



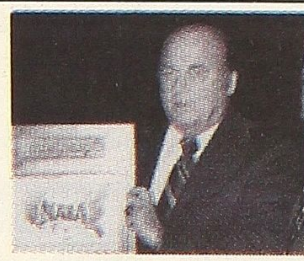
**Blow your trumpets kiltie band prepares for indoor show- page 5**

*Photo by Kate Voskeritchian*



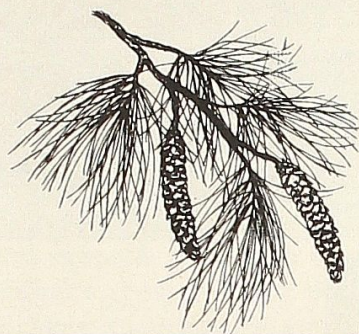
*Photo courtesy of <http://flux.tastylime.net/santa.jpg>*

**You no longer need to worry about coal in your stocking page 8**



**Great Scot: Bob Devaney page 10**

*photo courtesy of Alma College Archives Online*



# The Almanian

*serving Alma College since 1907*

## Friends of Fred Meijer Heartland Trail ask for support

**DEREK HARRISON  
STAFF WRITER**

In an effort to bring use to the abandoned CSX railroad in Gratiot County and to connect the final piece of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail, several Alma College professors have focused toward completing the purchase of the land.

"Currently we are trying to buy the rest of the five miles directly into the city of Alma, from Bliss road over to Prospect Street," Robyn Anderson, professor and chair of Education and Health Science said.

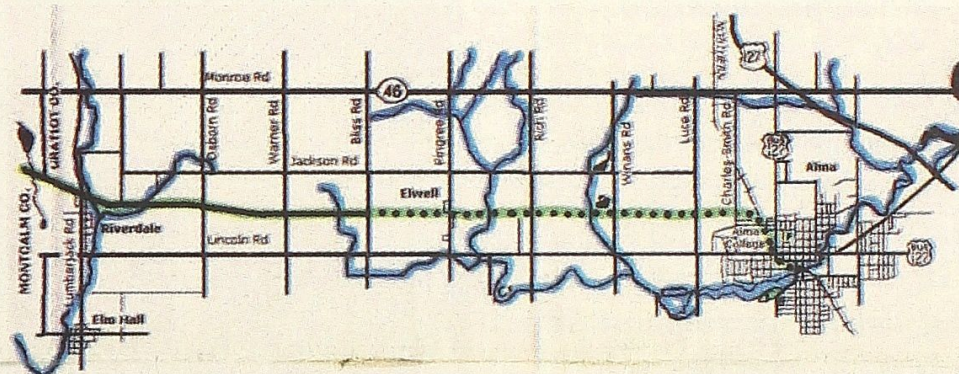
Groups of volunteers that organize for that particular cause formulated a Friends Group to bring collaborative ideas, capital, and support.

"This effort has a long history," Anderson said, "The commissioner of Montcalm County and the group had seen that CSX had in essence, abandoned its property, and they organized a friends group to purchase the land."

The group currently owns 29 miles

with about four and a half miles of the land in Gratiot County. The developed portion of the trail is currently limited to Montcalm County, starting

factors to help purchase this trail and Fred Meijer of the Meijer store chain put money forth to aid the purchase of this 29 miles.



*Photo Courtesy of Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail - Gratiot*

**The dotted green line is the section of rail bed that is being proposed to purchase and develop to connect Alma to Fred Meijer Heartland Trail.**

in McBride's and extending toward Greenville.

"Of the trail section that we currently own," Anderson said, "There is almost 15 miles fully paved and being used extensively. It's a great trail to go on."

The friends group brought out bene-

mathematics and computer science, said. "I'm interested in what it can do for the community."

Total fundraising has not been reached, however, and Anderson said she urges any interested donators to contact her since the project is still working hard to raise about \$20,000 of the total cost.

"The five and a half miles in Alma we are purchasing for \$341,000," Anderson said. "We did not even pay that much for the 29 miles that we currently own. We paid almost \$250,000 for the first 29 miles, but because CSX knows that this is the last link in the trail to connect between Alma and Greenville, it is a valuable piece for us and that we're going to get it anyway."

**See trail page 3**

## Search underway for Director of Campus Life

**SCOTTWEIR  
NEWS EDITOR**

Just recently, many of you may have received an invitation in your Alma email account regarding a presentation entitled, "How to Revitalize an Organization: in Particular the Greek Organization." Included in that email was the announcement of three candidates that all had the opportunity to come to Alma College over last three weeks as part of the Student Life Office's search for a new director of campus life.

Nick Piccolo, vice president of student life, and student life staff, had suggested the creation of this position because they recognized the need for leadership development on our campus. Piccolo said, "This position was created to help with the day-to-day

life of students, as well as to assist the student life sector with residence halls and student activities and organizations."

The search began early this year with roughly 20-30 candidates and a committee comprised of faculty and staff, under Chair Kari Schueler, Newberry Hall Director, has recently narrowed it down to three candidates, which they decided would be a practical number to bring to campus.

Upon arrival to campus the three candidates were able to meet with student life staff, talk with students over lunch, and take a tour of campus. One of the other activities they did, as part of the interview process, was to prepare and deliver

**See Search page 4**

"Naturally, I'm excited," Melvin Nyman, Mayor of Alma and professor of

## Student Congress does budget audits

**SAM STONEBUREG  
STAFF WRITER**

Here at Alma College many of us are involved in various groups within the student body. Something that many people don't realize is that the majority of these groups receive a budget from Student Congress.

That being said, exactly what groups on campus receive a budget from Student Congress? Student Congress treasurer **Kelli Bissett (05)** explained that there are thirty-six student organizations that receive at least part of their funding from the activity fee (which is \$200 per student). In March, the groups submit their budgets, which the Budget and Finance Committee reviews. The committee then makes recommendations to Student Congress who then votes on the final budget allocations in the spring. Greek organizations, on the other hand, collect their own dues, but they are a part of Student Congress just as IFC, Judicial and others.

The groups that receive the most amount of money are the Alma

College Union Board (ACUB), *The Almanian*, *The Scot*, and the WQAC radio station. The larger groups have substantial fixed costs like equipment and publishing fees. However, these groups also serve the entire campus community. Other groups are service, academic, or interest clubs. All, however, offer something unique and valuable to the college community; that is the basis of allocating the budgets.

Groups who receive money from Student Congress do have limits on how they can use it. Bissett said, "We had to [eliminate] approximately \$15,000 from organization budget requests in the spring to fit within overall funding constraints. Last years Student Congress treasurer, Svetlana Kobzar (04), invited several groups to work with the Budget and Finance Committee to find ways of making voluntary cuts.

It was during the budget allocation discussion that Student Congress adopted a standard of not funding food for meetings or for normal programs. Tee shirts were also nixed. ACUB is

**See Budget page 3**



# News

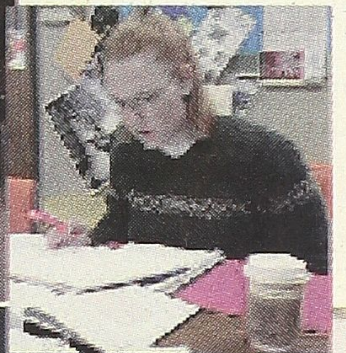
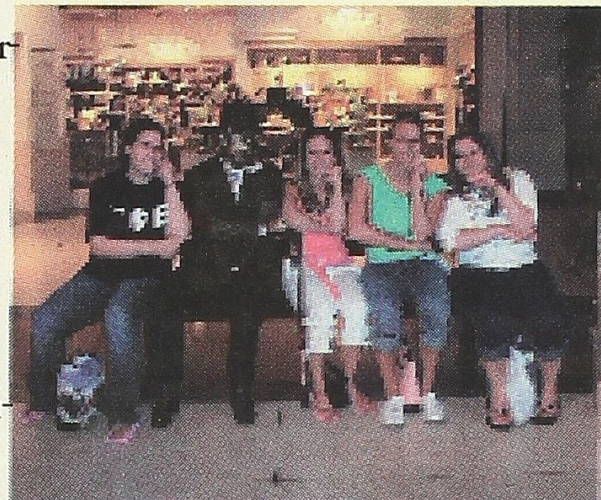


# GO GREEK



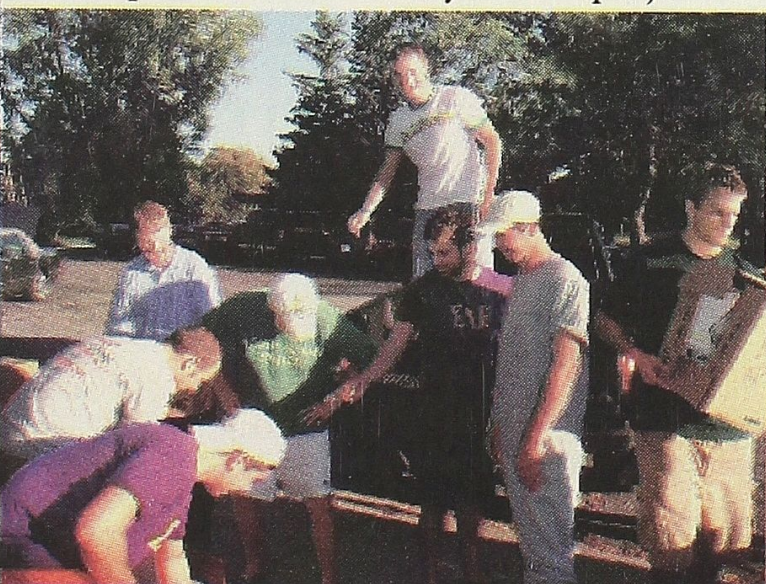
**L** The Alma College Greek Community provides opportunities for you to develop your leadership potential. **E** Membership in a Greek organization is one of the most outstanding means of discovering and refining your leadership potential. Each Greek chapter is self-governing and relies on the special talents of its members for successful management. Serving as an officer on the Executive Board or on a committee, develops leadership skills in the areas of self-responsibility, decision-making, and communication.

**A** Members are encouraged to become active in campus leadership roles. As a result, college careers for Greek students begin to involve more than merely textbooks, classrooms, athletic events and social functions. A leader in the Greek community will develop such skills as goal setting, delegating responsibilities, working with a group, planning activities, solving problems, time management and focused decision making. **D** **E** **R** **S** **H** **I** **P**

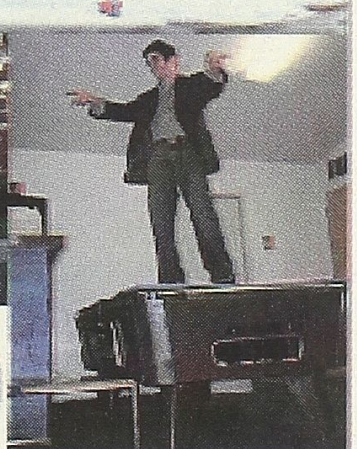


## Service

One of the most gratifying aspects of Greek life is the sense of satisfaction and pride that comes from involvement in. Each year, individual chapters participate in philanthropy projects working with organizations such as the Women's Aids Shelter or the Community Cafe. Greeks support their individual national philanthropies at the local level by donating thousands of hours in hands-on service in the Alma area and also by participating in campus-wide community service projects.



## Social



## Friendship

Sisterhood and brotherhood are the traditions that each chapter shares; it is the foundation of each chapter. Fraternities and sororities bring together a group of diverse individuals that share common interests and goals, both personal, and those of the chapter. Some of the closest relationships you will have will be with your fraternity brothers and sorority sisters. The friendships you make during your college years will last long after you have graduated from Alma.

If you would like more information about Recruitment, contact Rachel Miller, PanhellenicRecruitment Chair, or Dustin Bissell, Interfraternity Council Recruitment Chair, via email at [PanhellenicCouncil@alma.edu](mailto:PanhellenicCouncil@alma.edu) or by calling the Student Life Office at x7147.

Formal Recruitment List Signing Begins Sunday January 16, 2005 in SAGA. Recruitment begins Saturday January 22, 2005



# News

## News Briefs

**RACHEL DOTSON**  
STAFF WRITER

In a report by CNN on Saturday, an Indiana woman's mission to auction her father's ghost on eBay was detailed. Mary Anderson, the mother of 6-year-old Collin Anderson, decided to sell the spirit in an attempt to calm Collin's fear of the deceased man.

"I always thought it was just normal kid fears until a few months ago he told me why he was so scared," she said of her son. "He told me 'Grandpa died here, and he was mean. His ghost is still around here!'"

Though surprising to some, the ghost, which is actually being sold with his metal walking cane, had already drawn 34 bids topping off at \$78 on Saturday.

The bidding came to a close Monday afternoon, with Anderson requesting that the winner write her son a letter to let him know that his grandfather is there.

Since the falling of Senator John Kerry on November 2 there has been much talk surrounding the nation about New York Senator Hilary Rodham Clinton's plans to run for president in 2008. While she may carry a household name, much of the talk is coming from groups such as the "Hilary haters," whose feelings toward the democratic senator are clearly expressed by their name.

"She may have 100 percent name recognition, but it comes with a certain amount of baggage," a Democratic political strategist on Capitol Hill told the New York Times, referring to the negative feeling so many citizens associate with the name Hilary Clinton.

Numerous polls taken in New York show that approximately one third of the state's population hold an unfavorable opinion of her, a statistic that has remained fairly stable since she came to office in 2001. And, with plans to attempt the presidency in 2008, Hilary is already facing a forty percent disapproval rating on the national scale.

Some supporters are not worried by these numbers, however. One Democrat, who is also close with Mrs. Clinton, said, "Show me a poll where she has lost ground. You can't. They don't exist. She has been gaining supporters both in New York and nationally since she took office by virtue of her hard work."

### Budget from page 1

the exception here because they use their shirts for event publicity and uniforms during events. Little Sibs has specific event tee shirts as well. Food/tee shirts for staff meetings, recruitment, and similar organization events were cut at least in some small part from each group's budget. Bissett said, "Going with this, it is only fair that we uphold that standard for evaluating this year's budget spending budget."

Bissett also explained what the semi-annual audits (fall and spring) are and why they are necessary. She said, "They tell us if groups are spending their money according to their approved budgets and organization priorities. Cash flow statements and corresponding receipts show which groups are actively engaged. They also show potential mishandling of funds or idle usage. It holds groups accountable for each other and the student body."

Another source of funds for student organizations is the contingency. Student Congress has \$7,559.00 in current year contingency funds. Organizations submit contingency requests for contingency money to fund extra activities that were cut from their budgets as well as new projects, equipment or materials, emergency budget shortfalls, or other creative ideas that they didn't include in their budgets. Student Congress organizations in good standing are eligible. The Budget and Finance Committee reviews each request, makes recommendations and then Student Congress discusses and votes on the request at the subsequent meeting.

One of the current contingency requests that has received some controversy is that of the *Scot*. Due to miscalculations and rising costs, the yearbook is under budget by \$3,694.40. The staff is working to put out yearbooks for two years, meaning that they will have to mail out editions to past graduates. They are planning to complete this year's yearbook on time. They have sent the 2003 yearbook to the publishers. However, there was a budgeting oversight that neither they or the Budget and Finance Committee caught in the spring, and as a result they were approved for fewer dollars than they needed to pay Jostens and the mailing costs. Business manager for the *Scot*, **Miriam Zinger** (06) explained that as well as applying for contingency money; they are also charging graduates who receive the 2003 yearbook 20% of the price. At yesterday's student congress meeting, in a 29-9-1 vote (one abstention), Student Congress approved the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee and the yearbook with receive \$3,700 from contingency.

## Money Talks: holiday edition

**JON MORRIS**  
STAFF WRITER

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas, and of course Thanksgiving has just barely passed, but if you're looking for some things to add to your wish list this year, you might consider some stocking stuffers that keep on giving. I'm talking about stocks, mutual funds, bonds, and certificates of deposit!

I know that I have now entered the furthest realm in the kingdom of dorks, but receiving an investment as a gift for Christmas is a great way to make a little extra cash during the school year, and maybe pay for books next semester, or fund your party account with cash dividends.

The only thing you have to do in order to receive such a great gift is to ask. You will probably find that your parents, or family, or significant other will be more than shocked to hear that instead of an electric guitar, a new computer, or a diamond ring, you want 50 shares of Ford stock or a \$500 deposit into a new Large Growth mutual fund for Christmas this year. They might even think that buying you an investment for Christmas is such a great idea, that they'll have everyone in the family contribute to your account, or maybe they'll spend more than you asked for, because it will give you better returns. This is all hypothetical of course, and it honestly might not work, but purchasing investments is not a difficult thing to do, and someone who cares about you would definitely be willing to make an extra effort to give you something great for Christmas.

### Trail from page 1

We want it."

Nyman said that he understands not everyone can write a check for the cause, but there has been a lot of enthusiasm and outspoken support toward the effort. "It will be a lot of work, but this will happen," Nyman said. "When purchased and fully developed the trail will be a tremendous asset to the community."

Since it began, the effort to buy the land has not gone unopposed. The case had been brought to the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan because adjacent landowners believed if the land was no longer going to be used for rail transportation, it should recede to their ownership, despite no law requiring such measures.

"It became a big bidding fight against farmers when they wanted to purchase the land and had grouped together," Anderson said. "When they abandon the land they have to publish their intentions to sell it and technically anyone can try to purchase it."

If you pitch this as a gift idea to someone, and they don't have any clue how to purchase an investment, there are many online trading systems that will allow you to purchase stock for a very low cost. If it is other investments you desire, have them contact the provider of the mutual fund, bond, or CD, for information on how to purchase the investment, and what options are available. They could also work with a financial planner or an investment broker if they are seeking further professional advice.

If you think this is a good idea, but you have no idea what to ask for, take a little break during finals to visit some websites on investment strategies for beginners. My favorite website is <http://www.fool.com>, created by David and Tom Gardner, authors of *The Motley Fool Investment Guide*. This site has almost everything you need to get started, it is very easy to use, and it explains complex investment concepts in very simplistic and thorough guidelines.

If you need to do further research, just search the web for other investment guides. Yahoo has a finance page where they explain current investment performances, and basic investment questions, and nearly every mutual fund provider has a website that will describe and explain its own performance.

I know the idea of asking for something you can not immediately enjoy for Christmas is a nauseating concept, but asking for an investment for Christmas could make your life a little easier and maybe you can buy what you really wanted with the earnings you receive.

Anderson continued saying that the friends group went through a process called Rail Banking because of their former experience and the threat of dividing the land. Rail Banking protects the land from getting broken apart and allows the company to repurchase it completely if it later desires.

"We went through that process to protect it this time," Anderson said. "Therefore it wouldn't benefit as many possible purchasers because it would be outside their interest region."

Nyman said he would like to see it finished by summer of 2005 if the group can presume efficient transfer of ownership. He said that he hoped the college would play a large role in obtaining and developing the trail as it will run by campus and provide a major benefit to students.

"When we get it paved, the walkway will link many facilities together," Nyman said. "This trail will link much of the college and run past the athletics fields."



# FEATURE

## The Demanding Viewers: "Alexander" fails to conquer

**BRENDAN GUILFORD**  
STAFF WRITER

The Demanding Viewers were in the mood to see a big, dramatic epic that could only deserve a favorable review from the two harshest film critics in Gratiot County. But we were lazy and went to see Alexander instead.

Director Oliver Stone ("JFK," "U Turn," "Any Given Sunday") has not released a movie since the football melodrama "Any Given Sunday" in 1999 starring an old Al Pacino and a strung-out Cameron Diaz.

Stone, despite a reasonably strong record and huge Hollywood pull, really fails to deliver considering the material and a *\*choke\** fairly decent cast. With the exception of Angekina

Jolie, all of his major players are accomplished (well, famous anyway) actors with many good films under their belts.

Nevertheless, "Alexander" the film refuses to be great, and unlike the real

conqueror doesn't capture anyone's heart or mind (or country).

Colin Farrell ("Phone Booth," "The Recruit," "S.W.A.T."), the hard fighting, hard drink-

ing, soft acting Irishman with a knack for being bland, plays the epic title character just like everyone thought he would. Farrell manages to appear interested whenever he is slashing

people, but occasionally looks like he is reading off of cue cards when speaking to other characters.

Angelia Jolie Alert! We must say that when her name flashed on the screen at the showing of "Alexander," we knew that this movie was going to stink. "Jolie Presence" is the number one indicator of a movie's lack of quality. This is not to say a movie without Angelia Jolie will be good, but it means any movie she stars in will *not* be good.

Christopher Plummer (Most recently in Indiana Jones rip-off: "National Treasure") does just fine as Aristotle, but was more enjoyable as pedestrian number 40 in the newly released "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas" (its true!).

The modern day Greek government has probably been the most interesting player in this film for suing Oliver Stone for portraying Alexander as bisexual. This is a fact that most his-

torians do not dispute, however. The Greek government apparently thinks all the other Mediterranean countries will make fun of them because the guy that conquered the entire known world may have been bisexual.

"Alexander" manages to get battle scenes right, which is commendable for a movie about a man who spent his entire life making war. The film falters, however, when examining the politics between the people surrounding Alexander. The actors playing the "young version" of older characters give performances that are uneven, and the flashback scenes in which they appear are often improperly timed, too long, or too short.

The "charge" scene is definitely worth watching, as it is lead by a real life Oxford professor of History who has spent his career studying Alexander the Great.

The Demanding Viewers give this film two epic thumbs down.

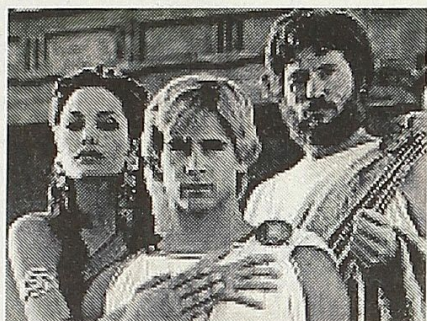


photo courtesy of [http://www.alexander-the-great.co.uk/production\\_pics.htm](http://www.alexander-the-great.co.uk/production_pics.htm)

### SEARCH from page 1

a presentation to members of the campus community.

Greek life, like many other student organizations, is suffering drastically in number and because the selected candidate would work directly with Greek organizations and their governing bodies, Panhellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council, it would be important for the candidate to have a knowledge of Greek Life.

Piccolo said, "It [Greek life] has been a concern since I arrived on campus." Greek life was a concern that not only Piccolo felt strongly about, but also all of the candidates agreed that membership numbers and alcohol abuse among other things are both national concerns of the Greek community.

The first candidate to come to campus was **Grant Woodman (96)**. Woodman is an Alma College graduate and has a Master of Education from Clemson University. He has worked in numerous student life positions including, most recently, Associate Director of Residential Life at Albion College.

Woodman discussed the need for an open line of communication between student's and staff to make positive change to the campus community. He would like to see the utilization of the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council to help the Greek system. He said, "I feel that I have the ability to relate to students and would always have an open line of communication to hear the students needs."

Just last week, the second candidate, Jamie Brown, came to campus.

Brown came from Mt. Pleasant where she currently serves as the Assistant Director of Student Life at Central Michigan University (CMU). Brown recently obtained her Master of Arts from CMU and prior to that a Bachelor of Science from Indiana University.

One of the ideas that Brown stressed heavily is the need to pull in a wider range of leaders. She said, "We need to go to the potential next set of leaders instead of asking the same set of leaders to do everything." Like Woodman she also feels that she is very approachable and said her colleagues tell her she would make time for anyone.

The last candidate, Wendi Santee, came the farthest, driving from Kansas to Alma for a visit yesterday. She attended MidAmerica Nazarene for her Bachelors or Arts and currently serves as their Resident Educator. She is also a candidate for an Ed.D. from Azusa Pacific University.

Santee recommended offering a "for credit" course in leadership development. She said, "It could be a pre-requisite for leadership positions in organizations and would be a great tool to improve our organizations." She thinks that one thing essential to organization recruitment is to be a dynamic and active organization.

The new position with help relieve some of the extra work off of an already busy, student life staff, and will be a great asset to the Alma College community. The Student Life Office plans to make a decision in this matter by the start of next semester.

## What's up with blogging?

**AMY TOPHAM**  
STAFF WRITER

"I read his blog, it was good."

"Did you read her last live journal entry?"

"Who knows where to find that online journal?"

"Man, I wish I could just go vent."

Does this sound like gibberish to you, or a foreign language perhaps? Well, if it does, you need to step into the present and get on board with what is taking the Internet by storm. Blogs are finally catching the public's attention, though they have been an established format on the Internet for five years.

The media is also taking notice of this recent online phenomenon. The blogging community has reshaped the web, impacted politics, influenced the media, and allowed for millions of people to connect with others who share the same interests and ideas as them.

So what is a blog or a live journal? Well, a simplistic explanation defines blogs as online journals on which you can write. Blog is short for web log or web journal. A blog is a site where you can keep a journal, documenting important events, thoughts, feelings and even pictures depicting your life.

A blog can also have a mix of personal and online events mixed into one journal. It is a simple web journal that was designed so that even those with few technical skills could easily start up. They are targeted to be used as sites to share pictures, journal en-

tries, and pretty much anything else.

Along with your own journal, you can become part of other blogger communities that share similar interests with you. Becoming part of a larger community of bloggers is easy. In addition, it is a great way to meet new people and develop online friendships.

Companies and even political leaders are using blogs. Presidential candidate John Kerry had a blog documenting his campaign trail. Even singer Fred Durst has a blog.

Others can access your blog on the Internet using the same site as you and by friends and family and strangers who are not using the site. Security and privacy options can be set up to prevent just anyone from accessing your blog, however.

Your blog can be personalized to reflect your personal style and ideas. It is very popular to customize your journal to reflect you and what is important to you.

Comments can be left on most blogs. These can be used to start up conversations or stay in touch with friends. Comments can be directly emailed to you if you wish on most blog sites.

Blogs are a good place to write down what you are feeling and to express yourself in a healthy and safe way. They allow you to be creative and to open to yourself up to others.

Popular online journal sites to check out on blogging are: [www.blogger.com/start](http://www.blogger.com/start) and [www.livejournal.com](http://www.livejournal.com).



# FEATURE

## Kiltie Marching Band will culminate season with indoor show

**BRIANNA SCHUBERT**  
STAFF WRITER

On December 10 and 11, the Kiltie Marching Band will grace the Heritage Center stage instead of the bright green turf of the hallowed football field. This indoor show is a chance to

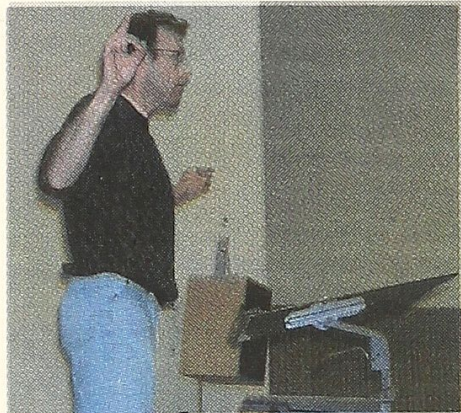


Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

"This season went fabulously," said Dave Zerbe, Director of Bands and Percussion Studies. "I was really pleased. The band was really dedicated."

showcase individual sections of the band and the accomplishments of the band without the distraction of a scoreboard.

The Kiltie band has prepared a plethora of pieces for the season and consequently for the indoor concert. A full arrangement by both Aaron Copeland and Chuck Mangione will be played, as well as other selected pieces. The color guard will also have a

feature without the band. Some pieces that will be highlighted include "Hey Pachuco," "Malaguena," and a piping piece.

"This season went fabulously," said Dave Zerbe, Director of Bands and Percussion Studies. "I was really pleased. The band was really dedicated. They had a real desire to play and march at a high level," Zerbe said.

The drum major, **Cameron Ray (06)**, concurred. "This year the marching season was awesome," Ray said. "We were able to prepare and perform two entire shows. It was pretty amazing what we were able to accomplish as a fairly young, small band," Ray said. There are only 74 marching band members.

The marching band starts practicing during preterm. "The first week we teach everyone basic marching techniques: calls, stance, formations, etc.," said Ray. They continue to practice an hour and fifteen minutes a day, five days a week, all semester. In addition to this, the musicians must practice several hours a



Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

**Mark Lavengood (07)** and his fellow percussionists prepare for the Kiltie Marching Band indoor show

week with their individual sections. The concert is not just a halftime show indoors.

"The whole concert should be pretty impressive," Zerbe said. "I am excited about all the sections being showcased," said Zerbe.

"It is good to be able to perform the show for an audience that came specifically to see the band," said Ray. "It is nice to be able to showcase different groups like the drum line and the color guard," Ray said.

The color guard has written and prepared their entire show themselves. **Sarah DeYoung (07)** is captain of the color guard, but many of the members have choreographed parts of the show:

**Melissa Barclay (08), Nicole Devers (05), and Rachel Naiukow (08).** "Everyone [in the guard] has helped with the choreography," said DeYoung. "There is an awesome guard feature this time."

The percussionists were also unsatisfied with the arrangements for the Chuck Mangione pieces so **Christopher Ozinga (06), Mark Zeeff (05), Reese Gall (05), and Jacob Finkbiener (06)** created new ones. Several students will be performing solos as well: **Timothy Ricci (05), Amanda Buck (05), and Kimberly Graor (06).**

A lot of labor went into this marching season. "The students did a lot of section work; every section worked several hours a week separate from the hour and fifteen minutes a day we practice," said Zerbe.

"It is a wide variety of music and styles this year," said Zerbe. "It should be a really good show; the musicians have been working really hard to prepare."

## Remembering the true meaning of the season with Lights of Love

**MEGAN JARCZYNSKI**  
STAFF WRITER

Amongst the holiday hustle and bustle, it's easy to forget the true meaning of the season. The class of 2008, however, is helping Alma remember what Christmas is all about with their Lights of Love fundraiser.

For a \$1.00 donation, students, faculty, and staff can purchase a Christmas tree light in honor of a loved one or friend. All the proceeds from the fundraiser will be given to the Salvation Army to aid in their crusade during the holiday season.

Class of 2008 president **Terra Teague (08)** developed the idea for Lights of Love. "I did something similar to this back in high school with the hospital," said Teague.

Teague has high hopes the fundraiser will be a success at Alma as well. She

said, "We want to raise as much as we can. We're asking for \$1.00 donations, but people can give as much as they like since one hundred percent of the proceeds are going to the Salvation Army."

Donating money to help those less fortunate is a major component of the true holiday spirit.

"Christmas is a time to remember not only the things we have," Teague said, "but also to remember what we

**"Christmas is a time to remember not only the things we have, but also to remember what we are fortunate for. It's not about materials, but about giving."**

are fortunate for. It's not about materials, but about giving."

**Ciara Feko (08)** echoes Teague's sentiment about the holiday season. "It is a great time to be grateful for

what you have and to remember that others may not be so lucky and to let those people have something during the holiday season as well," said Feko.

Lights of Love is also about remembering those people we hold close to our hearts, no matter how near or far they might be.

"This is something great to do in remembrance of someone you can't be with during the holidays, whether it be a loved one who has died or even maybe gone to war," said Feko. "Not only will it give you a chance to remember them, but I'm sure they will feel they are being remembered as well."

The light sale will continue until Wednesday, December 8. Students may purchase the lights during dinner at Saga. Just look for the table near the tray return. For faculty and staff, Lights of Love

purchases can be made in the Student Life Office.

While making a donation, be sure to give the name of the person(s) for whom you want the light to be a remembrance.

The Lights of Love fundraiser will come to a conclusion on Thursday, December 9 at 8:00 p.m. At this time there will be a lighting of the pine tree located between the chapel and Van Dusen.

The tree lighting will be accompanied by a candlelight vigil and a prayer service by Reverend Vogel, as well as a reading of all the names of those individuals that donors requested to be remembered.

The Lights of Love tree lighting is sure to be a moving experience and serves as a great way to give to a wonderful cause and remember those whom you love. Show your holiday spirit and generosity by participating in the first of hopefully many charitable fundraising events sponsored by the class of 2008.



# FEATURE

## Students take control for One-Act Play Festival

**SAM STONEBURG**  
STAFF WRITER

Every year around this time the Alma College Theatre Company performs their One-Act Play Festival. This festival, which began in 1996, has become a favorite among the theatre students.

Joseph Jezewski, Associate Professor of Theatre, explained that the One-Act Play Festival developed out of the intermediate directing class.

He stressed the importance of learning by doing. In the class, students learn script analysis and acting among other things; the one act play festival is an opportunity for students to put all those elements together.

"Although this is completely student run, we're not completely throwing them out there; we are still there helping out as advisors," says Jezewski.

This year there is a unique mixture of novice and advanced directors. Last year, Jezewski incorporated students who are interested in costume and lighting design into the process.

***"In the class, students learn script analysis and acting among other things; the one act play festival is an opportunity for students to put all those elements together."***

"We take the burden off the director when it comes to working with a scenic director by letting them use units. Units are a variety of different things that could be virtually anything. They give directors freedom and allow them

to focus their energy on the other elements," says Jezewski.

Five different plays will be featured in this year's festival. The night will begin with "Breakfast at the Track," directed by **Nathan "Ollie" Oliver (06)**. Oliver is a theatre major who has acted in numerous plays. This will be his premiere directing performance, however.

Following Oliver's play, **Lori Ann Cargill (05)** is directing children's play, "Somebody Catch My Homework." This is the first year the one act festival will have a children's play. Cargill and her crew are working on performing the play at local elementary schools early next semester as well.

**Kay Capasso (05)** is a theatre major that has also appeared in many plays. Her most recent role was Elizabeth in this fall's production of "The Crucible," and she is directing "Daniel

on a Thursday."

Capasso worked last winter with InterAct Theatre Company in Philadelphia, and with the Oceana Summer Youth Theatre.

**Jonathon Musser (05)** is directing "Hotline." Musser was assistant director of "The Crucible" this fall, "Country Club" this spring and "Dancing at Lughnasa" last winter.

Theatre intern James Kuhl is a 2001 graduate from Alma College is directing "Split." After graduating from Alma, he completed the yearlong professional apprentice program at the Purple Rose Theatre Company and acted with The Boars Head Theatre, Croswell Opera House, Michigan Shakespeare Festival, Icarus Falling, Spotlight Theatre, and Purple Rose.

Jezewski feels that the One-Act Festival is a wonderful experience to cover all bases. By choosing projects that will challenge and stretch every student involved, yet at the same time still be doable, students learn and accomplish many new skills.

## Student organizations dwindle away due to lack of interest

**COLIN WASILOFF**  
STAFF WRITER

Across campus many student organizations will continue to pop up this winter. Sure, we're all familiar with the different clubs and organizations offered on campus, but recently some of the leaders have been left with little or no turnout. Some have been losing so many members that they are the verge of extinction.

One campus organization, the Business Club, was even forced out of existence by its low turnout. Some reasons for the extinction of the business club include the formation of the new SIFE club and a general lack of interest throughout the campus.

"People just got into SIFE, and never

lost its voting powers this year.

Although similar clubs and organizations competing over participants is a reason for lower turnouts, there are many other causes.

Reasons for students shying away from participating in campus organizations and clubs include less time for homework, studying, and sleep. Some students even complain that little or no groups fit to their appetites individually. On a side note, some groups, such as the Alma College Climbing Club, require a monetary fee, not to join, but for equipment, training, and trips which can often be a deterrent to new members.

"I wouldn't join a student organization because none appeal to me," said first year **Alec Weir (08)**. Many stu-

hard or are pressured to make the right choice.

Not only are small clubs and organizations feeling the hurt by low student participation, the Greek community has also had a lowered percentage of members of the past years.

"I know we're losing members, it used to be a lot stronger," said **Jon Abent (07)**. Abent, a member of the college's Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, also said that, "When I first joined the Greek community there was a much larger

percentage of the campus that was involved."

Abent's words were echoed by a former pledge of a different fraternity on campus.

"I felt pressure in the sense that everyday a new brother would ask me

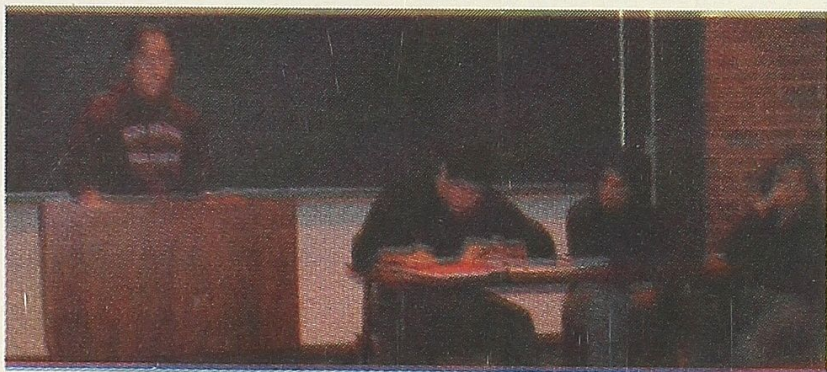
if I was going to rush their fraternity, and that kind of turned me off to participating in rush week this year," said **Dave Burkhart (07)**. Because of the added pressure from current members,

Burkhart failed to participate in the Greek community this fall.

There is hope for some student organizations, however. Groups that are just starting up such as SIFE are continually gaining numbers, and some long-standing groups like the Alma College Climbing Club

have gained numbers of the years.

"The club went from being a smaller group of more devoted climbers (in 2001) to a larger group of more casual climbers today," said Davenport this past fall in a previous interview.



**Kelli Bissett (05)** presents the yearbook contingency request to the student congress general assembly based on the recommendation of the budget finance committee.



Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

**Student Congress President Shabnam Mirsaedi (05)** tallies votes for the passing of the yearbook contingency request. The motion carried by a vote of 29-9-1.

showed up anymore," said **Jon Davenport (05)**. Davenport, a senior, saw the fall of the business club which

dents like Weir find themselves with either a hard or no choice. Students wishing to participate often find it



# OPINION



Religious decorations not that harmful to others

Decorations are a clear Constitutional violation

AMYTOPHAM  
STAFF WRITER

During this holiday season it is not unusual to see religious decorations and non religious decorations outside. The twinkle of festive Christmas lights can frequently be seen and admired from late November all the way into the late month of January.

The potential hazard comes when religious decorations including everything from the nativity scene to giant Christmas lighted crosses are displayed on clear government property.

Religious decorations depicting the scene of Jesus’ birth, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and wise men, maybe even a few sheep thrown in there for a more authentic feel, can be seen almost everywhere.

Churches all over the world put up giant nativity scenes but they are not the only ones who do. In some cities, many of the government’s buildings have religious decorations including but not limited to nativity scenes outside them.

Well this seems to bother some people and those that this bothers like to adamantly voice their opinions. There is certainly nothing wrong with voicing your opinion or even having an opinion that is different than the majority on any issue.

However, there is a problem when you voice this opinion in a negative way that does not solve the problem that you want fixed. This rule applies to other controversial issues as well.

Many people who oppose the display of religious decorations on government property, such as a city hall, court house, or even government office find it necessary to protest and make a big fuss about religious decorations of this particular type.

In our country, everyone is certainly allowed to speak their minds, but it is also our job to be constructive in our criticism and opinions. This is a freedom granted to us as American citizens, but it is also our duty to make sure that our voice is productive.

What is so bothersome to those that debate and fuss over the decorations is their unwillingness to allow them to stay.

As American citizens we are expressly granted freedom of religion in the 1st Amendment. In other words, we are allowed to display our beliefs, so long as they are not hurting others.

For all of you who oppose religious decorations for other religious reasons, perhaps you should get a decoration to be placed alongside the other decorations that represent your religion/holiday.

For all of those who are against the decorations because they do not believe in that religion/belief or in any religion for that matter, if it is not causing you any harm, why must you make it be taken down?

Freedom of religion is a big part of the United States of America; this is why our forefathers came here, so that all could practice as we like our own religion of choosing.

This is a season of happiness, family, joy, and coming together of peoples, no matter what beliefs, religions, or ideologies they may hold. Consequently, can we all try to have a happy and content holiday season without debates of this nature?

LAURA SACHJEN  
STAFF WRITER

As the holiday season draws near each year, there is always controversy over whether or not religiously-oriented holiday displays should be on public land. There should be no question over whether or not this should happen. It is a clear constitutional violation to have religious holiday displays on government owned property.

The Constitution makes this perfectly clear, and it is sad that some cannot even see this. It states in the 1st Amendment that “the government shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

The U.S. was intended to be a secular state in government affairs. There is nothing wrong with someone having holiday displays in and around their business, church or home. We as Americans are entitled to the right to freely practice the religion of our choice without fear that the government will intervene.

However, the issue of holiday displays creates many problems when it enters the public realm. It does not matter if the entire community supports the display in question.

When one religion (or any at all for that matter) is given higher preference than another, this disenfranchises those who do not practice that religion. It also disenfranchises those who have no religious beliefs because Americans are also guaranteed the freedom from religion as well.

Some might argue that it would be alright to have religious holiday displays on public land as long as there are accompanying displays showing symbols from other religious faiths. While it would be nice to be all-inclusive, this idea is also a violation of constitutional rights.

Having different symbols does not make the display any more or less religious in nature. They also can not put a Santa Claus or a reindeer in the scene to make it “secular”.

It makes no difference if the displays are fair to all faith traditions. The government is not supposed to give preference to any faith at all. When the government gives preference to religion in holiday displays, religion can then be used as a tool to divide and separate people even more.

I do not want to see people divided and separated because of religion in this country, and keeping religion out of the government is one way to help alleviate this problem.

Keeping religion in the government only breeds more anger and animosity. This has been proven far too many times in this and many other country’s histories.

Why should city and town governments feel the need to have any religious holiday displays at all? That is what churches are for, and that is where the holiday displays should stay.

Religion is a matter that is best kept out of the government. There are already outlets where people are allowed to freely express their religious beliefs.

Religion is a personal matter that should not be flaunted by the government. Yes, this is a democracy where the people rule and are allowed to freely practice whatever they choose to belief in.

However, this freedom should not come at the cost of disenfranchising citizens of different faiths.

The Almanian				Statement of Purpose		Editorial Policy	
Serving Alma College since 1907				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.		Opinions expressed in the bylined editorials reflect the views of certain Alma students or staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.	
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OPINION

Mathematical proof that Santa does not exist

JJ AURAND  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Yes, it is that time of year again when the big man himself makes his one-day appearance. Of course, we're talking about the big man who knows if you have been naughty or nice, Santa Claus.

Now, there are those of us that still believe in Father Christmas and are extra nice the whole year just to get that new car you have been dreaming about.

Do not worry about being extra nice the whole year anymore, for we at the *Almanian* have done calculations to prove that Santa could not possibly exist. [Note- the *Almanian* staff does not mean to crush the dreams of any individual who believes in Pere Noel. If you wish to keep your beliefs in Santa alive, please turn the page and continue reading, thank you.]

The first point is, how can one man deliver presents to 91.8 million homes in only 24 hours? Well, the truth of the matter is that he has 31 hours, thanks to the different time zones and the rotation of the earth. Take the hours, convert them to seconds, and divide the number of homes by the seconds, and you get 822.6 visits per second.

This only gives Santa 1/100th of a second to park the sleigh, get his overweight body down the chimney, stuff the stockings, place the rest of the presents under the tree, eat whatever snacks left for him, go back up the chimney, get into the sleigh, and move onto the next house, all in less than a second.

We are just going to assume that each house is 0.78 miles from each other (which we know is false, but just work with us on this), which than makes Papai Noel's round trip to a mere 75 1/2 million miles. This does not count rest stops and taking the reindeer out for bathroom breaks.

This means, to make the 75 1/2 million mile trip in 31 hours, Santa's sleigh needs to be moving 650 miles per second, 2,340,000 miles per hour, and the sleigh itself would be moving 156,000 miles per hour faster than the conven-

tional reindeer can run.

The weight of the sleigh is another important factor. Let us just say that every child gets a Harry Potter board game that weighs roughly two pounds. This means the combined weight of all the toys is 321,300 tons, not including Santa, whom we all know is not in Richards Simmons' exercise class. On land, a regular reindeer can only pull 300 pounds.

We must assume that flying reindeer can pull 10 times the normal amount first. If that is the case, then Santa could not even do the job with 8 reindeer, he would need at least 214,200 flying reindeer just to get the sleigh off the ground. This brings the final weigh of the sleigh to 353,430 tons. For comparison, the sleigh is equal to 3,213 blue whales, the largest animal in the world.

So, we have 353,430 tons of flying reindeer, presents, and one jolly fat man, moving at 2,340,000 miles per hour. Knowing that reindeer and Santa's sleigh are not aerodynamic, they create a lot of air resistance. This would heat up the lead pair of reindeer like a comet, which is consequently how Comet got his name in the first place.

The first pair of reindeer Dasher and Dancer, would absorb 14.3 quintillion joules of energy per second each. In short, the first pair of reindeer would burst into flames immediately and create a deafening sonic boom. The entire 214,200 team of flying reindeer would be gone in 4.26 thousandths of a second, not to mention that big man Kris Cringle would no doubt be in for the ride of his life.

Santa would be subjected to a centrifugal force that is 17,500.06 times greater than the earth's gravity. Santa would be pinned to the back of his sleigh by 4,315,015 pounds of force. That is more than sitting at the bottom of the ocean having a cocktail, which is 16,000 pounds per square inch.

In conclusion, if Santa ever did deliver presents on Christmas Eve, he would be dead, and that is not just in the tired sense.

*Please note that these views do not represent all of the staff of the Almanian.*

Who is your favorite professor and why?



**Tom Czolgoz (06)**  
Dr. Wittle, for his enthusiasm and subject matter taught, and Dr. Cubberly, for his wit and vivid sense of humor.



**Jamie Roggenbuck (08)**  
Dr. Arnold, he makes class so much fun with his crazy antics!



**Chelsea Butcher (06)**  
Dr. Borrello, he is very helpful and extremely hilarious.



**Jason Lootens (06)**  
Dr. Batchelder, he keeps class interesting and fun. He knows the subject matter and is approachable if you have questions about material.



**Shannon Ford (08)**  
Professor Baleja, he acts like a student more than a professor.



**Carlie Alchin (08)**  
Dr. Arnold and Dave Zerbe, they are fun and crazy.



**Brent Gostomski (07)**  
Dr. Palmer, he can make any aspect of class fun.



**Asia Ameluxen (08)**  
Professor Arnold and Dave Zerbe.



**Reese Gall (05)**  
Dave Zerbe, he puts in more time than anyone I know and is always willing to help anyone that needs it. He is also brilliant and a phenomenal musician.



**Radi Al-Radi (08)**  
Mrs. Cubberly, she gives a lot of help in class and when writing papers.



**Colin Ryan (05)**  
Dr. Furlong, he's funny and easy to take notes from, and his lectures are interesting.

Photos by Kate Bruder



# OPINION

## *The Almanian* Poll

What is your favorite thing about the holidays?

Food	6 votes	6.0%
Gifts	18 votes	18.0%
Music	36 votes	36.0%
Vacations	10 votes	10.0%
Family	30 votes	30.0%

Please rank the following in order (1 being the best, 3 being the worse).

### Thanksgiving

1st place	15 votes	15.0%
2nd place	53 votes	53.0%
3rd place	32 votes	32.0%

### Christmas

1st place	71 votes	71.0%
2nd place	20 votes	20.0%
3rd place	9 votes	9.0%

### New Years/New Years Eve

1st place	14 votes	14.0%
2nd place	27 votes	27.0%
3rd place	59 votes	59.0%

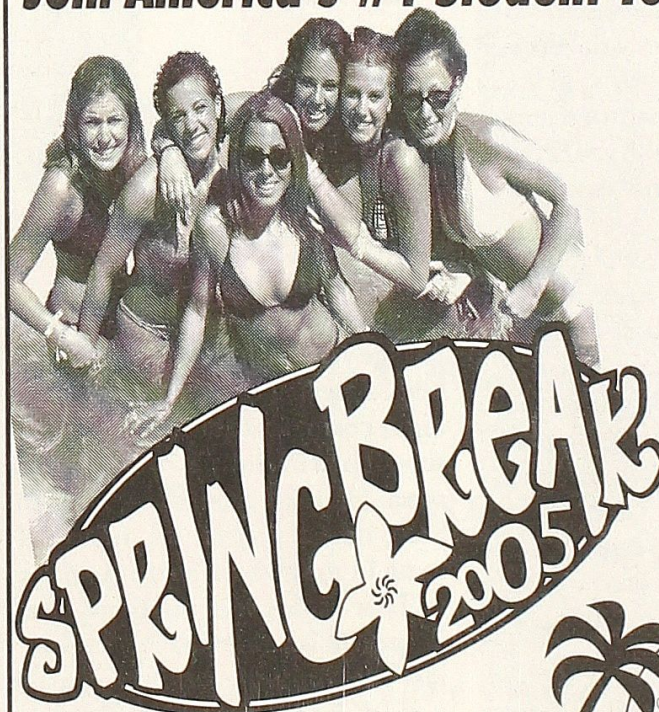
Sample size was 100 Alma College students

## Pass/Fail by Steve Bailey



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## SPORTS

Best darn  
sports  
column  
everMATT HELMUS  
SPORTS EDITOR

Ah, winter break is upon us. Everyone on campus relishes the chance to go home and relax without any homework or exams to dwell on. Except athletes, that is. Many of them will be competing over break in basketball and swimming.

The swimming and diving teams will be headed to Florida after a good showing at the DePauw Invitational. Both teams swam well and though they couldn't keep up with some of the national powers, met their goals. They'll be diving back into the conference schedule after break.

The basketball teams will also both be busy over break. The women's team is 2-2, having taken down Concordia twice. The team is fairly young and will have a tough go of things once they get into the heart of their MIAA schedule. They lost to Kalamazoo in their first conference game and things will most likely not get any easier for them.

The men's team is also 2-2 on the season. This is the latest that the Scots have been at .500 that I can remember. And I say that as a good thing. Hopefully the team will continue their success in the MIAA. Several of the top teams seem down this year so the Scots could spring a surprise on some of their conference foes.

The Spartans and Wolverines won't be able to sneak up on their Big 10 foes. Michigan State, while struggling in their last few games, is still one of the top-ranked teams in the nation. Michigan showed that they are not a pushover with their defeat of Notre Dame, a nationally ranked team. However, they will be hampered by the loss of a few key players to injury.

One team that has shown a desire to overcome injuries is the lovable Lions. Their win over Arizona keeps them within striking distance of the NFC North title. That is very scary and says more about the conference than about Detroit.

## Men's basketball falls to Lake Superior, defeats Manchester

COLIN WASILOFF  
STAFF WRITER

Although the men's basketball team has had a rocky start, things are looking up for the Scots. This past week, the team traveled to face off against Lake Superior State and Manchester.

The Scots returned from Sault St. Marie, nearly a four hour drive, after being defeated by Division 2 Lake Superior State. The Scots only fell by 12 points to a far superior team in a game that came down to the wire.

With only 3:17 left in the game, the Laker's Scott Jamison had two three pointers along with Jim Clement and Steve MacDonald with a three pointer each to set LSSU up for a 94-82 victory.

Alma's **A.J. Jones (07)** recorded 29 points and eight rebounds, and was 50 percent from the field. The rest of the team, however, fell to a combined 44 percent from the field.

Also contributing for the Scots was **Mark Barnes (08)** who totaled 16 points, and **Jamie Diener (07)** who had 7 rebounds.

"Everyone played hard; but right now we're still having problems 'clicking.' We have good team unity, everyone believes in one another but we need to

start going harder at practice because that way it prepares us better for the game."

After a short week of practice, the team packed up and headed down to Manchester, Indiana, to take on the Spartans of Manchester College.

Before the game, an upbeat Diener was confident about the week of practice put in by the Scots and the outlook on the game.

"The only thing that troubles me about the game is being on the road. It's hard to take a win on someone else's court," said Diener, who because of an examination for admittance to the teacher education program was unable to travel with the team. "If we have our heads together than we can pull out a win," he added.

"Any person we miss is a factor physically and mentally, we can make it up for it. We can pull together and work extra hard to make up for it," said teammate **Ricky Clarkson (07)** on the absence of Jamie Diener for the game.

Saturday the Scots fell behind by double digits, but eventually shortened the Spartan's lead to eight points at half time. With nearly two minutes left in the game, Alma's **Jayme Fazi (05)** sunk a shot beyond the arc to

give the Scots the lead.

Alma would hang on to win, and with a final score of 71-68 they earned a hard fought second victory of the season.

Clarkson, a guard who played for Saginaw Heritage, was able to contribute to the Scots' cause on Saturday, by scoring two points and playing for 21 minutes.

However, the Scots' player of the game award once again goes to Jones who racked up 21 points, 8 rebounds, and outlasted every other man on the court by playing 34 total minutes.

"They (Manchester) have great size; last year we were up at the half and we didn't finish. What's most important for the rest of the season is that we have to finish, we have to concentrate," said Clarkson, or "Bird" as he is affectionately referred to by his teammates.

"I think in any situation any real competitor is quick to say what they could've or should've done, but as a team we are playing together and it's a learning experience. We have to keep a 40 minute pace if the season will turn out the way we want it to," said Clarkson.

Next Wednesday the Scots will face off against Elmhurst College here in Alma at 8:00pm.

**Congratulations to Anthony "A.J." Jones on being named MIAA Co-Player of the Week. Jones shared the honor with Kyle Trehwella of Calvin College.**

## Great Scot: Bob Devaney

MATT HELMUS  
SPORTS EDITOR

Bob Devaney is undoubtedly one of the biggest names to ever walk through the halls of Alma College. Just ask any University of Nebraska fan.

Devaney, a graduate of Saginaw Arthur Hill, spent his college years on our campus, even meeting his wife Phyllis here. After graduating from Alma in 1939, Devaney went on to coach football at many levels. He started with high school ball in Big Beaver, Keego Harbor, Saginaw and Alpena. He then moved on to be an assistant at Michigan State before getting his first head coaching job at Wyoming in 1957 where he went 35-10-5.

That's when his big break came. Devaney was hired by perennial doormat Nebraska. The Cornhuskers had just 3 winning seasons in the past two decades of play. He turned the program around quickly going 9-2 in his first year. He coached NU to 8 Big 8 titles, 9 bowl games, 3 undefeated seasons and 2 national titles in his 11 year stint. His career college coaching record is 136-30-7, winning over 80 percent of his games.

In 1971 Devaney was elected to the Alma College Sport Hall of Fame as a member of its first class. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1981.

Born: April 13, 1915

Died: May 9, 1997

High School: Saginaw Arthur Hill (1933)

College: Alma College (1939)

Below: Devaney (middle) accepts an award from NAIA President (and legendary coach) Eddie Robinson and NAIA Secretary Al Duer.

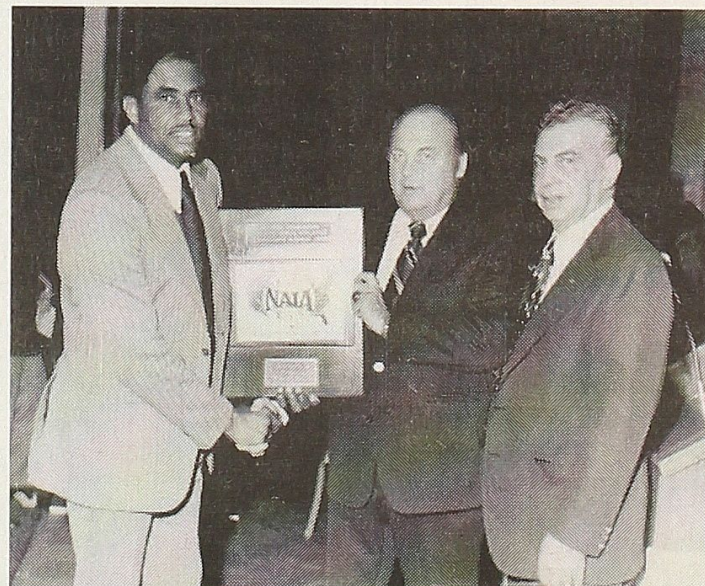


photo courtesy of Alma College Archives Online



# SPORTS

## Scots place well at DePauw Invitational

**BRENDAN GUILFORD  
DISTRIBUTION  
MANAGER**

The Alma College swimming and diving team took fourth place in the women's competition and eighth in the men's competition at the two day DePauw Invitational in Greencastle, Indiana last Friday and Saturday.

The women racked up an impressive 356 points, putting them well over fifth place Milliken University and almost overtook third place Illinois Wesleyan College. The men's score of 153 just edged Rhodes College for eighth place, but was a competitive score with most of the men's field.

DePauw University, the host of the event, was tough for any of their invited teams to top. The Tigers placed first in the men's competition and second in the women's only after Wittenburg College pulled off some miracle swims to edge DePauw.

A special highlight of the meet for the women's squad was the incredible performance by **Emily Smith (08)** in the women's 100-

yard breaststroke event. Smith won the event outright after turning in a finals time of 1:10.70, over three seconds quicker than the time that got her into the finals heat. Smith's huge boost is highly unlikely and difficult in swimming and blew her competitors away. The Scots' **Rosemary Dutka (06)** also has a great 100-yard race, shaving over half a second off her preliminary time, good for fourteenth in a large field of competitors.

**Nick Dunckle (06)** said, "We (the men's squad) actually had a good meet, whatever the standings might appear. We posted a lot of PR's (personal records), worked as a unit, and were competitive against some very strong regional schools. It's about where we expected to be for the men and the women did incredibly well."

A highlight performance for the men's squad was the sixth place in the 400 Yard freestyle relay by **Erik Johnson (06)**, Dunckle, **Ben McDonald (07)**, and **Luke Livingston (07)**. They placed above Monmouth

College, Rhodes College, and Principia College in a tight race won by DePauw.

**Brianne Hauser (05)** also turned in a strong fifth place performance in the women's 200-yard individual medley race on Friday, the first day of competition for the Scots. Her finals time 2:21.74 was nearly one and half seconds better than her qualifying round. In the same event, Smith and **Jaci Wilkie (07)** placed tenth and eleventh, respectively. Additionally, Hauser competed strongly in the 200 yard butterfly event, in which she took third place with a time of 2:22.90. Hauser shaved four seconds off of her preliminary time.

**Stephanie Druskinis (05)** continued her great season by placing second in the 100 yard freestyle against sixteen competitors with a time of 54:28. Druskinis missed first place by only one quarter of one second.

The Scots now travel to Key Largo, Fla. for training before resuming competition against MIAA opponent Olivet College on January 22 at Olivet College.

### MIAA Standings

#### MEN'S BASKETBALL

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

#### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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

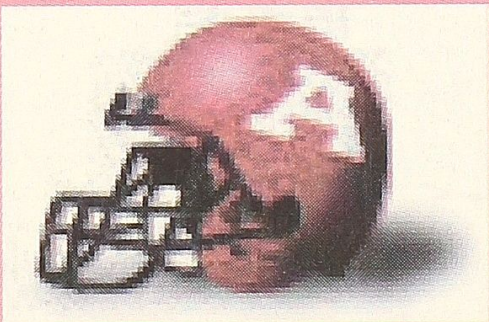
#### MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

	MIAA
Hope	3-0
Albion	2-0
Olivet	1-1
Calvin	1-2
K'zoo	1-2
ALMA	0-2

#### WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

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

## #73 Joe Nelson



On November 24, 2004 the Alma College community lost one of its members. Junior Joe Nelson was killed when his vehicle flipped in wintry weather during Thanksgiving break. He was a defensive lineman for the 2004 MIAA Champion Scot football team. His teammates gathered with other friends and family on November 28 at Shepherd United Methodist Church to honor Joe and pay their last respects.

Captain Al Montgomery shared the team's thoughts: "Joe Nelson exemplified Alma College football. His heart and desire kept Joe on the field after injuries that would have caused many players to quit or give up. That wasn't Joe's style. Everyday he came and gave everything he could to the team."

The Class of 2006 has made plans to plant a tree near the football field in memory of their friend. The Almanian Staff, along with the entire campus community, would like to extend their condolences to Joe's family and friends.

You'll be missed as a friend and teammate #73.



SPORTS

Unselfish play leads to Alma victory over Concordia

BRIANNA SCHUBERT  
STAFF WRITER

Coming into the season with a fairly young team, the women's varsity basketball team has already done pretty well for themselves. The team has three freshman women, who have all proven themselves worthy on the collegiate level. With a solid win over Concordia on December 1, the Scots began their home season right.

"This game went really well," said **Abigail Way (08)**. "This one went a lot better than the last time we faced Concordia. We played as a team this game," Way said. The last game these women played was against Concordia as well.

Although they won both games, their second matchup was a much stronger showing, with the

final scores being 64-60 and 68-43. "I thought we picked up our defense a lot. We kept them under fifty points this game, which was a goal our coach [Charlie Goffnett] set for us," said **Ashley Borcharding (06)**.

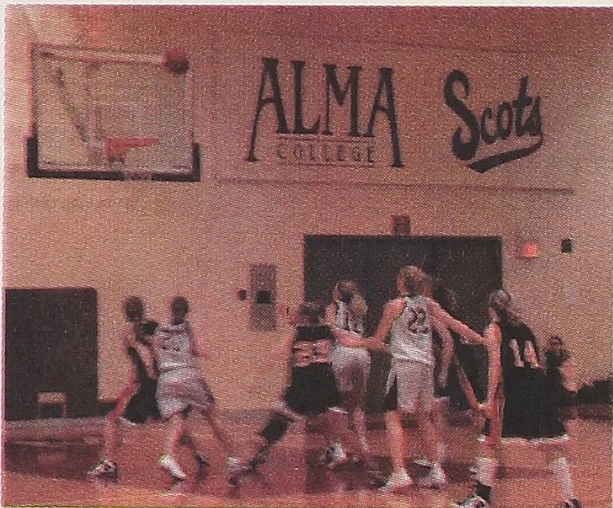
Preseason, Goffnett had said, "Defense, rebounding and establishing an inside game are areas in which we must improve." The team seemingly has improved on their defense and has maintained a consistently good offense. "Offensively, our shooting is excellent - we have a full arsenal of shooters, returning four players that shot over 40 percent from three point land," said Goffnett.

There was some concern about this season, as the team lost one of its most valuable assets last year, MIAA MVP Karen Hall. However, the women seem quite capable of filling her shoes. Freshman

center **Erica Philp (08)** rose to the challenge with a personal contribution of 18 points to the 68-point total. Philp had proven her mettle in the last game, scoring 15 points and grabbing 17 rebounds.

The team stepped up their efforts on Wednesday, shooting 50 percent from the three-point arc and 94 percent from the charity stripe. Other athletes stood out on the field as well. **Michelle Dettling (05)** scored ten points, had three assists, made seven rebounds, and successfully stealing the ball three times. **Katey Peacock (06)** scored ten points, and **Ashley Matuzak (08)** scored twelve points. Matuzak also had four assists and six rebounds.

Comparing the team performances from the last two games, Bocherding said, "I think we finally started playing for the name on the front of the jersey instead of the name on the back."



Left: The Scots fight for a rebound after Ashley Matuzak shoots a free throw in the Scots' victory over Concordia.



Right: Point guard Katey Peacock (06) directs the Scots' offense. Peacock finished with ten points in the game.



photos by Kate Bruder

CAMPUS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 8

- 7:30 p.m. - Men's Basketball Home v. Elmhurst
- 7:30 p.m. - Women's Basketball @ Calvin

FRIDAY, DEC. 10

- 6 p.m. - Men's Basketball v. Aurora @ Goaltender's-Bankers Classic in Franklin, IN
- 8 p.m. - One Act Play Festival (Heritage Center - Theater)
- 8 p.m. - Kiltie Band Indoor Concert (Heritage Center - Presbyterian Hall)

SATURDAY, DEC. 11

- Men's Basketball @ Goaltender's-Bankers Classic in Franklin, IN
- 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Athletic Open House (Heritage Center)
- 3 p.m. - Women's Basketball @ Finlandia
- 8 p.m. - One Act Play Festival (Heritage Center - Theater)
- 8 p.m. - Kiltie Band Indoor Concert (Heritage Center - Presbyterian Hall)

SUNDAY, DEC. 12

- 3 p.m. - One Act Play Festival (Heritage Center - Theater)

- 3 p.m. - Jazz Band Concert (Heritage Center - Presbyterian Hall)
- 9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Service

MONDAY, DEC. 13

- FALL TERM EXAMS BEGIN
- FRIDAY, DEC. 17
- FALL TERM EXAMS END
- 5 p.m. - Residence Halls close

SUNDAY, JAN. 9

- Noon - Residence Halls open

MONDAY, JAN. 10

- 8 a.m. - Winter Term classes begin