

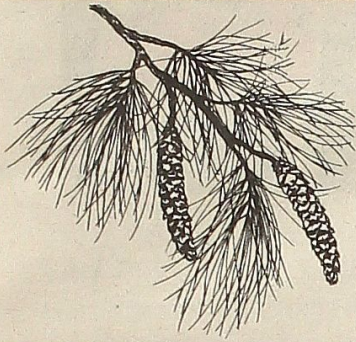
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The Almanian

Superfund site still a concern

JON MORRIS
STAFF WRITER

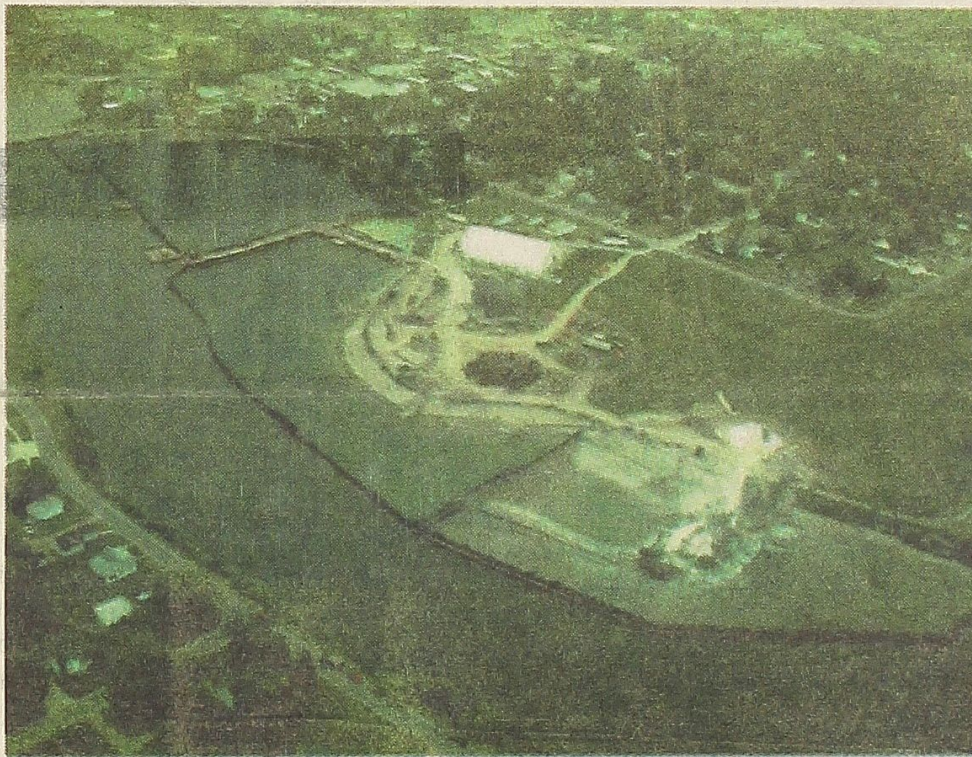
Many students here at Alma College know that there are some very serious problems with the environment, and many of us also know that there are some environmental problems here in Alma and in the surrounding Gratiot County area. What you may not know is just how serious these environmental problems are, and how many people in the surrounding area these problems have affected.

Recently Ed Lorenz, Professor of History and Political Science, and Director of Public Affairs, took a group of students to the Superfund site in St. Louis, for an educational tour followed by the monthly community meeting. This month was special because, according to Lorenz

after “four years of trying to get the Center for Disease Control” to visit Gratiot County and conduct a health study, Lorenz said, “we petitioned the Center for Disease Control to do a health assessment, they got back to us, and accepted our petition.” Two representatives from the Center for Disease Control were attending the meeting to hear a presentation from the community on the health concerns and recommendations for action in a health assessment. The main concerns presented by the community involved the contaminants DDT(pesticide) and PBB(flame retardant) and many others from production processes, and residue from the 3 Superfund sites and one radioactive waste site.

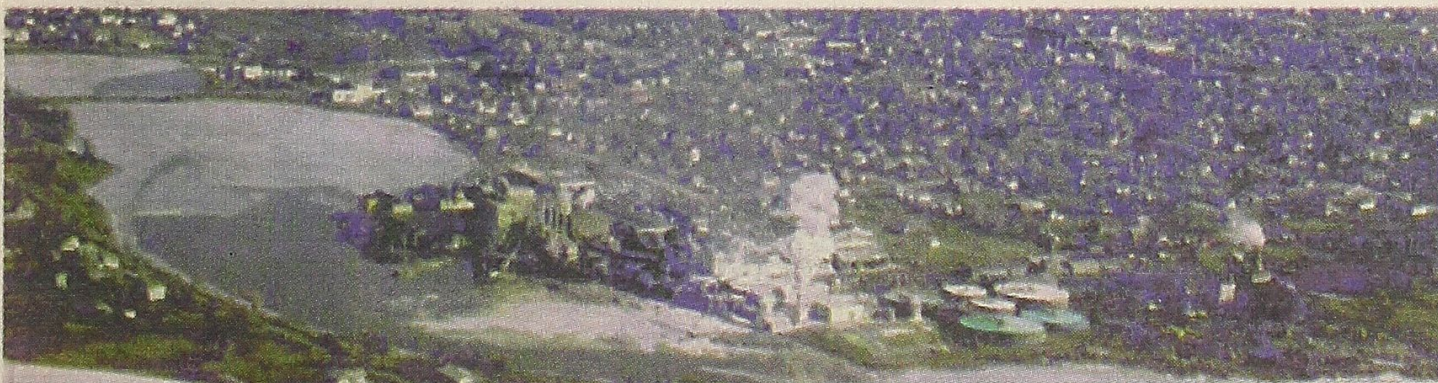
Lorenz is assured that right now

see **SUPERFUND** page 3



The Superfund site recently in 2003.

photo courtesy of Ed Lorenz



The Superfund site back in 1970.

photo courtesy of Ed Lorenz

College professor's play sets tone for upcoming spring term

AMY TOPHAM
STAFF WRITER

Imagine if you can a cemetery covered with foliage, the paths so overgrown and unrecognizable you are unsure if you are even on the path. Graves and plot markers are covered with greenery, making it almost impossible to tell if they are even there. Your job is to uncover the path and re-open these lost areas of the cemetery to the community. Four hours a day

you work hard to clean the cemeteries' paths, and all of this is done as part of your spring term class in Poland.

John Arnold, Professor of German Language and Robert Vivian, Professor of English made this trip to Poland in the spring of 2003. They took 18 Alma College students with them to work in the cemetery of Wroclaw, Poland. The students' task was to uncover the overgrown paths of the cemetery for the Jewish community of Wroclaw.

Since 1999, Alma College students have gone to Wroclaw to help recapture the paths that make their way through the cemetery. The Jewish cemetery was built in 1903 and consists of 30-35 acres of land.

As part of the service learning of the spring term class, students work each day to clear foliage and make the paths recognizable once more. The students do not only spend their

See **PLAY** page 3

Money Talks

This week, I will be continuing a subject I brought up last week on how the rich people make so much money and more importantly how they keep that money protected.

To start on this topic I will ask that you remember two very important things: 1.To be rich, you must pay yourself first 2. Instead of working for money, you must make your money work for you.

By paying yourself first, I mean taking whatever portion of income you have planned to save, invest, or spend out of your paycheck before you pay your bills. You must find a way to pay yourself first, and typically saving 10-15% of your income is a good place to start. This is not as easy as it sounds, but if you can find some way to do it,

see **MONEYTALKS** page 3

Election News

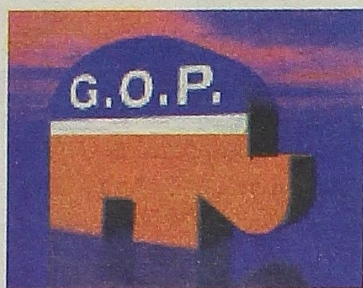


photo courtesy of www.ngop.org/wallpaper.html

Bush v. Kerry On The Issues



photo courtesy of tubes.ominix.com

Bush's education plan: *Current administration having trouble making the grade with No Child Left Behind*

MEGAN JARCZYNSKI
STAFF WRITER

With America's sons and daughters at war in the Middle East, much of the 2004 presidential campaign has its focus on foreign relations and terrorism. This leaves the average college student wondering, "Is my education still a priority?"

Although not in the limelight, president George W. Bush does have a plan for improving the educational system. The brain child for Bush's educational plan is the No Child Left Behind Act. Bush promises the program "will ensure college students are better prepared, provided greater access to college, and are more successful in completing post-secondary education." The execution of this plan is not as simple as it seems, however. There is significant controversy surrounding the act.

Signed into effect in 2001, No Child Left Behind is a program geared toward students in grades K-12. It implements ideas such as giving competitive grants to schools that offer extra help to students who fall behind in reading and math. In addition, it plans to expand advanced placement courses for low income schools. It also requests that schools give the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) a test that ensures graduating students have sufficient skills to achieve success in post-secondary education or careers.

Not all feel these programs are a sufficient answer to the problems facing our education system. Molly Huber (01), a teacher in the Lakeview School District, makes a point in wake of the debate. "While the idea behind the act is good, it is unrealistic to say that all students must reach a nationally set standard. In fact, it might have an opposite effect on students...making them feel unsuccessful or unable to obtain a certain level or score."

The No Child Left Behind Act may not only put strain on students but on teachers and faculty as well. Huber continues her point, "It is impossible for a teacher to get all students on the same level. Good teachers who care about their students can only do their best to work with the child's ability, and get them to the highest personal achievement level."

Current Alma College students also feel the concern over education in the 2004 election. Joey Burgam (07) stated her concern for the execution of the plans saying, "I not only feel that many of the points in President Bush's No Child Left Behind Act are unrealistic, I also feel the money to make the program happen does not exist. Many politicians, republicans and democrats alike, say education is a top priority, but until they start allocating the proper funds and begin making realistic plans for education, they don't really care about the future of our country."

With the focus of No Child Left Behind being high school and elementary students, president Bush is hoping to offer college students increased financial aid. In the 2005 Fiscal year, Bush promises \$73.1 billion for student financial aid, an increase from the 2001 FY by \$25.9 billion. He also proposes reduced interest rates for student loans, expanded repayment options, and increased student loan limits. In addition to financial aid assistance, president Bush offers students an alternative way of paying for college through the AmeriCorps. This allows students to fund college through public service.

Stronger education in America: the Kerry-Edward's plan

AMY TOPHAM
STAFF WRITER

In this election year, the candidates are covering many issues and some may seem more important than others. However, no college student could disagree with how important the issue of education and the price it takes to receive one is.

Dave Hensen (08) said, "I am voting for Kerry because I don't like the job Bush has done in the past four years."

Kerry wants to see 1.5 million more Americans enrolled in college by 2009.

Kerry plans on establishing a National Education Fund that would ensure that schools get the money they need to guarantee a great education. Kerry wants to make college more affordable, so everyone can have the opportunity to receive higher education. He has a plan that will ensure that higher education can be obtained by multiple ways.

Pat Cassidy (07) said, "I feel that Kerry has strong suggestion on improving the affordability of higher education. I believe that he sees the importance of education in furthering our economy and also sees monumental importance in providing future leadership."

Kerry's GEAR UP program would prepare high school students for college by expanding tutoring, mentoring and college preparation classes to better prepare students for their collegiate journey.

The College Opportunity Tax credit is a \$50 billion tax credit that ensures that students get advance payments for college tuition to ensure students get the resources they need. This credit would give up to \$4,000 a year for four years to students to help pay for tuition. Laura Riegger '07 said "I really like the idea of a \$4,000 tax cut for college students that would really make college more affordable."

On the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA), Kerry would like to see the form more understandable and available to juniors so that they can get a head start on preparing for college costs. The modified FAFSA form would not require students to reproduce information that the government already has, it would include all Federal Support in the aid estimates, and it would reduce error and fraud earlier in the process, and make it possible to learn about all sources available for financial aid earlier.

Kerry plans to modernize financial aid to benefit working adults and encourage community colleges and businesses to collaborate and make it possible to further the training for working Americans. In addition he wants to stop the rising price of tuition by ensuring that colleges do not raise their tuition any greater than inflation increases.

Emily Zimostrad (07) said, "I really appreciate the emphasis that Kerry has put on youth in this election. He has made it clear he wants to make college more affordable for all who want a higher education. This is something that should have come along way sooner, as the cost of college has risen by 35% over the last three years."

Kerry would like to start the Service for College program that will allow young people the chance of four years of college education for free for two years of service to the United States, whether that be working in the health field, in a school, or protecting America. He also wants to ensure that once you start college, you complete it. College competitions have fallen by 54% and Kerry wants to stop this trend by setting up better counseling and support services.

News

Preservation Hall; worth the wait

CASSIE GOODRICH
STAFF WRITER

In a way, they have groupies, fans that follow them around during their annual four-month tour. Ask anyone who has seen their live performance what they think about it, and they rarely have anything negative to say. The show clearly does not disappoint. Unfortunately, Alma College will have to revel in anticipation a while longer because the Preservation Hall Jazz Band will be delaying their Heritage Center performance until February 17, 2005.

Originally, the band was set to play at the College on October 2 in Presbyterian Hall. The members are delaying this performance because one of their band mates is unable to attend. The good news is that they will definitely be worth the wait.

The Preservation Hall Jazz Band hails from Louisiana, and their sound is classic Big Easy jazz. Mainly a brass ensemble, they reflect the excitement and soul of New Orleans. The band got its name from the historic Preservation Hall, located in the heart of the French Quarter, where they spend most of the year practicing and performing for tourists, musicians, and jazz lovers. The building itself is in poor condition, but that's mostly because the band and the community like it as it is. It often adds to the experience, allowing listeners to transport themselves into another time. Louis Armstrong said once "Preservation Hall, now that's where you'll find all the greats." This band embodies the spirit of jazz.

This won't be the first time Preservation Hall Jazz Band has performed at Alma. Fran Groves, the faculty secretary for Theater and Dance and box office manager at Alma, revealed that the band came to campus years ago, before the construction of the Heritage Center. They performed in the Chapel and had people dancing in the aisles. "They're great," Groves said, after grinning for a moment, searching for the right words, "They really are great."

Dave Young, the Heritage Center Technical Director, explained how the College found Preservation Hall, "The band was selected by the co-curricular committee last spring, which is made up of a handful of faculty, administrators, and support staff."

Committee members are interested in broadening the horizons of students by bringing groups like the Preservation Hall Jazz Band to campus and do so at a low cost. Tickets are free for students and \$8 for everyone else, a fraction of the cost of tickets at some other venues.

As the director of student activities and co-chair of the co-curricular committee, Dave Blandford, whose responsibility is to "contact the [band's] agents and bring them to campus," was not too upset about the concert delay because it means that the band will now be performing around Mardi Gras.

The timing couldn't be more perfect.

For more information on the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, check out their website at www.preservationhall.com.

SUPERFUND from page 1

the water is safe to drink, and the real problems are south of Alma in St. Louis. DDT and PBB are still very dangerous contaminants however, in the presentation given to the Center for Disease Control, a 1988 preliminary health assessment done by ATSDR Studies showed that "occupational exposure to many harmful contaminants, including PBB and DDT, has occurred and exposure to the general population may possibly still be occurring via ingestion of contaminated fish and wildlife." Lorenz and the community are waiting for a response from the Center for Disease Control on whether or not a health study will be conducted, but he is very optimistic that the community has presented a very strong case, and shown an excessive need for the study to be done.

With many involved students graduating last year, Lorenz said that, "we

need to get a new group of students involved."

There many ways for students to get involved with the community project. It doesn't matter what your major is, because there are so many things that can be worked on and discovered in every field of study. Talking with Kelly Gildersleeve, a member of SUN(Students United for Nature), she said, "it would be great to get more students involved in SUN and then as a result have them work with the community to better the situation with Velsicol, and the Superfund sites." If you are interested in joining SUN there are meetings every Monday at 8pm in the basement of Bruske hall. If you are interested in attending community meetings and learning more about the environmental problems facing our community there are meeting every third Wednesday of the month in Sac 103 at 3pm, and at 7pm at the St. Louis City Hall.

MONEYTALKS from page 1

your financial goals will be much easier to achieve.

Many people in this world live paycheck to paycheck, they can't afford to save even 5% of their income because their expenses are too high, and they are living beyond their means. This is the so called "American Dream," having the 4 cars, the big house, and the nice vacations. I call this, "working for money" because life of this individual is dependent on them working for their paycheck to continue their lifestyle. Rich people do work for money, but once they earn money, they make that money work for them. A person, who has achieved financial freedom, is a person who can make money without actually physically working to earn it. For example, most doctors make a very good living; however they only make money while they are physically there at the office doing exams, or surgeries. Their income is limited, and if that is their only source of income, they work for money. A good example of how a doctor could make their money work for them would be if the doctor were to own the office building he or she works in, and rented out any extra office spaces to other doctors. That way the doctor has other income coming in without physically producing that income, and that's what it takes to achieve financial freedom.

Now that I've covered some basic ideas and practices rich people live by, I will briefly discuss some of the basic ways they protect the money they

make. The biggest difference between someone who is rich and someone who is upper-middle class is how they pay their taxes. The smartest way to protect your money is to establish a corporation. Some people are scared of the word corporation, and think that it could never apply to them, that it would take too much money to start one, or that they couldn't possibly run a corporation themselves. A corporation is technically a file folder in your attorney's file cabinet, filled with a few legal documents that have licensed you with the state. A corporation is the best way to shelter your assets from taxation. There are many benefits for corporations when you consider taxes, estate planning, and even retirement planning for yourself in the future.

The rich are rich because they keep their money protected, and they find tax-efficient ways to finance their expenses, and their lifestyles. Next week I will be talking about how to build your investments and your life from the bottom up; firm foundations are important. Until then, think about what kind of life you want to live, think about what things you want to accomplish, and what you want to have, and think about the people you know who you would consider rich or successful, and how they achieved their financial goals. You can learn a lot from people who are already successful, they have proven methods of success and when you know enough of those people, you can chose a style that fits you best.

PLAY from page 1

time working in the cemetery but also traveling around Poland to historical landmarks of WWII. The students visit Prague, the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, and the factory owned by the famous Oscar Schindler, who saved the lives of many Jewish people.

Students are encouraged to ask why this should affect them and how is this still relevant today. Arnold answered this question, saying, "It is scarily still relevant today."

After the spring term in 2003, Vivian decided he needed to capture the experience that he had. Arnold lovingly put into reason why Vivian chose to write a play about his time in Poland. "He is not a visual guy," Arnold said, "He is a word guy." Such a powerful experience could not be captured by photographs, videotape, or scrapbooks for Vivian. He was to capture his experience through words.

When discussing the topic of writing about his trip, Vivian explains how difficult it was. "The experience is so overwhelming and powerful," he said, "It's completely daunting."

Vivian started writing about his trip two or three months after his return. He tried writing in a poetic essay form but it didn't turn out the way he wanted it to, so he changed it to a play. Vivian wanted to capture the physical, spiritual, and educational aspects of the trip, but he did not want to sound overly dramatic. Instead, he wanted to honor such a humbling experience.

The play is to be used as an educational tool to help the students that are interested in the experience to realize what is going to be asked of them and what is to be expected. The play is one act and takes about 30 to 40 minutes to perform. It is to be used as a way to "frame the experience that makes sense to me," Vivian explained. He hopes that it will affect others in the same way.

Vivian and Arnold will be holding an informational meeting on Tuesday September 28th in Jones Auditorium at 7:00p.m. Specific information about the spring term course will be discussed. Vivian will be reading his play informally, with help from students. Refreshments will also be available.

FEATURE

The 10 mile man

CASSIE GOODRICH
STAFF WRITER

Professor Tim Sipka tells me near the beginning of the interview that he hates running. His eyes light up with youthful enthusiasm when he explains that his wife is a runner, and he enjoys the extra time they get to spend together. "If there's a goal out there," he adds, "like to run in a race, like the CRIM, then it's a little bit more interesting and when you work for something like that, it makes [running] a little more enjoyable."

As an associate professor of mathematics and computer science at Alma for 25 years, Professor Sipka is both well known and liked around campus. After meeting him, it's easy to see why. When I ask him for an interview about his running, he laughingly wonders who told The Almanian he ran in the 10 mile race in Flint's CRIM Festival of races on August 28th, but is more than happy to tell me what he can.

For the last for years, Professor Sipka participated in Flint's CRIM Festival of

Races, a series of run/walk events held in the city to benefit several charities, such as the Michigan Special Olympics.

Warming to the subject of running, Professor Sipka informs me that the CRIM has several races, including a 5k, but the longest is the 10 miles. To train for this event this year, he ran three or four times a week with his wife, but the self described "fair weather" runner laughingly assures me he did not engage in any serious training, which he has done more in the past. With approximately 6,600 entries into the 10 mile race alone, it took him approximately eight minutes to even reach the starting line at the beginning of the race. The course is set up so that participants run in various locals in various locals and terrains within the city of Flint.

"[My] two favorite parts of the race are very different," he explains. "There's a fraternity in Flint, and... they're handing out beer. Now this is 8:30 in the morning mind you, and I have to laugh. Now I want to make it clear I never stop, I don't drink beer... There's always a

church we run by and they always have a choir out there and they're singing church hymns, and I look forward to that."

This year Professor Sipka's finished in 1:53:51, 393 out of 466 in his age group, although when adjusted for when he actually reached the starting line, it took him 1:48:30 to finish the race. His attitude is not surprising to Angie Keys (05), who comments that after taking several classes with Professor Sipka and working with him on other occasions, "He's passionate in life and determined in everything that he does."

Professor Sipka plans on running the race next year with his wife, and although he is quick to insist that what he did was no big deal, I have to disagree. Not many of us would run in a 10 mile race, including myself, so it seems important that we give this man the recognition that he most assuredly deserves.

Long-standing club undergoing facelift

LAURA SACHJEN
STAFF WRITER

The Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) is a group that has existed on campus for more than 20 years, and it is back in business after having gone through a period of inactivity.

"We're trying to get more active on campus," ACM President Charles "Stu" Bachner (06) said. They are trying to raise more awareness about computer-related issues on campus. In the past, the group focused more on benefiting the community rather than students.

ACM is a national professional organization for Computer Science that has student clubs at colleges all across the country. It is a group for professionals dedicated to the advancement of information technology.

The organization consists primarily of Computer Science majors and minors and several Resident Computer Consultants (RCCs), but they do not account for all of its members.

Myles McNally, Professor and Chair of Mathematics and Computer Science, See ACM on page 6

Homecoming Week 2004

Tuesday (October 5th) Activities Night

Time: 6:30pm
Place: Behind Stone Rec. Center

Human Pyramid

- Winning Organization \$50

Ice-cream Pool

- Assorted Prizes

Eating Contest

- Assorted Prizes

Tug of War

- Winning Organization \$50

Raffle Prize Drawing for Crowd

Thursday (October 7th) Movie Night

Time: Beginning at Dusk
Place: Chapel Lawn

"50 First Dates"

Starring: Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore

Friday (October 8th) Offkilter Concert

Time: 8:00pm
Place: Cappaert Gymnasium

-Celtic Rock Band-

- From: Orlando, Florida
Permanent Act at Disney World and many major Southern Universities
- Student Tickets: \$5.00

Bonfire

Time: Immediately following Concert
Place: Behind Wilcox Medical Center

Music and Refreshments

Banner Contest

- 1st place: 200 dollars
- 2nd place: 125 dollars
- 3rd place: 75 dollars

Saturday (October 9th) Parade

Time: 11:00am
Place: Superior St.

Float Contest

- 1st place: 200 dollars
- 2nd place: 125 dollars
- 3rd place: 75 dollars

Football Game

Time: 1:30pm
Place: Bahlke Field

Crowning of 2004 Homecoming King and Queen

Soccer Game

Time: 1:30pm
Place: Scotland Yard on Charles A

FEATURE

The Demanding Viewers

BRENDAN GILFORD
STAFF WRITER

*This review may cause tingling, blood-shot eyes, muscular atrophy, foaming at the mouth, and sudden appetite for human flesh.

This week: "Resident Evil 2: Apocalypse"

We came into the Alma Neighborhood Cinema with high hopes for this film. Which was sure to be a smash-hit cult classic cliché ridden masterpiece. The first "Resident Evil" with its death-defying complexity seemed to pose no threat to our understanding of this long anticipated sequel despite the fact that we had never heard of the film before in our lives.

However, the video game franchise of the same name was so scary, Sarcasmo briefly considered bringing extra shorts to the theater in case of emergency. I will admit that the movie made me scream twice without provocation although it was followed by raucous laughter.

This would be an appropriate time to mention that out of the two hundred and fifty odd seats, our butts were the only ones who actually were present to enjoy the film. The film gained a new level of interactivity because we both could freely yell at characters on screen to advise to "Look out!" or "Shoot him in the head some more!" Sadly, most characters were stubborn and refused to take our advice. One can hope that their movie agents are more persuasive about career choices in the future.

Milla Jovovich gives the performance of her lifetime in this film. Between the two of us, we have seen nearly 80% of her film career. While it is ghastly in general, this part was made for her. Why you ask? Because who else could possibly think that the Resident Evil franchise could be a winner, not once, but twice, despite never actually having ANY acting. We digress.

Jovovich's character is a super-human disease-ridden killing machine with a heart of gold. To say any more would give away the intense plot that keeps you on the edge of insanity as you are constantly pointing out to your friends that A) The plot holes are big enough for her monster-truck demon brother to drive a motorcycle through (Teaser!) and B) Everyone in the film except her has a European accent.

Director Alexander Witt, who has never actually directed a film before, despite working extensively as a sec-

ond-unit director of photography in numerous films, cannot seem to find a suitable way to make this movie not be worthless. It came to our attention that

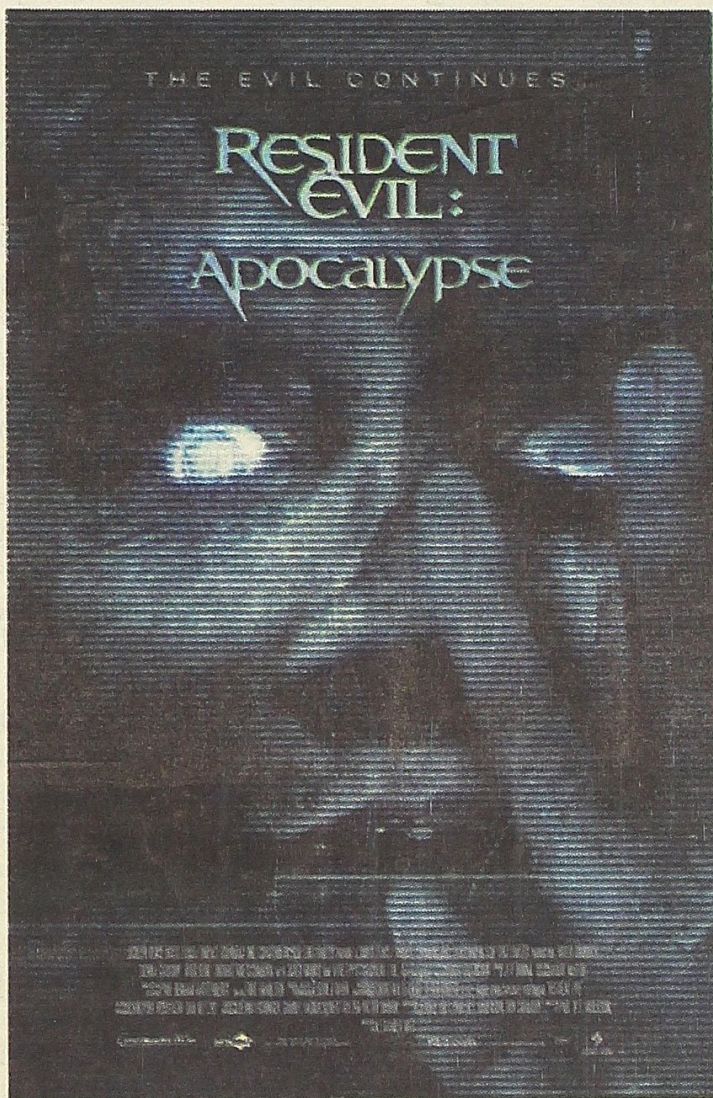


Photo courtesy of <http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/residentevilapocalypse/postercontest/vote/images/1241.jpg>

this series actually has a decent fan base. You are all wrong.

The producers (of which I am sure there are at least 250) decided on a

classy tagline of "My name is Alice and I remember everything." Naturally, having not seen the first film, we do not remember anything.

A better line to be used for this film would be: "Why do lead bullets from movie-set handguns seem so effective at killing things that were just brought back from the dead by an evil Austrian, Toys R' Us-esque mega conglomeration bent on continually depopulating a little place we like to call "Raccoon City."

One enjoyable and quite cinematically brilliant feature of this tour de force is the subtle of a film technique that we like call "Red scary look vision" in which the viewpoint of the monster is utilized (first made popular in the film "Predator" starring the current Governor of California). This break-taking style amply suggests to the discerning viewer that momentarily something is going to get gobbled.

Other notable features include Scott Farkus from "A Christmas Story" being eaten alive by zombie Doberman pinchers after making multiple dog-puns in a middle school. (What were Dobermans doing in a middle school anyway?) Aliens from "Alien", Robocop, and Sloth from "The Goonies" melded together to form a real gentlemen (For the ladies out there). Finally, the producers of this movie, in lieu of scripting, spent millions on a special edition of "The Raccoon Times" newspaper that each viewer receives prior to attending this magnum opus.

We give this film two rotting, maggot-covered thumbs down!

WQAC turns up the volume

Student-run radio station offers new programs, returning favorites

CASSIE GOODRICH
STAFF WRITER

As a new semester gets under way, 90.9 WQAC The Duck is once again bringing high quality music and DJs to the airwaves. The station does not confine itself to only one brand of music, and it is easy to see how much dedication the staff puts into the operation.

Is that not enough motivation for you to listen? Then consider that "it's the only station in the area that plays up and coming college rock," according to Justin Fox (05), the business director for WQAC and co-host of both classic and college rock programs.

Along with several new programs, the "Most Eclectic Show Ever" is back, filled with what Cailaen Dinwoody (05) calls an "interesting variety of radio personality" that makes it irresistible



Photo courtesy of <http://www.alma.edu/organizations/>

to college listeners. Dinwoody is the programming director for the station this year and is one of the hosts of the show, which runs from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesday nights.

Missy Ricketts (06), who has been a DJ for WQAC for about two years, encourages students to tune into her show Friday nights from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., where she plans on playing mostly alternative music "from bands like Story of the Year, probably some Squirtgun, Flogging Molly, [and most likely] some

Living End."

Besides new talent and new shows, general manager of the station Andrew McCracken (05) adds that WQAC is attempting to implement other changes. For instance, the station "is trying to purchase new broadcasting equipment, because our current equipment was used when we bought it 12 years ago." According to McCracken, they are trying to develop new incentive programs for DJs, which the radio station is always in need of at the beginning of the se-

mester.

"Mornings are always difficult to fill with rotations, but afternoons and evenings are pretty solid with scheduling [for this semester]," McCracken commented.

So, how can interested students join this group of individuals whose mission is to provide Alma College students with musical variety? McCracken advises those who wish to become DJs to contact either Dinwoody or himself, or leave a message at extension 7095.

Whether it's sitting in the booth controlling the airwaves or just sitting back and listening to the shows, take a little time to enjoy The Duck.

FEATURE

Students Guinea Pigs in Professor's Therapeutic Pre-term Class

AMY TOPHAM
STAFF WRITER

The sound of drums could be heard throughout the chapel this pre-term, as eighteen first-year students banged away on drums as part of their pre-term class led by Dr. Maurie Luetkemeier with the assistance of Rev. Christine Vogel, co-facilitator, and student, Joey Burgam (07).

The students met in the chapel, sitting in a circle, and would play a rhythm started by Dr. Luetkemeier. Burgam gave the students a twenty-question survey rating their level of anxiety before they started drumming, and the same survey was given when they completed their drumming for the day. "Drumming is always fun," she said, noting that their anxiety levels did decrease. This was only a preliminary study that needs more controls put on it if done again.

Dr. Luetkemeier has been a drummer since an early age. "I'm a scientist first of all but a drummer too," he said. He got his first drum when he was eleven and it was love at first rhythm.

Dr. Luetkemeier had read literature telling of how drumming can be therapeutic for multiple groups. Research on treatments for MS (multiple sclerosis), Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, depression and even for building self-esteem in problematic children have all shown its therapeutic qualities. Dr. Luetkemeier noted this in his own life, feeling better and less stressed after a session of drumming.

And so a pre-term class was born. A year ago, Dr. Luetkemeier proposed this

idea and received a grant from Service Learning. The grant money was used to buy drums for the class. The class was the history of drumming, research on anxiety levels, service to the community of Alma (a trip to the Michigan Masonic Retirement Home), and creativity rolled into one.

An hour to an hour and half was devoted to drumming. A dominate beat was started and the students would join in by contributing their own beat to the dominant one. When it came to adding your own rhythm to the established rhythm, Dr. Luetkemeier explained it like this, "contributing to a beat, with your hands, feet, whatever, it is like an extension of yourself, a way to express what you feel through song."

During these sessions of drumming, the students were told to visualize what they were playing. As they played their drums, Dr. Luetkemeier would read from various novels, such as *Roots* by Alex Haley. The students were told to mentally visualize what was being read to them and add their own beat as a way to express what they were seeing in their minds.

The drum sessions were meant to allow students to open up and to feel more relaxed with each other and themselves. Drumming sessions can lead to bearing one's soul and often is a way to relieve stress and pain, whether that is mentally or physically. It was for this reason that Rev. Christine Vogel was a co-facilitator.

Rev. Vogel is trained in counseling, and she was present during some of the drumming sessions in case anyone

would need to talk. "[Drumming] is a wonderful way for students to get in touch with meditative and prayerful qualities in an unusual form" she stated.

On the Wednesday of pre-term week, the drumming class made a trip to Michigan Masonic Homes, a retirement home in Alma. The class went over to the retirement home to play drums with the residents. Since research on drumming has shown to help those with MS (multiple sclerosis), Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, the retirement home was a good place to test those findings.

Eighty people, eighteen students, Dr. Luetkemeier, Joey Burgam and sixty residences of the retirement home all joined in one large circle and played drums. "It was real crazy at times, we didn't have enough drums for everyone, residents were falling asleep," Dr. Luetkemeier said of the trip, "there were two to three residences to every student, but in the end the students were really getting into it and so were the residences."

During the week, the students also went to Respic of Alma, an organization where children with various handicaps can go so their parents can have a hour or two of free time. "The students handled the situation with a high level of maturity," stated Dr. Luetkemeier, "five kids there had Autism. Some people would have gotten terribly frustrated with these kids but the students were very helpful and interacted with them like they were equals."

The level of maturity and compassion grew over the week with the eighteen students. Rev. Vogel saw a difference

in the students as well. "They seemed comfortable using the drums as an extension of themselves" and would "absolutely recommend" this pre-term to next year's incoming freshmen. Rev. Vogel plans on having a healing service that includes drums during all Saint's Day this year as well.

The students got to make drums and got to keep the drums they made at the end of the class. It took them almost four days to make their own drums. Wooden drum shells were bought in Mt. Pleasant and they all had to be sanded, which took a few days, oiled, and then a goat skin was stretched over the head of the drum and tightened down with cording.

The drums came in all shapes and sizes, each with its own unique sound to be discovered within it. "It's very therapeutic to string a drum, trying to find its sound," Dr. Luetkemeier said, "At first the drum will sound hallow and empty inside but the more you play around with the tightening of the cording, the more you start to hear the drum, to hear what the drum should sound like."

The class was a huge success. Students interacted with each other from the start, developed a higher level of maturity, and provided service to the Alma community. They discovered that drumming can be more than just noise. They were all feelin' the groove this pre-term.

Continued from page 4

has been the ACM advisor since he came to Alma in 1992.

The group, said McNally, helps "students look at the various ways that using technology can be helpful."

One aspect of ACM includes involvement in community outreach with local non-profit organizations. The club helps such organizations get working computers and teaches them how to properly use the equipment.

ACM goes to national computer programming competitions and often outperforms much larger schools, such as Ohio State University.

The group also participates in a Bowling Challenge against the Mathematic Honorary.

McNally said that the inactivity of the group over the last few years was due to a "technology bubble bust." This led to a declined interest in Computer Science, and in turn caused there to be not as many who wished to pursue majors in the area.

But now with more enthusiastic Computer Science majors in the group, ACM is beginning a much-needed rebirth.

"We didn't have the sort of people before who wanted to go on and get things started," said McNally.

ACM plans to have training sessions on campus to show students how to set up their computers and work certain computer programs.

A goal that the group hopes to accomplish is to have a game exchange on campus.

McNally also said that students in the group often go to national ACM conferences. This gives them, he said, an understanding of what professional computer scientists do.

Students in the group agree about the importance of such an organization on the Alma College campus.

"Going into an age of computers," said Michelle Sibbald (07), "knowing how to use a computer is a very valuable trait."

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OPINION

Point

Banning gay marriage = discrimination

BRENDAN GUILFORD
STAFF WRITER

“It takes a man and a woman to procreate, that’s the way society goes on. That’s the way it’s been since the beginning of time.” – Marlene Elwell, chairwoman of the Citizens for the Protection of Marriage, which collected about 500,000 signatures to place the gay marriage ban on the ballot.

“Stupidity has a knack of getting its way.”- Albert Camus, famous author. I am hardly surprised that the gay marriage ban amendment has made it on the November election ballot. The proposed amendment to the Michigan Constitution would make it impossible for a gay or lesbian couple to become legally married and unable to enjoy the social and economic benefits inherent in such a union.

While most level headed individuals would acknowledge and agree with the American principle of separation of church and state, the fundamentalist, right-wing agenda has struck our great state of Michigan and has forced this issue, already decided upon once in the state legislature, to be rehashed by the largely uninformed populace.

I understand and respect my more religious Michigander’s desire to protect the rites of marriage as outlined in their religious tenets. If not allowing religious marriage services for those who are homosexual is their answer, then that is for them to decide, but the State of Michigan must not engage in state-sponsored discrimination!

I do not understand how so many people in a country that boasts its equality can refuse the right of two people to engage in a behavior available to others (marriage) strictly on the basis of their sexuality.

If any other minority group in the United States were denied the right to be legally married the protest would be immense. Simply because these individuals are homosexual instead of African American, Latino, Asian, Native American, or any other group, somehow they are “violating the sanctity of marriage.” Either everyone has the right to be married to another person (male or female) or we as a country will continue to pick and choose who is an equal citizen of the United States and who is not.

Women’s suffrage and the Civil Rights movement led by the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. were both considered by some to be affronts to civilized society. Most would now agree that they are not. I ask anyone that is in favor of the constitutional ban on homosexual marriage that has a homosexual friend, family member, co-worker, or neighbor to walk up to them and tell him or her directly. I think most of those who would vote to ban homosexual marriage just do not have the guts.

Whatever marriage was in the past, today it represents many things to many diverse people. Restricting the ability of some to take part in this social norm is clearly discriminatory, and has dual roots: bigotry and fear. To deny homosexuals the right to be legally married is an act of bigotry. The Encarta World English Dictionary defines it as “intolerance toward people who hold different views, especially on matters of politics, religion, or ethnicity.”

To those who question my explanation, I ask what they possess for denying gay marriage beyond those reasons of religious belief and fear. I encourage those who disagree to respond in writing to develop an ongoing dialogue about this important topic.

Counterpoint

Gay rights is the real issue not marriage

SAMANTHA STONEBURG
STAFF WRITER

We are constantly being reminded of the election on November 2, thanks to the various groups around campus who have been working nonstop to ensure that we are registered and ready to voice our opinions. For many of us, this will be our first opportunity to cast that all important ballot.

With that in mind, allow me to pose this question to you: What matters to you? With the media focusing on the presidential candidates, I’m afraid that we’re going to go into the voting booth and look at the ballot like a pop quiz.

One issue that is going to be on the ballot in Michigan is that of gay marriage. Should we allow homosexuals in our state the same rights as we allow heterosexuals, or should we make an amendment to the state constitution banning it?

Personally, the term gay marriage seems pretty radical. Marriage itself has traditionally been a religious sanction, but civil unions are not religious. A civil union simply grants two people, regardless of sexual orientation, the rights that are traditionally given to a married couple.

If we follow the rule which states, there should be a separation among the church and state, this technically should not be an issue. The states should only be able to control the civil aspects of marriage, not the religious. Therefore, going as far as considering it marriage should be left to the leaders who perform the ceremony.

As a heterosexual female, I know that there is nothing one can say or do to change my attraction to men. Although I do not understand all of the motives of homosexual people, I realize that they are people too, and there are no laws that will change their feelings.

Imagine if homosexuals were not the minority, but rather the majority. How would you feel if they made amendments against the union of one man and one woman?

Our society has done a good job of trashing the sacredness of marriage in my opinion. Look at celebrities like Britney Spears, whose first marriage lasted shorter than her last manicure. Divorce rates are multiplying by the minute. I am not saying that this is a good thing; I would just like to point out that problems will occur regardless.

For most conservatives, this is a hard-to-swallow issue. This has nothing to do with your morals however; homosexual people will exist regardless of what you think. It is frequently difficult for anyone to understand lives that are slightly different than theirs, let alone ones that are drastically dissimilar. As Americans, we are able to make our own choices. By voting in favor of the amendment, we are restricting the privilege of others. If the amendment passes, what will be next? Burning them at the stake?

Gay couples live and raise families together, but their biggest struggle is gaining the acceptance of others. With shows like *Will & Grace* and *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, the gay community has slowly been creeping into our living rooms. Homosexuality is not a passing fad; it is a serious and completely acceptable way of life. Please, do not base your decision on trends, but do consider the rights of all Americans this November 2, because after all, your vote can and does make a difference.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express sincere gratitude to President Sandra Tracy, Provost Michael Selmon, Professor Joseph Jezewski, and all of the members of the co-curricular committee for inviting such an amazing and inspirational teacher to our campus two weeks ago.

Mr. Jim Jarrett (a former student of Sanford Meisner, Producer, Actor, Director) spent three full days instructing me in the art of crafting memorable evenings in the theatre. During his brief visit he conducted six intensive workshops, shared all of his meals with me in the faculty lounge at Hamilton Commons, and delivered an enlightening performance as Sanford Meisner in "Sanford Meisner... A Teacher." He tirelessly answered all of my questions and shared his most personal experiences in professional theatre with me along the way.

I feel extremely honored to have been given the opportunity to learn from a teacher of such integrity and high standards. As a senior it was extremely comforting for me to see all of the items that Professor Jezewski has taught me the past three year realized in such a talented and successful man. You may rest assured that your generosity in bringing Mr. Jarrett to Alma has revitalized the entire theatre department. On behalf of all the students, I thank you for such a gift.

Sincerely,
Johnathon Musser (04)

OPINION

Crunch time becoming a way of life for many Alma College students?

JOEL RENDER
OPINION EDITOR

Three weeks are already gone in the new year, and for many of us that means that all of our classes, activities, and jobs are off and running. What does that really mean though?

Well, basically it means that each and every day has become a harrowed struggle to make it to every commitment and to finish everything on time so that we do not let ourselves or others down. Some days we manage to conquer this ever-present demand and other days we do not.

How do you know if you are in this situation, you ask? Well, there are several indicators that are usually present when this is the case. Keep in mind that not all of the indicators need to be present at once, but the more there are the more daunting the tasks become.

First, consider how many different items that you must complete or attend every day. If it is anywhere near eighteen then you probably are time crunched. I chose eighteen because I consider it to be the average number of hours that an Alma College student is awake during the week. I may, however, be wrong.

The second indicator involves the amount of time that different tasks and/or meetings take out of the day. In other words, if you have to cut short one activity or leave in the middle of one meeting to make it to another, then you are probably in a time crunch.

Third on the list is the need to choose between finishing something that is very important and getting enough sleep. More often than not we have to put sleep as a lower priority, and later it turns out to be a bad decision.

Fourth, if you find yourself with very little time to have fun or see your friends outside of studying with them, then you are probably crunched. I consider these to be the most common indicators that I have personally observed or experienced, but by no means is this all of the list.

Why do people get themselves in a time crunch? No doubt there are a wide

variety of factors involved, but I consider the most important to be extensive pressure. This pressure comes from several sources that are both near and far from us.

The sources close to us, such as our families, friends, and professors, push us to become involved because it can help us grow. The source pushing us from far away is notably our culture, which supports the need to be involved in an ever-increasing number of activities to remain competitive for graduate schools or job selection.

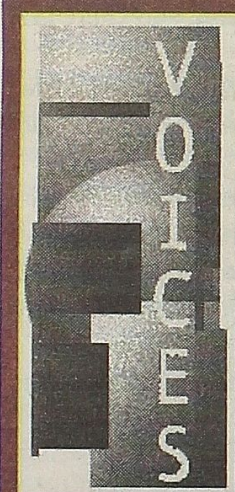
So how do we solve this ever-present time crunch? Many people would simply argue that priorities need to be made and decisions would become considerably simpler.

This sounds like a great idea and a wonderful solution, but the time crunch is just not that simple and probably will never be for many of us. Deciding which activities and commitments need to be placed above others is a daunting task. Many of us have learned this lesson the hard way when we chose to finish that paper instead of going to an important meeting or from another similar situation.

How about using those incredibly important time-management skills that we have gained over the years? Although these skills can help alleviate some of the problems associated with the time crunch, they can not solve the overall difficulty that we constantly face.

So what in the end is the real solution to our problems? Unfortunately, I do not think there is a solution. We live in a society that constantly pressures us to maximize our activities and failure to do so usually results in negative sanctions.

Either way we frequently end up losing, and more often than not we have to decide what sacrifices must be made. I wish you all the luck in your struggle and if you find a way to win at everything then please let me know. because I could definitely use it right now.



Emily Smith (o8)

A. It is very well landscaped.
B. It's in a very inconvenient spot and in the way. It should follow the symmetrical pattern of the rest of the mall.

A. What do you think of the new McIntyre Mall?
B. What do you think of the location of the pillar in McIntyre Mall?



Betsy Saylor (o8)

A. It wouldn't be bad except for the pillar! Other than that it is nice.
B. If it really has to be there at all, it should be moved over to the side. It really looks out of place where it is now.



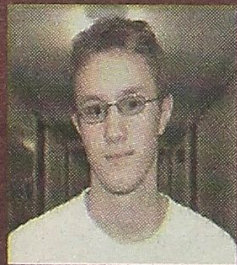
Hadley Boehm (o8)

A. I think it looks very nice. The colors and the way it is layed out looks very good.
B. I like the pillar except for the spikey thing on top.



Chris Francetic (o8)

A. I like what they've done there. It's looking very cool.
B. It's in a good spot. I thought they would have a fountain in it though.



Jim Abrams (o8)

A. I really don't notice a difference.
B. It's in the wrong place, but it's still cool to climb on it.

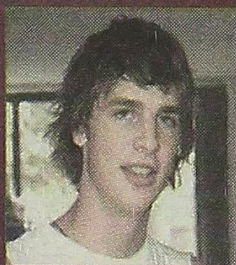


Kristina Kizer (o8)

A. Definitely, it brings the campus together in a neat fashion. It looks great!
B. It should've been in a more central location, as opposed to currently, where it seems to be in an inconvenient place where there's heavy traffic from SAC.

Pat Theisen (o8)

A. It opened up the court a lot, and I like the pavement work.
B. I think it looks like a tombstone. It isn't centered to any point in the whole mall.



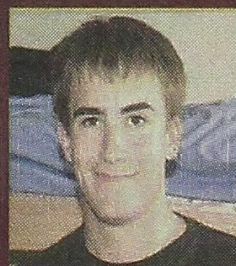
Travis Berklund (o8)

A. The pillar sucks.
B. Horrible, it is in the way and ruins the mall.



Radi Al-Radi (o8)

A. The McIntyre Mall gives Alma College its unique structure and adds to the history and tradition of this college.
B. I think that it is not placed in the appropriate location. It would be much better if it is located in another area.



Will Lambert (o8)

A. I think it looks very good and neat.
B. The location of the pillar seems okay. It doesn't really matter too much I guess.



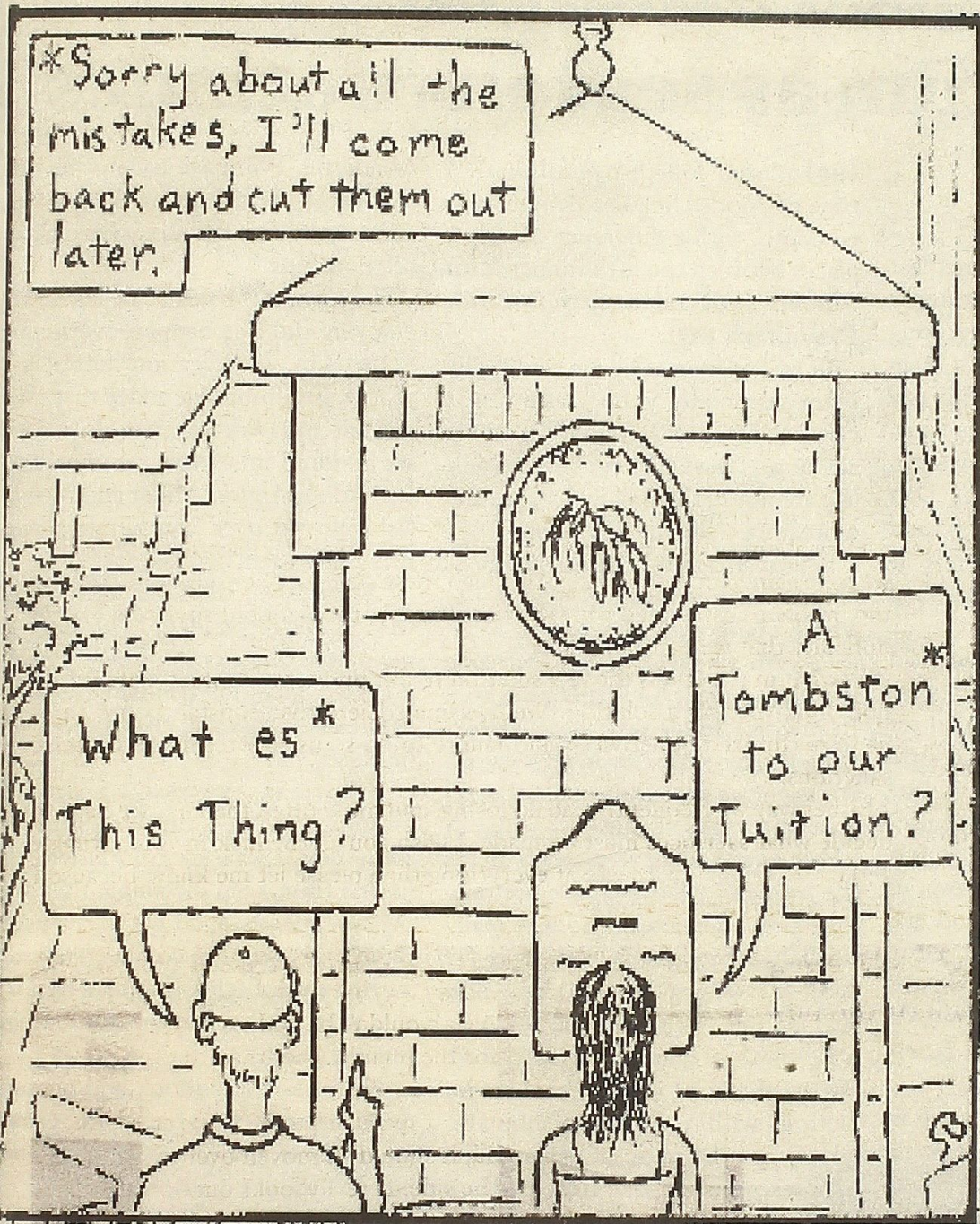
Jane Macdonald (o8)

A. The new mall is very nice. The landscaping is beautiful!
B. The looks very out of place. The look of the pillar is fine, but it should have been built off the side.

Photos by Kate Bruder

OPINION

Pass/Fail
by Steve Bailey



Almanian Poll

What is the most important
2004 election issue to you?

Health Care	13 votes	13.1% of sample
Environment	4 votes	4.0% of sample
Foreign Policy	34 votes	34.3% of sample
Economy	25 votes	25.2% of sample
Education	23 votes	23.2% of sample

Sample Size was 99 students

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Statement of Purpose

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

Publication

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Faculty Advisor
Robert Vivian

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.

SPORTS

Best darn sports column ever

**MATTHELMUS
SPORTS EDITOR**

The Lions still have a way to go. That's a fact for all Detroit fans after they were crushed by the Eagles in Week 3. Those of you who have been placing bets on the Lions making the Super Bowl and picking up Kevin Jones and Corey Schlesinger in your fantasy football leagues will have to wait a little while longer to see the Lions bask in the glory of being an elite NFL franchise.

While the Lions were not able to stay undefeated your very own Scot volleyball team achieved this distinction. They defeated Calvin to vault to the top of the MIAA standings and remain undefeated at 17-0. In the most reason poll by the American Volleyball Coaches Association the Scots are tied for 28th place in the country. At this point they are still not getting the national respect they obviously deserve. This can only be motivation to move further into the NCAA tournament than they did last year. The next AVCA poll comes out on Tuesday and it will be interesting to see where the Scots are.

While the volleyball team is moving up in the rankings, the football team will be headed the opposite way. They were beaten badly in their home opener by Tiffin University. One consolation factor for the Scots is the fact that Tiffin is a Division II (read: scholarship-giving) school. Playing tough competition like this can only help the Scots as the MIAA season begins. We should find out this week against Olivet, a ground-based team, how prepared the Scots are for league play.

This week I'd like to highlight one of the hard workers on campus. Many teams on campus have managers that assist the players and coaches during practices, competitions and beyond. One manager, Matt Kwapis, has been assisting the football team since his freshman year. Dedication like this, ignored by many, should be recognized on campus by the student body. Just one thought, Homecoming ballots will be out this week and this could be a great way to recognize deserving individuals.

Experienced Scots gain momentum as season continues

**BRIANNA SCHUBERT
STAFF WRITER**

At the Defiance Invitational last Saturday, the Alma cross country teams made a strong effort, resulting in second place for the men's team and fourth for the women. This is a big leap from last year at this time, perhaps due to the team's new focus on dedication and leadership. Dan Gibson, coach for both the men's and women's team, said that "because of the focus on dedication we are seeing great improvement."

Although the Hope Invitational did not seem to bode well for the teams, the Defiance Invitational should reassure the runners that their efforts were not in vain. With a total of 69 points and a second place finish, the men should not be unhappy. **Joe Whitman (05)** finished first overall with a time of 27:03, and the top five all finished under thirty minutes. As if to prove the team has depth, **Paul Nottoli (06)** finished a mere 3 seconds after the fifth runner, **Rory Wildner (06)**.

The women should be pleased as well, having taken fourth place with a total of 76 points. **Andrea Miller**

(06) placed fourth overall, with a time of 25:00. They also demonstrated depth, with a difference of only 5 places between the fifth runner **Kim Sinclair (06)** and the sixth, **Tifarah Brumback (05)**.

In recent years, Gibson said, "The team was really young, and I was very patient, but they aren't as young anymore. I have higher expectations. We are not in the building stages any more, especially the guy's team."

Whitman agreed. "After we ran at Hope Coach was unhappy with the whole team, and we went to Defiance with a new attitude. Everyone is running really well this year, too. In practice today we ran as a pack. Even though only eleven guys are on the team, we have the potential to do great this year," he said.

Miller had similar sentiments about the women's team. "There are only nine girls on the team, so it is really small, but everyone is working really hard," she said, and then added, "This year we are going into the season a little more prepared and dedicated. We are also a lot closer; there are no factions within the team." She also noted that the sense of camaraderie on a team that is basically co-ed was

wonderful. "We have each other for support. I don't want to say it is like a family, but we definitely have close relationships."

The success the teams are currently enjoying did not happen overnight. "The focus on dedication started last year," said Gibson. He added that "We had one guy, Dirk Callahan, dock over six-hundred miles this summer, and two ladies [Andrea Miller and Megan Gibson] run over four-hundred and fifty miles each."

When asked what her motivation was, Miller responded, "The team is my motivation to run. There is such a close, personal atmosphere, and the team is so small that we can all be close."

Whitman expressed a similar outlook, saying "I run because it is something I love to do. My friends on the team keep me going; they are my best friends, and I get to run with them every day. I'm coming back for a fifth year [of school] to be a part of this team again, even though I could feasibly finish."

With positive outlook and proven dedication, be prepared for great things from the Alma College cross country teams.

Scot golf teams shoot for par in last half of season

**COLIN WASILOFF
STAFF WRITER**

After rocky starts for both the men's and women's golf teams here at Alma College, the light at the end of the tunnel is becoming brighter, but proves to still be struggling to come into focus.

The women's team, coached by Charlie Goffnet, has been improving this past week. "Everyone is working hard and playing consistently," comments the coach. The Scots shot a total of 364, which, according to Goffnet is right on track.

However, a 364 was only good enough for placing sixth in the team's second jamboree event hosted by Kalamazoo College. **Mary Kate Lesko (07)** led the Scots with an 87, and was followed only a stroke away by sophomore **Kristina Schwab**. The women's team will finish out their season on Homecoming weekend at the MIAA Championships which are being played at Olivet's home course,

Bedford Valley Golf Club in Battle Creek, Michigan.

The women's team has played well this year, and hopes to pick up next year where they left off this season. All five golfers are presumed to return, and look for **Abbey French (06)**, to return to lead the team again.

Co-captain of the men's team, **Ryan Riley (05)** is still hoping for the best in regards to the men's squad. "Everyone is playing well now. We hope that it can continue in the following rounds."

This past Wednesday, the men's team traveled to Kalamazoo. Among the top scorers for the Scots were **Evan Kay (08)** and **Brandon McNally (05)**, both shooting an even 80. Riley finished a discouraging 17 strokes behind winner Tommy Yamaoko, from the Hope College team.

Also making waves, alternates **Colin Mclean (07)** and **David Burkart (06)** shot strong 83's along with freshman **Ryan Wilson** shooting an 89. The team finished a disappointing

seventh out of eight teams. The men's team has unfortunately not placed higher than sixth thus far.

The Scots were not lucky even at home, losing to Hope College once again by over 30 strokes. This loss was particularly hard on Wilson. "It was a rough day. Very rough," comments Wilson. "My first thirteen holes I was 21 strokes over par, and my last 5 holes I shot 1 under par."

The sort of comeback Wilson talks about is not new to the Scots by any means. They have been the underdogs of the MIAA all season long.

The men are disappointed in their play this year, and it's quite evident in the words of alternate golfer Burkart. "It's been a rough season for everyone, but we're going to continue to work hard and hopefully finish out on a high note," commented Burkart, who's hopeful that the light at the end of the tunnel will not go out.

The men's team will finish up their dreary season with matches against Hope, Adrian and Calvin.

SPORTS

Volleyball grabs league lead with win over Calvin

DEREK HARRISON
Staff Writer

After winning against ninth-ranked Mount St. Joseph, the Alma College Volleyball team has started its season undefeated under the leadership of it's senior players.

The Scots are comprised of five seniors, one junior, six sophomores, and two freshman players, but even with this sort of leadership Coach Steve Humm maintains that it is team motivation that makes them successful.

"I believe it starts with the five seniors, they have been successful the last four years, and a work ethic from the underclassmen that has been outstanding," Humm said.

Humm went on to say that there may only be six at a time on the court, but every member of the team has a role. He also said that each team member knows their role on the team.

Individually, seniors like **Lindsey Baker** have made achievements like attaining MIAA Specialty Player of the Week twice already this season. Baker had 41 assists, 12 digs, and seven kills to aid the three-game sweep of Hope.

"Each match a different player has a solid, outstanding game," Humm said. "There is a player's commitment to the team first and not to individual glory."

Against the Calvin College Knights, Alma swept the series in three games. Calvin was previously undefeated and has competed with Alma for the last three years for the title. Junior **Erin Fralick** hit 40 percent against the Knights, but as a team the Scots were only 16 percent.

Humm said that they still need to improve as a team and they do have a goal for no errors.

"It all starts with our defense," Humm said. "We pride ourselves in being the best defensive team

on the court."

After the Calvin College game, the Knights' coach, Amber Warners concluded that they were a little slow on defense, and that consistency in the game is everything.

"We didn't mix things up," Warners said. "The mentality out there was different and Alma had five senior leaders out there."

The Knights, who have five seniors as well, lost the first two games by the score of 30-25, and the third by 30-24. At one point the Knights led the Scots but Alma rallied to come back and gain a commanding lead.

Warners said that there were a few miscommunications but that they were not a major issue. Warners went on to say that her team needed to set the tempo while the Scots did that very well.

"You can't always have the talent to beat those teams," Humm said, "but it takes the effort."

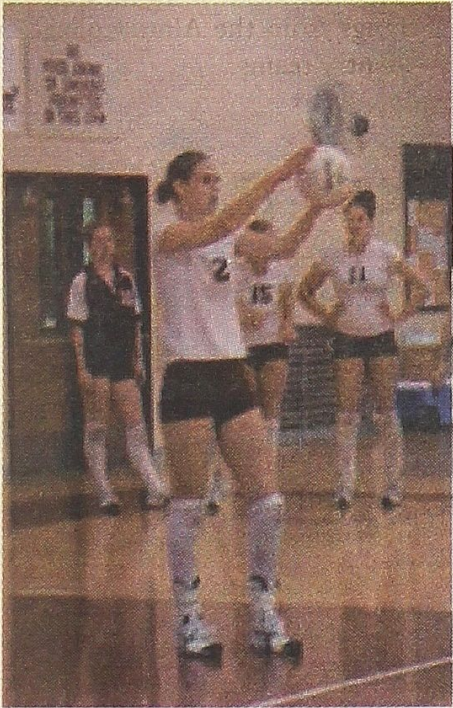


photo by Kate Bruder

Below:

Golfer Mike Yates (08) takes a swing at the Alma Country Club. The Scots hosted the MIAA Jamboree last Saturday. The team took sixth place and is currently in the same position in the overall conference standings. They have two matches remaining in MIAA play.

photo by Kate Voskeritchian

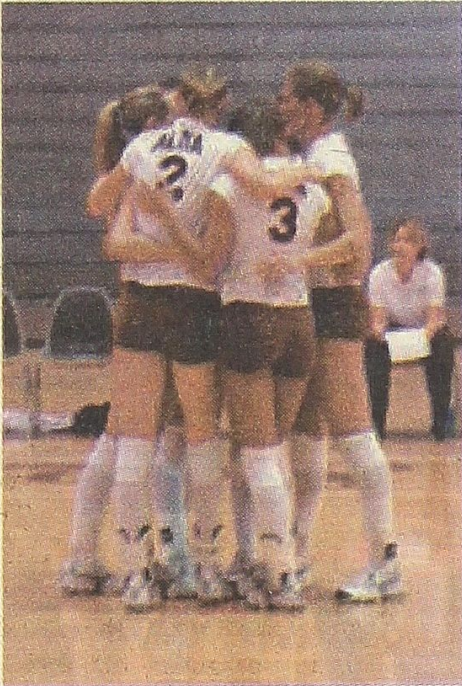
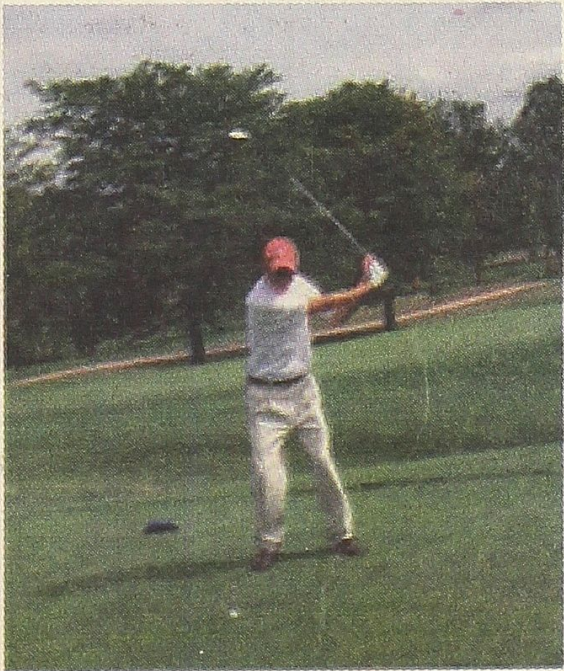


photo by Kate Bruder

Above:

Senior Kelly O'Connor serves against the Knights. The Scots won in three games, 30-25, 30-25, 30-24. O'Connor is averaging a block a game in the season so far

In league play the Scots have been dominant. They are ranked first in assists, first in kills, second in hitting percentage and third in blocks.



Above:

The volleyball team huddles up during their victory over Calvin. The Scots are still undefeated on the season and lead the MIAA. They have a good shot at making the NCAA playoffs and making a run long into the postseason.

Senior Lindsey Baker was named the MIAA Specialty Player of the Week for the third time in four weeks. She has now received the honor five times in her career.

MIAA Standings

FOOTBALL

	MIAA	PF-PA
Adrian	3-0	88-17
Albion	2-1	44-78
ALMA	2-1	118-73
Hope	1-2	63-100
K'zoo	1-2	67-73
Olivet	3-0	190-96
Tri-State	0-3	38-137
Wisc. Luth	0-3	21-92

VOLLEYBALL

	MIAA	Overall
ALMA	5-0	17-0
Calvin	6-1	11-5
K'zoo	6-1	13-6
Adrian	4-3	7-9
Albion	3-4	6-9
Hope	3-4	8-6
St. Mary's	3-5	3-7
Olivet	0-6	4-11
Tri-State	0-6	3-15

MEN'S SOCCER

	MIAA	Overall
Calvin	3-0-0	8-0-1
ALMA	2-0-0	2-6-0
Hope	2-0-0	5-3-0
Adrian	1-1-0	3-3-2
Albion	1-1-0	3-4-1
K'zoo	0-2-0	2-5-0
Olivet	0-2-0	2-3-3
Tri-State	0-3-0	0-7-0

WOMEN'S SOCCER

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

SPORTS

Scots drop home opener to Division II Tiffin, 59-21

DEREK HARRISON
STAFF WRITER

Despite a blowout victory against Aurora College the week before, the Scots' defense faced Tiffin University's speed and size in interdivision play Saturday.

Tiffin's Nate Washington had four receptions for 115 yards and three touchdowns to counteract those produced by Alma. At halftime, Tiffin had scored 49 points compared with Alma's 21.

"We knew we couldn't give up on it," Sophomore Quarterback **Josh Brehm** said. "We went out there and tried to score."

Alma Coach Jim Cole said that by halftime he had hoped to make it a shoot-out, but that Tiffin's defensive speed and athleticism turned some pos-

sible receptions into interceptions.

"We got ready to come out in that second half," Cole said. "but their kids came back relatively error free."

Cole went on to say that he believed the offense had shown enough that if the defense held them that they could chip away and get a couple more scores to draw close. However, turnovers kept the Scots from scoring.

"If you have six turnovers in a game, you're probably going to lose it," Brehm said.

From an offensive perspective, Brehm said that the team could have put the defense in better positioning and they definitely had something to prove against their Division II foe.

"It is part of the reason we play a game like that," Cole said. "It still puts us in pretty good

company."

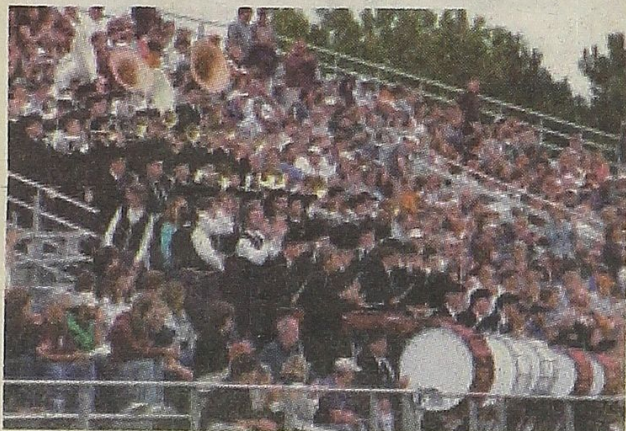
The Scots start conference play this Saturday against Olivet, and after beginning at 2-1, Cole maintains that their goals are still intact for this season.

"The kids have lofty goals and the only goal they lost was an undefeated season," Cole said.

Brehm said that the team is just taking it one week at a time and this week the entire focus is on Olivet.

Despite the fact that Alma has defeated them the last two years, Brehm said that they put up some pretty good numbers and would be a definite challenge.

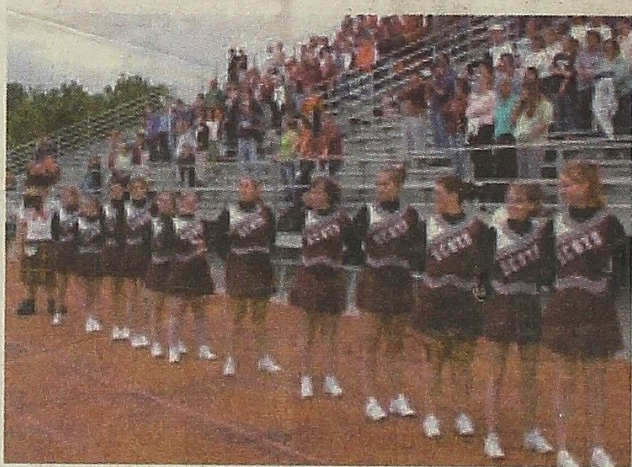
"We still know we have a good team," Brehm said. "We just have to step up this week."



The Kiltie Band keeps the crowd in the game during the home opener. They also perform before the game and present a halftime show.



The Scots take the field at home for the first time in 2004. They have four regular-season home games remaining, all against MIAA foes.



The cheerleaders stand at attention for the national anthem. They perform at all home football games, entertaining the crowd with chants, cheers and stunts.

photos by Kate Bruder

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, SEPT. 28

- 7 p.m. Volleyball @ Kalamazoo
- 7 p.m. - Presidential Forum (Dr. Luetkemeier's Home)

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 29

- 8 p.m. - Archbishop Ndungane Lecture (Presbyterian Hall, Heritage Center)

THURSDAY, SEPT. 30

- 7 p.m. - Volleyball Home v. Olivet
- 8 p.m. - Archbishop Ndungane Lecture (Presbyterian Hall, Heritage Center)

FRIDAY, OCT. 1

- 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. - "The New Face of the Church? Wisdom from the Developing World" Lecture by Archbishop Ndungane and Bishop Makarios (Jones Auditorium)
- 4:30 p.m. - Vespers with Archbishop Ndungane

SATURDAY, OCT. 2

- 11 a.m. - Men's and Women's Cross Country @Lansing C.C. Invitational
- Noon - Women's Soccer @Albion
- 1 p.m. - Volleyball @ Tri-State

1 p.m. - Football @ Olivet

- 2:30 p.m. - Men's Soccer Home @ Tri-State

SUNDAY, OCT. 3

- 4 - 6 p.m. - Chapel Mass
- 7:30 p.m. - Presidential Forum (Fireside Lounge)

9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Service

MONDAY, OCT. 4

- 1 p.m. - Men's Golf @ Calvin College