

# The Almanian

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Volume IC

Issue II

Serving Alma College Since 1907

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Student tattoos

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## North Bruske renovations draw conflicting reactions

**DREW COLEMAN**  
STAFF WRITER

Upon returning to campus, the residents of Bruske Hall had a new place to call home.

With the improvements to North tower awaiting their arrival, Bruske residents moved all of their belongings from the South tower over

### Lightly

## Ed Lorenz bowls last perfect game

**DEREK HARRISON**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

According to several local news reports, the Associated Press, and Fox Sports on Wednesday, December 28, a 69 year-old bowler named Ed Lorenz passed away after bowling the third perfect game of his life.

Lorenz, a league member and avid bowler, was on a hot streak before he passed away during the last game of his life. Before returning from break to find out, students who had heard only part of the report may have endured some confusion.

Though they share the name, Professor Ed Lorenz, Chair of Alma College's History department is alive and well as he and the bowler were not the same person. Students found on their return from campus that class was not cancelled and Professor Ed Lorenz of Alma, had never bowled a perfect game in Portage, Michigan.

the first week of school. For all, it seemed a hassle to be relocated, but for those on the third floor, this move was quite a haul.

"It was a bit more than should be expected of a college student, especially mid-year," **Jim Templin (06)**, a Resident Assistant of First Bruske, said. "We were not compensated for our inconvenience."

He was also not impressed with the fact that the residents were not able to return early to move back in. Students had to move their clothes, computers, and

all personal belongings from one tower to the other, all while attending classes the first week.

Some residents even opted to move their furniture. Residents **Brett Seymoure (09)** and **Evan Finley (09)** switched their furniture from their old room to their new room because the furniture in the updated tower "simply didn't fit like the other [furniture] did."

Along with these inconveniences, many of the residents feel that there are projects that still need to be completed. Many recognized

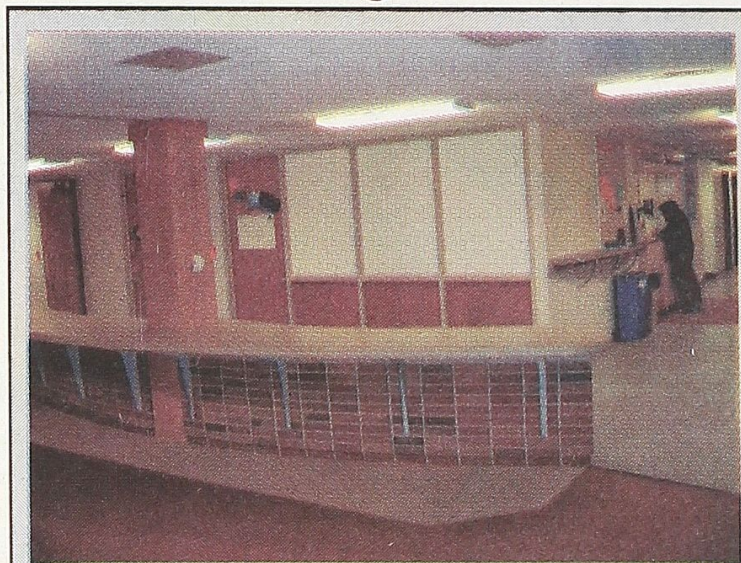


Photo by Derek Harrison

Students say that the lobby of Bruske got most of the new construction.

the improvements in the lighting system, but noted that it was hard to see a lot of other improvements.

Finley said he "would have felt a lot better if there was an improvement, instead of it, in fact, being much worse [than South tower]."

Dave Blandford, Bruske Hall Director, was very satisfied with the doubling of the electrical outlets, privacy doors in the showers, new fire system (which will be completed along with the second tower), and the lighting improvements, but he did mention that the new lighting has made some of the existing minor issues more noticeable.

Blandford also mentioned that many quads were having various heating, plumbing, and electrical problems,

but said most of these were probably a result of the tower being unoccupied since last April. In addition, he commended Bob Boyce and Physical Plant for dealing with the many work orders coming in from various students.

As far as plans for the future go, the renovations of Bruske should be complete by the start of Spring Term with both North and South towers having a face-lift. Following that, Physical Plant will be renovating Newberry Hall over the summer.

As for Bruske, even with the updates, residents say their expectations were set much higher than what was delivered.

Finley, for one, didn't expect it to "still look over 40 years old."



Photo by Derek Harrison

Some areas, like this microwave room, were untouched by the renovations.

## Campus hosts Burns reception, Scottish tradition

**ERIK RYDEN**  
STAFF WRITER

Song, dance and a traditional Scottish meal were some highlights of Saturday's 17th annual Robert Burns Reception, Dinner and Ceilidh held in the Tyler-Van

Dusen Commons.

Burns is known as one of the most influential poets in Scottish history. His works include "Tam O'Shanter" and the traditional folk tune "auld Lang Syne."

More than 100 guests from all over the state saw traditional Scottish dances performed by the Mid-Michigan Dance Academy and the Alma College highland dancers. Music was provided by

piper Eli Woolcott and the Scottish folk group Hurry the Jug. Alma professor of piano Tony Patterson also provided music throughout

**Story continued as DINNER on page 2**

### This Week In Alma

- Last day to drop a seven-weeks class is Friday
- ARK Band plays Presbyterian Hall at 8 p.m. on Friday
- Scot Day encourages students to support both basketball teams against Kalamazoo on Saturday, starting at 2 p.m.
- Pre-term registration begins Monday, February 6
- Linda Loving presents her journey through vocation at the Chapel on Tuesday at 8 p.m.

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## NEWS BEATS

**A Message from the Provost's Office  
ATTENTION SENIORS**

Student Barlow Trophy Award invitation letters were sent out to qualifying students on January 30, 2006. Faculty received nomination material on January 31, 2006. If you did not receive a letter and believe you should have, please notify Kathy Wilk in the Provost's Office wilk@alma.edu (x7236). The nomination deadline is February 8, 2006.

**Panhellenic Council:**

-The formal rush process concluded on Friday night with WalkOuts. After this, only open bids may be given

**InterFraternity Council:**

-RushOuts concluded the formal rush process for fraternities

- IFC raised \$89 at RushOuts

- It will be donated to the local diaper drive for a family that just had quintuplets

**RHA:**

-Members are working with Newberry Hall for an upcoming Sadie Hawkins dance, the date is still TBA

**-Movie Meetings:**

oJanuary 31 - Mitchell Hall - Wear maroon and white

oFebruary 7 - Newberry Hall - Sports Night

oFebruary 14 - Bruske - Valentine's Day

-February 4 is the tentative date for a co-op project with the athletic department as a "Scots Day" to support the Mens/Womens basketball teams

**Student Congress:**

-Student Congress voted in favor of increasing the Student Activity Fee by \$10

-The Accessibility committee will be announcing plans for the near future

-Applications are available for Leadership Fellows.

-Lacrosse is recruiting more members to play. See Ben Workman for more details.

*If you would like your organization listed for events in the News Beat, please contact Derek Harrison at o7diharr@alma.edu*

**Acton, Hampton create skating rink**

**DREW COLEMAN  
STAFF WRITER**

Over the first week of January, Jake Acton, Stone Recreation Center Director, and Ryan Hampton, Gelston Hall Director, put some donated money to work.

Behind the Stone Recreation Center, Acton and Hampton, with the help of Lucas Locke, put together a 90'x50' ice rink in the field where the Kiltie Band holds their practices.

"We first constructed a wooden fence approximately two feet high, and covered the inside with construction plastic," Acton said. "But the hardest part was pounding 150 stakes into the ground."

They then hired a local farmer with a water truck to pour the foundation of water. The rink holds at least 12,000 gallons of water.

The rink will be available for use every day, with supervision during night skating. The night skating was made possible through the use of two high-wattage construction lights placed atop the practice bandstand.



*Photo by Sean Carter*

Acton plans on forming an IM broomball league, as well as having open skating and pick-up hockey games whenever weather permits.

If students lack some of the equipment, skates are available to be checked out from the front desk to students and staff with an Alma College ID. The donated money was used to purchase these 27 new pairs of skates, as well as pucks, sticks, goals, and helmets; material to construct the ice rink was donated by Doug Gross, an Alma alumnus.

The rink is now open and can be used anytime

the students wish. Acton wants to emphasize that the rink "shouldn't affect the band practice field" and that "it is there for the students to use however they like, and [to] have fun being outside in the great Michigan winter weather."

The rink was built so that it can be taken down by section this spring and, next year, can be reconstructed fairly easily in November to allow for more time to skate. If students have any questions about hours of operation, rentals, or using their own equipment, contact the Stone Recreation Center at X7949.



*Photo by Sean Carter*

**Alma shifts from Blackboard to Moodle**

**LAURA SACHJEN  
STAFF WRITER**

Alma College is in the process of switching over from Blackboard to Moodle as its primary online learning tool.

Information Technology hopes to have the change completed over next summer.

"We're saving money," said Aaron Kerr, Web Service Administrator, "and we felt it was a better product than Blackboard."

Moodle stands for Model Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment. At larger schools, the software can be used to teach entire courses online. However, at smaller schools like Alma, Moodle helps faculty to share resources with students.

"It has a lot of forum functionality," said Kerr. "It

allows students to discuss outside of class."

The main difference between the systems is that Blackboard is a commercial product. It is produced by a publicly traded company, and Alma College must pay fees to use it.

Moodle is free and open-source, which means that IT can look at the actual code of the product and be able to fix any problems on its own.

A few years ago, Alma College needed an online system and evaluated what was available at the time. Blackboard was the best system available and the costs were acceptable.

However, Blackboard has significant costs for Alma. Recent increases in licensing costs and performance issues

have forced them to look at other options.

If IT does not encounter any problems with Moodle over the next few months, Alma College will go forward with the plan to switch to the new system. IT does not want all professors to use the product, but the office will assist any professors who wish to use it.

"It will be a worthwhile transition," said Britt Cartrite, Assistant Professor of Political Science. "Setting up courses was easy."

Moodle was created by Martin Dougiamas, a former WebCT administrator at Curtin University in Australia. As of early December, Moodle boasted 7,954 registered sites in 146 countries.

**DINNER, continued from page 1**

the event.

"We had a lot of great entertainment," event coordinator Mark Starkweather said. "Eli is a great piper and our highland dancers always place highly at the world competition."

Alma College President Sandra Tracy opened, speaking about the history and traditions of Scotland and their connections to Alma. Master of Ceremonies Jack Crombie then gave audience members a look into Scottish tradition and some of Burns' works.

Menu items included smoked salmon, highland chicken, scotch eggs, skye prawns and haggis, a traditional Scottish dish made from the stomach of pigs. Guests also enjoyed a wet bar serving beer, wine and scotch. Food was provided by Sodexo catering manager Raymond Ross.

"Of course, you always find things you want to improve about the dinner," Starkweather said. "But I think the evening went very well."

Starkweather, now in his 10th year organizing the Burns dinner, would like to see the campus become more involved in the event.

"I think we had 40 or so

students in attendance, but I'd like to see if we can maybe even get ACUB to be involved," Starkweather said.

"We have some of the most talented highland dancers in the country right here at Alma College," Starkweather said. "I think it's very important that we here (at Alma) understand the traditions of our Scottish history."

Several Alma students read Burns' poems and guests were invited to read Burns' work at an open microphone as Hurry the Jug performed.

After the meal, Alma students Patrick Cassidy and Kate DeGood gave the traditional "Toast to the Lassies" and "Toast to the laddies."

"It was a good experience than more students should attend so they can better appreciate Scottish tradition," Cassidy said. "It was a great time with a lot of people running around in kilts."

The dinner concluded with an hour of Celtic music and the singing of auld Lang Syne. Starkweather hopes the dinner will continue for years to come.

"I'll do this for as long as I'm around, or as long as they let me," Starkweather said.



# Tattoo parlors made their mark on the student body

**TIFFANY BALDUCCI**  
STAFF WRITER

In March 2002, Esquire Magazine estimated that 1 in 8 Americans are tattooed; in 2003, the Harris Poll estimated that 36% of those aged 25-29 has one or more tattoos. As members of the

had always loved geckos and thought one would properly represent her growth as a person. **Aimee Deakin (09)** had always wanted a tattoo and decided that her first would be a butterfly.

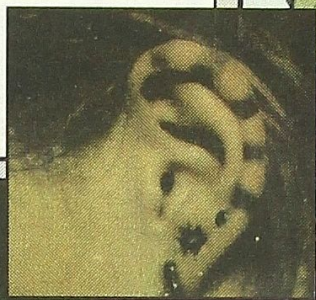
**Aaron Destadio (06)** has seven tattoos, and each one



Photos by  
Tiffany  
Balducci

her semester in Australia. Parkes-Schaw said, "I got a tattoo about two months ago and I've always wanted one, as long as it meant something to me or helped to represent an important part of my life."

The first question most get about their tattoos is whether or not they hurt. Deakin said, "My first tattoo didn't hurt at all, but my second was really painful. I'm going next month to get another." Destadio admitted that the tattoos on his heels hurt the most but "my artist said I dealt with it really well." Most remarked that it did not hurt nearly as much as they thought it would. "My tattoo didn't hurt at all. It was really loud, but the vibration on my ear



to go ahead and get it." **Ben**

**Workman (07)** wanted a tattoo that he would never regret and said, "I have always been religious and wanted a reminder while in college to keep what is important [i]n mind."

**Megan Rasch (07)** has two tattoos and wanted to get them in a

few spots on my body with muscle."

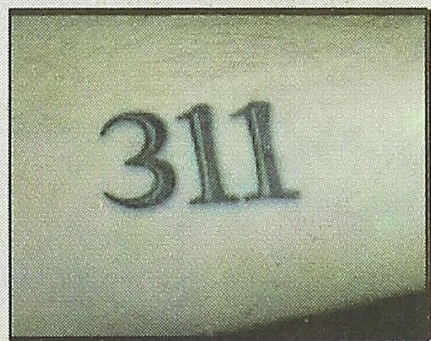
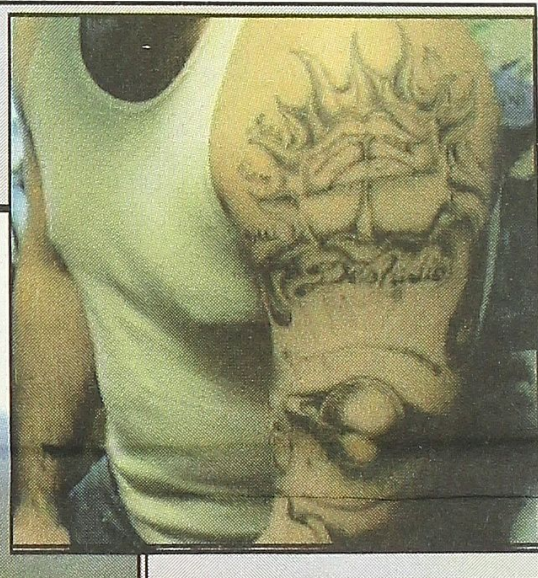
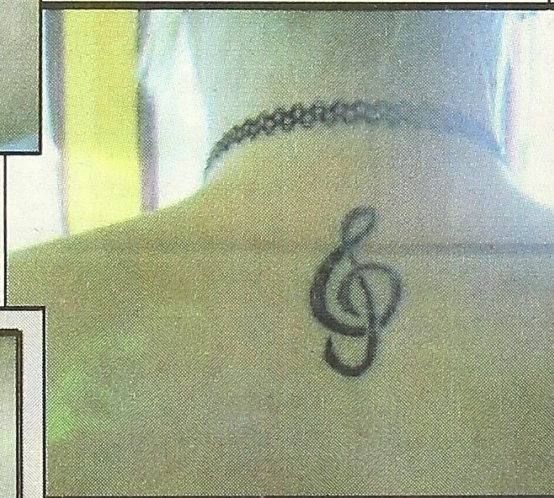
Metzler said, "I guess my biggest factor of where to get my tattoo was if I gained or lost weight, it wouldn't stretch. I can also choose to show it off or hide it." Miller explained, "I wanted it on my arm where I could read it and it would be a constant

Millennial Generation, one is almost expected to have a tattoo.

Although this may seem like just a trend, tattoos are becoming more and more of a social norm on Alma College's campus, and other campuses nation-wide. Many Alma College students – and even a few professors – boast permanent artwork; there is even a Facebook.com group entitled Ink, Inc., where students can chat about their tats.

So what drives a person to

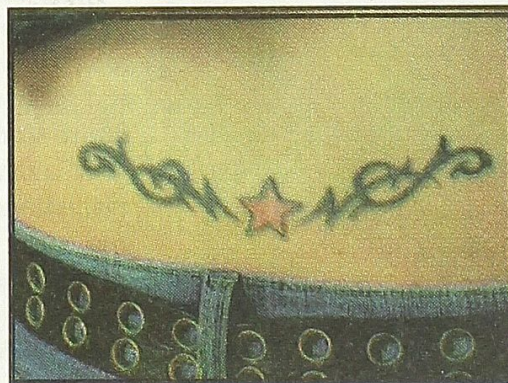
represents something very important to his life. "My favorites are the ones that are for my family and friends," said Destadio.



place that she could cover them up if she wanted. This is the case for many; most sought

reminder of how my favorite band, 311, ha[s] been a major influence in my life and helped me through hard times with their lyrics and

**Cassie Metzler (06)** said, "I had very big out locations on the body that can be covered if they want. On females, this is sometimes referred to as a "Wedding Dress" tattoo: ink that will be covered by the dress on the big day. Workman had another agenda when deciding where to get his ink: "I wanted it over my heart and it happens to be one of the



was quite pleasant. I would suggest that others would not get one where something was constantly rubbing against it, like my hair does to my ear," said Schafer.

Those who have experienced a tattoo had some advice to give to other students. Haack advised that tattoo seekers should make sure that they are going to a clean and reputable place. Many of those interviewed opted to go to Splash of Color in Lansing. Deakin also recommended never giving up in the middle of a tattoo. Destadio summed it all up when he said, "It's permanent so make sure you plan it out for awhile. Everybody should get ink – it's the best experience, knowing that it's going to be on your body forever – but it has to mean something."

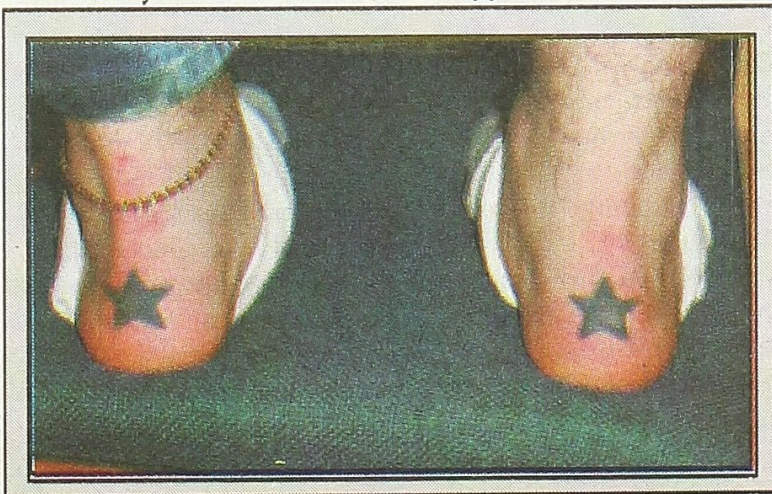
get a tattoo? **Holly Schafer (06)** said, "When my best friend and I were in high school, we wanted five purple stripes on our ear[s], because that is a place that won't sag when we get old. Three or four years came and went and we got the tattoos together."

**Jeremy Hix (06)** and **Mike Miller (07)** both got their first tattoos on their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Hix said, "I spent a month drawing what I thought I wanted, but my now-fiancé came up with the artwork that is now on my back." **Corrine Haack (06)**

permanency issues, so I didn't want a tattoo; but, another music major had a treble clef tattoo, so I thought about it for three years and decided

it happens to be one of the

what they stand for." Hix said about his second tattoo, "I wanted to do something crazy in Argentina and literally had it done three hours before we boarded the plane. I thought it would be a good place to get the design on my leg, but had to wear shorts to be comfortable on the flight home." **Laura Parkes-Schaw (07)** also opted to get a tattoo in a foreign country – she got one during





## Philosophical Fancy

# Christmas: One Birth, Unending Inspirations

JEN ANDERSON  
STAFF WRITER



As I was sitting in Church, my soul warm from Christmas carols, it occurred to me how selfless people are during this particular holiday season. In our busy business-oriented society it is easy to want recognition for the generous things we do—for most of us those acts happen less than we would like to admit.

For those who gave gifts for the "Giving Tree" or participated in other anonymous gift donations, you probably wish you could be there to see the children open their presents—to see their eyes fill with joy as they stutter "Thank...you." Most parents get the joy of seeing their children's reactions, but they still do not receive the "thank you," after all, Santa brought the gifts.

It had never before occurred to me how amazing parents and child caregivers are—especially around Christmas. Imagine for a moment a family that has practically nothing. A child wakes up on Christmas day with one gift under the tree (if they are so lucky to have a tree). He anxiously looks at the tag and it says "From: Santa." Those parents have just sacrificed themselves for their child's solitude of knowing Santa did not forget him.

A similar situation happened with my own family this year. My mom bought my two-year-old niece a Sponge Bob TV and DVD player set. It sounds like a little much for such a young girl, but believe

me, it will be the main attraction in their entire house. When my mom told my sister what she bought, my sister burst into tears—she had not gotten presents yet. My mom insisted my sister write "From: Santa" on the gift. Tears came to my eyes.

My niece will still have presents from "Grammy Lue" but she will always know her dream TV and DVD player came from Santa. Situations like this happen in every household—every year. I wonder why it took me so long to recognize the extent to which so many people sacrifice. Pretty soon, if not already, we will be taking over those roles—pulling all-nighters to get the Christmas presents out, tip-toeing around the house, making fake hoof prints in the snow and on the roof, and the hardest part of all: polishing off the cookies and milk. It is a beautiful thought.

Though not everyone celebrates Christmas, I feel as though it is a holiday that brings hope to our nation. We sometimes forget to celebrate Christ's birth, but we endure a birth of our own nonetheless—renew the innocence we once felt when Santa came. What a perfect way to refresh ourselves for the beginning of a new year.

# Oscar contenders neck and neck

## Films compete for distinct audiences

LAURA SACHJEN  
STAFF WRITER

Oscar buzz is building for the 78<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards, which will be held March 5.

Even though the Oscar nominees won't be announced until next week, fans are already guessing whom the nominees will be. Last week's Golden Globe Awards are usually seen as a preview of how the Academy Awards will play out.

A big winner and much talked about film at this year's awards was *Brokeback Mountain*, which depicts the romance between two cowboys over 20 years. The film won Best Motion

Picture (Drama), Best Director for Ang Lee and Best Screenplay.

The Johnny Cash biopic *Walk the Line* won Best Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy). Reese Witherspoon won Best Actress in a Motion Picture (Musical or Comedy) for her role as June Carter Cash. Joaquin Phoenix won Best Actor in the Musical or Comedy category for his role as Johnny Cash.

*Desperate Housewives'* Felicity Huffman won Best Actress in a Motion Picture (Drama) for her role in *Transamerica*, in which she plays a male-to-female transsexual who learns she fathered a son. Phillip Seymour Hoffman won Best Actor in the Drama category

for his role as author Truman Capote in *Capote*.

The official name of the Oscar statuette presented to winners is the "Academy Award of Merit." It isn't entirely certain where the "Oscar" name came from. Some believe it was coined by Academy librarian Margaret Herrick who said the statuette bore a striking resemblance to her uncle Oscar. Others claim that Bette Davis named the statuette after her first husband.

The Academy was started as a way to award achievement in motion picture arts and sciences. The first Academy Awards took place on May 16, 1929 at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel.

# Students grade past teachers

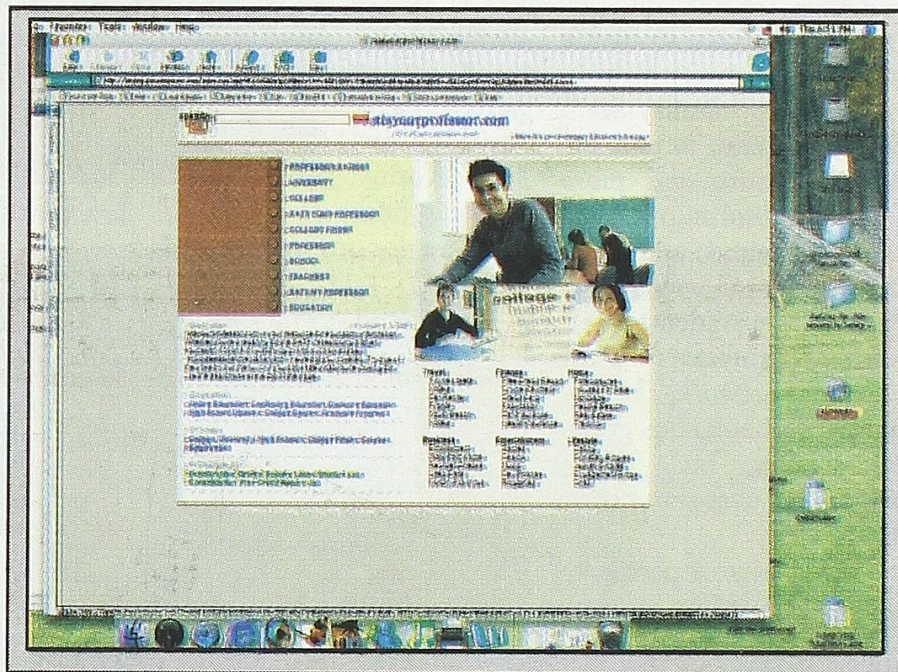
SEAN CARTER  
STAFF WRITER

With winter term already well under way, many students will fail to reflect on the past semester. However, by spending only a little time on RateMyProfessor.com,

students can give each past professor credit and discredit where it is due. So whether you believe you had the best professor at Alma College, or a nightmare incarnate, this innovative website is a means to convey your honest opinion and make a real difference to future students.

Unlike the instructor evaluations given out at the end of a semester, which seldom serve any practical purpose to students, RateMyProfessor.com allows students to anonymously rate and review almost every instructor employed at any college or university, including Alma College. Students can rate an instructor based on a number of qualities that they evaluate on a scale of 1 to 5, including "Easiness," "Helpfulness," "Clarity," "Interest" (in terms of how interested the student was in taking the class beforehand), "Status" (in terms of teacher status), and even "Appearance."

The student is also given the



option to leave a short review and bequeath advice to future students. Naturally, the more detailed and informative the review, the more influential it is to prospective students, regardless of whether the review is praising or criticizing. Some students even take the eclectic approach, incorporating humor into their review; one anonymous student said of Dr. Marc Setterlund, "I've had him for 3 classes and loved all of them...I want to marry him and have his babies. No, seriously."

So not only does the site serve as an instrument of justice for months of diligent study and early mornings, but it also works as a resource for prospective students that may or may not enroll in a class based on an instructor's rating and review. With over a hundred instructors already rated and thousands of reviews, RateMyProfessor.com could play an integral

and revolutionary role during registration when students are deciding which instructor to take.

In terms of the overall quality of current Alma College instructors, students gave the highest ratings to (in no particular order) Dr. Janette Caputo, Dr. Mark Seals, Linda Koebert, and Mary Rosalez. The lowest-rated instructors were (in no particular order) Dr. John Davis, Dan Gibson, Chi Ly, and Tincy Goggin. But because a relatively few number of Alma students are actually utilizing the site at this time, the ratings must be scrutinized with a wary eye, as some of the aforementioned staff had hardly any students evaluating them, possibly giving them the upper (or lower) hand. Given time and Alma student contributions, RateMyProfessor.com may become an accurate and essential element of semester transition.

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07dtharr@alma.edu, extension 8492, or  
extension 7161



# What really grind my gears

**JON MORRIS**  
STAFF WRITER

Hello Alma College! Before I begin ranting about what is wrong with our country, other countries, the laws we live by, the people making those laws, and generally anything and everything I can think of, I feel like introducing myself. My name is Jon, I am a double major in business administration and economics, I am a baritone in the Alma College Choir, and a member of the Scots on the Rocks, and I am writing my senior thesis on the economic costs and benefits of legalizing marijuana. So, my first column will be about something I know very well, on a purely academic level, weed.

You know what really grinds my gears? The "War on Drugs" and that Lindsay Lohan, but I'll get to her next week. Here comes the truth. If you want to end drug related crime in the United States nearly overnight, legalize and tax marijuana. You might think that I am an idiot,

but the way to stop people from buying marijuana on the street is not to threaten jail time, or declare war on anyone who uses, sells, or possesses the drug. To stop illegal marijuana use maybe we should try making it legal to buy at your local 711, and then taxing its consumption similar to the way we tax the use of alcohol and tobacco products. This way we could stop spending so much money on enforcing marijuana laws, and actually make a lot of money on its consumption.

Now, before I get into the numbers and the evidence, I would like to remind those of you who use marijuana to stop agreeing with me, and pay attention. I would also like to remind those of you who believe strongly that marijuana is bad, to put aside any moral, religious, and ethical biases you might have, and hear me out. My argument is strictly about the costs and the benefits.

Marijuana prohibition is different from any other American criminal laws.

No other law is both so widely and harshly enforced and yet regarded as unnecessary by such a large portion of the populace.

Police make about 700,000 arrests per year for marijuana offenses. That is approximately the same number as are arrested each year for cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, Ecstasy, and all other illicit drugs combined. Roughly 600,000, or 87 percent, of marijuana arrests are for nothing more than possession of small amounts, typically less than an ounce. There has never been a criminal offense that has resulted in the arrest or conviction of American people numbering in the millions except for marijuana related crimes. Enforcing marijuana laws every year costs an estimated \$10-15 billion in direct costs alone, excluding the costs of going to court, and attorney's fees. We have not had a presidential candidate in the past 4 elections that

SEE MARIJUANA PAGE 6

## A Radioflyer Soapbox

### Panhellenic spilled milk

**DEREK HARRISON**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF



After mix-ups with the application of the no face painting, no entrance music and no fanfare policy; after continued communication issues and irritated sorority members; and after challenging common sense and parliamentary procedure; it has become quite evident that someone should step up and inspire the leaders of the Panhellenic Council.

I must say that I give most of the sorority members a great deal of credit, however, as I am a member of the Interfraternity Council, I have to thank heaven I was born a male and that I was able to rush a fraternity. Everyone should know that although Greek life is wonderful, it is possible to improve the process.

To do this, the first step has to include contributing something to campus, both academically and socially. These are the reasons fraternities and sororities exist. This is the reason that the Student Life Office exists. Panhellenic must foster a group attitude toward both of these ideas.

It is because of this necessity to produce an academic and social product that we are not just robots on an assembly line of knowledge. If you are sitting in your room alone playing video games, watching television, drinking or something similar, it is obvious that you are not contributing to society. Comparably, if you are enforcing a rigid set of rules on a group that is intended to act as in some ways as a democracy, you are also not fostering an environment for the creation of academic and social products.

Secondly, improvement must involve electing qualified leaders and making sure they are accountable. A common cliché states that there is no use crying over spilled milk, but I would counter that by saying that there are many ways to prevent the clumsy from handling the carton. No one wins when everyone sits back to allow undesirable outcomes to unfold.

Everyone who does not speak up about questionable ideas has to shoulder their own amount of blame. The Panhellenic Council has

many distinct voices and this is quite evident when its leaders make poor decisions, but those voices must demand change and provide solutions concurrently.

The next step is for everyone to step up and do their job to the fullest extent that they can. This certainly goes beyond Panhellenic. If you cannot do your job and there are qualified replacements available, there is no reason for you to hold the position. If everyone would approach their job with some vigor and ample pride, maybe the network of positions could help each other out.

Additionally, everyone must realize that each mistake made is likely to affect someone else. The social domino effect on a small campus is immense. There is a short proverb of unknown origin that sums the idea:

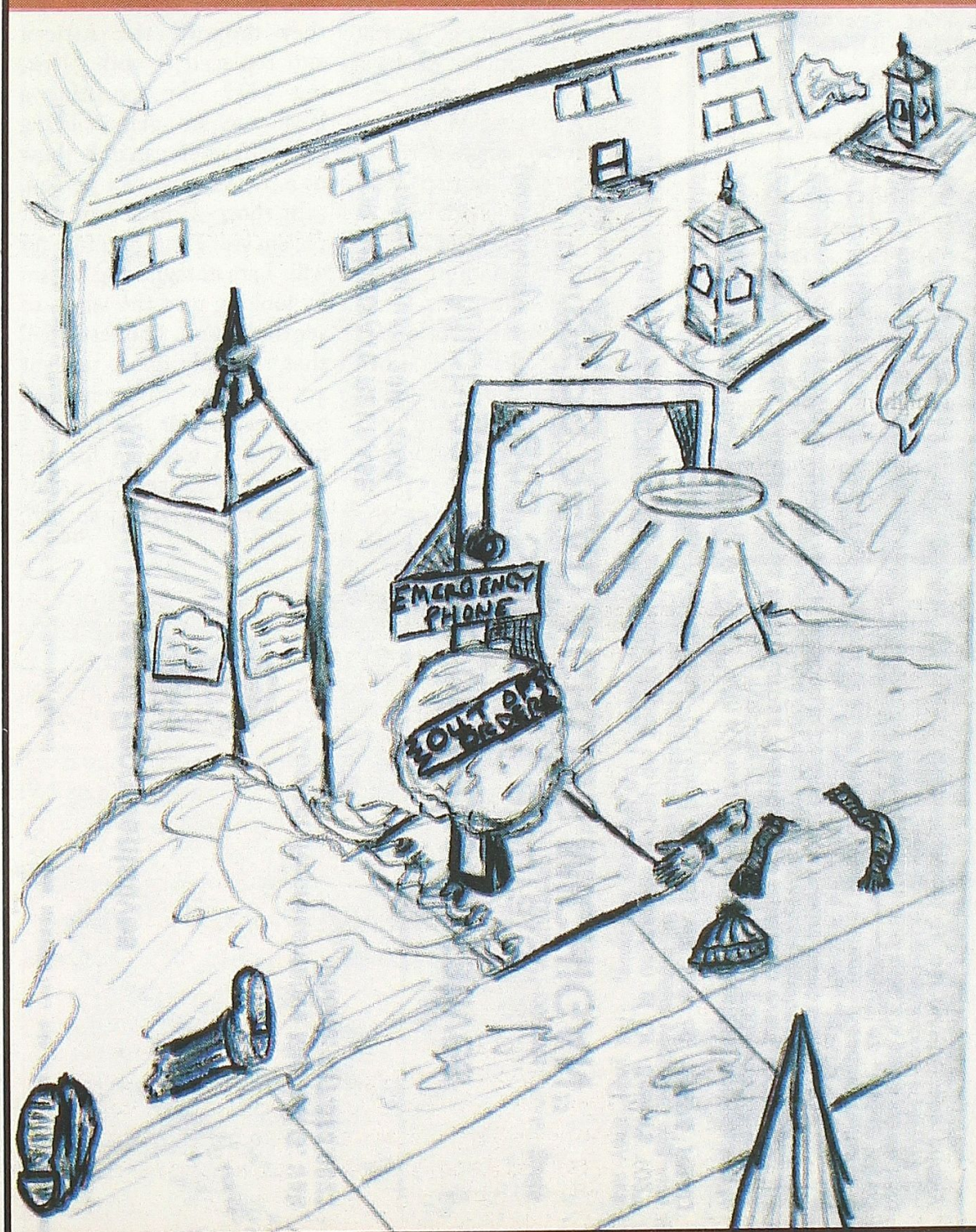
*This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.*

The most important part of this proverb is that if you, as a Somebody, think that Anybody can do a job, maybe you should contribute to what could be seen as Anybody's cause because Nobody may end up doing it.

Each time you observe something going awry, no matter how small you might think it is, it may do a world of good to prevent the full damage from being done. Each day is a chance to catch any number of milk cartons before they fall to the ground to spill and nobody under the authority of Panhellenic deserves any less than a conscientious effort.

## Zero-sum

**DEREK HARRISON**  
EDITOR IN CHIEF





# MARIJUANA FROM PAGE 5

would deny having used marijuana, and Al Gore, Bill Bradley, John Kerry, and Bill Clinton all admitted to having used it. Talk about leading by example. Forty-Seven percent of the people in the United States have admitted to trying marijuana at least once. Did you know marijuana offenders make up approximately 40% of the prison population in Michigan? That nice little figure costs the taxpayers about \$160 million per year.

Alright, that is basically a summary of the costs we incur for keeping marijuana illegal, which we have to be aware of. Now I will discuss a few benefits of ending prohibition.

In a study done by the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, they found that by legalizing marijuana we would most likely between \$6-9 billion per year on enforcement. They concluded that with

the development of new industry and businesses growing, distributing, marketing, selling, and consuming marijuana, there would economic activity ranging from \$5-15 billion per state. This economic activity means new jobs in agriculture, business, distribution, and regulation. Legalization would also provide estimated sales tax revenue of \$1-\$2 billion and excise tax revenue of \$2-\$6 billion.

There is hardly any evidence to suggest that our current marijuana policy in this country is anything but costly, foolish, and destructive. There is plenty of evidence to suggest that it should be legalized, regulated, and taxed. I am not an advocate of smoking in any form, illegal or legal, but it really grinds my gears when something that obviously needs to be done isn't done because there are still people running our country who think that if you smoke weed you will be possessed by the devil and you will go crazy.

## Burger's beef

### MLK Day

**SAM STONEBURG**  
STAFF WRITER

Now that the week that was set aside to remember and honor the late Martin Luther King Junior has come to a close I remain with a nasty taste in my mouth as the result of certain events. Just like the rest of the student body I was coaxed into going to an event meant to honor Dr. King by professors who were required to cancel their afternoon classes, as well as the professors who went a little further by offering extra credit of sorts. I don't like the idea that I wasn't really even given the chance to go to an event under my own free will.

The combination of the guilt placed upon me and my own curiosity led me to the presentation entitled Race, Representation and the Ghosts of Jim Crow

which highlighted examples from the Jim Crow Museum put on by Susan Morris of Ferris State University.

She relied on some unpleasant images to help us gain an understanding of the horrific images that we encounter daily. Yet, I don't come across a drinking fountain that only allows light skinned people to drink from it on a daily basis. Rather, I often start out by eating in the same cafeteria as everyone else who lives on campus (regardless of skin color) and we get our orange juice from the same fountain, what is so hard to understand about that?

Although the Jim Crow era is long gone, Morris believes that racial representation in material objects has only grown and perpetuated racism against black Americans. Apparently whenever I see a monkey I'm supposed to take note that that is a symbol of racism against people with dark skin because the ghosts of Jim Crow are still looming. I'm sorry but when I see a monkey I think of an animal that most encounter out of its natural habitat in a zoo swinging from a branch, eating a banana and possibly slinging its feces at onlookers; characteristics that do not overlap with those that I associate to people who have dark skin.

Maybe I am just uninformed, or even an idiot, but I feel that my generation is a lot less racist than the generations that have preceded us. That isn't to say that racism does not exist at all among my generation, it just isn't the same as it was during the

Civil Rights Movement. I have seen many images of oppressed black Americans and understand the hardships they went through. After all, everyone has "ghosts" in their past, this is not something that is unique to individuals who happen to have a stronger dose of pigment in their skin.

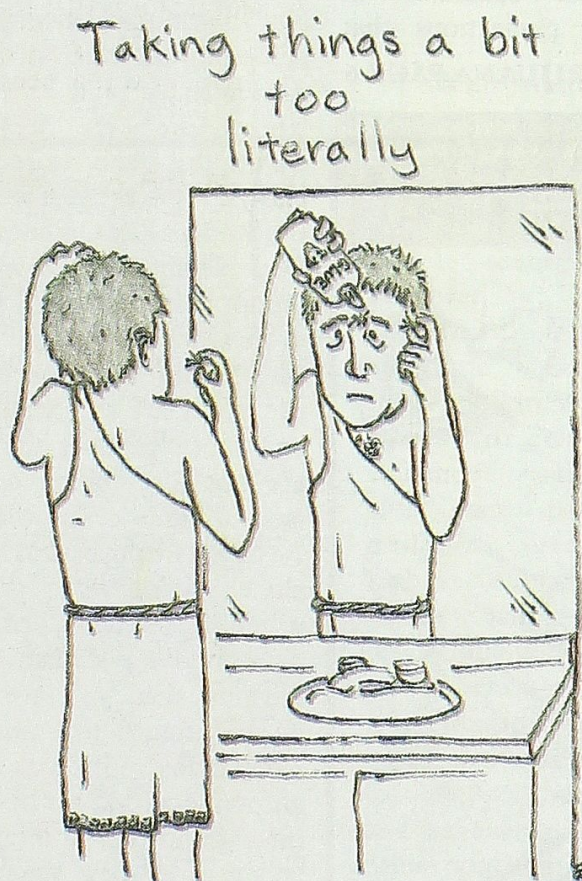
I have this theory that every single human being experiences some type of hardship throughout the course of their lives, for some it could be the loss of a loved one and for others it could be an abusive guardian, but in some way shape or form everyone will inevitably have at least one experience that seems unjust. In my mind, each person has the choice of taking that experience and using it as a building block of strong character or they can opt to simply wear it on their sleeve as an excuse.

What I have taken from the teachings of Dr. King is that people are equal, and labels are useless. I will never refer to myself as a Scottish/English/German/Polish/Hungarian American just because my ancestors are from that area of the globe, I do not think that people with dark skin should refer to themselves as African Americans, after all how many of them have even stepped foot on the continent? So they dropped the African and replaced it with black, but why? By accepting a label you are marginalizing yourself; labels can only show us a partial view of a person.

In short: I do accept that racism still exists and forever will. I am not ignoring racism by looking past the labels to see the person. I honestly feel that the only ghost present at Morris's presentation was that of Dr. King and I heard him weeping for she has totally missed the point of his most famous speech.

PASS / FAIL

**STEVE BAILEY**  
CARTOONIST



## The Almanian

*"Alma College's student run newspaper serving the campus community since 1907."*

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### Statement of Purpose

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

### Letter Policy

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. *The Almanian* reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Monday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at o7sdweir@alma.edu or address letters to *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College.

### Advertising Policy

Advertisements can be submitted to o7sdweir@alma.edu. The Ad Manager reserves the right to restrict any advertisements for content.

### Publication

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### Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in editorials without bylines reflect the views of *The Almanian* editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.



## The Better Darn Sports Column takes on the MIAA

Colin M. Wasiloff, Sports Editor

Just as Detroit has prepared itself for what will ultimately become the city's most recent major attraction, Super Bowl XL, Alma College's winter athletics teams have steadied themselves for a run at the MIAA crown in their respective sports.

The men's swim team, battered and bruised, swims on this weekend in pursuit of their first victory of the year. The team, who is led by captains **Ben McDonald(07)**, and **Luke Livingston(07)** has failed to come up with enough points to put together a victory for team. Livingston, who spent the first half of the year in Scotland studying, has rejoined the team and trained with the Scots in West Palm Beach, FL over Christmas Break. The Scots will partake in a double header, when they travel to Olivet Friday and head back to campus to host the Flying Dutch of Hope College.

The women's team has also found little success, but will try to capitalize with a now solidified roster. Leading the pack for the Scots is senior captain **Emily Dolan(06)**, who found herself in a pool of talent when teammates **Caylee Coe(09)**, **Emily Smith(08)**, and **Lora Trzeciak(08)**, whose combination yielded a first place finish in the 200 freestyle relay last weekend at St. Mary's. Catch the team in action with the men's team this weekend.

The men's and women's basketball teams have been making a name for themselves this season.

Look for the men's team to face off against the Olivet Comets this weekend on the road, and make sure to grab a good seat for the women's game versus Albion College here in Alma at 3:00pm. The Almanian always has the best coverage of your Alma College Scots basketball team! Check Nick Nicholas' article on the teams on page 7.

During the winter rush for placing in the MIAA standings, this year's spring teams are already building. Don't be surprised if the Rec Center is rapidly filling their hours with tennis or other teams wanting to log hours before their outdoor venues open; be patient! Let them do their work and the campus as a community will be paid off greatly. The coaches, players, and fans will greatly appreciate you waiting your turn.

In the meanwhile, check out our game of the week and make sure to attend in full Scot gear as always.

### GAME OF THE WEEK:

Men's/Women's Swimming vs. Hope

### WHEN AND WHERE:

Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm (Home)

### SCOTS TO WATCH:

Men's: **Luke Livingston**, **Jim Abrams(08)**, and **Nate McDonald(08)**. Women's: **Emily Dolan**, **Emily Smith**, and **Ivyrose Hess(08)**.

### DUTCH TO WATCH:

Men's: **Daniel Gardner**, **Kurtis Blohm**, and **Wade Engers**. Women's: **Jennifer Carr**, **Trisha Meier**, and **Laura Ansillo**.

**PICK:** Although the Scots seem to be highly outmatched, look for them to take advantage over the under prepared, tired Dutch. Men's team by 10 points, women's by 15! Go Scots!

## Alma College Basketball teams hoping to make good on rough MIAA seasons

NICK NICHOLAS  
STAFF WRITER

Both the Alma College men's and women's basketball teams are hoping for better results from the season, as both teams have records that are a little less than satisfactory.

The Hope Flying Dutchmen upset the Alma men's basketball team on Saturday, scoring 79 baskets to Alma's 59, making Alma's record 10-15 overall. The men on the team have definite potential to come back and show some improvement on the court. One thing that is really holding the Scots back is the fact that their star player, Mark Barnes, has been cut from the team because of his grades. Barnes' absence from the court is probably one of the most significant setbacks for the team, considering he averaged about 20 points a game.

The coaches are beginning to work with some of the

younger JV guys so that they can step up when the time comes. **Matthew Gorman(08)** said, "We have learned from some losses that we just need to get out there and upset some of these other teams. We've realized that we can play with just about anybody, and we just need to get out there and do it." Hope's basketball team is ranked in the nation, and they do have a brick wall defense, but the Scots have proven before that they can strive for excellence and win. The JV team's record is 6-4 right now, and they too have the potential to get out there and win - and then start conditioning their bodies and minds for varsity.

The varsity women's basketball team is also lacking strength in a few areas, which has really hurt them so far this season. One major factor is that they will not have younger girls to train for next year because of

the JV cuts. This is probably one of the first things to take into consideration, and it may be several years before there is another JV women's basketball team at Alma College. The women have a record of 3-5 in their division, and an 8-7 record overall, and they too are looking to improve their team. Both the women and men were hoping for a better season; **Ashley Matuzak(08)** said, "The fact that the Junior Varsity team was cut completely out of the picture could severely hurt the program in the future, and without fresh girls coming in next year, AC women's basketball could be looking at a giant upset in the future."

Both teams have major potential to win some more games this year, and with some of the outstanding players that Alma has, there really should be no surprise if both Alma basketball teams go a little bit further.

## Joey Z's Must Read Torino Picks

JOEY ZEHNER  
STAFF WRITER

The 2006 Winter Olympics are fast approaching, with the games set to start February 11<sup>th</sup>. Here is a quick rundown of the events that will take place and the countries and individuals that are expected to medal in them.

### Alpine Skiing

The skiing events at the Olympics are: downhill, super-g, slalom, giant slalom, and combined. The Americans are favored and, with a win, controversial skier Bode Miller has a chance to back up the statements made before the games started.

### Biathlon

The biathlon consists of two primary skills that don't seemingly go together: cross-country skiing and rifle shooting. Norwegian Ole Einar Bjoerndalen hopes to repeat as champion from the Salt Lake games.

### Bobsled

Bobsledding is an event with which most people are familiar. There are two- and four-man teams during Olympic competition. The Americans took home the

bronze and silver medals in the four-man competition in past games, and both of those teams are looking to unseat reigning champion Germany.

### Cross Country Skiing

Carl Swenson is hoping to lead the team of 17 Americans to the top of the medal stand.

### Curling

Usually a fan favorite because of its unique nature, curling has become one of the most fan-friendly Olympic games. Curling consists of one player throwing a "stone" and two players sweeping the ice for smooth rolling. The object is to score as many points as possible, and each team is able to knock the others' stones out of the point circle.

### Figure Skating

Figure skating is another popular event; Sarah Hughes is aiming for a second straight gold medal.

### Ice Hockey

Professional hockey players from around the world will be participating in this, one of the most hyped events. The Americans overachieved with their second place showing

last year, and hope this year to finish what they started by knocking off everyone's favorite, Team Canada.

### Luge

Luge is a sport that looks similar to bobsledding, but allows for one- and two-person teams. Italy's Armin Zoeggeler looks to continue his dominating ways, as he has captured the last five world titles.

### Ski Jumping

Ski Jumping is definitely the event I would least like to participate in, due to the fact that the skier gains a vast amount of speed and goes off a jump that sends the skier like a rocket into the air.

### Snowboarding

Entering its second year in the Olympic games, this sport has a more international flavor, as the Americans are not dominating the event as used to happen.

### Speed Skating

There is usually a domination story line involving this sport; past examples have included Dan Jansen bravely skating in memory of his sister, and Apollo Ohno trying to win five gold medals.

## GREAT SCOTS!

Alma College Athlete of the Week:

# COREY MASSEY

Men's Basketball



Corey Massey(08) is being honored for his 30 point, 7 rebound performance against Hope College last week.

Congrats!



## DETROIT BASKETBALL: A Mid-Season look at the Pistons

### JON MORRIS STAFF WRITER

After administering a beating to the New York Knicks last Thursday night, the Detroit Pistons are looking better than ever. The Pistons came out strong early, and after the recent suspension of New York's starting forward Antonio Davis and the injury to their leading scorer Stephon Marbury, not even the coaching of former Pistons coach Larry Brown could save the ill-prepared and very sloppy Knicks.

The Knicks had to start three rookies against the

veteran Pistons starters, and it was obvious right from the start that they had no chance. The Pistons outscored the Knicks 28 to 13 in the first quarter, and from there the Pistons simply continued to play. By the third quarter, Detroit had decided it would be fun to move the ball down the court, spread out the offense, and pass the ball until someone had a chance for an open three-pointer. The first thought that moved through my head was that this "game" looked more like shooting practice for Detroit. The Knicks were only there

to try and stop the Pistons from expanding their lead in the three-point percentage ranking.

The Pistons are ranked number one in the Eastern Conference and have the best record of any team in the NBA with 32 wins and 5 losses. With nearly half of the season behind them, Detroit is ready for any challenge and is still very hungry for another championship. The team currently leads the league in three-point percentage at 40.6%! Most individual players would be very lucky to make 40% of their three-

point shots, and Detroit is shooting 40% as a team!

So what makes Detroit so great? What is it about their team that makes opponents look like they would have trouble with an Alma College intramural team? I think the Pistons are the best team in the NBA because they do not rely on one player on any night to be the leading scorer or defender. Detroit has a roster full of players, who are not necessarily the best basketball players in the NBA, but who all have something to offer. When they put it all together, the Pistons are

a well-oiled machine. When you play Cleveland, you have to guard LeBron; when you play the Lakers, you have to guard Kobe; when you play Miami, you have to guard Wade and Shaq. When you play the Pistons, you have to guard everyone equally. Every player on the court is dangerous - every player can score, rebound, defend, and pass just as well or almost as well as the opponent's star player. With a little extra help from their new coach, Flip Saunders, the Pistons are a team built for greatness and poised for the playoffs.

## Ex-Alma Coach Heads to Sunny Florida, possibly facing Scots in March

### JOEY ZEHNER STAFF WRITER

When a team goes through a coaching change, there are going to be mixed emotions involved. When two different teams lose the same coach, those emotions are going to become amplified. Such is the case when Chi Ly decided to

abruptly resign from head coaching duties of both the woman's tennis and soccer teams.

Ly has been the coach of the Lady Scots soccer and tennis teams since 1998. Ly has decided to take the men's and women's head coaching job at Palm Beach Atlantic University.

"The team was disappointed

at first to learn of coach's decision to leave the team," said tennis player **Laura Kendrick (07)**. "But with the new coach, we all are excited to see how the season will turn out."

Kendrick went on to say that the team has had a few new faces attend practices sense the news of Ly's resignation went public.

Not only did Ly's

resignation affect the tennis team, but also the woman's soccer team. One advantage that the soccer program has is the fact that unlike tennis, there season is not just around the corner, leaving the search for a new coach to be able to take more time. The hope is that a new coach will be announced by the end of February.

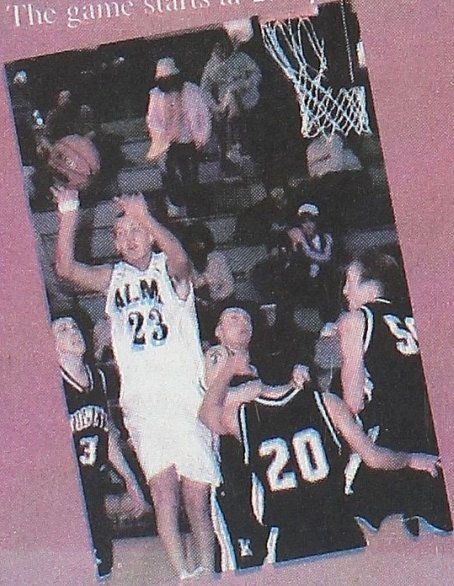
The twist within this story

is the possibility that when the Alma tennis teams travel down to Florida for season opening matches, there is a very real possibility that Alma will be taking on Ly's new team. Expect the hype for that match to be big as many of his former players will be waiting to prove to their old coach what he left behind.

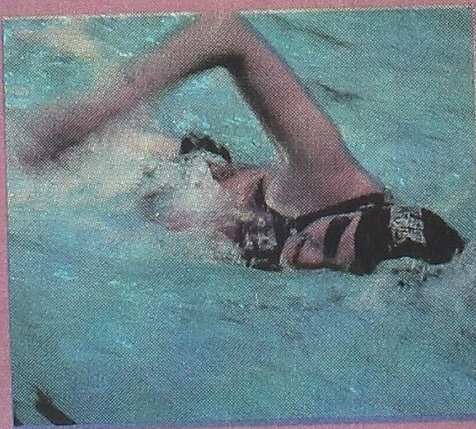
## Alma Athletics Campus Calender

Saturday February 4, 2006

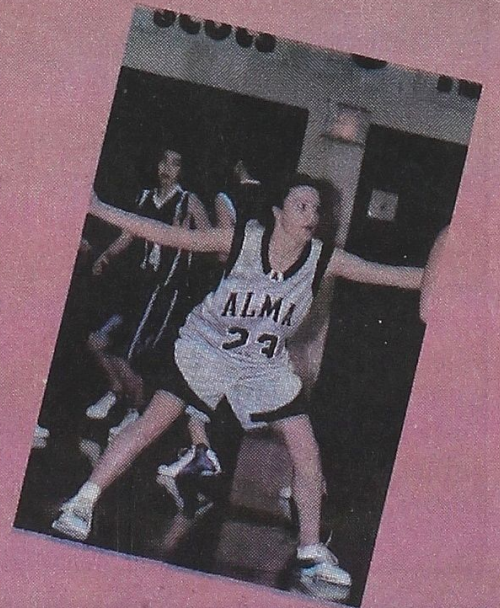
Cheer on the guys as the Men's Basketball team as they face off against Kalamazoo at home. The game starts at 2:00pm!



This week's featured athletes:  
Isaac Smith (07), Men's Basketball  
Emily Smith (08), Swim+ Dive  
Katey Peacock (06), Women's Basketball



Support a swimmer as your Alma College teams prepare for the MIAA competition Thursday, February 9.



Or, pump up for the women's game the same day at home against Kalamazoo. The game follows at 4:00 pm.

Pictures courtesy of Kate Brider, Photographer, and the Alma College Athletic Dept.

## Bursting the Bubble! A look at the sports outside of the Alma Bubble

### Detroit Lions:

Rod Marinelli name head coach, and Jauron will now coach in Buffalo.

### Detroit Red Wings:

The Wings gear up for battle against the Avalanche Saturday at 2:00 pm.

### Detroit Pistons:

The Pistons will take on the 76ers in a Friday night fight at 8:00 pm.

### Michigan Wolverines:

The maize and blue will try to fend off the Iowa Hawkeyes Saturday.

### MSU Spartans:

The Spartans look to roll over Northwestern, Saturday at 7:00 pm.

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