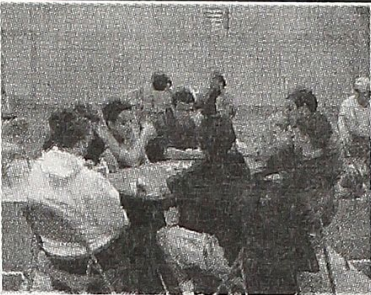




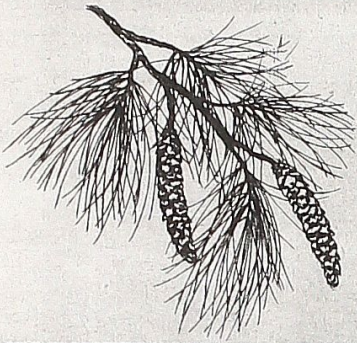
What it is like to be a commuter see page 4



Texas Hold 'Em page 6



Lacrosse begins practice for upcoming year see page 12



# The Almanian

## Michael Moore fans meet opposing rally for Bush

**DEREK HARRISON**  
**STAFF WRITER**

By 8 p.m. on Monday September 27th, a group of over 50 students arrived at the GOP headquarters in Mt. Pleasant to grow to more than 100 students at Central Michigan University's Rose Arena, showing their support for President Bush's administration and their disgust for Michael Moore's appearance.

"I know my friends in the Marines are doing their job over there," Central Michigan University sophomore Lauren Covington said, "When they are done, I want them to come home safe and I don't believe they will be safer with a change in presidents, with a leader who doesn't know what he stands for."

Those in the arena's waiting line praised Kerry's promises at the speech and questioned Bush's policies. Moore called for each of them to react by voting and many students from the greater central Michigan area responded

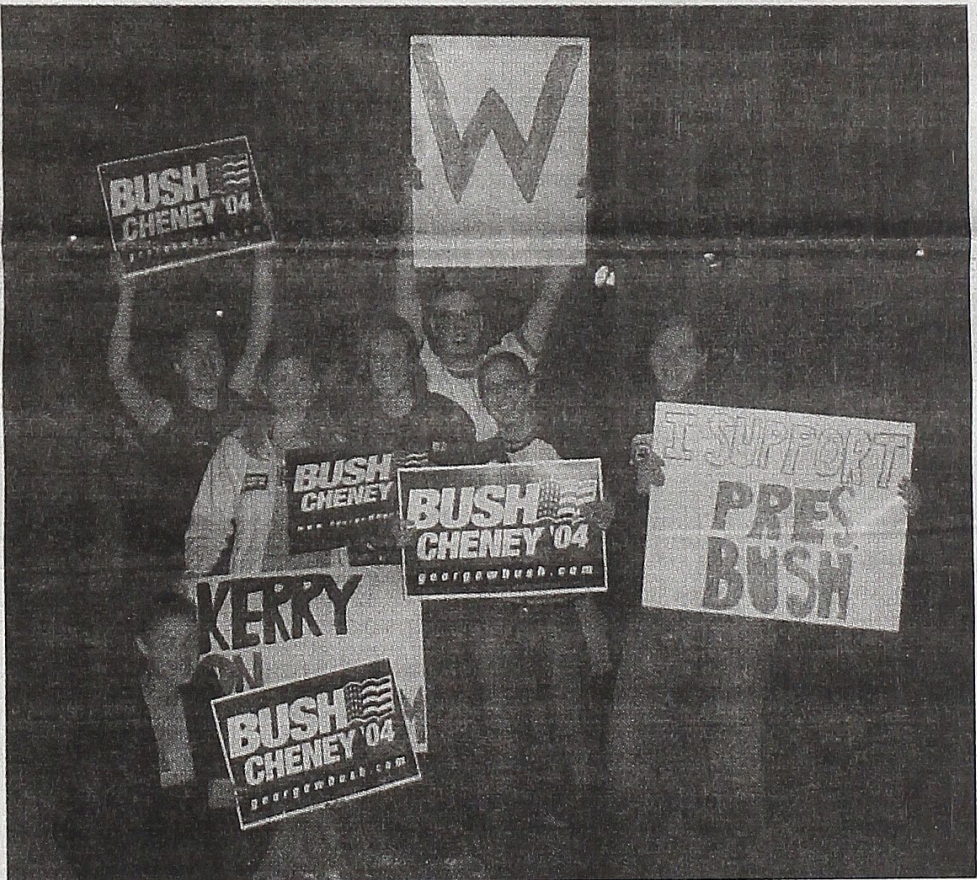
by rallying for the president until 9 p.m. on Broomfield Road.

Students came from Alma College, Ferris State University,

and Michigan State to hold candidate signs supporting Bush/Cheney '04 while vocalizing their support to passing vehicles. Some students made poster board signs saying "A vote for Kerry is a vote for terrorism" and "Waste of my tuition." Rallying individuals pushed the website [www.kerryoniraq.com](http://www.kerryoniraq.com) for further information toward their cause.

Students like eighteen year old Troy Zitzelsberger showed their opposition to Moore's claims of young apathy by handing out Bush/Cheney stickers and holding re-election signs in view of passing cars.

As part of Moore's tour last week, he also held a fund-raiser in Elk Rapids for democratic candidates for State House of Representatives and sheriff in northern Michigan's Antrim County. While the event was more than 250 miles from where Moore resides and outside of his own district, about 80 protestors questioned Moore's motives and



Alma College Young Republicans stand outside the Michael Moore rally in favor of Bush.

photo by Derek Harrison

SEE MOORE PAGE 2

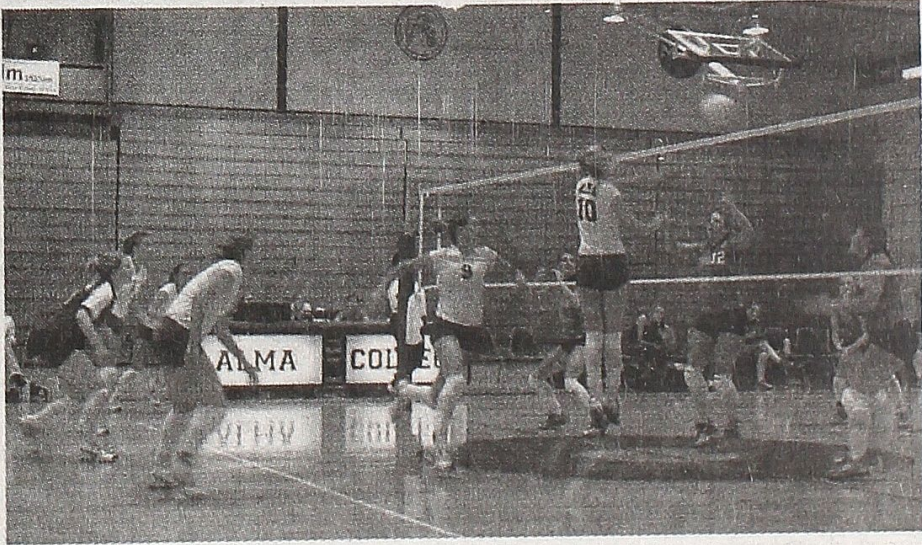
## Team unity leads AC volleyball to victory

**MEGAN JARCZYNSKI**  
**STAFF WRITER**

The Alma College Women's Volleyball team continues their winning streak by defeating Olivet College and Kalamazoo College. They defeated Olivet in three scores of 30-19, 30-20, and 30-23. The Scots pulled out a tough win against Kalamazoo in five matches of 30-18, 22-30, 26-30, 30-16, and 15-7. The team is still currently undefeated.

The Scots attribute their success not only to their ability on the court but also to their friendships off the court. Team unity is a major strategy for the women. **Jessie Hill (07)** states, "We're tight. We're able to come together and when someone makes a mistake we bring them back up again." Their ability to shake off mistakes and come together as a team allows the players to show cast their true talent and defeat their opponents.

To pump themselves up for victory prior to the game the women have a few team rituals. One is what they call "fire up." **Mary Murdoch (07)** explains



SEE VOLLEYBALL PAGE 11



## News

## News in brief

**RACHEL DOTSON**  
STAFF WRITER

Mount St. Helens continued to intrigue and excite geologists Sunday when a 25-minute tremor took place at 6 a.m. Eastern Time, CNN reported. The volcano's recent activity has been of growing media and scientific interest, with a volcano alert of Level 3 signifying that an eruption could take place inside 24 hours. On Friday steam and ash blew into the air for approximately 24 minutes, with an hour-long period of small steam emission following on Saturday. Mount St. Helens has been fairly quiet since its explosion in 1980, which claimed some 57 lives and blanketed hundreds of miles with ash. If an eruption were to occur in the near future it is not likely to be as great as that witnessed in 1980.

Voter registration soared to record highs over the past few days as deadlines hit. "The vote was so close four years ago, people are now thinking, hey, maybe my vote does count," Joseph R. Passarella, the director of voter services in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, told *The New York Times*. The overload of voter registration has caused election officials across the country to put staff to work overtime, while also having to access more equipment. Montgomery County is a prime example of this chaos, with 12 computers, 15 phone lines, and 12 workers having to be added to compensate for the overload of voters. "In the past we've been enthused about what appeared to be a large number of new voters, but this does seem to be at an entirely different level," said Kay Maxwell, president of the League of Women Voters.

A recent Gallup poll conducted by CNN and USA Today places presidential hopefuls George W. Bush and John Kerry dead even with one another. The poll shows a large surge for Senator Kerry, who trailed President Bush 42 percent to 53 percent in the poll taken from September 24 to September 26. CNN polling director Keating Holland said, "It's obvious that the debate helped Kerry." He also noted, however, that the poll taken still places President Bush higher in people's minds in the areas of terrorism and Iraq, trustworthiness, and strength as a leader. Senator Kerry pulled forward in areas of intelligence, who is better for the economy, and who cares more about the people.

## MOORE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

knowledge of the county's issues.

Sergeant Brian Lark, who had already spent eighteen months in Iraq, organized the event and held a sign saying 'Weak men hide in Hollywood'.

Like the use of central Michigan's Rose Arena, many disagreed with the use of Elk Rapids High School for such a partisan event disguised as a tour to get voter interest.

The Central Michigan Student Life office admitted to paying \$30,000 for Moore to speak. This cost does not include costs for sound, lighting, and security. Though 1,400 tickets were sold, at \$5 a piece they only brought \$7,000 toward the

cost. Calls and letters of disapproval poured into the University's Program Board from the day students and

Schiemann got word, they organized the Bush rally.

Aside from student participants, a Sanford man stood directly in front of the arena holding one sign that read 'Michael Moore is a LIAR', another reading 'Waste of my tax dollars' and saying 'Shame on you!'. Tensions have mounted further when it was exposed that the Greater Talent Network, the contractor for the appearance, did not want the total cost revealed.

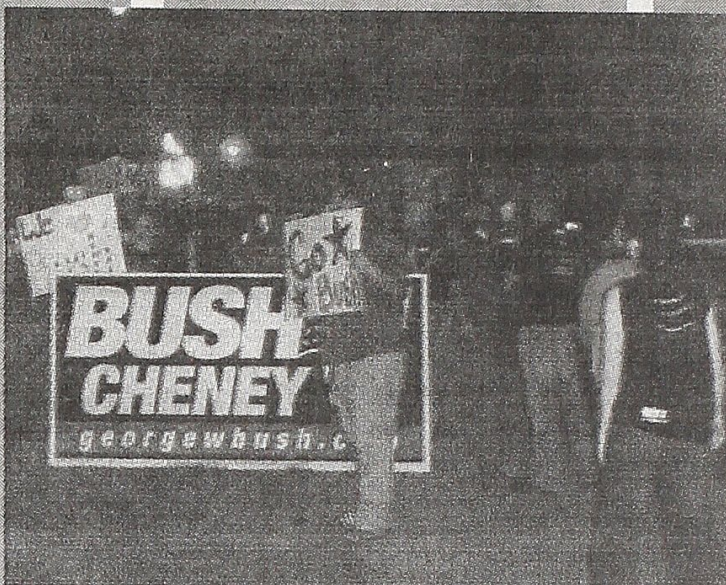


photo by Derek Harrison

Bush supporters rally outside Michael Moore's speech.

alumni found out. Once College Republicans like Co-chair Chris

## Getting the slacker vote: Michael Moore in Mount Pleasant

**AMY TOPHAM**  
STAFF WRITER

Michael Moore danced across the stage to the cheers of the crowd this past Monday night, at the Rose Arena in Mt. Pleasant, as part of the "Slacker Uprising Tour," a tour that has Moore going to sixty cities in twenty battleground states to speak on universities campuses to sway young people to get out and vote in this upcoming election.

Some 5,000 people came to Central Michigan University Monday night to see Moore speak; CMU was Moore's second stop on his tour. Moore's politically charged self worked the crowd, even acknowledging the Republicans in the audience. "We want to be those people (Republicans) but without the mean spiritedness," Moore said to the crowd. Moore described the Republican Party as the spend thrifts, with their radical right wing ideals and "Christian beliefs" as their basis. Moore is concerned about how the Republicans have kept control of this nation for these past four years and feels that it is time for a change to happen in America.

Moore believes that Kerry, in order to win this election, needs to come up with a motto. Bush already has plenty for Kerry including, "Kerry is a flip flopper," "Kerry is a liberal," and the best one yet, "If you vote for Kerry, you're going to die!" Moore

suggested a strong motto that the Kerry campaign should look into using, "Where's Osama?"

Moore went on to tell the crowd how President Bush has been a flip flopper himself. President Bush was against homeland security, but now he is for it. He was against the 9/11 Commission, but now he is for it.

President Bush once said, "Mission accomplished." "Well not so much," says Moore. "Mr. Bush" as Moore calls the president fondly, describes how his "mistake" to go to war will cost not just those who have lost their lives or a loved one, but us, the younger generation. President Bush has run out of troops, and Moore believes that there will be a draft, all "because of his (President Bush's) incredible mistake, his lie to the American people," shouts Moore!

Moore not only attacked the Republicans but also the media. Moore says that the media needs to be more liberal in their broadcasting and show what the American people need to see. Moore accuses the media and the government of not letting the American people know all the facts. Moore asks, "where was the liberal media when you need evidence of mass destruction, where was the liberal media to show President Bush's car being egged on his inauguration, or when all the African Americans were not being represented in congress?"

The goal of this tour is to get the

young people of America to the polls this November. More than 50% of young people don't vote, Moore stated. Moore suggested some mottos to get the young people out and voting, "Bush and Kerry both suck and that's why I am voting for John Kerry," another motto suggestion was, "Slacker To-Do List: sleep 'til noon, reverse underwear inside out, vote Kerry November 2." As part of Moore's tour, tables were set up outside the Rose Arena for students to register to vote; prizes of Ramen Noodles and clean underwear were given out. For more information about Michael Moore's "Slacker Uprising Tour," visit his website at [www.michaelmoore.com](http://www.michaelmoore.com).

Alma College students have many mixed opinions of Moore's speech. **Joey Burgam (07)** said, "I think he raises intelligent questions and brings up great points, but that he often puts an entertaining spin on facts which some people who don't know any better take to be truth."

**Chris Regan (07)** said, "I think he is over dramatic and he takes things over the top about ridiculing Bush."

"I never know what are the facts and what's fabrication in his movies, I think he's a very biased and is out there to make people believe his views, but I do think he is a good guy and he's quite smart, but I don't really know what he is all about," said **Michael Miller (07)**.



# News

## MONEY TALKS

**JON MORRIS**  
STAFF WRITER

If I could recommend one physical object that everyone should use as a model for their own personal investments, it would be a pyramid. Within this pyramid I would suggest three stages in which a person should plan and execute their investments. This week I will be primarily focusing on those three stages, and the importance of each stage. In addition I will be suggesting a few ways for you, as college students, to begin investing in the first stage. Pyramids have firm foundations and like your investment strategy, it is necessary to set those firm foundations and build from the bottom up.

Over your lifetime you will experience many different financial needs and circumstances, all of which can be fit into three categories. The first stage is risk management, it is the foundation of all financial planning, it is where you must protect your earning power, and your life. It is also the location of tax-deferred income, for example IRAs, pension plans, annuities, or a life insurance policy with cash value. The first stage of the pyramid helps you build a solid investment strategy with life and disability insurance, along with very safe tax-deferred investments.

The second stage is where you seek to accumulate wealth. It includes more medium to high risk investments where the risk is higher but the returns are also higher. This stage of investment and planning should be developed after stage one is firmly in place. If you start in stage two, you're not protecting yourself very well, and you're not building the foundation of your financial plans with a safe and secure investment strategy. The second stage specifically includes mutual funds, stocks, and bonds on the investment side, and on the planning side includes planning for retirement, children's education, or any other financial or personal goal you wish to achieve, for example owning a second home, or a boat.

The third stage is wealth preservation and distribution; it is the stage in which you look at how you want your assets to be distributed when you pass. If you were successful in the wealth accumulation stage, you will have a need to do some estate planning, mainly to distribute your estate in the most tax efficient manner possible. This stage specifically involves wills, trusts, and life insurance.

Now that I have explained the three stages of the pyramid, I will suggest to you a few different ways to begin stage one of your financial plans. The first thing every college student should do is write down their goals and objectives. If you can know what you want to accomplish with your life, and have some idea of how you will do it, you are more likely to have success. Second, the first investment you should make is a very low risk tax-deferred investment, either an IRA or what I would recommend even more, a good permanent life insurance policy, with a solid projected cash value. Most of you probably think that you are too young to own life insurance, and that it would be a poor decision for you to even think about it, however the benefits of purchasing life insurance in your twenties, while you are still healthy, are nothing but tremendous, and it can serve as a safe harbor for tax-deferred income at retirement. Next week, I will continue with exactly what the benefits of low risk tax-deferred investments are, and how to go about making your first investment. Until then, if you haven't already, think about what you want to accomplish with your life, and write it down, it is the first step, and it works.

## Homecoming adapts to larger involvement

**DEREK HARRISON**  
STAFF WRITER

Since the Smith Alumni House staff has harmonized oversight of homecoming's planning and preparation, responsibility has been shifted from an individual committee to multiple groups. Those involved with 2004's homecoming share a common optimism.

"We always wanted a more consistent line of how homecoming was being run," Director of Alumni and Community Relations Bob Eldridge said. "Coordinating out of one office has been much better and it streamlined the organization of homecoming."

Though controversy followed last year's salaried homecoming committee, Eldridge believes that the issue has been resolved and that there is a very dedicated group of students aiding the transition.

"Some of the students are putting in a couple hours each day with already busy schedules," Eldridge said. "They are students also involved in band, choir, and athletics"

Eldridge also said that students do this simply because they want to and that it displays the leadership qualities they possess. With committee members previously getting paid, involvement is now strictly by volunteers. Participation is now upwards of 45 people compared to less than 10 in last year's committee.

**Aaron Fullerton (05)**, Homecoming Coordinator for the Alma Leadership Alliance (ALA), said that he was optimistic because the

participation increase allowed them to have an advantage over the large workload.

"It's been a little rough working on this while still having school work, but luckily we have a lot of people helping out," Fullerton said. "We were able to divide the work up into committees and fill gaps along the way."

Student Congress, the Alumni Board, and Student life are also involved with homecoming week. ALA had worked particularly with the returning Alumni who have their own activities, receptions, and reunions with former Scots.

"Some Alums are celebrating their 50th anniversary of graduating Alma College," Eldridge said. "It's not just donations we get from our Alumni. It is how they give back to Alma in many ways."

He also said that this is a chance for Alumni to not only reminisce but also see where Alma is going.

Fullerton, who has been a member of ALA since his first year, said that the new responsibilities required the planning process to start as far back as the spring term of 2004. ALA now has taken on duties with Homecoming Court, Pre-game and Halftime arrangements, and even this Friday's concert with the performance by the band Offkilter.

"By planning ahead, the students could come back to campus and hit the ground running," Eldridge said. "It has been important that homecoming planners had someone to report to, but still were control."

## Bush vs. Kerry: round one

**SAM STONEBURG**  
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, September 30, Edward Lorenz, Professor of Political Science, and Micheal Vickery, Chair and Professor of Communication, opened SAC 113 up for all of campus to watch the first presidential debate. The topic for this, the first of three debates, was foreign policy.

**Luke Livingston (06)**, was "really excited that all those people showed up to watch the debate. It is good to know that people are interested. It was way more confrontational than I had anticipated. Senator Kerry finally gave specifics on what he plans to do in Iraq. President Bush, though, often confused Saddam with Osama and really showed that he has no plan for Iraq, as well as having a very unclear foreign policy."

"President Bush kept saying 'Trust me' like I know him personally or something. In this election I am not looking for someone to be my friend, I am looking for a leader. I want a president who is going to lead this nation in a proud and honorable way. I believe that Senator Kerry will do that."

**Nick Green (06)**, said, "I'm equally glad that both candidates were able to approach the debate in such a way where each was both willing and able to advance his position

while not stooping to childlike levels to attack the other. Though Senator Kerry made it clear that he has a plan for Iraq, he was unclear exactly what that it. I also felt that on the subject of occupation of Iraq he wanted it both ways, saying that he would plan to withdraw troops within six months, while at the same time he would ask congress to increase the number troops by some thousands of soldiers more than what we have."

"At the same time President Bush remained firm and devoted to our continued liberation of Iraq and stressed that he will do whatever is necessary to enable our troops to be as effective as is required. I just felt that Bush was committed to one thing whereas Kerry seemed to phrase his comments to elicit the most support."

This was the first of three presidential debates. The next debate will be with the vice president candidates on Tuesday October 5 broadcast from the Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. For their second debate the candidates will participate in a town hall forum at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri on Friday, October 8. Arizona State University, in Tempe, Arizona, will host the final contest between Bush and Kerry on Wednesday, October 13. The debate will focus on economic and domestic policy.



# FEATURE

## Choirs gearing up for annual homecoming concert

MEGAN JARCZYNSKI  
STAFF WRITER

If you walk past the chapel Monday through Thursday 5-6:15 p.m. and Friday 4-5 p.m., you're liable to hear the voices of the 2004 Alma College Choir. The members of the choir, along with the men and women of the chorale and the ladies involved in the Women's Glee Club, will be performing a homecoming concert free of charge on Saturday October 9<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. in the Heritage Center.

The three groups have been rehearsing diligently to prepare for this annual event. According to director Will Nichols, professor of music, the homecoming concert is a highlight on the vocal music department calendar. "For me, it is that for many it's their first Alma College concert," he stated, "It's exciting to have them perform."

The concert provides an opportunity for past and current members to perform together. "I also enjoy seeing the college alumni," Nichols added, "We usually have sixty or more prior students come back. It's exciting to see them and to meet their families."

The program should prove to be exciting as well. Each group is preparing a piece by Felix Mendelssohn, which is something that Nichols felt was important. "I've had the pleasure of singing a few of Mendelssohn's pieces, and I wanted each choir to have the same experience" he said.

In addition to the Mendelssohn pieces, the men in the choirs are singing a piece called "Low Lands." The women are preparing an African song entitled

"Mbiri Kuna Mwari" in honor of the visit of Archbishop Ndungane, which they performed at the Evensong chapel service last Friday. "It's a very interesting piece. Even though it's in the Shona language, it was surprisingly easy to learn," Natalie Wiltse (05) commented on the learning of this piece, "The song isn't complicated, but each verse, we add a progressive line, therefore adding some complexity."

The program will be preformed in a more casual atmosphere. Instead of sporting their usual formal uniforms, the choirs will be decked out in Alma attire. This serves to give a sense of school spirit and give the singers a chance to have fun after preparing so vigorously.

The hard work the choirs have put into preparing for the concert proves to be worth it. "Even though it can be stressful practicing five days a week for only one credit, I personally enjoy choir because it's a chance to express yourself," Patrick Cassidy (07), "It's like an art form and a way of being part of something bigger than yourself."

This is just the beginning of an exciting year for the Alma College choirs. They are planning their annual Halloween concert as well as their renowned Festival of Carols, which they are taking on the road this year at the Midland Center for the Arts on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

The homecoming concert will be a great opportunity to see what the Alma College choirs are all about. It will feature a piano solo by accompanist Tony Patterson and a performance by Scots on the Rocks. So, come enjoy new and old friendships while listening to the many talented men and women involved in the choirs.

## Day in the life: commuter Mitch Boyer

COLIN WASILOFF  
STAFF WRITER

Sure, we've all heard of commuters. From the waking up extra early to get to class, parking a block away and wading through a few snow drifts every now and then, and having to kill time in between classes at the library, it seems like a different college experience than most students have.

Mitch Boyer (08) is a recent graduate of Alma High School and a freshman here at Alma College. You may have seen him working behind the counter while purchasing books at the Scot Shop. If the name "Boyer" sounds familiar to you, it's probably because his mom works as a payroll clerk here as well.

One thing you would probably not know about Boyer is that he resides only three miles away from campus. He is one of a relatively small number of commuters at Alma College. Here is one day in the life of Mitch Boyer...

When 7:30 a.m. rolls around, most of the campus is still deep asleep. Not Boyer; he's woken by his alarm and hurriedly gets prepared for his first class. After getting ready for school and finishing up some last minute homework, he hops in either his recently restored 1966 Ford Mustang or his shiny new Dodge truck and heads down Superior Street.

At about 8:20 a.m., Boyer pulls into the commuter lot and drags out his backpack, filled with enough books and supplies to make it through the day. "It's not that far of a walk, but on some days I have to carry books for four classes," he relents on the walk to and from his parking spot, "We'll have to see how it goes in the winter, hopefully it won't be very bad this year."

After a short trip across the street, Boyer is finally ready to meet up with his fellow college students. "Meeting friends was probably the hardest part about commuting," he admits, "Commuting doesn't allow me to be as involved.

Sometimes it's like being an outsider."

After his first class of the day, Boyer doesn't lay low back at the dorms; he doesn't play video games, watch movies, or simply just hang out. Every day he is faced with the question "What now?" Should he go home? Should he stay? Is there anything he can do on campus?

Boyer soon found his calling in between classes. "I started working here [at the Scot Shop] and it's really fun," he said, "Both of my bosses are really nice and we have a good time." He found that going home between classes would be a waste of time, so you can usually find him working at the Scot Shop, ironically, to pay off the expense of buying books.

For lunch you won't find Boyer at Saga or Van Dusen. Joe's, you ask? Nope. He goes home for meals. "It saves money, plus there is good food there," he said. Now, there is one thing we can all envy about Boyer and his commuting counterparts: they don't have to endure the *delicious* meals at Saga every night!

All jokes aside, Boyer and other commuters who do choose to dine on campus often have a hard time finding a seat. "Whenever I eat here, no one really notices who I am," he said.

When all of his classes and work are done, Boyer usually heads home to spend time with his family and friends. Being a single child, he relies on past friendships with other graduates from Alma High for support and guidance. "Most of the graduating seniors in my class spread out, some went as far as Michigan Tech!" Boyer added, "When they come home, we usually all hang out and catch up on things."

So what else does a native Almanian do in his spare time? "I like to watch NASCAR races," Boyer said, "We go down for the race in Brooklyn, MI twice a year." Although some may say the city of Alma sometimes appears to be among the dead, Boyer and his local buddies appreciate it just as many of us appreciate our hometowns.

From driving to and from school daily, struggling to find a place to fit in, and doing the normal college "thing," commuting itself is a full load.

There are little things each of us can do to help Boyer and other commuters fit in. Invite them to your lunch table, say hello if you see them out walking, and, best of all, just ask them how their day was because chances are that it was a little busier than yours!

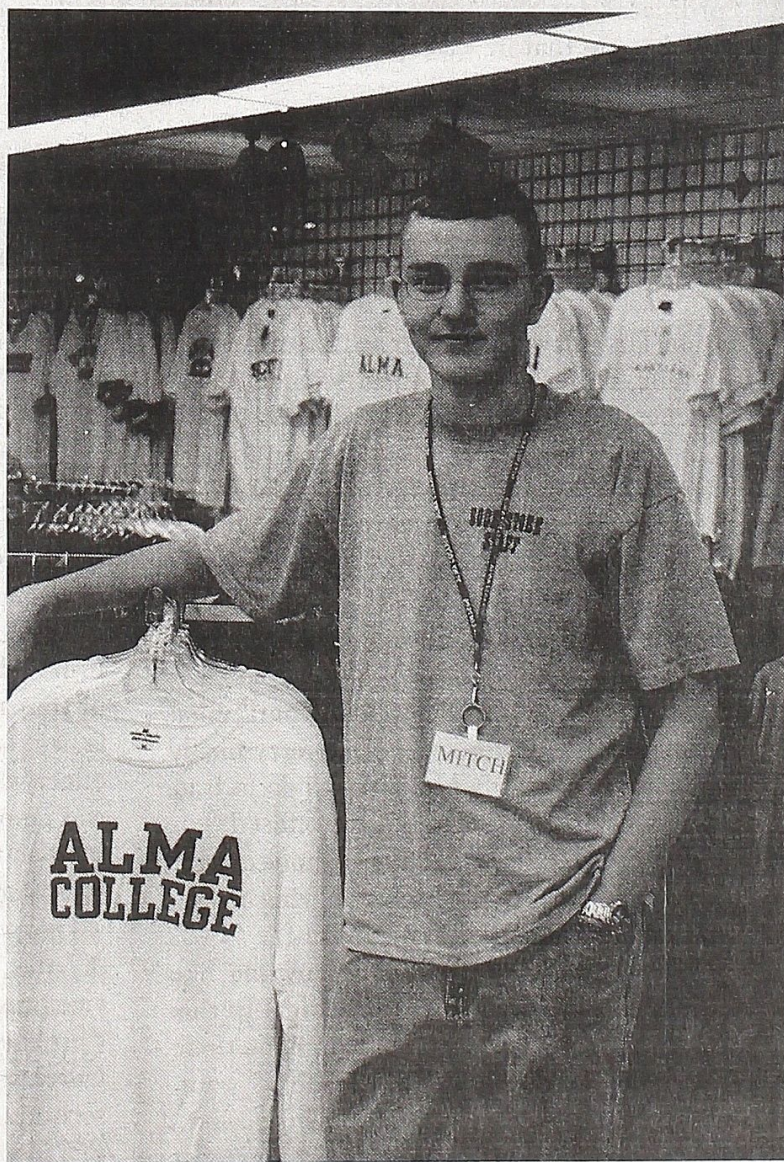


Photo by Kate Bruder



# FEATURE

## The Demanding Viewers

**BRENDAN GUILFORD**  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

This week the Demanding Viewers attended a showing of the film "The Forgotten."

Before we delve into the masterpiece that is "The Forgotten," I would be remiss to continue "The Demanding Viewers" without giving full credit to my weekly movie-going friend and fellow bad-film buff Nate Belill (05). As some people on campus are aware, Nate's encyclopedic knowledge of all things sarcastic and cinematic plays a vital role each week in this column's fruition.

Imagine an invisible tissue beginning from where you may be sitting and reading this article right now, stretching all the way to wherever your parents are currently. Can you see this membrane? You forgot your pills today, and you may have had a hand in writing this bogus script for a movie that could, just maybe, have been good.

Gerald Di Pego, who is blamed for the writing for "The Forgotten" has no notable films to his credit, although undoubtedly The Demanding Viewers will see and review his upcoming film, entitled "Halloween 9." Little else can be said about his work in this junk, aside from the fact that no one extracted any bodily fluids against their will after listening to the dialogue.

Julianne Moore's performance as Telly Paretta could be considered the worst of her career until one recalls that she also played Audrey in the 2000 cult-flop "The Ladies' Man." The Demanding Viewers concedes that Moore had no believable script, plot, or co-workers in which to save this sinking ship of

a movie, but she gets a fat thumbs down for not having the common sense to read a script before signing a contract to do the work. By the way, Moore also starred in "Slaughter House 2" and "Lost World: Jurassic Park 2," which means she will never find any peace in this column, nor in the afterlife.

Dominic West, Julianne Moore's rugged co-star definitely brings a lot of dramatic muscle to the screen. In scenes where he noticeably forgets his lines or possibly forgets what movie he is working on, West rivals any of his previous performances. I'm sure other films buffs will remember his first break as Photographer #1 in "Spice World," which Nate and I place in our top 500,000 films ever. The only other film that West ever stunned me in was "Star Wars Episode I: The Phantom Menace," in which he shocked the world as Palace Guard. Watch the DVD really closely, and you may catch a glance of him portraying a statue really quite well.

Gary Sinese also co-stars in yet another example his obvious lack of cash. If Mr. Sinese is that hungry and can't find anything meaningful to do, he could always write and direct a sequel to "Mission to Mars" where Lieutenant Dan from "Forrest Gump" uses

his metallic legs to fend off an alien invasion.

Did we mention that bad guys ride around in an invisible Oreo Double Stuffed cookie that has magical suction abilities unlike anything known to man? There is a disgusting level of irony at this fact of the movie, as Dominic West's previous job before "Mona Lisa Smile" (a huge bore) was as "The Milk Suit Guy" in a promotional campaign for milk interest groups.

The Demanding Viewers give this film two forgettable thumbs down.

## Upcoming concert to be a diverse musical experience

**LAURA SACHJEN**  
STAFF WRITER

A very Alma appropriate concert will take place on Oct. 8 when Celtic rock band OffKilter comes to campus.

The band, complete with bagpipes and electric guitar, will feature a wide range of musical styles from rock to jazz. Group members from Ireland and Puerto Rico add to the diversity already present in their music.

Bob Eldridge, Director of Alumni and Community Relations, hopes the first Alumni office sponsored concert in a long time will be a success.

"It's definitely rock music with a Scottish twist," Eldridge said, "It's entertaining, and it appeals to all ages."

The band members are lead singer and bassist Mark Weldon, keyboardist Tony Escapa, bagpiper Jamie Holton, lead guitarist Randy Holbrook and drummer Scott Zymowski.

OffKilter formed in South Florida in 1996. Since that time, OffKilter has been regularly performing at Disney World's Epcot Center and has played at several universities and festivals throughout the southern United States. The band has recorded several albums and their latest release is entitled *Celtic Armadillo*.

The Alumni Office first heard of the group through several alumni who saw the band in concert. The event is being co-sponsored by the Alma Leadership Alliance, the Co-Curricular Committee and WQAC.

Those involved hope concerts will be a recurring trend around Homecoming each year.

"We're trying to get good performers here," Eldridge said.

Alma Leadership Alliance President Laura Wasek (05) has heard a lot of the band's music and knows it will be a great show for all.

"They're used to large universities," Wasek said, "So coming to Alma will be a nice change for them."

Wasek was concerned that people might get the wrong impression and think that OffKilter is a more traditional band. They are actually a rock band. "Hopefully people will want to take advantage of it," she said.

The concert will take place Friday at 8 p.m. in the Cappaert Gymnasium. Advance tickets can be purchased at the Smith Alumni House or by calling 463-7042. Tickets will also be available at the door. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.



Photo courtesy of [http://www.allmoviephoto.com/photo/2004\\_the\\_forgotten\\_013.html](http://www.allmoviephoto.com/photo/2004_the_forgotten_013.html)

## Speaker's visit to explore connection between politics and communication

**LAURA SACHJEN**  
STAFF WRITER

What is the influence of communication in presidential campaigns?

This and many more important questions will be explored when Dr. Roderick Hart comes to campus on Oct. 12.

Hart is considered to be one of the foremost authorities on presidential communication. His recent books include *Campaign Talk: Why Elections Are Good for Us* and *Seducing America: How Television Charms the Modern Voter*.

Event organizers say that his message goes along with the College's theme of "Choices," especially in this important election year.

"Virtually every student will experience their first presidential election while here at Alma," Michael Vickery, Chair and Professor of Communication, said. "There is an emphasis on the process of making choices."

Joanne Gilbert, Associate Professor of Communication and Co-director of Women's Studies, agrees on the importance of Hart's visit.

"He is interested in asking how presidential candidates get the message across to the electorate," says Gilbert. "Everybody on the Alma campus should be vitally interested during this historic moment. His research right before the election is especially relevant."

Class offerings this semester have also focused on the theme of choices as they relate to the presidential election. Three classes in Communication, Politics and Public Affairs have been studying media and politics in presidential elections.

Hart is the founder of the Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Participation at the University of Texas at Austin, which was formed in 2000 as a way to combat increasing political cynicism in the U.S.

Hart has received degrees from University of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania State University. He taught at Purdue University until coming to Austin in 1979. He is currently a Professor and Interim Dean of Communication at the university.

He is also the creator of the DICTION computer program, which predicts public discourse by looking at the frequency of words and speech patterns and taking them out of their cultural context.

"Dr. Hart has a fine ear for the American voice," Vickery said, "He has a real ability to provide unique insights into how political language affects us."

Gilbert hopes students will take advantage of Hart's visit. "This is a valuable opportunity for students to be exposed to," she said.



# FEATURE

## AC students go 'all in' at first ever Hold 'Em tournament

COLIN M. WASILOFF  
STAFF WRITER

This past Thursday will go down in the books as the first, but most likely not last time, Alma College has hosted a school-wide Texas hold 'em poker tournament.

Made popular by what seems like a plethora of televised events, Texas Hold 'Em is a form of poker played anywhere between 3 and 20 people. Cards are dealt to individual players and to the middle of the table as well. The player with the highest combined hand claims victory in this high paced, action filled variant of shared-card poker.

Held at the Stone Recreation center, the widely publicized tournament began its first out of two rounds at 9:00. The tournament was held in conjunction with Jake Acton from the Rec. Center and ACUB.

"We saw a lot of kids setting up tables and playing during spring term," comments Dave Blandford, Director of Student Activities for ACUB. "We thought it would be fun and also a great way to get people into the recreation center that hadn't been there before."

Other than a way to have some fun and experience the Stone Rec. Center, Alma College students also found it as a potential to make some cash. The top two remaining players took home over \$300 worth of prizes, including a brand new Microsoft Xbox, and an MP3 player. Also, ACUB gave out other small prizes for individual round winners.

"It's been a hobby, and a shot



**Mark Lavengood (07) prepares to deal the river.**

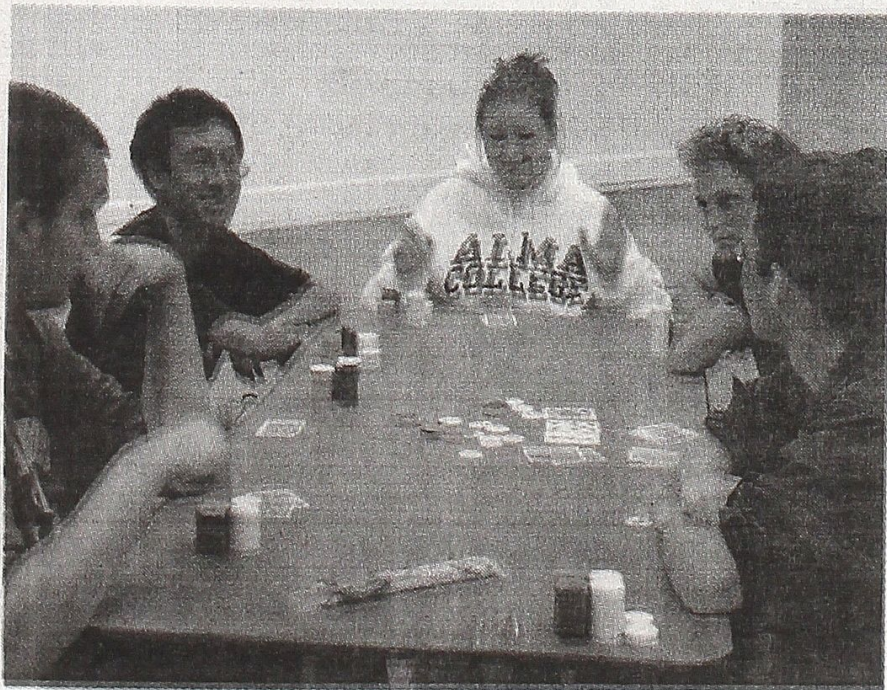
at winning some money," comments Mike Cruz (07). "I've been playing for about a year and a half and this is a great event."

Blandford expected a large turnout, and he got it. Six tables of students, ranging all grades and ages were present for the first ever tournament. One Alma freshman particularly enjoyed the event.



**Jon Barrows (07), Brian Deakin (08), and Thomas Mate (06) look at their hole cards and decide whether to hold 'em or fold 'em.**

**The flop shows promise for those still in the pot.**



**Mark Ferguson (04) contemplates raising the bet while Jon Davenport (05) and Eric Sieh (06) wait patiently.**

"I came because I like playing poker!" comments first year Scot and poker player Erik Larsen(08). "Besides," he jokingly added, "who needs to study for exams?"

After the first round of action was capped off, the poker sharks had to wait until Sunday to resume play in the second round of the tournament. Among those returning on Sunday for a shot at the grand prize were: Ben Queen(08), Matt Almond(06), Nate Weirauch(08), Bryan Deakin(08), James Brian Hancock(05), Billy Webb(07), and Craig Histed(05).

"I imagine that this is going to happen more than once," announced Blandford, adding that "if word gets around and it's really popular, we might try to have another tournament some time soon this year."



**Above: Jake Acton, Rec. Center Director and event co-sponsor, takes some time to deal a few hands.**

**Below: Bill Sterling (05) stares down Brian Paul as players wait for Jake Acton to deal the flop.**





# OPINION

## Point

### Kerry's debate message too complicated

**BRENDAN GUILFORD**  
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

I watched the first of the presidential debates for the 2004 election this Thursday with great anticipation. I wanted to see which of the candidates, both of whom I have criticized in previous editorials, would show themselves up to the task of answering some simple questions.

Let us keep a few small things in mind about the presidential debates. First, the questions and formatting are developed by the campaigns of the two candidates. Second, the candidates could not respond to the comments of one another. Third, both candidates knew the topics of all the questions well in advance, so all either of them had to do was spit sound bites to the moderator.

The media, whom is evilly liberal or disgustingly conservative depending on who you talk to, seemed to declare John Kerry the winner of the debate when it was all over. Fox News is the exception to the rule here, naturally.

Despite all the liberal pundits declaring a victory for the ages, John Kerry simply did not impress me. I understand that no candidate will ever give a flawless debate, but I really think that we as a country need to start asking for more from these fellows. I would like the leader of my country, and consequently the leader of the free world, to be able to answer a question directly and honestly.

In my opinion, it is preposterous for Kerry to ask President Bush to own up to lying about weapons of mass destruction when he himself cannot give a straight answer to the tough question of "Do you think you would be a better president?" Was Kerry's response "Yes," followed by a witty explanation laid out in simple words how he would keep us safe and scrape together a little international respect? Nope.

Kerry's responses to all the questions were long winded, off-topic, and full of words that most of our fair country would have a hard time looking up in a dictionary, let alone understanding.

Kerry did make some good points about Iraq. The number of American troops that have died in Iraq each month has been greater than the total for the previous month. Namely, our friends and family over there are dying at an ever-increasing rate. Also, Afghanistan has been ignored now that the military has invaded Iraq. Despite Bush's incessant call that Iraq be "finished," we have not finished the job where we started it. The elections in Afghanistan have been postponed three times because they are not an international leveraging chip like elections in Iraq have become.

These are all fine points, Mr. Kerry. Thank You. Now how would you do better? John Kerry's response was "You can go to [johnkerry.com](http://johnkerry.com) to find out more." We have been reduced to having to hunt for a candidate's position on their website rather than them just telling us.

Bush, for all his misguided policies, just tells what he is going to do, and there is nothing you can do to stop him.

I am still planning on voting for John Kerry. He will do better in the domestic policy debate than he did on Thursday. He will trounce Bush and get a bump in the polls. Maybe he will win, but he must say something. The American people need someone who will say with a clear, distinct message that as president they will save our country from where it is headed. I have not heard that message yet.

## Counterpoint

### Strong, steady President wins the debate

**CASSIE GOODRICH**  
STAFF WRITER

Due to the high volume of politically passionate individuals on campus, I want to put a disclaimer on this commentary. I respect those who disagree with my take on Thursday night's presidential debate.

Okay, take a deep breath... President Bush leaned on his podium for most of the debate and it annoyed me. His verbal mishaps, although few in number, made me laugh and cringe in equal measure.

Other than that however, I assert he did a better job than Senator Kerry in the debate because of his ability to relate to the average citizen, and his ability to stay focused on his core residual message of security.

President Bush effectively capitalized on his image as a plain spoken, Bible-reading Texan who loves his family.

With his drawl prominently evident in every comment, the president used simple words to get his point across, making his message more accessible to the average American. I could relate to him more than Senator Kerry because the president did not seem stiff or formal.

Although I could tell that the senator is an intelligent man who was attempting to portray himself as the anti-Bush, he was not personable in the way the president was on Thursday night.

Senator Kerry has been called a flip-flopper, so I was anxious to decide for myself on Thursday whether I believed that he was a man of strong convictions.

Sure, I think that a president should change his tactics as a way to achieve his goals, but I am an advocate of having firm beliefs at the same time.

President Bush continually reinforced his strategy with his core message that he would do whatever is necessary to protect the American people.

Senator Kerry, on the other hand, seemed to skirt around issues at times. I do not think he changed his opinions based on the poor character that some would accuse him of having, but I was sometimes confused about his motives and messages.

They did not change because they were either not addressed or not reinforced. I still do not know enough about Senator Kerry's beliefs after this debate.

If he is elected president, I have no way of predicting how he will react in any given situation.

At least with President Bush I know what my vote is getting me, as he continually forced his message down my throat whether I wanted to hear it again or not.

I am an undecided voter, so I was really looking forward to hearing Thursday night's debate. The problem is, I did not hear enough from Senator Kerry and I have heard the same thing from the president for about a year.

President Bush seemed like a broken record at times. Senator Kerry was in his element and he knew it, but did not seem to extend himself to the audience.

I wondered, however, how long it would have taken him to point his finger at the president and say bad Bush, bad president, scolding him like some dog who has gone to the bathroom on the carpet.

President Bush wins this round, but only because Senator Kerry did not live up to his potential.

**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 [almanian@hotmail.com](mailto:almanian@hotmail.com) or [OpinionAlmanian@hotmail.com](mailto:OpinionAlmanian@hotmail.com). Letters must be 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 or groups especially on campus.**

**Thank you for your opinions and we look forward to reading and printing them.**



# OPINION

## Why you should not let your parents dress you.....ever

**JJ AURAND**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Everyday we see them. We think to ourselves what horror, as we shudder and look away. All we can do is move on quickly knowing that we just witnessed someone with bad fashion sense.

Where does it come from, this bad fashion sense you ask? I believe it comes from pollution that we took in as a child, or letting your parents dress you until you were in junior high.

Either way it does not matter how this bad fashion has evolved, just that it exists. As I continue with this article I will describe some horrible examples of fashion, and sorry to those of you that fall into any of these categories.

### Socks & Sandals

The sandal is a type of footwear device that allows the foot to breathe comfortably. Your foot happens to sweat; I think we all know this. For this reason, we wear socks. Socks absorb the moisture from your foot, and then you wash your socks (I hope....), which takes care of that nasty moisture bacteria smell.

Now, why would people think about combining both socks and sandals? It just does not look right. It is as unnatural as Alma growing to the size of Lansing.

However, I have a theory as why people wear socks and sandals. They have very sweaty feet. This is why they need that extra layer of moisture absorption; otherwise, all you would hear is the sound of people walking in puddles, despite the fact that it has not rained in two weeks.

### Clothes that fit

We all had one in our high school classes. The one person that thought they could wear the smaller size shirt or the larger pants and make it look good. However, they were definitely unsuccessful. In response to this, I am going to

tell you how to determine what size of clothing to purchase.

First, to make sure you get accurate measurements use a cloth measuring tape, keeping the tape tight while measuring. For shirts, use a shirt with a collar that fits well. Lay the collar flat and measure from the center of the collar button to far end of buttonhole.

The number of inches equals your size. For sleeve length, bend your elbow and measure from the center of the back of the neck to the elbow and down the wrist. Again, number of inches is your size.

For the pants, you need to measure both waist and length. For waist measure over your shirt at the height, you normally wear your pants.

For length, stand up nice and tall, and have a friend, a very special friend, measure your inseam, the inside portion of your leg from your crotch to the length preferred.

Follow these simple steps and you will find yourself wearing clothes that fit you and makes you feel better.

### T-shirts

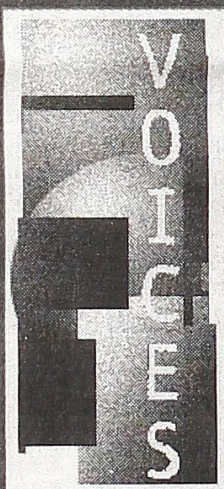
T-shirts, everyone can wear one and look good in them. From concert t-shirts to t-shirts with funny sayings, t-shirts are the universal clothing wear. Somehow, people still screw up something as simple as a t-shirt.

I do not understand why people tuck in shirts. I am not talking about wearing a t-shirt under a dress shirt or just tucking in the front of a t-shirt, but the whole shirt, from front to back.

Doing something like that is wrong. T-shirts are like the Mexican poncho, meant to be relaxed in and not suffocating. If you are going to wear a t-shirt, just let the thing go and rock it out.

I hope that none of you fall into any of these categories, and I hope I did not insult anyone that does fall into these categories.

Nevertheless, if I did I am sorry to say, you just have bad taste and should think about changing your ways.



## What do you think of this year's *Almanian*?



**Kelly O'Connor (05)**

I think the *Almanian* staff has made some great improvements to the paper so far this year. Keep up the good work



**Tristan Wilson (06)**

I haven't noticed much change. I would like to see campus event reviews and issues especially on the front page. We are interested in Alma College, and outside news should come from outside. You need more opinion articles and movie reviews.



**Elizabeth Espinosa (07)**

The paper looks good and the stories are interesting.



**Paul Nottoli (05)**

Delightfully tacky! Yet Unrefined!



**Emily Aslakson (07)**

I actually haven't read one this year.



**Christy Brewer (05)**

I like the changes I've seen so far, but I'm really hoping for lots of softball coverage in the spring.



**Joe Whitman (05)**

I really only read the sports section. The coverage has been good. Like Helmus said in his editorial, Matt Kwapis for King.



**Anna Springsteen (05)**

I like that there is more color and more subjects to read. I liked the financial section too because it is an area that pertains to everyone, but not everyone knows enough to make good decisions. I am one of those people.



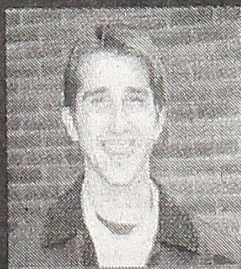
**Holly Schafer (06)**

I think the articles are of slightly better quality, but on campus activities should have more in-depth coverage.



**Jenna Skrine (06)**

I enjoyed the expanded use of color and photography, but I haven't really noticed any improvement in the writing.



**Brandon Gostomski (07)**

It is more vibrant and colorful and a brilliant awakening to my school day.

Photos by Kate Bruder



# OPINION

## Almanian Poll

What is your favorite homecoming activity?

Football Game	48 votes	48.0%
Halftime Events	15 votes	15.0%
Visiting Alumni	18 votes	18.0%
Parade	10 votes	10.0%
Concerts	9 votes	9.0%

Sample Size was 100 students

## Pass/Fail by Steve Bailey

Before the Debate...



# Homecoming Week 2004

**Tuesday (October 5<sup>th</sup>)**

## 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 7<sup>th</sup>)**

## Movie Night

**Time:** Beginning at Dusk

**Place:** Chapel Lawn

### "50 First Dates"

Starring: Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore

**Friday (October 8<sup>th</sup>)**

## 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

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: 200 dollars
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 125 dollars
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: 75 dollars

**Saturday (October 9<sup>th</sup>)**

## Parade

**Time:** 11:00am

**Place:** Superior St.

### Float Contest

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: 200 dollars
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place: 125 dollars
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Ave



## SPORTS

## Best darn sports column ever

**MATTHELMUS**  
SPORTS EDITOR

First off, welcome back to all alumni on campus. Yes, I'm still here on campus after what seems like a decade. I'm sure you've all missed the Best Darn Sports Column. ESPN and FoxSports just can't fill the sports void in your life.

Well, everyone is in for a treat this weekend during the Homecoming football game. Adrian is currently undefeated and your Scots have one blemish to a Division II foe. The game will showcase the frontrunners in the MIAA race. The Bulldogs edged the Scots last season, 45-42, so the Scots will be gunning for revenge. This year's team has a serious shot at making a run at the conference title and into the NCAA playoffs. The offense and defense have both shown that they can dominate games. Hopefully they both display this in front of a raucous crowd at Bahlke Field this weekend.

The men's soccer team will also be defending their home turf against Adrian this weekend. The Scots are within striking distance of the league title. They played league-leading Calvin closely until they self-destructed with a red card and a key injury to their goalkeeper. Calvin is currently ranked in the Top 10 in the nation so the Scots have proved they can run with the big boys. Adrian should be just a bump in the road.

The volleyball team is finally getting the respect they deserve. Sort of. The team is finally ranked in the Top 25 of the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll. They are ranked 23<sup>rd</sup>. Fairly weak for a team that is sitting at 20-0 on the season. While the Scots are not getting the legitimate respect they deserve it may play in their favor. They should be able to sneak up on teams should they make it to the NCAA tournament. With every win they get nearer to that goal.

As one last quick note, the Tigers are no longer the laughing-stock of baseball. Close, but not anymore. They're bringing back Alan Trammell as coach so next season should be even better.

# Scots stop Olivet 21-18 to kick off league schedule

**COLIN M. WASILOFF**  
STAFF WRITER

After the rousing given by Division II Tiffin University, the Scots set out to win big last Saturday afternoon against the Comets of Olivet College.

The Comets came into the match up 3-0, scoring 49 points or more in their first few games. The Scots, like the Comets, entered the duel with an impressive 118 points for and only 73 points against, which was marred by the romping by Tiffin.

"It's always good to be tested," comments wide out **Aaron Bradley (05)**. "We have a good team, and we're going to be able to make some changes."

The Scots came out on top against Olivet with a final score of 21-18. The winning margin came on a 38-yard **Jeff LaPorte (05)** field goal. The kick was LaPorte's career long.

Alma quarterback **Josh Brehm (07)** completed 13 of 19 passes, totaling 175 yards. Accounting for nearly fifty percent of the Scots' final score,

Brehm also tossed in two touchdowns Saturday.

Commenting on Brehm's marksmanship and the chemistry of the dynamic receiver group, Bradley tells all. "Our team is really tight; we've got a great character. Our receiving corps has a lot of talent as well. The three of us (Bradley, **Clayton Sims (05)**, and Cole Thelen (06)) have been playing together for three years."

Bradley also added that the receivers, like the rest of the team, have a profound respect for quarterback Josh Brehm. "He's a great leader, we all have a good chemistry." Bradley also added that the team gets together well off the field as well.

On the receiving end of those spirals were receivers Sims, Thelen, and Bradley. Bradley accounted for a touchdown early in the game, and Sims and Thelen proved also to be threats, combining for 105 yards over 7 catches.

The offensive line led the way for the ground attack piloted by **James**

**Edington (05)**. Against Olivet Edington racked up 90 yards on 14 carries and executed for a solid eight yard touchdown run. Edington also accounted for another touchdown via airmail from Brehm.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Scots were able to swarm all afternoon long. Linebacker **Scott Barriger (05)** led the team with tackles with 18 solo, followed by **John Ditmar (06)** with 10 solo tackles. The Scots ended up holding the Olivet Comets to only 18 points, which was a major accomplishment against the potent Comet offense, and puts Alma atop the MIAA standings with the Bulldogs of Adrian College.

The Scots will face off against MIAA foe Adrian College at the annual homecoming game. Game time is scheduled for 1:30 pm. "Playing as a team is key, we have to play together," comments Bradley on the Homecoming game and the remainder of the Scots' fall season.

## Experienced lacrosse squad anticipating first season in new league

**RACHEL DOTSON**  
STAFF WRITER

After the addition of seven new members, this year's lacrosse team will find its strength in numbers, along with dedication and experience.

Already well into its preseason, the club has been busy with recruitment, practices, and scrimmages. The 25-member squad has been displaying a tremendous amount of commitment in these areas.

Co-captain **Jason Garvin (05)** contrasted previous year's teams, which would not show up to practices and competitions, to the current group. "We have a much more dedicated team this year," Garvin said. "We have gone from a team that had no commitment and structure to a team that is much closer and more determined."

Monday through Thursday from 4 to 5:30 p.m. the lacrosse players can be found on the back 40—behind the football field—working hard to improve their skills. Since the team is without a coach, Garvin fills the role by passing on his eight years of experience to the others. The impressive work ethic possessed by members in

the club has lead to high expectations from the group's senior players.

"We have tons of potential, it's basically just a process of building," junior captain **Haider Samhat (06)** explained.

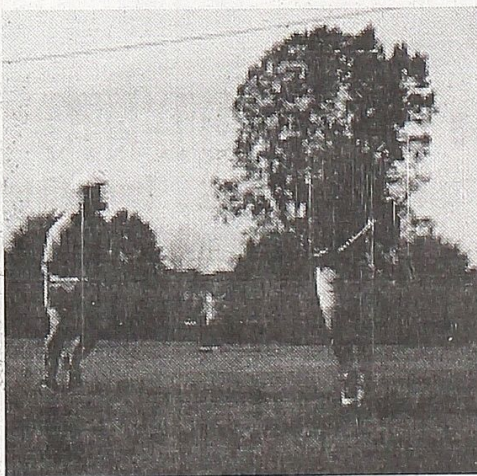
Co-captain **Matt Bryan (05)** shares Samhat's views, elaborating, "We are an experienced team and it looks as though we will be in the top levels of

competition for our division."

Aside from building upon last year's experience, the major focus of this year is to join the Central Collegiate Lacrosse Association (CCL). The CCL, as Bryan described, is the regional division that belongs to the U.S. Lacrosse Men's Division Intercollegiate Association—the largest competitive body for lacrosse in the U.S. Branching off from this, the team also hopes to compete for the regional championship in Indianapolis this spring.

Following the completion of fall preseason, a two-month break in December and January, and indoor practices beginning in February, the team will finally dive into regular season play. This year's schedule pits the Scots against 15 different schools including Calvin, Albion, Hope, Ferris, Central, Kettering, and Grand Valley State.

"It's a growing sport; it's fun and fast paced, and anyone who wants to join is welcome," Samhat said. Those who are interested in finding out more information about the lacrosse program at Alma College are encouraged by Bryan to visit their website at [www.alma.edu/organizations/lacrosse](http://www.alma.edu/organizations/lacrosse).



**Nate Howell (03)** plays defense on **Nick Dunckle (06)** during lacrosse practice.

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



SPORTS

Young women's soccer team keeps lofty goals

BRIANNA SCHUBERT  
STAFF WRITER

At the end of last season, everything looked pretty bleak for the women's soccer program. They would be losing most of the starting players because they would be graduating. The senior players enjoyed a very successful season, but this left the remaining team unsure of the future.

Women's soccer coach Chi Ly said, "This team is full of freshman. They are young and lack experience playing at this level, but have lots of energy and enthusiasm. Our level of play hasn't changed." Ly is extremely satisfied with their progress, and noted that they are playing better and better each game. "It's exciting because they still want to win [even after the losses]," Ly commented.

With three wins, one tie and six losses so far, the women have made quite an impressive showing. The process of getting to know one another and how everyone played was the most difficult part of the pre-season. Team co-captain, Pam McCarthy (06) said, "[The transition] was a little rough. At the beginning

it was hard to play together. Our attitude has changed; we've gotten a lot more motivated."

Brandi Wright (06), the other co-captain, said, "This season is a fresh start for everyone, so we're trying to learn how to play together. We have better chemistry off the field [than last year]. The team was very segregated. We have had a few tense moments, and one of the hardest pre-conference schedules we've ever had, but we're staying optimistic about this year."

The Scots are eagerly anticipating a challenging match against Albion on Saturday. It should be "a battle. The teams are evenly matched, and they have a young team as well. It should be a good game," Coach Ly said. Like the Scots, Albion also has six losses, three wins, and one tie, and a relatively young team.

Wright said, "We walked [all over] Albion last year, and this win will help us play with confidence."

The Scots hope that this confidence in the strength of the team will extend to helping them win

the conference title. According to the coach and both captains, the women actually have a very promising chance of doing this because it is still early in the season. "We have ten games left," Ly said, "that's a lot of games."

Even if the Scots do not win the conference title, there is always hope for next year. The team lost a lot of seniors last year, and they gained none this year. The underclassmen players outnumber the upperclassmen ten to one.

According to Wright, the fact that the team is young is actually a good thing. "We don't have to worry about filling in holes next year, and we still have a really good chance of winning the conference," she said.

The Scots will continue to work hard this season and push toward accomplishing their goal. McCarthy said, "We're in the building process right now, but we're playing really well." These positive attitudes that both of the captains and the coach are displaying the other women seem to have as well. Put simply, "It's sweet," according to Alison Tolly (08).

Volleyball team still undefeated

Continued from Page 1

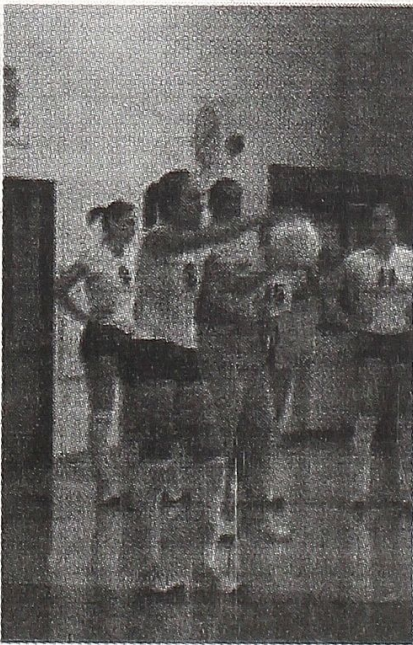
fire up is when a different player each game brings something like a song, a poem, or candy to get the team fired up and excited for the game."

Before each game the women also do what they call a "jig." Hill says "the whole team stands in a circle. Each player has a partner and then [they] make up a dance." There are other rituals in addition to these, but Murdoch told me "all the others are secret."

The volleyball team's success is not only due to their rituals and morale, but also to their hard work and talent. They know that their winning record will not continue without persistent practice and personal sacrifice. Murdoch commented, "There are always things that we can work on. We should always be striving to make ourselves better." To maintain success, dedication must be a priority for the Scots.

Alma's volleyball record is getting the women recognized nationally. They are currently ranked twenty third on the American Volleyball Coaches Association Top 25 Poll. When asked how she felt the ranking would affect the team, Hill replied, "We try not to think about the ratings. It's about how well we're doing as a team. We need to play with the same intensity every game." Murdoch shared Hill's thoughts, "I hope the ranking doesn't effect us. Losses are bound to happen even to good teams, so the rankings really don't matter. We need to work hard for ourselves not just for the ranking."

With several matches left in the season, look for the Scots to seek victory one dig, set, and spike at a time—sticking together as a team, no matter what odds or opponents they might face.



Kristin Judson (05) prepares to serve against Olivet. The Scots defeated the Comets and are 20-0 on the season. They have a strong shot at the NCAA playoffs.

Photo by Kate Bruder

MIAA Standings

FOOTBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Adrian	1-0	4-0
ALMA	1-0	3-1
Hope	1-0	2-2
Tri-State	1-0	1-3
Albion	0-1	2-2
K'zoo	0-1	1-3
Olivet	0-1	3-1
Wisc. Luth	0-1	0-4

VOLLEYBALL

	MIAA	Overall
ALMA	9-0	20-0
Calvin	8-1	13-5
K'zoo	7-2	13-7
Adrian	4-4	7-10
Albion	4-5	7-10
St. Mary's	4-5	4-7
Hope	3-6	8-8
Tri-State	0-7	3-16
Olivet	0-8	5-13

MEN'S SOCCER

	MIAA	Overall
Calvin	5-0-0	10-0-1
Hope	4-0-0	7-3-0
ALMA	3-1-0	3-7-0
Adrian	2-2-0	4-4-2
Albion	2-2-0	4-5-1
K'zoo	1-3-0	3-6-0
Olivet	0-3-0	2-4-3
Tri-State	0-5-0	0-9-0

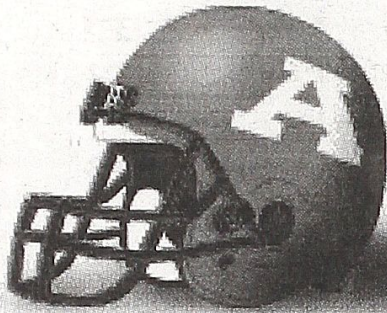
WOMEN'S SOCCER

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



SPORTS

Scots take on Adrian in football and soccer for Homecoming



Helmets courtesy of www.inside99.net/Helmet\_Project/

SCOTS

3-1, 1-0 MIAA



Scots take the field!

Photo courtesy of Kate Bruder



BULLDOGS

4-0, 1-0 MIAA

	Scots	Opponents
Scoring	34.8/game	22.8/game
Yardage	1737	1245
Rushing	508	665
Passing	1229	580
Per Game	434.2	311.2
Field Goals	3/3	4/5

SOCCER

SCOTS

3-1-0 MIAA  
3-7-0 Overall

Leading Scorer:  
Jamie Shooks  
5 points



BULLDOGS

2-2-0 MIAA  
4-4-2 Overall

Leading Scorer:  
Stewart Cherry  
5 points

	Adrian	Opponents
Scoring	28.8/game	9.2/game
Yardage	1719	986
Rushing	729	396
Passing	990	590
Per Game	429.8	246.5
Field Goals	6/7	1/5

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TUESDAY, OCT. 5

- 6:30 p.m. - Homecoming Activities Night (Behind Stone Recreation Center)
- 7 p.m. - Presidential Forum (Dr. Tracy's Home)
- 8 - 9:30 p.m. - Tales of a Female Nomad (Jones Auditorium)

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 6

- 4 p.m. - Men's Soccer Home v. Hope
- 7 p.m. - Volleyball @ Adrian

- 8 p.m. - A Life Changing Year Presentation (Chapel)

THURSDAY, OCT. 7

- 10a.m. - 3 p.m. - International Opportunities Fair (SAC, 1st Floor)

- 3 - 4 p.m. - World of Choices Presentation (SAC 113)

- Dusk - Movie Night "50 First Dates" (Chapel Lawn)

FRIDAY, OCT. 8

- Women's Golf @ MIAA Championships (Bedford Valley G.C., Battle Creek)
- 8 p.m. - OffKilter Concert, Tickets \$5 for students (Cappaert Gymnasium)
- Bonfire after OffKilter Concert

- 8:30 - 10 p.m. - Think Fast International Game (Tyler-VanDusen)

SATURDAY, OCT. 9

- Volleyball @ Olivet College

- 11 a.m. - Men's and Women's Cross Country @ Disney Invitational (Orlando, FL)

- 11 a.m. - Homecoming Parade (Superior Street)

- Noon - Women's Soccer @ Calvin

- 1:30 p.m. - Men's Soccer Homecoming v. Adrian

- 1:30 p.m. - Football Homecoming v. Adrian w/ King and Queen Crowned at Halftime

- 8 p.m. - Homecoming Choir Concert (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

SUNDAY, OCT. 10

- 9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Service