks-Kirby said.

On April 8, three people from an outside advisory board will come to the gallery to critique the students' work. "It's kind of like oral defense of a thesis," Parks-Kirby said.

Parks-Kirby also said that many of the students have done a lot of work outside of classes and that half of the seniors are pursuing Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees or have combined art with other majors.

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FEATURE

Students introduce family to life at Alma College during "Little Sibs Weekend"

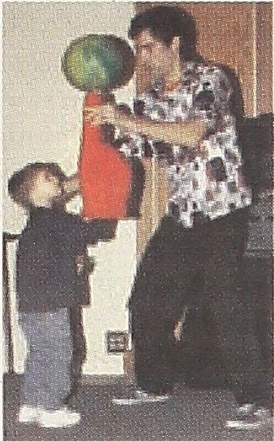


photo by Melanie Szewczyk

A young boy helps the juggler out with his performance



photo by Melanie Szewczyk

Two participants in Double Dare get "slimed"

LAURA SACHJEN
Staff Writer

Younger family members of Alma students came to campus this past weekend to get a taste of college life as part of the Little Siblings Weekend. "It's an opportunity for students to bring kids to campus," Little Siblings coordinator and Mitchell Hall Director Jacob Acton said, "and let them experience what they do."

It was not only young children who participated in the event. The ages of those registered ranged from 2 to 22-years-old.

The College provided many fun activities for children and young adults who were visiting campus from Friday afternoon until Sunday afternoon. Events were similar from those of previous years, but the goal this year was to make it much bigger and better Acton said. "We went all out with the prizes," Acton said. "That's something we haven't done before."

Events kicked off on Friday with a scavenger hunt. Then there was an open swim and a tie-dye event. After a Double Dare Challenge in the style of the Nickelodeon TV show of the same name, all were treated to comedian

John Casey and a juggling show. This was in place of a band, which served as the live entertainment portion of events for past years. Also held that day was a late-night event in The Hole for older siblings.

Saturday started off with breakfast and cartoons in the residence hall lobbies. Siblings then had the opportunity to explore the Rock Wall and Recreation Center. After lunch, a Craft Fair and a Science Blowout were held. The evening events were a Carnival and ice cream social, and also a movie night for older children. Organizers were able to get the Alma College Union Board's inflators, which made the Carnival more carnival-like. Events concluded on Sunday with awards for Friday's Scavenger Hunt.

"I think we've done a good job," Acton said. Before the event began, over 120 people were registered. Organizers had planned for 100 people to pre-register.

"When a student leaves home, there's a feeling of disconnectedness," Acton said, relating this to when his older sister went away to college. "The weekend provides an opportunity for siblings to spend some quality time together."

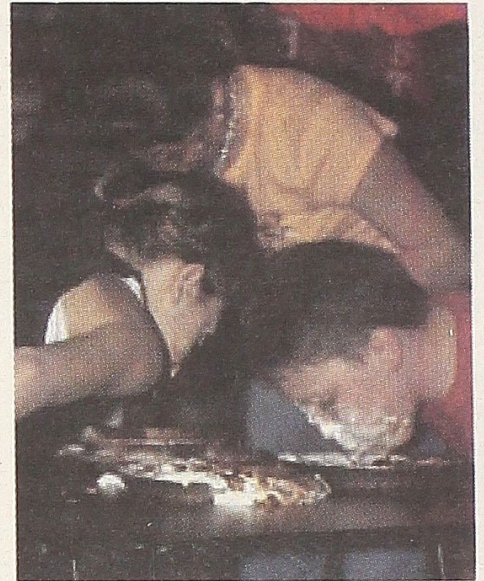


photo by Melanie Szewczyk

Students and siblings took the Double Dare Challenge on Saturday during Lil Sibs Weekend.

Acton also said that the Little Siblings weekend can serve as an excellent recruitment tool. "It helps the college put its best food forward," he said.

Toshia Williams (07) had a 15 and a 17-year-old along with her for the weekend.

"It's nice to have younger people come and see college life," she said. "They get a feel for where I live now."

Bursting the Alma Bubble: Korea's Political Problem Will Be Solved by the Voter Participation

AMY WILLEY
Staff Writer
YOUNG-JUN CHOI
Reporter of the Sogang Herald
Email: j-quasar@sogang.ac.kr

I know that the impeachment of Korea's President Moo-Hyun Roh in March is an issue not only in Korea. Many peaceful gatherings--I want you forget the past violent demonstrations--which agree or disagree to the impeachment are arising all over the country. According to a survey conducted on 1122 Koreans, 60.1% of people are opposed to the impeachment and 26.4% of people agree. It is certain that most of Koreans' opinion on the impeachment of President is against the decision. If it is like that, why did the Congressmen decide what the public didn't want? That is the problem of Korean national politics.

Two of the problems in Korean national politics are serious regionalism and academical cliquism. Until now, voters in Korea have considered a candidate's background more than the promises. For example, the candidate's

hometown, school and political Party are all considered. Generally, the candidate who has good background wins the election and then he or she has given many advantages back to the supporters as a reward. Therefore, the candidate's background became more important deciding standard than his promises. And after being elected, many Congressmen start to consider their Party and supporters' interests more than the public interests. The impeachment against the public opinion can be understood by this political problem.

However, some voters have tried to correct this political problem. More and more people are participating in this movement. They say that having the Assembly general election in April is also a good chance to correct the political problems in Korea. Voters can participate in the election in several ways.

First, voters campaign against some candidates to defeat them in the election. This movement started in 2000 when some Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) selected candidates who didn't have a

qualification as a Congressman, and campaigned to defeat them in the election; it has had a big effect.

Second, they do electioneering through the Internet. As the use of Internet increases, many voters advertise their supporting candidate's promises by making a homepage or on-line club and debate with other candidates' supporters. This activity helps many young people get information about the election and candidates easily. Young people get more interested in the election through this on-line electioneering.

Third, young voters in the university participate in the electioneering of some small progressive Parties. Candidates of progressive Parties were seldom elected in Korea because progressivism doesn't have any regional support, so there have been existed similar voices in the Congress. Some young voters advertise progressive Party's promises and the reasons to be elected to the other students by various means doing a performance and holding a symposium.

These efforts are the specifics of Korean voter participation. The

impeachment of President is the result of Korean political problem. However, impeachment is also a means of democratic politics. More and more voters are becoming interested in the general election to correct political problem. If the voters have a desirable view to the political problems, it will be solved through the election. Korean politics will be stabilized by these efforts.

ART SHOW from page 4

"It took a lot of hard work and preparation. The show on the whole is very well done," Lukezich said. "I really enjoyed it."

"It's a culmination of our work over the last four years," Kinney said. "It's nice to see your work up and done in a professional manner."

The gallery is opened Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

OPINION

Celebrate being unique, Religious affiliation
don't practice hatred doesn't belong in grading

I wouldn't have shown a great deal of concern about the outcome or direction that our society is taking if you were to have asked me five years ago. But now, the very thought of prejudice and persecution sickens me. I guess that's what a trip to hell and back will do to a person. Hell to me is a small village in Germany named Dachau. Not many people know of this place and not many visit it. It was the first concentration camp of Nazi Germany at the beginning of WWII. While I was visiting Germany five years ago my parents took me to the concentration camp. The old buildings were still intact with walls peppered with gun shot holes, and the courtyards that still reeked of death. In the inside of the museum there are large black and white photographs of Dachau when it was operating as a death camp, capturing small frail faces of Jews, Germans, gays, and other minorities empty with despair. There were black and white pictures of women hanging from the very rafters of the main lobby of the museum. Other photographs captured young men and boys struggling to hold rifles in single-file lines, Nazi signs bound to their arms. Everything about this place – the people, the faces, the lives – were so real. There was one common element in all of these photographs hanging: fear. You could see the fear in their eyes.

You could feel the fear in the air. I feel this same fear when I read about such similar events that are happening here on Alma College campus. Recently Dr. Gilbert received a death threat written based on the fact that she is Jewish. I have had Dr. Gilbert as a professor and I know her as both an individual and a professor. She is a devoted professor determined to give her students an outstanding education, a loving mother and wife, and a valuable asset to Alma College. When I hear that such threats are given to such outstanding people like Dr. Gilbert I think about that day I spent in Hell. I can see all the photographs of innocent faces filled with fear. I refuse to live in a black and white world of prejudice. I believe that everyone has a right to their own opinion; however, I am outraged that someone would have the audacity to threaten the livelihood of another. It scares me that this type of hatred has happened here at Alma College. I challenge each and every college student here to be open-minded about the differences we each possess, to celebrate the things that make us unique. To be grateful we live in a colorful world. We can prevent a black and white hell on earth, the discrimination must stop.

Emily Whitmer (07)

RACHEL KINGSTROM
Staff Writer

Everyone knows that Alma College is classified as a liberal arts college. As part of liberal arts education, one is exposed to wide spectrum of topics and ideas, both in and outside of the classroom. Through exposure to and understanding of these subjects, one is forced to become a well-rounded individual who has developed a set of beliefs and views, but is willing to accept those of others that may differ from his.

I feel that one of the most important areas in which tolerance is essential is religion. The best way for this tolerance to be reflected is through the professors' example. A problem has arisen on campus because some professors do not seem to be very accepting of students holding religious beliefs different from theirs. They have not come in direct opposition of others' religions, but this attitude has been expressed in the grades that various professors have given some students. Many professors have either preached their particular religion to students, or they have marked students down for seemingly no other reason than the fact that the students expressed different religious beliefs from theirs.

In one of my classes, we have been required to write several papers. On more than one occasion, one or more of my friends has received a lower grade than they were expecting with almost no corrections made on the paper. Very frequently, though, there was a comment at the bottom of the page that talked about Jesus in some

way. It appeared that the only reason my friends were being marked down was because they had religious beliefs that disagreed with those of the professor's. This would not be such a problem if the papers were supposed to be about religious topics, but that is not the case. My friends seemed to be being graded down for something that had nothing to do with the topic of the assignment, or even the focus of the class.

I realize that Alma is a private school affiliated with the Presbyterian faith, but it does not seem fair for professors to abuse that affiliation by preaching their religious beliefs to the students. The college's religious affiliation has nothing to do with its curriculum, and that is why it is important to keep religious matters separate. I consider myself to be a Christian with specific religious views and I do not have a problem with professors expressing their opinions, but I feel that discussion of such matters should be reserved for religion classes.

Professors should stay focused on the material they are supposed to be covering, and they need to stay objective when a student is allowed to bring up his beliefs in a paper or other assignment. Grades should be given based on the content of the assignment and how well students fulfill the criteria. Students should not be held accountable for subject matter that has nothing to do with the required material. This applies to expressing differing religious beliefs. Professors need to keep in mind that they are teachers, not preachers.

AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com

McDonald's "Re-Grand Opening"
The Alma McDonald's is celebrating!
Come see our new look and celebrate with us!
(Please, one coupon per purchase.)

<p>One free cappuccino...</p> <p>Hot. Tasty. You know you want it.</p> <p>Expires 5/31/04</p>	<p>-save money!- 1\$ off any Extra Value Meal!</p> <p>Expires 5/31/04</p>	<p>Buy any regular menu sandwich and get one free! (so bring a friend!)</p> <p>Expires 5/31/04</p>	<p>Just in time for spring....</p> <p>Free McFlurry with purchase of an Extra Value Meal!</p> <p>Expires 5/31/04</p>
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SPORTS

Softball team breezes through Alma Invitational

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

The Alma College Softball Team regained its winning surge last weekend with an impressive home victory in their second non-conference invitational tournament. The Alma College Invitational Tournament was played last Friday and Saturday and included teams from Northwood University, Ohio Northern University, and Lake Superior State University.

The Lady Scots' first round-robin game against Northwood made a clear statement to the rest of the teams in the tournament with a 7-2 victory. Alma began its surge in the second inning and continued it going into the fourth. By the middle of the fourth inning, the Scots had built a 5-0 lead.

Northwood made a small comeback with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, but Alma regained its five run lead with a two-run home-run by **Erin Carson (04)** in the middle of the sixth. Neither team would score again in the game.

The Scots second round-robin game against Lake Superior State began on Friday evening, but had to be suspended due to darkness in the

fourth inning. Early Saturday morning, Alma proved too much for LSSU and won by a score of 9-3.

Several Lady Scots contributed to this strong victory including **Paula Stanford (04)**. Stanford pitched a complete game and allowed only three runs on eleven hits thanks to some excellent fielding on the part of the rest of the Scots.

Most of the Scots' runs came as result of two home-runs by **Eileen Butler (05)** and **Katie Eustice (04)**. Perhaps most impressively, Erin Carson continued her hitting streak going 4-4 in the game to bring her two game tournament streak to 7 consecutive hits.

In their final round-robin tournament game, Alma improved their play another notch with a 12-0 mercy win over Ohio Northern University. In the game, the Scots dominated both on offense and defense due to some superb team play overall.

The Lady Scots did not take long to get going offensively as they scored five runs in the first inning and had all 12 runs by the end of the third. Both **Colleen Trybus (04)** and **Kelly Schmuckel (04)** were 3-3 from the plate. Together they combined for 5 RBI's and 5 runs.

Not surprisingly, the Scots also added two home-runs one of them by Erin Carson and the other by **Laura Rochon (04)**. Despite the torrid hitting by the Lady Scots in the first few innings, the game probably would not have ended in a mercy in the fifth inning if not for the excellent pitching of **Leigh Ann LaFave (05)**.

In four innings, LaFave allowed only one hit and also added five strikeouts. The victory brought LaFave's pitching record to a very favorable 5-1 going into league play. When the game ended, Ohio Northern had managed only two hits, one of which was a result of an error.

In a fairly hard fought final game, the Scots came away with a 3-1 victory over Northwood to clinch the tournament victory. **Melissa Tavidian (05)** and Leigh Ann LaFave both had solid pitching games and three different Scots scored in the second, fourth, and seventh innings.

The tournament victory brings the Scots overall record to 16-2 as Alma is heading to defend its MIAA championship. The Scots first two league games against St. Mary's and Adrian on March 23 and 27 are both away. Alma's home-opener against Albion takes place April 3 at 1:00 p.m.

For pictures of the Scots at the Alma Invitational Tournament see Page 8

Lacrosse team opens season with win over UM-Dearborn

KEVIN BRADY
Staff Writer

This past Saturday, the Alma College Lacrosse Team opened up their spring season in superb fashion. They hosted the University of Michigan - Dearborn, and defeated them 14-3.

Jason Garvin (05) led the way with six goals and three assists. **Haider Samhat (06)** had three goals and one assist. **Nick Foster (04)** had two goals. Contributing with one goal each were **Mike Miller (07)**, **Ben Workman (07)**, and **Chris Liedke (07)**. **Brandon Glesmar (07)** was

strong in goal, making seven saves out of ten shots. The Scots defense did not see much action during the game as the offense controlled the tempo. Dearborn also committed a number of penalties, putting them at a disadvantage. The Scots' defense came up big going 4-4 in penalty kills.

Look for the Scots to make an impact in lacrosse this season. Led by captains **Nick Foster (04)** and **Tom Martin (05)**, this team has a good mix of leadership and young talent. "We are young, but talented; plus, there are guys on this team who have been around while so they provide us

with plenty of leadership," said **Matt Davis (06)**.

The Scots will look to continue their winning ways as they have a number of games in the next week. The first is a home game against Ferris State on Monday at 5 p.m. The team will then host Holy Cross on Saturday at 1 p.m. before travelling to Dearborn on Sunday.

Matt Bryan (05) believes that the team has started off well and that the team's "next few games should really prove our level of strength and talent, as well as the ability of our freshman class."

Best darn sports column ever

MATTHELMUS
Sports Editor

Yes, this is the final column of the year for me. I know you'll miss your weekly reading. We've laughed. We've cried. Then we realized it was only sports. It was good while it lasted.

I'm disappointed that I don't get to cover one of the most exciting teams of the year, the softball team. The Scots blew through their own invitational tournament this week, making the Division II competition seem like little league teams. At this pace, the Scots should make a good run through the MIAA and beyond. I was thinking once again this weekend, the team could use nicer facilities considering their accomplishments over the years. At the very least a permanent fence would make Scots' Park a little classier place to play. Even so, the field is home sweet home for the Scots.

While I'm complaining I might as well spout about the website and athletic statistic reporting. The sports writers and I have been very frustrated this year when looking for statistics on the Alma athletic community. With our Sports Information Director, who serves as a chief statistician, gone, the reporting of scores, stories and statistics is horrible. A college of Alma's size requires a contact person for these tasks. The Public Relations Office and the coaches themselves (as well as student assistants) cannot be held liable for these tasks. I've said it before; it's a shame that our college athletes are trying their best to represent Alma while the administration is not doing the same in return.

This week one team started off their season with a bang. The lacrosse team blew out UM-Dearborn on Saturday afternoon. The team is said to have the most talent ever, which should make this season a very exciting one. If Saturday's game was any sort of indication, the rest of the season should be very fun to watch.

Well, this is where it ends. Another athletic year is nearing completion. Hopefully all spring teams will finish out the year on a bang. The nice weather and spare time of Spring Term provide a great opportunity to support the teams. It should be a good time.

Please vote in this week's Almanian online poll.

The address is www.alma.edu/students/organizations/almanian.

SPORTS

MIAA
STANDINGS

BASEBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Calvin	0-0	1-0
Adrian	0-0	7-5
Hope	0-0	8-6
Albion	0-0	7-7
Olivet	0-0	5-8
ALMA	0-0	2-6
K'zoo	0-0	0-6

SOFTBALL

	MIAA	Overall
ALMA	0-0	16-2
Hope	0-0	5-3
Albion	0-0	6-4
Calvin	0-0	0-0
Olivet	0-0	4-4
St. Mary's	0-0	5-8
K'zoo	0-0	2-3
Adrian	0-0	2-4

WOMEN'S TENNIS

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

MEN'S TENNIS

	MIAA	Overall
Albion	1-0	5-5
K'zoo	0-0	4-3
Adrian	0-0	2-2
Hope	0-0	1-6
ALMA	0-0	0-2
Calvin	0-1	2-3

LASTWEEK'S SCORES

SOFTBALL

ALMA INVITATIONAL
TOURNAMENT

Opening Round

ALMA 7, Northwood 2
ALMA 9, Lake Superior St. 3
ALMA 12, Ohio Northern 0

Championship Game

ALMA 3, Northwood 1

Tournament championship
pushes Scots' record to 16-2



Above: Seniors Lindsay Powers and Colleen Trybus joke around during the Alma Invitational Tournament. The two are members of a stellar senior class that is leading the Scots to another great season. The Scots are now 16-2 on the year and will begin MIAA competition this week.

Right: Melissa Tavidian (05) pitches during one of the Scots' victories in their tournament this weekend. Tavidian, Leigh Ann LaFave (05) and Paula Stanford (04) have been aces for the Scots this year. The Scots have outscored their opponents 106-27 in 18 games this year. They have had 8 shutouts already in the season.



Photos by Melanie Szewczyk



Left: Senior Laura Rochon swings at a pitch during one of the Scots' games. Rochon hit a home run to help the Scots beat Ohio Northern University 12-0 in their second tournament game. The Scots ended up winning the tournament title with a win over Northwood in the championship game.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Mar. 23

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

Wednesday, Mar. 24

Day of Silence

3 p.m. - Women's Tennis Home v. Albion

3 p.m. - JV Softball @ Hope

Thursday, Mar. 25

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. - 4th Grand Adventure for Symphony (Heritage Center)

7 - 8 p.m. - Speaker Dr. Brenda Russell: "Interdisciplinary Teams of the Future" (SAC 113)

8:30 p.m. - Day of Silence Panel Discussion (Jones Auditorium)

Friday, Mar. 26

3 p.m. - Baseball @ Hope

8 p.m. - Women Composers Concert (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

Saturday, Mar. 27

JV Softball @ Oakland CC Tournament

11 a.m. - Women's Track hosts Alma Invitational

1 p.m. - Lacrosse Home v. Holy Cross

Noon - 10:30 p.m. - Mel Brooks Marathon (Jones Auditorium)

1 p.m. - Baseball @ Hope

1 p.m. - Softball @ St. Mary's

8 p.m. - Kiltie Wind Ensemble: "Over the Hills and Far Away" (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

Sunday, Mar. 28

JV Softball @ Oakland CC Tournament

1 - 3 p.m. - Lacrosse @ UM-Dearborn

3:30 p.m. - Men's Track hosts Alma Invitational

9 p.m. - Chapel Service

Monday, Mar. 29

Men's Tennis @ Grand Rapids CC

7 - 8 p.m. - Speaker Peter Lichtenberg: "Current Research in Gerontology" (Dow L4)