

Fencing team looking to grow
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Photo by Kate Bruder



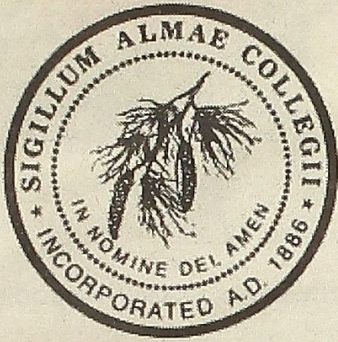
Renovations give campus a face lift
Page 1

Photo by Kate Bruder



Date auction raises money for charity
Page 6

Photo by Kate Bruder



The Almanian

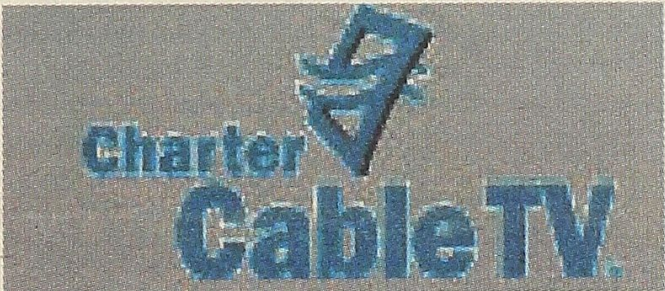
Free cable... for some

BRIANNA SCHUBERT
STAFF WRITER

This year the residents of Carey and Bonbright will be enjoying Charter Cable, free of charge.

During the budget development process for this year, the subject of cable being included as part of the cost of college was broached. Many other academic institutions have incorporated cable into their package for a number of years, and this seemingly minor amenity will help Alma become more

competitive with major universities. There have been complaints from parents, according to Jerry Scoby, Vice President of Finance and Administration, as well as students, about the lack of cable television.



to courtesy of www.pasadena.edu/graduation/live2.cfm

"We are trying to make progress meeting the needs of students," said Scoby. The College felt that providing the whole campus with cable access

would be too expensive, and too much of a shock to the already-swelling cost of attending Alma. The term 'free cable' has been heard around campus, but 'free' indicates that there is no cost to any of the recipients, which is simply not true. The cost of cable was covered in the extra revenue generated by the hikes in both tuition and room and board this year. The Presidents Advisory Council made the decision to phase in covered access to cable because the cost is too high to realistically provide it for the entire campus this year. As tuition and room and

board are slowly raised over the next few years, more of the campus will be provided with cable access. Inhabitants of Bonbright and Carey were chosen as the lucky recipients of this amenity because of the high population of upperclassmen in those buildings. According to Scoby, Carey and Bonbright were "one of several options." Students who do not live in Carey or Bonbright tend to have reactions that are predictably negative. Adam Bauer (07) said, rather sarcastically, "I think

PLEASE SEE CABLE PAGE 3

Cracks fixed and bookstore facelift highlight campus changes

LAURA SACHJEN
Staff Writer

The summer months have been busy for College administration and staff, as changes are being made to campus surroundings.

These changes have been highlighted by the continued construction

parties, bookstore remodeling and a revamped website.

"We wanted to do some small things that would have a positive impact on campus," Vice President of Student Life Nick Piccolo said. "We want to see how these [changes] work, so we can get ideas for the future."

Some of these campus changes have been much needed as well. The old McIntyre Mall, with its jagged and cracked tiles, proved difficult to walk on at times and the college website hadn't been changed in 2 years.

While the construction of the new Wright Hall continues, the Housing Office is in the process of deciding the room selection process, which is expected to be completed within

PLEASE SEE FIXED PAGE 3

McGregor proves to be intense but rewarding

BRIANNA SCHUBERT
STAFF WRITER

Those who found preterm intense and otherwise horrifying did not partake in the wonder that was the McGregor Colloquium.

Imagine being one of the twenty-five incoming first-year students who spent three days studying Global Warming through distinctly different lenses, and then presented topic papers they had prepared at a public forum.

"The goal of McGregor," Dr. John Davis said, "is to get students started thinking about important world issues from a true liberal arts perspective."

Global Warming was chosen based on its importance and the inherent interdisciplinary possibilities. The scholars created position papers that dealt with the economic, legal, health, funding, and international issues surrounding global warming.

Both the McGregor Colloquium and Tutorial were funded by a five-year grant from the McGregor Foundation in the spring of 2001. The candidates for the McGregor Colloquium are

invited based on superior academic performance, and then must fill out an application. The staff in charge of the McGregor project then selects twenty-five applicants to withstand the trials and tribulations of the intense program. These students must then research the issue thoroughly and

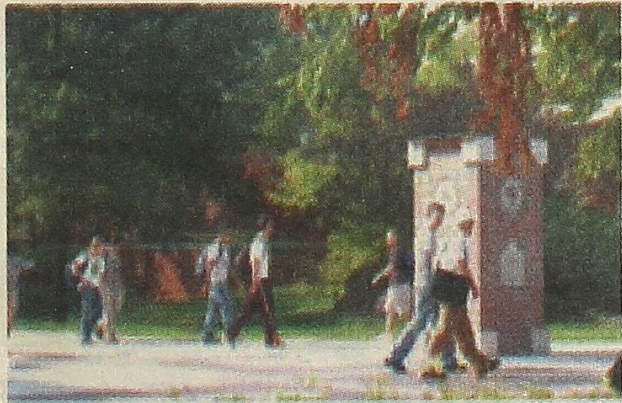
"It was rewarding at the end. It was hard to believe we could come up with a policy paper like that."

"develop a persuasive argument for public policy action"

said the Policy Analysis Project, McGregor Colloquium handbook.

The students have the chance, or are forced, to learn important investigative skills they can use throughout their lives, gaining a deeper knowledge of the library than many students here ever attain. After creating intense topic papers addressed to figures such as Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, the chairmen and chief executive officers of all automobile manufacturers, the National Science Foundation, Vice President

PLEASE SEE MCGREGOR PAGE 3



The campus continues to change as students photo by Kate Bruder

of Wright Hall and the repaving of McIntyre Mall. Other new changes include wireless networking, LAN

National/State/Local

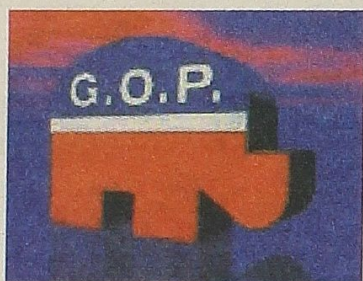


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BUSH VS. KERRY

As the presidential election is closely approaching, we at the Almanian feel that it is our duty to provide campus with the views of each candidate.

SAM STONEBERG
STAFF WRITER

ABORTION

President George W. Bush's ideal is to value life, and the many steps involved in getting there. He refuses to offer funds to international groups that support abortions. He won't allow tax money to be used for abortions, but offers adoption tax credits. Although he will not propose a pro-life amendment to the Constitution, he encourages fewer abortions by promoting abstinence and adoption. With medical advancements in stem-cell research, Bush supports research on adults, but limits on embryo research. Ultimately, he feels that abortion rights should be left for the states to decide. Senator John Kerry staunchly resists restrictions on abortions, as well as punishing a woman's right to choose. He also supports embryonic stem cell research.

ECONOMY

Bush ties the growing economy to his tax cuts. In January of 2004, he claimed that if reelected, he will be able to cut the deficit in half over the course of the next 5 years. Bush believes that the key to improving the economy is investment and aid to the states, and providing assistance to new small businesses. Consumer confidence will be restored with tax cuts and new oil supplies. Kerry plans to offer incentives to create jobs at home and end corporate welfare. He believes that we can do better with our economy and lift the people out of poverty. If elected, he pledges 10 million new American jobs, and a reduction of outsourcing. According to the senator, our economy is suffering to some degree as a result of corporations. When it comes to the role the federal government plays in the market place, Bush believes that it should stay out. According to Kerry, small businesses are the engine of the economy. He would like to see the loopholes that reward corporations who take jobs overseas, closed. His theory is to regulate on the side of citizens, not corporations. Bush is dedicated to improving the economy through job growth, and will not be satisfied until everyone who wants a job, finds one. Kerry would like to raise the national minimum wage as well as provide jobs to more minorities. He thinks that energy independence will jump start jobs at home. By allowing young workers to put their taxes in a personal account as well as develop a personal retirement account, Bush plans on improving our social security worries. Kerry will not privatize social security or cut benefits.

CIVIL UNIONS

The President would like to see a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriages, yet his instinct on gay issues is: Don't touch them. He leaves local governments responsible for racial profiling cases. Bush supports affirmative action, and displaying the Ten Commandments in schools is ok for "inherent values", and states should make the decision about displaying the Confederate flag. Kerry believes that defense of the Marriage Act is fundamentally ugly. He supports partnership rights and civil unions. The Democratic candidate questions the ultimate practicality of affirmative action. Raising the minimum wage is a working woman's issue.

JUSTICE

America is the land of second chance, if you ask Bush. Although he would like to see tougher juvenile justice laws, but put a stop to trying minors as adults for violent crimes. Texas has sentenced and executed more criminals than any other state in the union, Bush isn't proud of that, but he does not think that capital punishment should be eliminated. To him, the death penalty is necessary for deterrence. Bush's plan for reducing non-violent drug offenders is stronger drug education, treatment and enforcement, as well as stronger penalties for first time offenders. Kerry's views on crime are not as extensive; his main concern is the death penalty. He would like to see it eliminated because there are too many mistakes. His idea for our country's drug problem is to target traffickers in an effort to reduce supply and demand.

EDUCATION

As in every election, education plays a big role in campaigns. Bush would like to fund early intervention programs to help high-schoolers. His stance on standardized testing is that it is ok to teach to the test, as long as basics aren't being left out. Teachers' unions are obstacles to school innovation, and teachers should teach values and moral responsibilities. The President's solution to kids who are "trapped" in failing schools is to give them vouchers that include private and religious schools. Senator Kerry would like to kill two birds with one stone by investing in children and their educations rather than the prison system. Learning can be measured as long as the standards are flexible. Charter schools need to stop being viewed as threatening innovations. He believes that there is nothing good about vouchers because nothing will be done to the failing schools.

ENVIRONMENT

Bush's energy plan is about reducing oil imports, rather than focusing on cheap energy. Drilling in the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge is better than getting imported oil. He also offers incentives for private land stewardship and conservation. Kerry feels that no American should be held hostage to our oil dependence. According to his sources the Alaskan National Wildlife Refuge will not be able to produce oil for the next 20 years. Instead we should invent our way out of oil dependency, not drill our way out. He would like to see investment in advancing forms of energy instead of oil. Environmental justice should be an EPA priority.

FOREIGN POLICY

When it comes to foreign policy, Bush states that "America must keep its word." American will never seek a permission slip for self-defense. On the same note, Bush has tripled funding for homeland security because he claims that it is a false hope to think that terror is behind us. Kerry feels that America should lead by extending a hand rather than a fist. American power comes from respect, not weapons. His plan to tackle terrorism includes a global net effort.

WAR

Bush's stance on war and peace is to confront threats to America before it is too late. Kerry would not fight a war without a plan to win, enough troops and allies.

News

Get out the vote!

AMYTOPHAM
STAFF WRITER

A small group of Alma College students are doing just that; getting out the vote. Get Out the Vote is a small group of Alma College students who want to get everyone on campus registered to vote. The organization, headed by **April LaCroix (05)** and Vice President of Student Life Dr. Nick Piccolo, meets Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

Piccolo, like LaCroix, realizes how important it is to get everyone registered, "Our small part is to help people get a choice." LaCroix started the organization when she found out that there wasn't an organization on campus that was trying to get students registered to vote.

"I've been out there, trying to learn as much as possible," April LaCroix said. LaCroix is dedicated to getting all of the students of Alma College who are old enough out to the polls.

Historically, voters between the ages of 18-24 have had a very low turn out. In the 1972 election of the 59% registered to vote, 50% voted. Throughout the years the percent has gone down drastically. In the 2000 election, of the 45% registered to vote, only 32% voted.

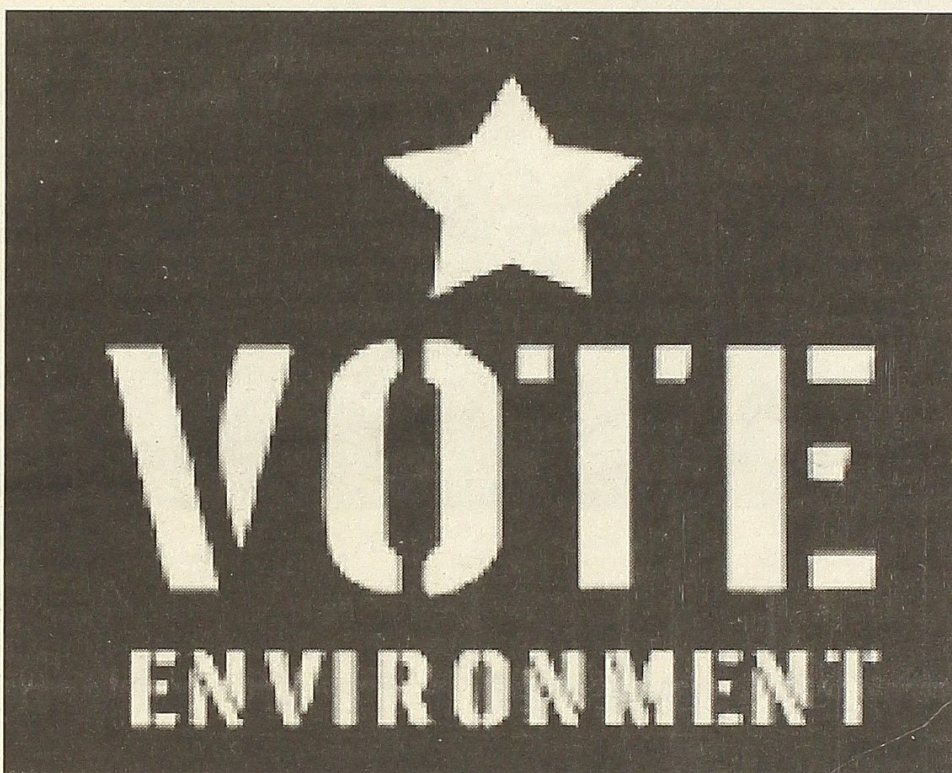
"We can accomplish more if we work together," LaCroix said, and these numbers show that we haven't been working together."

The group has organized and developed a registration process for

students, working with the Secretary of State office in Alma. The Secretary of State office has agreed to open up one line for Alma College students to register to vote. They will be open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Thursday, September 23.

The group has will be organizing a shuttle system to bring students

Vote group are working on are flyers to put up around school telling you to get out and register to vote, table tents for all the tables in Saga, a radio announcement is planed to be read on the Alma College radio station, and even the RA's are going around to all of their residents and asking them if they are registered to vote.



back and forth to the Secretary of State office. The shuttle will be at parked at the Reid-Knox parking lot and a table with information will be set up on McIntyre Mall. There will be a raffle drawing for all those who get registered on that day, with prizes to be announced.

Other projects the Get Out the

If they are not registered, information on how to get registered is offered to them. The Get Out the Vote organization is also providing stamps and envelopes for all of those who need to mail in their absentee ballots. LaCroix plans on recording how many students they register. Get Out the Vote is also working with the Alma College

Republicans and Campus for Kerry. **Luke Livingston (07)** organized the group Campus for Kerry because, "I am a strong Kerry supporter and I dislike Bush." Livingston thought it was important that the democrats on campus had a group too. The Campus for Kerry group currently has 58 members and is currently advertising for Kerry on campus and also involved in getting the Alma community to vote for Kerry in the upcoming election. Campus for Kerry meets Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. in the Rotunda.

For all Michigan residents who are not registered to vote you will want an absentee ballot unless you plan on going home to your precinct for voting. You must deliver your registration in person to your county, city or township clerk's office or any Secretary of State Office. If you mail in your registration and you have not voted before, in any election, you will have to appear in person to vote in the precinct that matches the one on your driver's license. If you have voted before you need to request an absentee ballot, all absentee ballots must be requested no later than the 23 of October. If you are from Alma you can vote at the local polls in Alma. Another option is to change your address to your campus address. All registration and change of address must be done by Monday, October 4 which is also the deadline to register to vote. And of course, Election Day is Tuesday November 2.

MCGREGOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

FIXED CONTINUED FROM
PAGE 1

the next few weeks.

New bookstore features include TVs and something which has never been done -the hiring of student employees.

The Information Technology Department will begin testing wireless networking in the Reid-Knox building over the next few weeks, and then move on to installation in Dow/Kapp. Other possible locations for the future include the library, Tyler-VanDusen Center and SAC.

"We don't think that wireless networks will replace or be any better than wired ones," Information Technology Director David Reed said. "It was important to ensure that we had a first-class wired network."

CABLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what's that? Only 20 people on campus get it! That's terrible!"

"I believe it is unfair to provide free cable services on one part of campus and not accommodate all other tuition-paying residents since the cost of the cable is absorbed by everyone," stated **Spiro Caro (07)**.

His reaction echoed that of **Mike Cruz (06)**, who said, "It's not fair. They don't have to deal with the people at Charter Communications up front. They don't have to deal with having to pay every month by a specific date or getting hit with a late fee. Even though I don't need any more distractions, it isn't fair that only a small handful of students are allowed free cable."

Sarah Wasek (07) said, "I think that it's a really great idea for the college to include that in our tuition, but it's not fair to give certain

dorms an unfair advantage. If I lived in Carey and Bonbright, I'd think it was a great idea, but since I live in Gelston, it's outrageous."

Scoby explained that there are different perks inherent to each dorm: residents of Gelston have easy access to Joe's, the new, improved, easy-access mailboxes in Mitchell, etc.

The residents of Carey and Bonbright might well ask why, if the school is providing them with cable, they do not yet have cable. As it turns out, Charter Communications and Alma College have not come to a full agreement on the terms of the contract. Charter has assured the administration that the cable will be activated within 48 hours of the completion of the contract.

like that." Lemay also noted that the Colloquium was "intensive. I learned how to research a lot better, how to work in a group, and definitely time management." Other students expressed similar feelings. "[It was] a lot more information than I thought I could ever get out of anything in three days," said **Peter Martin(08)**.

The only point on which the opinions of the scholars varied wildly was whether or not the Colloquium helped them adjust to college life. After the whirlwind of McGregor, Preterm had to seem very tame. While Lemay felt that it did not help her adjust because "it was so intense. You had no time to do anything else," Martin disagreed.

Not only do the students gain skills that could prove valuable in the future, but many also form friendships that last much longer than the three days they are forced to endure one another's company. Martin stated, "[I made] a lot of friends that I still talk to." Lemay seconded that, saying, "I'm still friends with a lot of the people."

FEATURE

Promising club seeks funds to grow

JON MORRIS
STAFF WRITER

Some people don't know them, but the Alma College Fencing Club is approximately 8 members strong and looking to expand.

In an interview with **Sam Capasso (06)**, a member of the club, I asked him if there were fencing competitions, and if there were, how many members those teams would have. "There are fencing competitions," Capasso said, "Other teams like Michigan State have approximately 35-40 members and I think 20 members would be good for a team here at Alma to become competitive."

Jared Stephens (07), another active member of the club, and asked him what it would take to become a larger, more competitive organization. "More money would be great," Stephens said, "Student Congress does not divert a large amount of their funds towards the Fencing Club. Being a member has a significant start up cost because the equipment is expensive."

"I have a D'Artagnan complex," Stephens replied, referring to the youngest of the three musketeers, "Also fencing is a very

fun and sophisticated sport, and it's great exercise." Capasso and Stephens would both like to see their organization increase in size and prestige, and they believe that it will happen this year under the leadership of club president **Jennifer Banister (05)**.

So, if you are interested in trying something new that is exhilarating, fun, and great exercise, I recommend that you go to the multi-purpose room at the Recreation Center at 9 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday and give fencing a try.



photo by Kate Bruder

Save a horse, ride a bull

ANGELA SCHUHARDT
STAFF WRITER

Walking around campus you've probably seen the ads. Playing Texas Hold-Em and bull fight's, etc. If you are a freshmen/first year to Alma, you're probably wondering two things, 1) is it fun? and, 2) what in the world is ACUB? ACUB's a campus organization that sponsors campus events. Last weekend there was a mechanical bull, inflatable boxing ring in which two friends could climb in and put their hands into overly emphasized boxing gloves (which did not hurt the target as much as normal boxing gloves). You may have seen the cool, hip pens that have been floating around campus, ACUB was also responsible for the distribution of those among campus. A little after pre-

term there was a campus-wide, "Texas Hold-Em" tournament that promised cash prizes, and win or lose, a good time.

ACUB is the Alma College Union Board that provides free entertainment throughout Alma College campus. Alma College Union Board consists of seven members and a handful of student representatives, anyone can be a representative, but it takes one year of being on a committee to become a full-

SEE ACUB
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Archbishop to be College's first African speaker

LAURA SACHJEN
STAFF WRITER

Something new will be happening at the College when Archbishop Njongonkulu Ndungane of the Anglican Church of Cape Town, South Africa comes to campus next week.

"The College has never had an African speaker do a major event before," Patrick Furlong, professor of History, said.

As Archbishop of Cape Town, Ndungane has been a strong advocate for such social issues as the AIDS epidemic, women's rights and debt relief.

He has been at the center of recent controversies in the Anglican Church over whether women should be ordained and homosexuals' place in the church.

"Archbishop Ndungane is a leader who tries to bring together traditional concerns about faith and morality with broader issues of social and economic justice," Furlong said. "He is critical of church leaders who focus on strict interpretations, while overlooking socio-economic justice."

Ndungane began his education at the University of Cape Town and while there developed an interest in politics, especially in the Black Liberation movement and Pan-Africanist Congress.

He was eventually arrested by the apartheid government and imprisoned from 1963 to 1966 on Robben Island, the same prison where Nelson Mandela spent 2 decades.

Both Archbishop Ndungane's father and grandfather were Anglican priests. But it was not until he was imprisoned on Robben Island that he began his religious odyssey.

Ndungane became a priest in 1974 and

served in Cape Town to mixed ancestry congregations who never had a black African priest before.

He also studied at King's College in London and was offered the opportunity to stay outside South Africa, but he decided to return in 1979, a time of political upheaval in the country.

Ndungane served in Johannesburg and worked with government departments in Peoria and the South African Council of Churches.

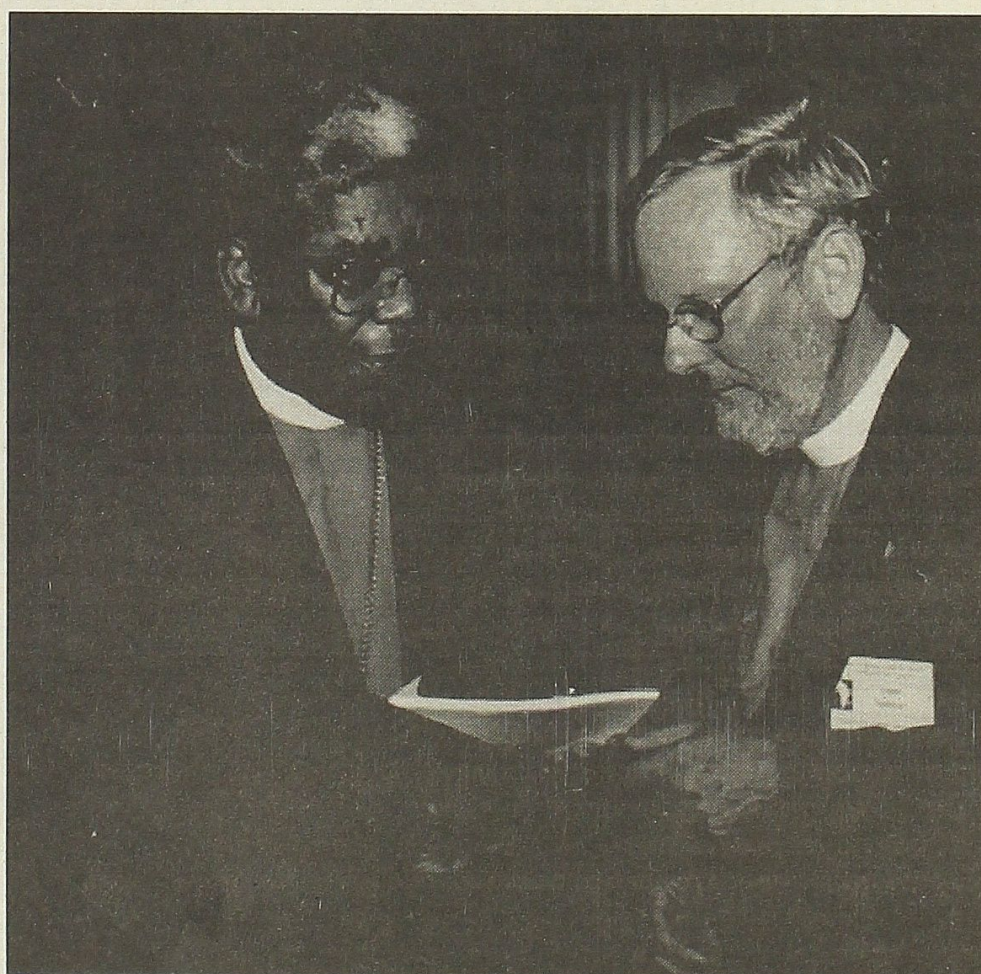


photo courtesy of <http://avcepiscopalchurch.org/ens/ans/archives/99-093a.html>

He was consecrated Bishop of Kimberley and Kuruman in 1991 and succeeded Desmond Tutu as Archbishop of Cape Town in 1996. Aside from his continued work in social justice, Archbishop Ndungane also published a

semi-autobiographical book entitled *A World with a Human Face: a Voice from South Africa*.

"Archbishop Ndungane is a major figure on the world stage," said Discovering Vocation Director Carol Gregg. "It is a rare and unique opportunity to hear the perspective of a leader from a fascinating country."

Furlong was part of a faculty and volunteer group involved in scheduling speakers for events. He recommended Archbishop Ndungane to the Discovering Vocation Project because his values seemed to align with the Project's goals of finding calling and purpose in life. According to Furlong, this is because the Discovering Vocation Project usually has larger funds for scheduling speakers than departments do.

The Discovering Vocation Project, and the programs it sponsors, is funded by a \$2 million grant from the Lily Endowment Inc. A Discovering Vocation committee made up of faculty, staff and students made the final decision and an invitation to Archbishop Ndungane was extended a year ago.

"We were extremely delighted and surprised when he so readily accepted the College's offer," said Furlong.

In preparation for Archbishop Ndungane's visit, Furlong will hold an informational session about South Africa on Friday at 3:30 p.m. in SAC 109.

Archbishop Ndungane's first public lecture, entitled "The Call for Freedom and Justice: An Archbishop's Journey in South Africa," will take place on September 29 at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center. The following evening, "Building a Just Society:

FEATURE

The Demanding Viewers

ACUB continued

fledged ACUB representative. Andrew, a representative of ACUB, when asked about what it means to be a member of the ACUB community said, "It's a good idea because you can influence the events we put on here at Alma College."

Two weeks ago ACUB hosted an All-Nighter that was a large success from 7 p.m. until midnight. Many students came out to partake in the fun activities. Up coming future events from ACUB include the new addition of the poker

tournament held at the Alan J. Recreational Center. This tournament will be held on Thursday the 30 of September at 9 p.m. and Sunday, 3 of October at 7 p.m. Like most ACUB events there will be prizes, festivities and a good time. So bring your friends and your poker face to the tournaments.

BRENDAN GUILFORD
STAFF WRITER

It should be noted that Director Kerry Conran's (from Flint, MI) first effort into the realm of major motion film directing did not go unnoticed by the Discriminating Viewers. In fact, we purchased our tickets with relish knowing ahead of time that "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow" was filmed entirely behind a computer blue screen. In essence, none of the movie was filmed in live-action; let alone possessing any concept of reality, plot, or continuity.

This was, without question, the worst film we have seen. Indeed it was a joy to survive throughout the film due to the excessive amount of drool that we were forced to deal with as we laughed out loud at the absolute stupidity of this atrocious piece of tripe.

Jude Law's portrayal of Sky Captain, whose character apparently had an actual name but refused to answer to anything other than Sky Captain, or possible S.C. in a pinch, definitely made this film the flopbuster that it is. While he had an impressive performance in "Road to Perdition," apparently Law is short on cash and has a bit of a gambling problem. No famous or successful actor or self-respecting moderately trained high school thespian would consider doing such a weak film without either threat of death, foreclosure of property,

because of the absurdist lighting that the avant-garde film director decided to choose to light every single scene in the entire motion picture regardless of place, time, or circumstance. The only other thing that can be said about her performance is that when Sky Captain punched Paltrow's character, the crowd actually cheered. She's that good folks.

Little too can be said favorably about anything else involving "Sky Captain and the blah blah blah." Angelina

Indeed it was a joy to survive throughout the film...as we laughed out loud at the absolute stupidity of this atrocious piece of tripe.

Jolie, while credited as having a major part in the film is only around long enough to mobilize her all-female amphibious assault team, blow up a massive drunken furnace-looking spider robot, and finished by ejecting herself out of ocean with rocket that we suspect was stolen directly from the set of "The Rocketeer."

Did we mention this movie takes place in 1945?

Anyway, one highly entertaining aspect of the film was its inclusion of dinosaurs found in the film "Jurassic Park," weapons and scenery found in "The Empire Strikes Back," phrases such as "Why won't you die?" that have been in at least two hundred and fifty other "action" films.

If one were to sit down and combine "The Matrix," "Jurassic Park," "Independence Day," "Star Wars," "The Wizard of Oz," plus a health shot of corn-ball

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

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College's campus Tuesday evenings and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly, excepting College breaks.

Letter Policy

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at almanian@hotmail.com or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

Staff Editorial Policy

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

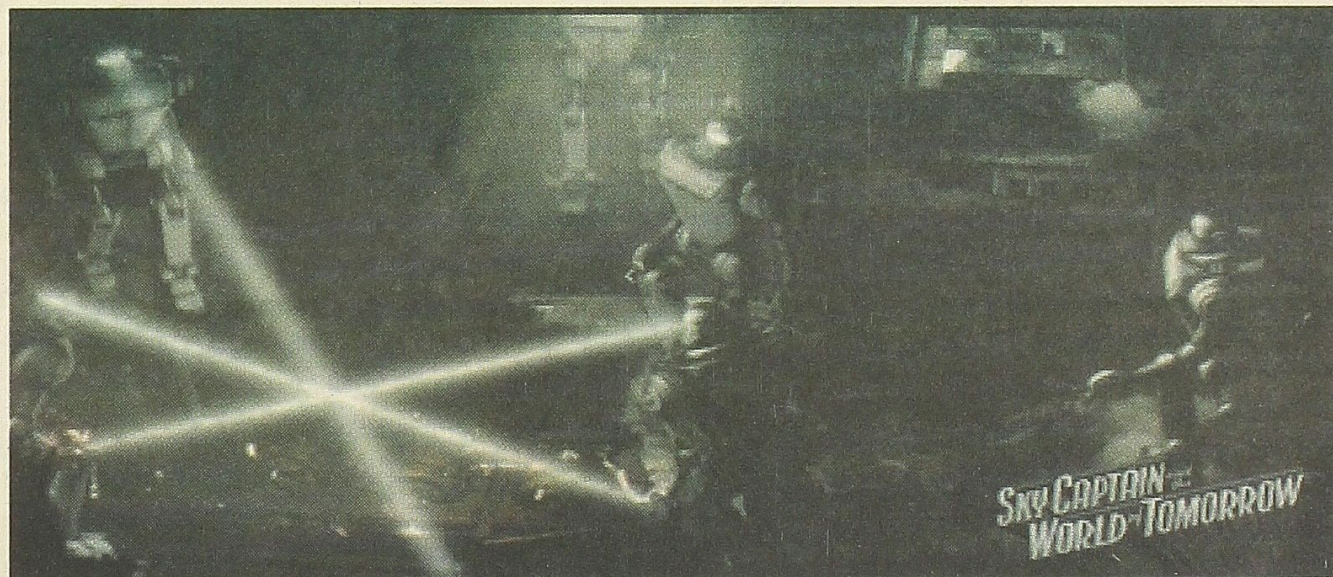


photo courtesy of www.skycaptain.com

or a serious desire to pretend to fight giant mechanical stupid looking Iron-Giantesque robot looking thingies. To say they were cool would perhaps be a bit of an understatement.

Gwyneth Paltrow's character shines, but only

scripting one would begin to appreciate the lack of original thought that the "writer" of this film possessed. I would definitely encourage everyone to see this film because I have not laughed for two hours straight ever in my entire life.

The Demanding Viewers give "Sky Captain

SOS Sponsors Successful
Service WeekRACHEL CASTLE
STAFF WRITER

Last week, the members of Students Offering Service sponsored the annual Service Week on campus, filled with opportunities for students to discover new ways to help out in their community. Each day of the week offered something different. Tables were set up in SAGA as part of the Student Organization Fair, offering information on groups such as Habitat for Humanity, Catholic Student Organization and Big Brother Big Sister.

As part of Service Week, Gamma Phi Beta sponsored a campus cleanup. Students Offering Service posted flyers throughout campus to recruit students to help with the project. Volunteers who went to the Gamma Phi house were divided into groups of three or four people, got trash bags and gloves, and went around picking up garbage.

"This is something we like to do every year or semester," Jillian Gettel (06), "It's part of our effort to clean up and enrich the campus and make it look better." According

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FEATURE

SOS continued from page 5

to Gettel, there was an excellent turnout for the event, and everyone did a great job.

"There was a lot less trash to clean up this year compared to last semester," Gettel added, "There was probably less this time because it is still early in the year."

In the year to come, SOS has many service opportunities planned. They will be running the annual Crop Walk, will be caroling at the Masonic Pathways retirement home for the elderly, and will once again be hosting their most interesting fundraiser, which is the Hungered Homeless Awareness Sleepout. This consists of a canned food drive, a cardboard box sleepout in the MacIntire Mall parking lot and Brownbag Stats (homeless statistics) in Glen's to increase awareness.

Greek Week: charitable and enjoyable

RACHEL DOTSON
STAFF WRITER

Greek Week 2004 kicked off last Monday, September 13, and boasted continual success until its finish on Saturday, September 18. The week consisted of many competitions between the fraternities and sororities, and even included some events that extended to the general campus.

Wednesday evening was the first of the more widely hyped events, when each house had to put forth a few of its bravest members to be auctioned off to the highest bidder at the date auction.

Those paying the highest amount earned themselves a night out, while making up a \$1900 contribution to the Gratiot Community Hospital.

The weekend opened with what was possibly the most anticipated event of the week: Mock Rock. Held at Van Dusen, Mock Rock was another event open to campus, and brought in more people than there were available seats.

The fraternities and sororities put in a lot of time choreographing a variety of dances, ranging from eating donuts to "riding cowboys," and it showed. In the end Zeta Sigma and Alpha Gamma Delta were honored with 100 points for first place, and Theta Chi and Kappa Iota received second place rankings. The night also provide opportunities for the audience to get involved, with the emcee calling people up to battle one another with dance moves, pick up lines, and unusual talents.

Congratulations 2008 Class Officers!

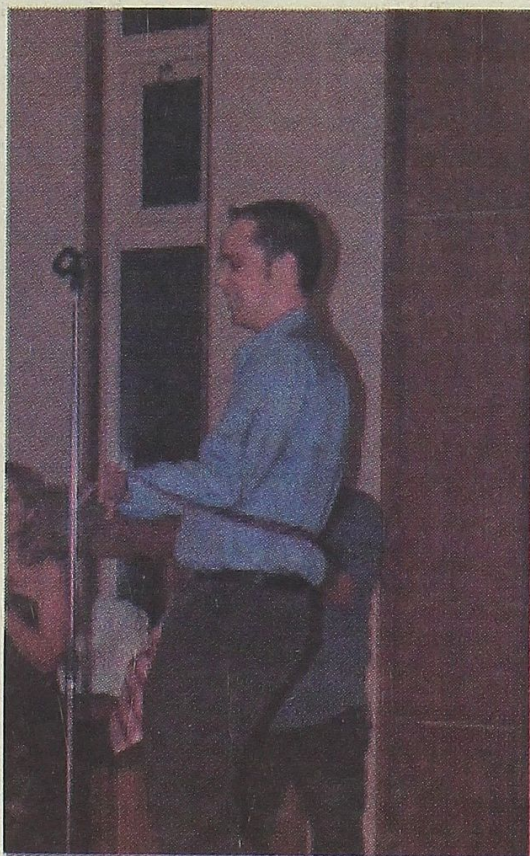
President - Terra Teague
Vice President - Ciara Feko
Secretary - Rachel Dotson
Treasurer - Brittany Rice

The week's finale began on Saturday at 1 p.m. in the back yards of the sorority houses where a block party was held. Following the block party members of the fraternities and sororities once again flocked to VanDusen, this time for the all-Greek dance. Here the winners were announced, with Phi Sigma Sigma and Tau Kappa Epsilon capturing the crowns. As Saturday night drew to a close so did yet another successful Alma College Greek Week. From fundraising to socializing, the days were an enjoyable and beneficial experience for all who participated.

Other activities included an ice cream social on Monday night, dorm storm and a hunger banquet on Tuesday evening, and games at Newberry Beach on Thursday. Each of these gatherings provided even more opportunities for

the Greek organizations to come together, while spreading their names at the same time.

Alpha Gamma Delta member, **Kate Neidhamer (06)** summed up the week from a Greek's perspective, saying, "I think we got our names out and showed the campus that we aren't the stereotypical ditzes and drunks."



Matt Almond gets down and dirty at Greek Week's Date Auction.

photo by Kate Bruder

Money Talks

JON MORRIS
STAFF WRITER

One of the most valuable lessons I have ever learned about money is that a person who has a lot of it isn't necessarily rich. To be rich you have to keep money, you have to know the rules of the game, you need a plan, and the sooner you start the more successful you will be. I'm going to tell you a little bit about myself and why I'm writing this column. My name is Jon Morris. I am a double major in business and economics, and this is my third year at Alma College. I am a Financial Representative for the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network. In this column I plan on discussing some simple and easy ways for college students to begin developing their financial intelligence.

In a quest for financial freedom, having a secure method of financial thinking is very important. Knowing what you think about money, knowing how much of it you need to be happy, knowing how you are going to get it, and then knowing what you'll do when you have it, are all things that people our age need to think about. What most of us know right now is a method of thinking taught to us by our parents. It probably sounds something like this: 1. Get a good education 2. Get a good job 3. Work very hard and you'll have a good retirement. This might have worked when they were our age, however right now we need to look out for ourselves; we can no longer depend on a company to provide for us in retirement. Many people argue that we can't even depend on the government for retirement. The way that we can prepare ourselves for a long life of financial success is to have a secure method of financial thinking and to start planning as soon as possible.

To develop a secure method of financial thinking I am recommending a book to you by the name of Rich Dad Poor Dad written by Robert T. Kiyosaki. If you have not read this book yet, please go out and buy it, or find someone on campus that will allow you to borrow it. The book will essentially show you how rich people make so much money and how they keep that money protected. I will be going in to further detail on this subject next week. Until then, get your hands on that book, and take some time this week to write down exactly what you want to accomplish with your life. When you put your goals on paper it is always easier to know what you have to do to achieve them.

Another successful preterm for first years

SCOTT WEIR
NEWS EDITOR

First year students got a head start on the rest of the student body as they began their preterm experience, which is becoming a reoccurring tradition at Alma College.

One of the most obvious changes since last year with preterm was the change to try and make classes have similar difficulty levels, so that some students weren't overwhelmed with homework, while others got to go enjoy their first week on campus.

Some of the classes this year included Drum Therapy, Religion and Politics, Euro vs. the Dollar, Exploring Alma as a Community, History of the Dollar, How to make a Website, and Digital Music Media.

Erin Hemerling (08) took the Drum Therapy class taught by Maurie Luetkemeir, Associate Professor of Exercise and Health Sciences. She really liked the class and subject matter since she is in the percussion ensemble. On the other hand, Hemerling said, "I don't think that preterm prepared me for the amount of homework in a regular course."

Aside from the actual school aspect of preterm, first year students also enjoyed many activities facilitated by the Orientation Committee as well as others sponsored by campus organizations.

Danielle Moss (08) enjoyed the social aspect of preterm and said, "I liked that preterm allowed us to get acquainted with our classmates before the rest of campus arrived."

Events included a musical performance by Shaking Tree and hypnotist Chuck Milligan, sponsored by WQAC and ACUB respectively. There were also Campus Olympics, an open mic night, "He Said, She Said," and Play Fair among other things.

OPINION

Point

Voting becoming an impossibility?

BRENDAN GUILFORD
STAFF WRITER

It is an election year, and you know what that means! Everywhere there is candid intelligent debates, unbiased appropriate media coverage, and every citizen fulfilling their constitutionally guaranteed right to vote. Well, that is not exactly the case.

Every four years our American television pundits spit venom at their ideological opponents, media outlets blatantly promote one candidate over others while claiming to be "fair and balanced," and pop culture celebrities attempt to exert their perceived influence over weak-minded individuals who cannot or will not examine election issues on their own.

For the socially conscious student it gets even worse. A citizen must get registered to vote (a seemingly impossible task for 18 to 25 year olds), choose a political platform among the endless myriad of choices, and then actually *go vote*.

Many students will say: "MTV says voting is fun *and* easy! I will simply have my mother request an absentee ballot from my local county clerk and I will vote from the comfort of my stinky dorm room."

In Michigan however, in order for you to vote by absentee this November, you must have registered in person if this is your first time voting. Many students will call this super-important election their first foray into the political process. For students that hail far away from Gratiot County whom have never voted but have registered by mail, they may be forced to choose between voting in this important election and attending classes.

Our benevolent state has given us a way around this seemingly illegal obstruction to casting an absentee ballot in an election. All a student must do is live for thirty days within Gratiot County (easy), go to the Secretary of State in Alma (moderately easy), completely change your permanent address to your school address (What? are they serious?), go vote (easy, right?), then return to the Secretary of State and re-change your permanent address off of your school address to your home address again (Whew).

Many of you will say "But wait a minute, I don't have a car this year at school! What about me?"

You without cars are basically out of luck. Sorry!

It is amazing that more people, particularly students, are not enraged about this blatant attack on one group of people within our state. You, the student are being bullied about your right to vote. Has student apathy truly erased the political power and social furor of our parents during the Vietnam era?

The mind boggles at the thought of what our elected representatives will have to do to us until we react in meaningful way. Just head to www.Michigan.gov where there is a 'What you need to know about Absentee Voting' page. Its contents include the misleading passage: "Voting is one of the most cherished and fundamental rights in our country. If you are eligible to obtain an absent voter ballot and cannot attend the polls on Election Day, use of the absent voter ballot is encouraged."

I am sure our legislators in Lansing agree with this sentiment completely, just as long as you cannot influence anything important.

Counterpoint

Apathy to blame, not law

CASSIE GOODRICH
STAFF WRITER

A Michigan law requiring the address on an individual's vehicle operator license and voter registration card to match went into effect in 2000. A registered voter must cast their ballot in the township that corresponds to the address listed on the two cards.

If a voter registers by mail, they need to show up in person with a valid identification card in order to vote in their first election. In other words, it is not possible to register to vote by mail and vote by absentee ballot if a person has never voted in any kind of election before.

Some individuals, especially college students, maintain that the Michigan legislature is trying to make it difficult for them to vote, which would make the law unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment and the Voting Rights Act. I argue that the state's voting law concerning absentee ballots and voter registration is just and fair, as it is not difficult to obtain an absentee ballot, many students claim their place of residency as their college, and the law provides protection against voter fraud.

Absentee ballots, contrary to popular belief, are pretty easy for registered voters to get. If an individual registers to vote at any secretary of state office, they can obtain an absentee ballot immediately, even if they have never voted before because the state has proof that the voter actually exists. If someone has voted before, then they simply can request an absentee ballot over the phone or through the mail, with a form they can obtain via the internet.

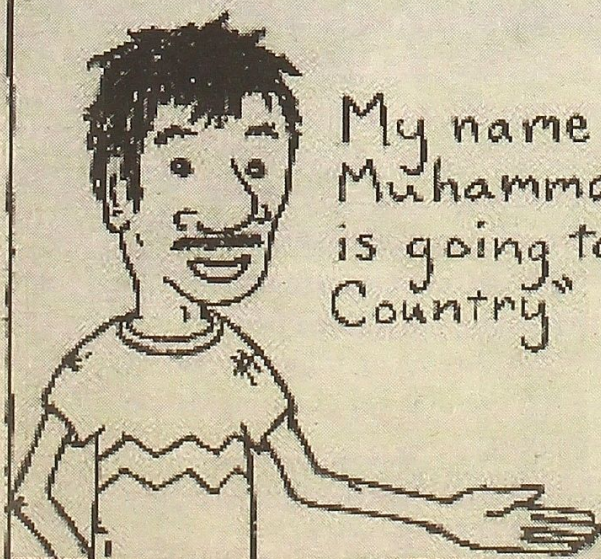
The argument I offer here is that it is not difficult for college students to change the address on their license to their college address. Under Michigan law, an individual's place of residence is where two-thirds of their year is spent. If an Alma College student is only home for a total of four months a year, then in reality, Alma is their place of residence, and as a result it is not really right for them to obtain an absentee ballot for their hometown.

The secretary of state sends a person a new voter registration card with their new address on it when they change the address on their license. Then college students would not have to obtain an absentee ballot because they could vote in the township where they attend school.

Finally, the law protects against voter fraud. An article I read previously indicated that in the 2000 presidential election about 400 dead people voted. I doubt they crawled out of their graves to make it to their polling place. These mistakes occur in Michigan too, and by forcing people to show up in person, whether to vote or to register, there is a more accurate count. A couple hundred people may not seem like a lot, but in close elections, it can be the difference between winning and losing for a candidate.

While it is true that college students do not have an impressive voter turnout record, I do not think that it is fair to blame it on a Michigan law. Instead, maybe we should investigate why college students did not vote before 2000? I am guessing that number one on the list was apathy, followed by frustration. Watching the negative campaign ads, I am often frustrated with the election too. This law is not the problem, and it is not unconstitutional. Our attitudes about voting may be the real culprits.

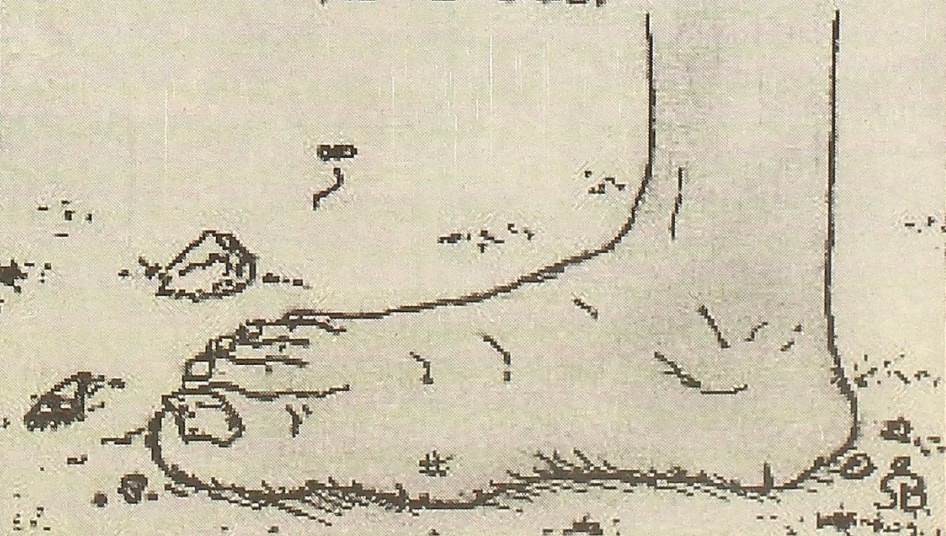
In a last ditch effort to snag votes, President Bush turns over control of Iraq to TLC and MTV...



My name is Ah-Bar Muhammad and MTV is going to "Pimp my Country"

Pass/Fail STEVE BAILEY CARTOONIST

"Well, they put a chrome roof on my shack and LCD screens on every free surface, but I still have no shoes."



OPINION

Bush's failure to renew assault weapons ban endangers country

JOEL RENDER
OPINION EDITOR

Last Monday at midnight, President George W. Bush lost an important pre-election opportunity to win over more independent voters when he failed to urge Congress to vote to continue the 10 year long ban on private use of assault weapons. In addition to losing this opportunity, we all lost a chance to be that much safer in our everyday lives.

The ban, which was passed in 1994 under President Clinton, prevented the sale of several specific semi-automatic weapons and clips of more than 10 rounds. The push for this ban came in the wake of several violent shooting incidents and at the urging of former presidents Gerald Ford, Ronald Reagan, and Jimmy Carter.

Over the years the ban has become weaker as gun manufacturers have found more and more loopholes. Despite this apparent failure however, President Bush declared his support for the ban, and yet he did nothing to preserve it as the deadline approached.

In my opinion, President Bush made the wrong decision when he failed to even mention a need to renew the ban to the Republican controlled House of Representatives and Senate. He chose the support of the pro-gun lobby especially the National Rifle Association despite the polls which indicated a majority of support by the voting populace.

I consider this an equivalent to turning his back on his previous support of the ban. If this is not an indication of his failure to keep promises then I do not know what is. I also believe this to be an indication of his likelihood to select special interest groups over the good of the nation in the near future.

How do we know that the ban was for the benefit of the nation? Well, several studies attempting to assess the effects on the ban on crime have been inconclusive. One important statistic indicates to me that the removal of the ban will have an effect on law enforcement.

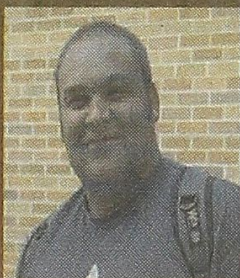
That statistic, which comes from an analysis of FBI data, indicates that between 1998 and 2001, 1 in 5 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty died at the hands on an assault weapon. The most important part of this statistic is that it took place, while the ban was in effect. Just think of how high the percentage might have been or the increase in sheer number of law enforcement deaths that could have happened had the ban not been in effect.

Even if you disregard President Bush's choice in this matter and do not believe that the ban had much effect on internal crime and law enforcement, then you must consider the effects it will have on terrorism. Without this ban any terrorist can walk into a gun store or a gun show and purchase an assault weapon with the same waiting period as a handgun. Do not be naïve enough to think that this could never happen either. Training manuals for terrorist groups in Afghanistan and several websites urge terrorists to purchase assault weapons here to be used against us.

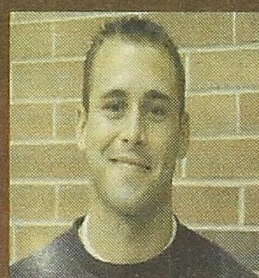
Above all else, my support of the ban lies in my belief that assault weapons have no practical purpose. I do not buy the argument that they can be used for hunting. Any sporting rifle is sufficient enough to take an animal down. I also do not believe assault rifles are a means to protect homes or families. It only takes one bullet to kill a mugger or a thief, so what is the use of an assault weapon in this instance either.

I urge you to consider the effects of the removal of the ban for yourself and do not forget them when voting day rolls around.

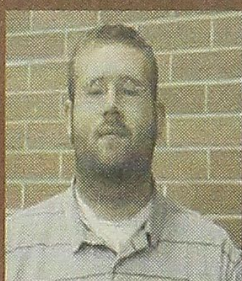
Please rate the service and new look of the book store.
Why did you give the bookstore this rating? Why are the changes either good or bad?



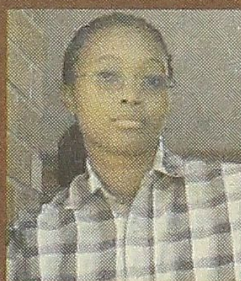
Garrett Whitner (06)
9; liked the new look and friendly atmosphere.



Tom VanThomme (04)
Service:10 Look:10
Prices:1 The new look and overhauling did nothing but give us eye candy to make us overlook the horrible prices of everything.



John Mcfalls (07)
8; they do a good job but won't ask (to help) unless you have a blank face.



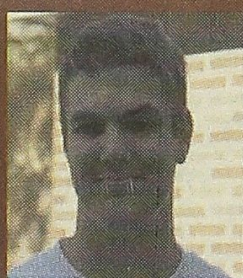
Phiwa Langeni (04)
It's beautiful, new, and user/student friendly! 2 thumbs up!



Melissa Riser (05)
10; I found everything I needed quickly and the cashiers were very nice.



Catherine Ballentine (06)
8; I give the bookstore an 8 because it looks great. Change is great and I like the new style! I wish there would have been better communication when ordering books, though.

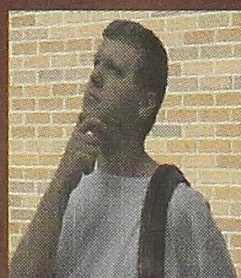


Ken Slough (05)
8; Pricey, anyone could go online and find the same books cheaper.

Danny Bulger (07)
8; the conjection has decreased dramatically. Everything is orderly and wonderful.



Jesse Russell (07)
6; Service is friendly.



Kelle Sajdak (07)
9, The set-up is a lot more convenient and the people are actually nice this year.



Kyla Crawford (07)
9; Good! The people are nicer, it looks good, and is very inviting.



Eva Ciculo (07)
7; because it was not prepared for the fall. I still don't have books!



Photos by Kate Bruder

OPINION

Meet the Press



Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

Katie Persitz (06)
Editor in Chief
Favorite movies: Americans Sweethearts, Tombstone

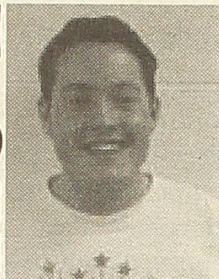


Photo by Kate Bruder

Scott Weir (07)
News editor
Hometown: Boyne City
Ideal job: to be a concert promoter.



Brendan Gilford (05)
Distribution Manager/Writer
Interesting fact: "I have worked on the paper for four years".

Photo courtesy of www.thetamu.org



Kate Voskeritchianj (08)
Photographer
Favorite movie: Never been kissed

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Brianna Schubert (07)
Staff Writer
Favorite Indian God: Ganesh
Favorite animal: Goldfish
Hometown: Bay City, MI

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Megan Jarczyński (07)
Staff Writer
Favorite color: Pink
Favorite animal: Monkey

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Rachel Dotson (08)
Staff Writer
Sign: Scorpio
Favorite food: Popcorn
Hometown: Chelsea, MI

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Photo by Kate Bruder

Matt Helmus (05)
Sports editor
Hometown: Jenison, MI
Interesting Fact: "A kilt is the most comfortable piece of clothing known to man".



Photo by Kate Bruder

Rachel Kingstrom (07)
Feature editor
Favorite Movie: Ghost World
Sign: Pisces
Favorite Food: Apples



Photo by Kate Bruder

Jonathan Morris (06)
Ad Manager/Writer
Hometown: Grosse Ile, MI
Interesting fact: "I like money, music, and food".



Steve Bailey (06)
Cartoonist
There is nothing interesting about Steve. Really, I'm not kidding.

Photo by Kate Bruder



Samantha Storeburg (07)
Staff Writer
Sign: Scorpio
Favorite movie: Angus
Hometown: Lapeer, MI

Photo by Kate Bruder



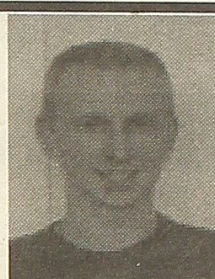
Derek Harrison (07)
Staff Writer
Interesting fact: I love the comics Calvin and Hobs

Photo by Kate Bruder



Colin Wasiloff (08)
Favorite band: Home Grown
Favorite color: Green
U of M/MSU: U of M!!!

Photo by Kate Bruder



Joel Render (05)
Opinion Editor
Hails from Brighton, MI
Favorite Color: Blue
has to take the LSAT in a couple of weeks

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

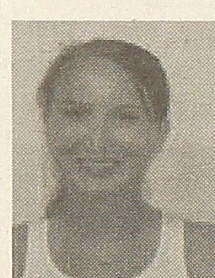


JJ Aurand (07)
Layout editor
Hometown: Perrysburg, OH
Favorite movie: Office Space



Kate Bruder (08)
Photographer
Favorite season: Winter
Favorite movie: Dridget Jones' Diary, Love Actually

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Amy Topham (07)
Staff Writer
Favorite color: Pink
Favorite animal: Penguin

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Laura Sach (07)
Staff Writer
Favorite TV show: The Kids in the Hall
Favorite smell: Fabric softener sheets

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Cassie Goodrich (07)
Staff Writer
Sign: Cancer
Hometown: Ouid, MI
Favorite Movies: Shawshank Redemption

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

Almanian Poll

Who would you vote for?

George W. Bush	42 votes	40.4%
John F. Kerry	36 votes	34.6%
Ralph Nader	0 votes	0.0%
Other	2 votes	1.9%
Undecided	24 votes	23.1%

Sample Size was 104 students

The Almanian greatly welcomes letters to the editor. Letters may be submitted by placing them in the envelope outside of the Almanian office or by emailing them to OpinionAlmanian@hotmail.com. Letters must be placed or sent before 5:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon to be eligible for the next issue. The following guidelines also apply:

1. Under no circumstances will anonymous letters be published.
 2. Letters containing profanity will not be published as well.
 3. The Almanian staff reserves the right to decide if and when to print all letters to the editor.
 4. We encourage all letters to be as constructive as possible and not simply personal attacks on other individuals.
- Thank you for your opinions and we look forward to them.

SPORTS

Best darn sports column ever

**MATTHELMUS
SPORTS EDITOR**

Another athletic year is well under way at Alma College which can only mean one thing: the return of this never-ending column. Many of the sports are already halfway through their season as this Almanian hits the shelf. The volleyball and football teams are still undefeated as they continue their march to MIAA titles and NCAA berths. Only time will tell if they can achieve this goal.

The football team is on a roll this year with the Scotgun being in full effect. The team has crushed their opponents so far. This past Saturday the Scots made the trip down to Illinois to get their second win over Aurora University. The stadium was not nearly as impressive as the display put on by the team. Also spectacular was the fact that Scots' fans outnumbered Spartan fans and were much louder. This week the Scots will take on Tiffin University, a Division II school, in their home opener. Hopefully they can continue their undefeated season.

The volleyball team is once again displaying the fact that they are the premier team in the MIAA. This week they defeated the ninth-ranked team in the country, Mount St. Joseph. They have now shown that they can compete at a national level, which should make the end of the season very exciting. They will take on Calvin and Albion this weekend. Calvin is the Scots' top competition in the MIAA.

On the national scene the Lions are also trying to keep a zero in their loss column. Luckily they opened the season against the Bears and Texans. Looking at the positive side, they only need 8 or so wins in their next 16 games to make the playoffs. I don't want to look too far ahead but it's a definite possibility.

One team not making the playoffs next year will be the RedWings. That may only be because no NHL team will make the playoffs as there will be no NHL season. The players are currently locked out by the owners. Many sports gurus predict that hockey as we know it will not exist after the lockout.

Scots win Mount St. Joseph Invitational to remain undefeated

**RACHEL DOTSON
STAFF WRITER**

Last Friday and Saturday the Alma varsity volleyball team once again showed what all of their hype has been about. After ousting top teams in four grueling matches, there is very little room to argue about the magnitude of the women's talent.

The Scots entered the Mount St. Joseph Invitational in Cincinnati, Ohio, with an undefeated record of 11-0 (3-0), and wanted nothing more than to keep the unbeaten streak alive. Their first match was against the Mount Union Raiders, who fell in just three games, giving up scores of 30-23, 30-19, and 30-27 to the Scots. Setting the pace for the Maroon and Cream were **Lindsey Baker (05)** with 39 assists, **Kristin Judson (05)** with 16 kills, and **Kerri Judson (05)** with 21 digs. Coming off of this huge win Alma moved on to its next victim, the Otterbein Cardinals. Domination was

again key, with Baker, Kerri Judson, Kristin Judson, **Caitlin Deis (06)**, and **Erin Fralick (06)** taking the team to 13-0.

On Saturday the team woke up with high expectations and immense focus for the task at hand. Alma wasted little time in their first match, dismissing Allegheny College in three short games. By this point the girls could almost taste the victory, with only one last team standing in their way—the Mount St. Joseph Lions.

Mount St. Union entered the gym with what appeared to be the upper hand, boasting not only home court advantage, but also a jaw-dropping ranking of ninth in the country. After dropping the first game 24-30 many teams would have mentally packed it in, but Alma was not fazed by these minor details. The girls came out in the second game ready to play some of their finest volleyball yet—and they did just that. Not only did the Scots capture the second game, but they did

it with room to spare, bettering the Lions by a whopping 12 points. The third game was an intensive battle, with both sides starting to feel a deep sense of urgency. The first team to 30 did not receive a win in this game, as extra points were needed to win by two. The Scots were the first to reach this spread, taking the win 33-31. In the fourth game, Alma sealed the deal in an equally amazing display of athletic ability and mental toughness. By the end of the match Baker had put up 53 assists, 5 kills, and 10 digs, with Kerri Judson adding 10 kills and 27 digs, and Kristin Judson adding 26 kills and 27 digs. Deis light it up from the service line with 4 aces, and also tallied 11 kills, 15 digs, and 4 blocks on the court.

After returning home from Ohio the undefeated spikers will shift their focus onto the long stretch of conference games that lie ahead, including matched against Calvin College on Wednesday, Olivet College on Thurs-

Battle-tested Scot golf team eager for return home

**COLIN M. WASILOFF
STAFF WRITER**

The men's golf team has already busted out the old sand-wedge and is going to work! With 11 returning golfers this fall, the squad certainly has not missed its tee time.

After finishing a lackluster fourth place in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the Scots will hope to improve this year. After losing standout All-MIAA graduates **Justin Desjarlais (04)** and **Ryan Munro (04)**, Coach Mark Starkweather will rely on his remaining three senior captains to lead the team.

Seniors **Brandon McNally (05)**, **Ryan Riley (05)**, and **Chad Vietzke (05)** will lead the team this fall along with experienced juniors **Nathan Moulton (06)**, **Greg Nelson (06)**, and **Corbin Swiastyn (06)**. The Scots will also benefit from the play of sophomores **Chris Lowry (07)** and **Jonathon Abent (07)**. New to the squad and adding to the mix this year are freshmen **Evan Kay (08)**, **Jason Latz (08)**, **Ryan Wilson (08)** and **Mike Yates (08)**. All will take their turn on the starting roster.

Golfers who will also be hitting the links this fall are alternates **Dave**

Burkart (06) and sophomores **Colin Mclean (07)** and **Steve Sanchez (07)**. For those who aren't familiar with college golf, alternates are to split time with starters.

The Scots opened their season at Albion's home course, the Medalist, and placed a disappointing sixth place with a stroke total of 337. Leaders for the round included Brandon McNally firing an 82 followed closely by Chris Lowry with an 83. Tri-State University's Jerid Winkle was the individual medalist with a three over par performance.

After recouping with the heart-breaker in Albion, the Scots took on Olivet's course, Bedford Valley Country Club, located in Battle Creek. The Scots once again placed sixth out of the pack with Ryan Riley placing atop the Alma squad with a 77 stroke performance. "We started out bad, and hopefully we can make up some ground," commented Riley.

On September 17, the men's team played Katke Golf Course, home of Division 2 Ferris State University. In the non-conference tournament, the Scot golfers were up to par, and were able to demonstrate their golf skills once again a day later at Tri-State University. The team placed decently in

this highly anticipated, hard fought match against the conference newcomers the Thunder.

The squad's next match, September 25, is also the team's one and only home match. Being played at Pine River Country Club, the golfers expect a huge turnout from the Alma College community.

Junior golfer Dave Burkart is particularly excited for this match. "It's always a big confidence booster to play on your home turf." Burkart went on to add "as long as we can go out and put four good scores together we should have a good chance of getting the 'W'."

The Pine River Country Club is located just west of campus at 1400 W. Superior, and the home meet will begin with a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. Co-captain Ryan Riley promises a great show. "We can very easily come out on top, we know the course very well. Look for Mike Yates to step up and play a great round," he said.

Be sure to stop by for some world class golf and to say hello to Coach Mark Starkweather, who is amidst his sixth season with Alma College. "He's a great coach and he really tries to motivate us," says co-captain Riley on behalf of the team.

SPORTS

Women's golf shoots for the green despite youth

COLIN M. WASILOFF
STAFF WRITER

Although the Alma College women's golf team is a few people short of normal, their appetite for victory is enormous. With a team consisting of only five golfers, the women's golf team has had no choice other than to set their goals high this season.

This year's squad is made up of a mere five members, none of which are senior status. Leading the team this fall is **Abbey French (06)** from Brighton High School. Sophomores **Kristina Schwab**, **Megan Stevenson**, and **Mary Kate Lesko** will tee off not far behind. The lone freshman representing the class of 2008, **Erica Lynch**, has already proven a large impact on the young Scots.

"As a team we worked hard in practice," Lynch commented on her 177-stroke two day performance at the Division II Ferris State Bulldog Invitational this past Labor Day. Lynch actually

only has one year of previous experience, and that was on her high school men's team! Erica was happy to add that studying the course was essential to her great day on the links.

The women's team ranked 18 overall, and is already on its way to improvement. "We're definitely going to improve," comments the only freshman on the team. "The people on our team are good enough so we can be competitive with only five golfers."

Coach Charlie Goffnet entered his 14th season coaching the Scots this fall with perhaps his youngest team in years. Coach Goffnet has a habit of taking teams to the top, as he coached the Women's basketball team to the NCAA Division III championship in 1992.

"This year we have a great bunch, and they are really fun to work with," remarks Goffnet on the 2004 squad. "We're comfortable with what we have. Five (golfers) is enough because we only count four scores." Goffnet added that French has been playing solidly along with sophomore counter-parts Steven-

son and Lesko. However, Goffnet seems to be most obliged to boast about freshman standout Lynch.

"She really was a pleasant surprise and such a fast learner," Goffnet adds. "All of our girls this year are ready to rise to the challenge of our goals. Everyone is working hard at it." What are these goals? To average 350 to 360 total strokes, and come in 4 place in the MIAA. Factor in the loss of 2003 all MIAA golfer Courtney Rhinehardt to off campus study, and the odds seem to stack even higher.

But the team will not relent. With 5 hard working student-athletes, an optimistic coach, and a great following the Scots cannot go wrong this fall. Although their season is almost over, be sure to check them out at Tri-State on September 25 and at the MIAA championships held in Battle Creek on October 8-9. "We always do our best to support the girls team; we wish them the best," commented senior men's co-captain Ryan Riley.

Men's soccer team working for first victory under new coach

RACHEL CASTLE
STAFF WRITER

Pulling through a rough schedule of non-conference games, the Alma College men's soccer team is has a hopeful future. "We definitely have promise," says **Wes Rasdorf (05)**.

While the team has a lot of individual talent and feels that there is not much standing in the way of a win, the stats show things in an honest light; the team has lost all six games they have played.

Why can't such a talented team pull themselves together for a victory? This is a question that the players themselves are still trying to figure out. While they believe in themselves, something still prevents them from putting the ball in the net. "We've shown that we have the ability to play

other teams by almost beating the team ranked ninth in the nation. We're just not capitalizing on our opportunities to score," comments **Dave Hensen (08)**. **Nick Kost (07)** agrees, "At times we've played unbelievably well. We just need to find out why we all played so well and do that more often."

As they enter their season and begin to play conference teams, many players seem encouraged by their new beginning awaiting them on Wednesday. "We'll start with a clean slate going into conference. We played a lot of tough teams going into the season" says Rasdorf, who believes in his team's ability to push themselves toward improvement and victory. "We probably outwork every team in the conference."

Scott Snyder (08) agrees, "we'll prove ourselves in the conference. We've had a tough time in the preseason."

Kyle Jean (05) hopes for "a good game, a good result in our conference. Hopefully we can build from there." **Nate Weinrauch (08)**, who has the rest of his collegiate experience before him, sees the team doing nothing but improving in the years to come. "We have good group of guys, as well as a lot of young talent. I think we can do really well in the future."

The Scots have a new coach this season, Tim Groves, who declined to comment. Coach Groves, who is known for pushing his players, is blessed with a team that likes to be worked hard. "He puts fear in me, in a good way. I respect him so much," says Kost.

The Scots will be playing Calvin on Wednesday in Grand Rapids. Their next home game will be October 6 against Hope College at 4 p.m.

MIAA Standings

FOOTBALL

	MIAA	PF-PA
Adrian	2-0	58-14
Albion	1-1	13-52
ALMA	2-0	97-14
Hope	1-1	35-55
K'zoo	0-2	19-56
Olivet	2-0	141-83
Tri-State	0-2	3-88
Wisc. Luth	0-3	21-92

VOLLEYBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Calvin	5-0	9-1
K'zoo	4-0	11-5
ALMA	3-0	15-0
Adrian	3-1	6-7
Albion	3-2	6-7
Hope	1-3	6-5
St. Mary's	1-5	1-6
Olivet	0-4	4-9
Tri-State	0-5	1-12

MEN'S SOCCER

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

WOMEN'S SOCCER

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

Send your opinions to the Almanian at almanian@hotmail.com!

SPORTS

Scots trounce Spartans 45-0



photo courtesy of Erik Sanborn

This weekend the Alma College football team travelled to the suburbs of Chicago to pick up a win over the Aurora Spartans. The "Scotgun" offense was in full effect as the Scots steamrolled up and down the field all day. The defense blanked Aurora, rushing to tackles, fumbles and interceptions.

Quarterback **Josh Brehm (07)** led the Scots, completing 22 of 38 passes and 5 touchdowns. He was named the MIAA Offensive Player of the Week for his success.

The Scots will play their home opener this week against Division 2 Tiffin University. Parents Day will also be celebrated. The Scots will then delve into their conference schedule.

MIAA PRESEASON FOOTBALL POLL

1. Hope (11) - 40 points
2. Albion (5) - 60 points
3. Adrian (4) - 71 points
4. Alma (4) - 79 points
5. Olivet - 127 points
6. Wisconsin Lutheran - 140 points
7. Kalamazoo (1) - 148 points
8. Tri-State - 171 points

Congratulations to the 2003-04 MIAA Team GPA Honorees!

- Women's Golf - 3.59
- Alma Men's Tennis - 3.46
- Alma Women's Tennis - 3.46
- Alma Women's Swimming and Diving - 3.44
- Alma Women's Track and Field - 3.43
- Alma Women's Cross Country - 3.39
- Alma Women's Soccer - 3.36

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, SEPT. 21

7 p.m. - Presidential Forum (Dr. Luetke-meier's Home)

7 p.m. - Presidential Forum (Dr. Tracy's Home)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 22

1 p.m. - Women's Golf @ Kalamazoo

4 p.m. - Men's Soccer @ Olivet

6:30 p.m. - Volleyball Home v. Calvin

FRIDAY, SEPT. 24

3:30 p.m. - Forum on South Africa (SAC 109)

SATURDAY, SEPT. 25

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Parents Day

11 a.m. - Men's and Women's Cross Country MIAA Jamboree @ Hope

Noon - Women's Soccer Home v. Kalamazoo

1 p.m. - Volleyball Home v. Albion

1 p.m. - Women's Golf @ Kalamazoo

1:30 p.m. - Men's Golf Home MIAA Jamboree

2 p.m. - Men's Soccer Home v. Kalamazoo

3 p.m. - Football Home v. Tiffin

SUNDAY, SEPT. 26

7 p.m. - Presidential Forum (Dr. Furlong's Home)

7:30 p.m. - Presidential Forum (Fireside Lounge)

9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Service

MONDAY, SEPT. 27

4 p.m. - Presidential Forum (Chapel Lounge)