

The Almanian

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Serving Alma College Since 1907

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ENTERTAINMENT

ARK band's reggae rocks, enlightens

JOSH MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

A new standard has been set for upcoming performances on the campus of Alma College following Friday night's show. Students, faculty, and residents of the Alma community combined to witness a never before seen presentation turned concert that night in Presbyterian Hall. The Ark Band is a St. Lucia foundation reggae group now based out of Columbus, Ohio. The band operates with the mission that reggae music is a powerful force that will unite people of all ages, races, abilities and walks of life, and play the reggae with this thought in mind. The Ark Band combines original pieces of music with

"They were very high-energy for a reggae band."

- Austin Schaar ('09)

classic and current reggae hits designed to entertain, enlighten, and educate. "I thought they were very high-energy for a reggae band," said Austin Schaar ('09). "I liked how the show started out kind of mellow and then sort of kicked into gear with some rap." The band has performed in festivals and on college campuses all over the country as well as in Canada and Jamaica. Near the end of this coming March, the band will be performing a private birthday show for one of country music's most

See REGGAE page 3

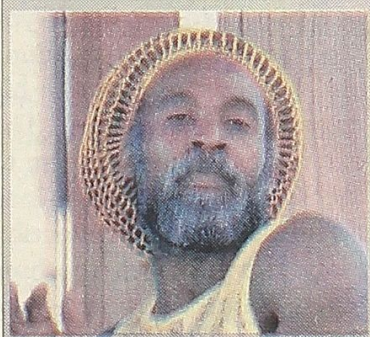


Photo courtesy of thearkband.com

Newberry, RHA bring Sadie Hawkins to Alma

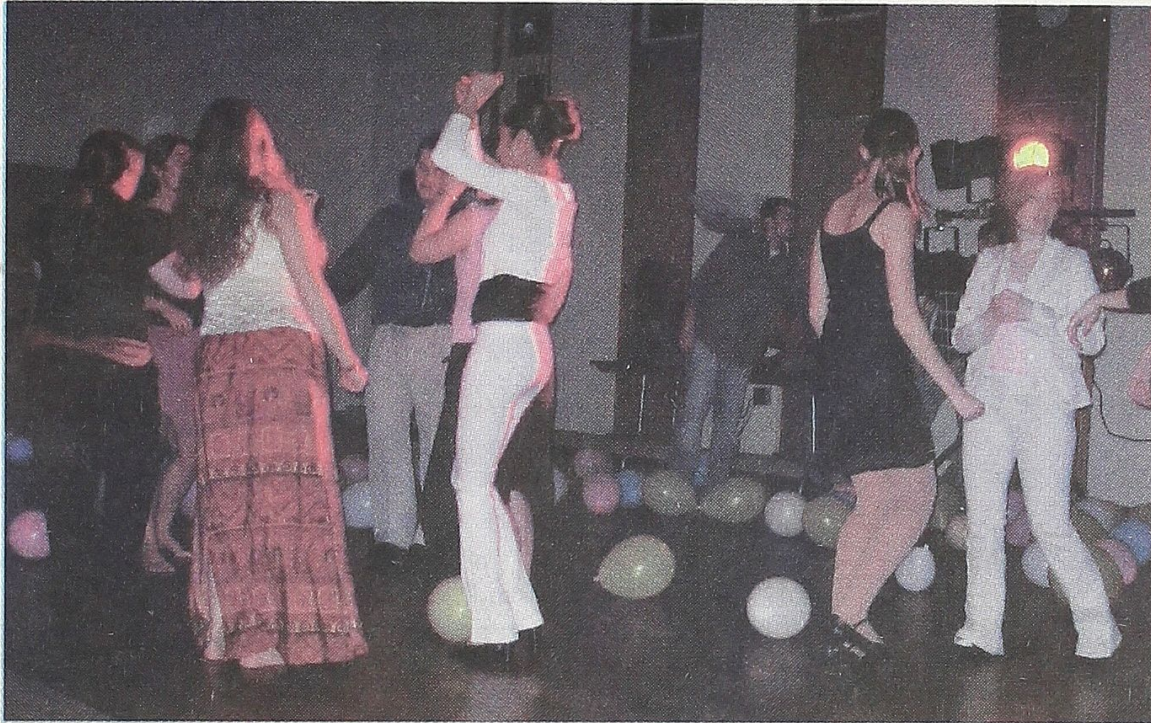


Photo by Kate Bruder

Students donned in semi-formal attire enjoyed a wide variety of music at last Thursday's traditional Sadie Hawkins dance.

DANA CALANDRINO
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday, February 9th, Newberry Hall and RHA co-hosted a Sadie Hawkins Dance in the Van Dusen Commons from seven until nine in the evening.

The tradition of the Sadie Hawkins Dance began in the late 1930s, spanning some 200 colleges across the nation in response to a simple cartoon called *Li'l Abner*, created by Andy Capp. Sadie Hawkins was a character in this comic strip - a very plain, unattractive girl. In order to ensure his daughter would marry, Mayor Hawkins declared one day "Sadie Hawkins Day," on which unmarried women chased and captured bachelors, whom they would then haul back to town for a shotgun wedding.

Afterwards, Sadie Hawkins Day became a female-empowering ritual at high schools and colleges,

where women would take the initiative by inviting a man of their choice out on a date, typically to a dance.

Sadie Hawkins Day itself actually falls on November 13, but RHA and the Newberry committee felt that the dance would be better attended if hosted near Valentine's Day. Newberry Senior RA Emily Whitmer ('07), RHA president Ken Dood ('06), and other members of the RA staff and Residence Hall Association gathered at six o'clock on Thursday to prepare the sound equipment and decorate the commons after only a day and a half of advertising and publicity.

"There was an issue with the campus-wide emails, so we couldn't send out mass emails," Dood said.

A lot of conflicts cropped up at the last minute: RHA and the Newberry Staff had originally been planning the event for Friday the 10th, but discovered in the last week or two that the dance

would conflict with Glee Club and chorale concerts. Fortunately, in spite of the campus-wide email server being down and the date being shifted at the last minute, nearly 40 people showed up to dance and have fun. A number of students spent the night talking, dancing, listening to the music, or simply playing in the balloons that had been scattered over the floor. Music included country, rap, and slow songs from the eighties.

"The best part was the Cha Cha Slide," Dood said with a grin.

Whitmer disagreed, saying that the highlight of the event was "seeing residents do the ghetto-booby shake."

An hour and a half into the dance, Scots on the Rocks entered the scene to perform as well. They added to the evening by singing "Up the Ladder to the Roof," "Insomniac," and "29 Ways."

"Scots on the Rocks is the bomb-diggety!" stated

baritone Danny Balger ('07).

Jared Stephens ('07) agreed, saying that listening to the Scots on the Rocks was one of the best parts of the dance, right after "being surrounded by all the lovely ladies."

A number of people showed up in spite of the short notice and lack of publicity, including students visiting from other schools and even some non-students who were simply on-campus to see their friends.

"The punch was good," said visiting CMU student Stephen Lund ('08). "I had a lot of fun."

In spite of the number of students who were smiling and saying they'd had a good time, the organizers were thinking about how the low numbers compare to the turnout they'd wanted.

"I think people had fun," Whitmer said, "but there were problems with advertising."

"It was good for being on a Thursday," Dood agreed. "[Next time,] we would do advertising differently."

Stomach flu ails campus

JESSICA BLOOMFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Alma College has been bitten by the bug. The stomach flu as it is known to many has come with a vengeance. Newberry seems to have the strongest population of the ill so far, in fact people have even been warned away from the first floor.

See FLU page 2

This Week In Alma

- Alma College sponsors Community Café 3:45 p.m. today
- ACT presents Major Barbara 8 p.m. today through Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday
- Mens' basketball hosts Adrian College 7:30 p.m. Saturday
- Percussion ensemble presents pre-tour concert 8 p.m. Tuesday
- ASO holds children's concerts 9:15, 10:30 a.m. next Thursday

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Global opportunities abound with P-Global Leadership Initiative

DANA CALANDRINO
STAFF WRITER

This February, students should be lining up to apply for the Posey Global Leadership Initiative (P-Global) in order to seize opportunities to travel across the world. P-Global is a new Alma College program that funds nonprofit internships, independent research projects, seminars, conferences, and other work that spans international borders. The program was set into motion by a \$2.062 million endowment from Lee and Sally Posey, two 1956 Alma alumni, in order to "cultivate the next generation of global leaders" by funding these unique travel and leadership opportunities.

Students consider a variety of options when it comes to P-Global: after all, they design the projects themselves. The program is gifting student leaders with the chance to travel anywhere in the world. This year, applicants are hoping to travel to places like Malawi, Budapest, Mexico, Chicago, and Tanzania in order to take part in orphan-related work, environmental conferences, and dozens of other transboundary issues. "We want students to really think about doing a variety of activities," encourages Dr. Sandy Hulme, a member of the P-Global Steering Committee. "We're one of the only schools that [offers] this kind of opportunity."

"People are always talking about wanting to break the Alma bubble, what better way to do that than by addressing transboundary issues?"

-Amy Willey ('06)

Applicants meet with faculty members in order to arrange projects that fit their personal needs and desires, regardless of their ages, majors, or interests. "We're trying to be flexible in all ways," Dr. Michael Selmon reminds students. For example, Amy Willey ('06) is hoping to attend a conference in London this year with two other students, and is also looking into a spring-term internship at the International Institute for Justice and Development in Boston. "People are always talking about wanting to break the Alma bubble," Willey announces. "What better way to do that than by addressing transboundary issues?"

At the same time, Emelia Shroyer ('08) hopes to travel to Africa for a week of training, after which she'll teach HIV/AIDS awareness in schools and communities. "Before, when I went [to Africa]," she states, "I was too little to do anything to help. Then this opportunity came up...Students that have big dreams are going to want to come here."

The deadline for applications is February 22, 2006, but late applicants will be considered afterward based on available funds. Submissions (which include a statement indicating both the qualifications of the applicant and the proposed project, as well as the project's description, schedule, and budget, and its significance on an international level) can be found at the Provost's Office and should be sent back when completed. Any proposed nonprofit project will be examined by the P-Global Steering Committee in order to determine the merit of the proposal, the qualifications of the applicant, and financial need. Applicants will be notified of their status by March 7. Applications for future projects are accepted year-round, even on short notice.



Lee and Sally Sounders Posey (left) graduated from Alma College in 1956. After endowing \$2.062 million, the Poseys are working with college faculty to provide students with an opportunity to gain global leadership experience through trans boundary studies.

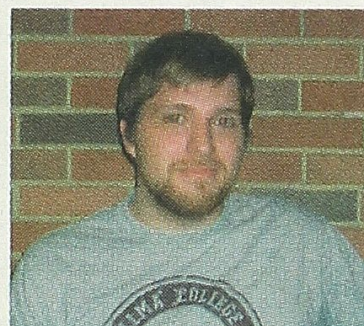
Photo courtesy of Alma College

Three Scots up for Fulbright award

Gordon, Hoeltzel, and Wertz await notification from the US Department of State

KRISTA PENNINGTON
STAFF WRITER

The Fulbright Scholarship program, sponsored by the US Department of State, and is the largest international exchange program in the country. Established in 1946 by Senator J. William



Photos by Kate Bruder

Lisette Hoeltzel and Tim Wertz mark 16 Fulbright finalists in four years at Alma.

Fulbright, the program awarded six-thousand grants in 2004, totaling somewhere around \$250 million. Each applicant must design a project to be completed in the foreign country of their choice, and based on the application, the finalists are selected. After that, the country that the student applied to go to selects the winners out of the finalists. **Dr. Sandy Hulme** of the Political Science department

says "this is a very prestigious scholarship, and in the past four years, Alma has sixteen finalists and nine winners."

This year, Alma has three finalists, **Tim Wertz ('06)**, a Math and Physics major whose scientific project will hopefully be completed in Australia next year, **Travis**

Gordon, an EHS and Spanish major who is looking to go to Columbia, and **Lisette Hoeltzel ('06)**, who hopes to go to Canada. Wertz said that he "is very pleased with the results and I am looking forward to spending the year in Australia."

Last year, we had three winners, **Kelly Bisset ('05)**, **April Lacroix ('05)**, and **Justin Gustafson ('97)**. Bisset, majoring in Foreign Service and Spanish, is

currently in Bolivia examining the impact of the native people's concerns on their government's natural gas policy. LaCroix, an EHS and Spanish major, whose project proposed an examination of applying osteopathic principles to medical practices in Colombia, where she currently is located. Gustafson, graduated Alma with a B.A. in History and Political Science, is assistant teaching in the Czech Republic, examining educational issues related to experiential learning. Where it is most common for students to apply in the fall of their senior year, the program also accepts past graduates as well as graduate students.

This is just one of the many scholarships that the Nationally Competitive Scholarship Committee handles, and in the past seven years, according to Dr. Hulme, "Alma has had sixty finalists, semi finalists and quarter finalists, and twenty-six winners," in a variety of different scholarships, for more information, see Dr. Hulme.

FLU continued from page 1

"Half of Newberry is sick." **Katie Curtis '09** said. "We also have the prospectives coming in out, and people really are freaking out because they don't want to get sick. This isn't helping either." RAs have gone around their hallways telling ill students to stay in their rooms until they are better to help slow the spread of the sickness. "I have heard it called the Newberry Epidemic. On first west there were fifteen trips to the bathroom all in one night," resident assistant **Jen Conkey '06** said. Some have seen the illness as inevitable and with good reason. "Probably around fifty percent of campus has some sort of cold or another, be it the stomach virus or a head cold," Joseph Gelina, director of health services at Alma College said.

There have also been rumors flying around campus that the stomach problems that everyone seems to be having is the result for a water contamination or food poisoning. Neither happens to be the case. "It's an airborne germ" Gelina confirmed. "It isn't dealing with the food, and it's not associated with the water."

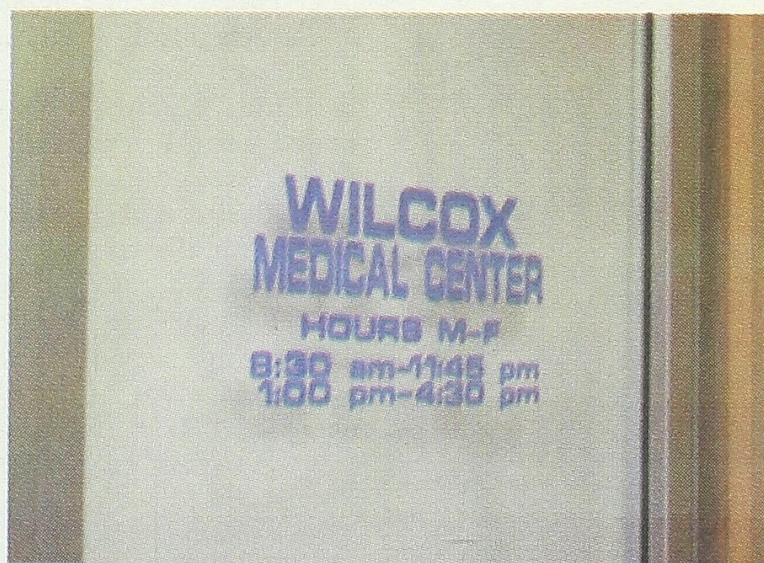


Photo by Sean Carter

Wilcox Medical Center estimates 50 percent of campus has some form of cold.

This same sickness that is affecting Alma's campus also is going around the community which adds strongly to the case that it isn't something such as food poisoning. Along the same lines of heresy, some are even wondering if it has something to do with the unusual weather we have been having. "It could possibly have to do with the warm weather we have been having. All the bugs that usually die from the cold aren't dead, and the ones that live in the cold are alive too." Gelina confirmed.

However, there are some tips for students who are looking for to avoid

the stomach virus. "Don't share glasses or utensils. Frequent hand-washing is a good way to not spread germs. Use the common sense that your mother and your grandmother taught you." Gelina said. Within the close quarters that dorm rooms provide some people are bound to get it. "If you do end up getting it, don't go to class and avoid big events" Gelina added. The stomach bug doesn't seem to be lasting too terribly long in its victims. "The infection only lasts for two to three days, but recovery may take longer, it really wears people out." Gelina said.

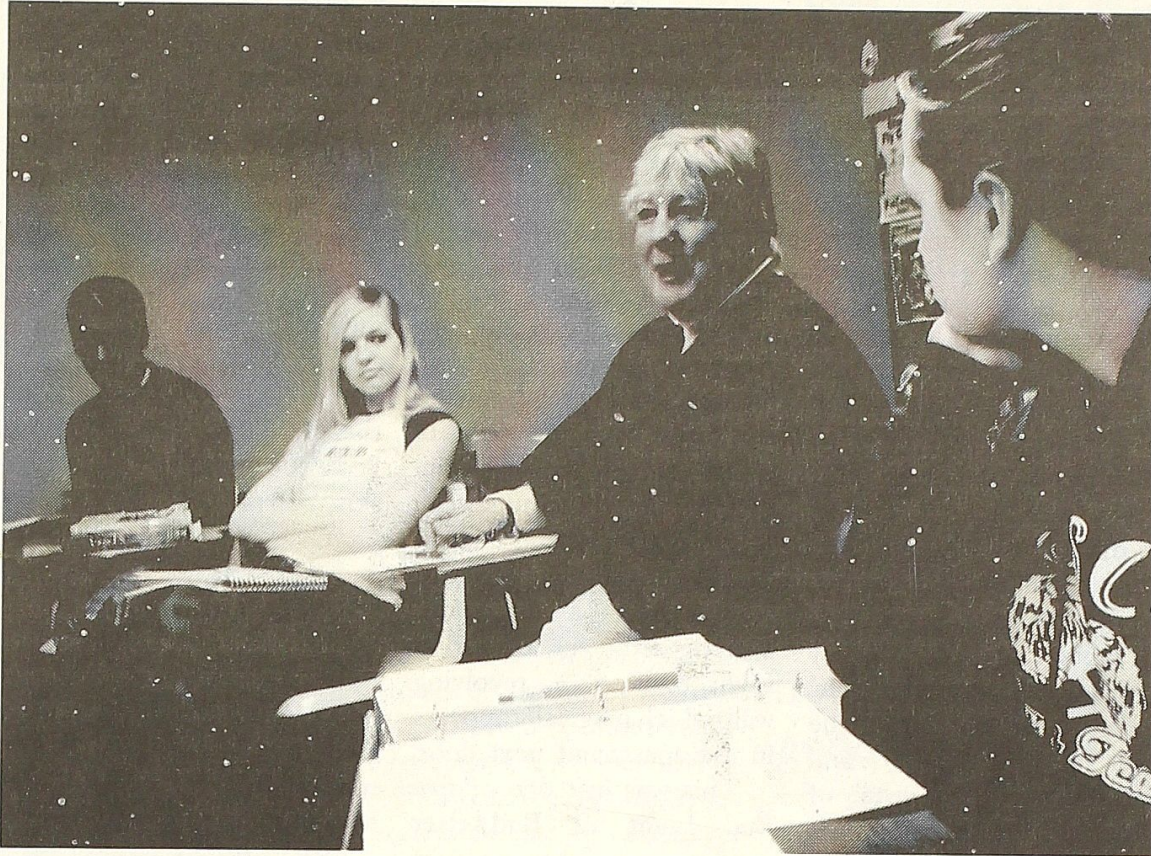
Rev. Linda Loving shares spiritual gift with Alma community

JESSICA BLOOMFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Rev. Linda Loving is a living milestone for the Presbyterian Church. She was one of the first to break the "stained glass ceiling" by becoming one of the few women who served as a senior pastor of a large multiple staffed congregation. With this she has helped women in the church all over.

"Rev. Loving has been a powerful example of women's leadership in the Presbyterian Church - from her role as head of staff at a large, urban congregation to her active role in many other aspects of the denomination and the use of her talents to share the message of women's faith and leadership through her drama," President Sandra Tracy said.

Along with giving women a say in the Presbyterian Church she has also been featured the Odyssey Cable Network. Rev. Loving majored



Rev. Linda Loving (seen above, middle) shared her spiritual and theatrical talents with Alma College earlier this month.

in theater at the University of Michigan, and she uses this theater experience when she performs the one woman drama, "Julian of Norwich."

"In the midst of great turmoil, Julian spoke words of comfort, of hope, of

forgiveness, of revelation. She speaks to our time as well. In the face of the AIDS epidemic, violent wars and terrorism, hunger and homelessness, and a creation scarred by our apathy and abuse- we need to hear that

'all will be well' and commit ourselves anew to treasuring God's precious creatures and creation," Loving wrote in the program pamphlet for "Julian of Norwich."

Loving preformed this one-woman drama on February 6

at the chapel. Some saw this as a great addition to the Liberal arts degree.

"It's an important thing to have at Alma College. At college we address the academic and intellectual constantly, but not always the sacred," Ann Armbruster (08) said.

This is the year's third and final event at Alma College that deals with the ordination of women into the church. "We wanted to recognize these anniversaries," Carol Gregg, Director of the Discovering Vocation Project said. This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of women as elders.

Tracy can speak from personal experience in this matter. "My personal involvement in the Presbyterian church has been as an active layperson and spouse of a Presbyterian clergy. Rev. Loving inspires each of us to use our God-given talents in all aspects of our lives - personal and professional."

Photo by Kate Bruder

Center for Responsible Leadership looks to expand efforts through fellows program

JESSICA BLOOMFIELD
STAFF WRITER

The Center for Responsible Leadership is looking to change things around at Alma College in the next three years. "We want to provide something new different and innovative." Assistant Professor of Business, Ron Lemmon said of the new program. The eleven million dollar program was started by the Board of Trustees around three or four years ago and it has recently been spearheaded by the likes of President Sandra Tracy,

Carol Gregg, Ron Lemmon and Ed Lorenz. "There is a need in society today for people who are ethical and responsible," Carol Gregg, project director of discovering vocation said.

The program is looking to increase responsible leadership for Alma College students of all walks of life. "It isn't just for business students," Lemmon said. Any freshman or sophomore level student can apply to join this new group. The application, which is due February 17, requires a written response and an interview with a panel. Forty freshmen

and ten sophomores will then be selected to go on a week long learning experience in New Mexico at what is known as the Ghost Ranch. At the Ghost Ranch, the students will have unique opportunities to learn new leadership skills in a variety of hands approaches.

The students selected for this three to four year program will also be required to keep an electronic journal to talk about the changes that they went through in becoming a better leader for the community. This program will require that the students be dedicated to the

cause. "It is for the longview of things," Gregg said. There are high hopes that this program will be able to continue indefinitely. Several generous contributions have been made, including a half million dollars from the Lily Endowment.

The program just isn't about going to the Ghost Ranch; the program also has a division dedicated to getting more speakers to Alma College. These speakers will be more known to the students. "We want more students there, not just the faculty," Lemmon said. The program is also offering

several grant opportunities. With these grants, students will be able to work on service projects of their choosing, such as starting their own businesses. This summer, they will also be offering a "High School Institute" which consists of a week long leadership training course for high school juniors.

"We want students to gain confidence and leadership and to use this experience in student groups, even after graduation," Gregg said about the long term goal of this ambitious project.

REGGAE continued from page 1

successful musicians Kenny Chesney. Friday night's show consisted of six musicians who combined to play the drums, keyboard, guitar, trombone, and tambourine. "I expected to hear a new kind of reggae sound," said Amanda Abramczyk (08). "I have never been exposed to that kind of music before." All six of the band members had a vocal obligation during at least one point in the performance.

The band was constantly talking to the audience between songs, sharing their reggae roots and asking the audience to share their dance moves. After the fourth song

in the first set, almost half of the audience, most of which were Alma College students, did just that.

"I liked how they involved the audience," said Lindsay Cain (09). "I liked how we were almost a part of the performance. It was a better way to experience the music."

The next group to experience the Ark's music was the Super Bowl XL crowd in Detroit. The band put on a performance at the Trenchtown Club by Ford Field on Super Bowl Sunday.

More can be heard by tuning into Ark Band Radio at www.thearkband.com



Photo courtesy of thearkband.com

Moving on from Alma College, the Ark Band performed near Ford Field on Super Bowl Sunday, and is due to play a private show in March for Kenny Chesney's private birthday party.

Are you ready for some commercials?

JOSH MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

The biggest spectacle surrounding the Super Bowl each year for some reason never seems to be, well, the Super Bowl. Sure it may have seemed that the Super Bowl hype was a little higher this year, and rightfully so, seeing as though it was held in Detroit. But what is the number one reason why people watch the Super Bowl Commercials?

"It's amazing what almost \$200 million will buy you these days."

Basing that assumption off of this year's efforts—point well taken. Could the reason that this year's commercials were so good have anything to do with the amount of money each 30-second slot cost?

Let's just say that it probably played somewhat of an important role. The cost to air a Super Bowl ad increased to a record high \$2.5 million according to the *USA Today*.

For anyone that cares, that is \$83,333 a second! It costs \$1 million to produce each commercial, making the 30-second grand total \$3.5 million. Let's see, multiply that by that by the 55 commercial slots, not including the local commercials and our overall grand total of the price of commercials

reaches \$192.5 million.

It's amazing what almost \$200 million will buy you these days. Unfortunately, it costs the winners and the losers the same amount to produce a commercial.

According to the *USA Today*, the biggest winner of the Super Bowl ads was Anheuser-Busch's "Magic Fridge" commercial, giving the major beer company its eighth straight year with the highest rated commercial.

This particular commercial caught the funny bone of viewers when a man hides a refrigerator full of a Bud Light behind a revolving wall, which magically appears in the apartment next door.

This was just one of five Bud Light or Budweiser

commercials that appeared during the first quarter of the football game and one of seven of their total assortment. Although they had the highest rated commercial, they also spent by far the most of any other company, with a total of \$24.5 million, including production costs.

Other companies that fared well in the battle for the best commercial were FedEx with their caveman skit, Sierra Mist with their Caveman commercial and probably the biggest surprise winner, Ameriquest with their Hospital skit.

In this spoof, a man is in the hospital his doctors use the electric defibrillator, that is supposed to be used for him, to kill a fly and pronounce

the (unnoticeable) fly dead as family members walk in to check on the patient.

The other, an airplane skit, where a woman ends up in an unusual position on top of a man after hitting a band of turbulence while trying to make her way out of her seat, leaving surrounding passengers with dumbfounded looks.

As for the flops, there is really only one major company. Pepsi. If Pepsi isn't having enough problems as it is right now, their Super Bowl ads didn't help. Both commercials they aired were not funny and dishearteningly unoriginal. The Pepsi can as an actor? I guess I can see why people prefer Coke over Pepsi.

Students use mid-term break for a variety of purposes

BRAD POTTS
FREELANCE WRITER

For students, sleeping is a favorite thing to do over break. But napping is not the only thing on Alma College students' minds. Many students have adventurous plans for their week off school.

Evan Finley (09) is traveling to Florida. He is helping to build a house with ten other students for Habitat For Humanity.

"We don't know what stage in the building process the house will be when we get there," said Finley. "I hope it's in the beginning stages."

Finley worked with Habitat For Humanity last November as they completed the finishing touches of a house in Lansing.

The group is leaving for near Jacksonville, Florida, February 25th and returning to Alma on March 4th, taking up most of the week off school.

When asked about his inability to catch up on sleep, Finley replied, "I'm just excited to have this opportunity."

Other than working on



Photo courtesy of Juliann Shaffer

Last fall, students like Kimberly Graor assisted with programs during break to help those in need. This semester, students will have the chance to travel to Florida, working with Habitat for Humanity. Choir students are travelling to Washington, D.C., while others are content with the break from school-work.

the house, the group has a number of other activities planned. Surfing lessons is one of the popular ideas among the ten students.

He may not be surfing, but **Adam Bauer (07)** will

be singing his way down the east coast this mid-winter break with the Alma College Choir. The choir is traveling by bus to Washington, DC, and Rochester, New York, to name a couple of cities.

The ensemble is singing a combination of sacred and secular pieces at various churches along the way. At night, Bauer and the rest of the choir will be sleeping in church members' houses.

"We're very grateful that these people are letting us stay the night in their homes," said Bauer. "It means a lot to us."

Although many students have adventurous plans for break, some have decided to relax and enjoy the lack of things to do.

"Dustin Bissell (06) and I are planning on having a zombie movie marathon," said **Pete Johnston (07)**.

Johnston, a resident of Alma, commented that he will not mind the downtime he'll have over break.

"The only responsibility I have is to drive my sister to the airport," said Johnston. "The rest of the time I'm going to sleep and watch movies."

Some students are spending their mid-winter break working, some traveling, and some just relaxing, but the majority of students seem glad about their week off school.

"I'm glad to have a change of pace," said Adam Bauer.

So whether you plan on building a house or sitting on a couch this break, enjoy a week that's different than the rest of the year.

\$\$\$ ATTENTION BUSINESS MAJORS \$\$\$ (and any other interested students)

The Almanian is looking for students to sell advertisements to area businesses. The position is commission-based (20%) with an almost unlimited earning potential. Gain sales experience, earn a paycheck, work your own hours. It is that simple.

Contact Derek Harrison
at 463-7161 or at o7dtharr@alma.edu

Philosophical Fancy

I Thought I'd Hear Jazz in Cafes

JEN ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

I've been in Philly now six days and finally had a beautiful day to walk the city without a completely full agenda. Hearing sirens, such a common occurrence in the city, brought me to my philosophical fancy this week: music—is it possible to avoid it? My question is not necessarily meant for you to answer. I would have to define music in that case and I think that takes the beauty out of it.

Have you ever wondered how certain types of music were inspired? I think I found insight today. As I was walking to the Philadelphia Center I heard a loud siren—wweeeeeeee-ooooooooo. An older gentleman passed me and matched the tone. He then added some style of his own and jazz was born. It was one of the most beautiful experiences I have ever encountered. I passed over this swiftly so in case you missed it, a passerby—a city brother—sang with the siren today.

"Have you ever wondered how certain types of music were inspired?"

Even in situations outside of the city it seems hard to escape music. I try to picture the most silent scene possible: sitting at the bottom of a well or in a wide-open field. In the well, however, a single drop of liquid or even a moan could echo so loudly, creating a myriad of pitches that become a morbid or possibly comforting music.



In the wide-open field anything could happen. For example, a bird flies by. The simple squawk or flap of wings stimulates your brain and resonates in your mind.

Isn't that the beauty of music—the stimulation? If we heard no sound we couldn't make rhythms from garbage cans or a can of peanuts. I wonder if the deaf hear themselves and can still make music that way. Is there such a thing? A deaf person thumps his leg...then taps his foot. In his mind does it go "boom-cha" or "thump-tap"? As I write this I rest and tap my pen on my tablet of paper. The piece folded over vibrates—it stimulates my eyes. Is that music...to the eyes? I like the thought; I don't want a dictionary.

I know in Alma there isn't the hustle/bustle of Philadelphia—no homeless around every corner constantly speaking out about love or asking for help, no whistles for taxis. However, there still are the little things making music every day. Listen to the silence; you'll hear that it's not silent at all. Hear the whistle of the wind or the clank of your Styrofoam cup in the bottom of the trashcan. Let these things stimulate you—invigorate you. Let a new form of music always be born.

-- Jen is writing from Philadelphia, where she is spending her semester.

ABC gets it right on Tuesday night

JOSH MORGAN
STAFF WRITER

Any argument over which night of primetime television is superior that was not answered last season is sure to be answered this season with the dynamic duo of Commander in Chief and Boston Legal on ABC.

Coming off its first season, Boston Legal captured two 2005 Primetime Emmy awards. Emmy award winners James Spader ("Alan Shore") and William Shatner ("Denny Crane") lead a cast of stars into the show's second season, which tells the professional and personal stories of a group of brilliant but often emotionally challenged attorneys.

This year, the humorous yet insatiable cast of characters is tamed by newcomer and five-time Emmy award winner Candice Bergen ("Shirley Schmidt"), who is most well known from her days in Murphy Brown.

Crane, Poole, and Schmidt have a motto: "Everyone deserves their day in court." Using this motto, they often immorally defend any clients worthy of their service by continually stretching the boundaries of the law.

Other newcomers to the show this season include: Denise Bower (played by Julie Bowen), a hard-nosed, tough lawyer that won't take "guilty" for an answer; Garrett Wells (played by Justin Mentell), a junior associate who finds himself doing more bad than good; and Sara Holt (played by Ryan Michelle Bathe), a very confident junior associate who sometimes bites off more than she can chew.

"Eight Emmy awards in two hours are just too good to pass up."

Boston Legal and its seven-time Emmy award-winning cast follows ABC's newest drama, Commander in Chief, headlined by Emmy award winner Geena Davis ("President Mackenzie Allen").

Allen, who starts the show as the Independent Vice President under President Teddy Bridges, is suddenly forced to make the biggest decision of her life when President Bridges dies of

complications following emergency brain surgery for a tumor. However, prior to his death, both the President's Chief of Staff Jim Gardener (played by Harry Lennix) and the President himself ask her to resign and allow the Speaker of the House, Nathan Templeton (played by Donald Sutherland), whose views reflect those of Bridges', to take over as the President.

But Geena Davis wouldn't have taken this role if her character resigned at the end of the second show. Vice President Allen decides to assume the presidency despite the ugly road that awaits her. With that, she becomes the first woman to assume the office of the President of the United States in the history of the union.

Commander in Chief was created by Rob Lurie, the acclaimed writer/director of the Oscar-nominated film, "The Contender." Boston Legal was created by David E. Kelly. These two shows are on back-to-back every Tuesday night starting with Commander in Chief at 9 pm and followed by Boston Legal at 10 pm. Eight Emmy awards in two hours are just too good to pass up.

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Contact Derek Harrison
at 463-7161 or at o7dtharr@alma.edu

Mid-term blues: exam tips and techniques to save your grades, brighten your break

TIFFANY BALDUCCI
STAFF WRITER

Get ready to sharpen those pencils, drink caffeinated beverages, and strain your eyes: mid-term week is upon us.

The correlation is simple: mid-term equals exams to take and papers due; however, there is a light at the end of the tunnel and it's called mid-winter break. So before you start packing that suitcase to go to Cancun, take some time to study for exams and follow these tips.

Assistant Director of Career Services, Anna

"So before you start packing that suitcase to go to Cancun, take some time to study for exams and follow these tips."

Grajek advises, "Don't wait until the last minute, and start reviewing notes from the beginning of the year now. Do not put things off until the last minute."

Anna also points out, "The Center for Student Development is here with tutors, study tips, techniques on learning styles

and general assistance."

The Center for Student Development has many fliers and pamphlets on studying and exam techniques.

Are study groups effective? According to paraphernalia from The Center for Student Development, the answer is yes. Study groups help if everyone agrees to come prepared to each meeting, stays on task, and challenges each other.

Friends do not always make the best study partners, so announce at the end of class that you are interested in a study group or message someone on Facebook.com. Study groups are very useful to bounce ideas off each other or figuring out clever memory joggers and mnemonic devices.

If you are overwhelmed and do not know where to begin, The Center advises that you make a list of all the things you have to do. Break your workload down into manageable time tables and then prioritize and schedule time realistically. Preview your syllabus, reading material, and notes and focus on main topics. When reading dry material, ask yourself, "What is important to remember about this section?"

If you're pretty sure you understand the material test yourself to see. Make up



Graphic by Derek Harrison

questions about key sections in notes and reading. Take short breaks when studying; relax and unwind mentally and physically before you go to bed.

The Center also advises that you study during your alert times of the day and study the hardest, least liked subject first. This reduces the tendency to procrastinate in these subject areas and if you need help, you'll have time to find it.

Access Services Librarian, Angie Kelleher reminds students that, "Study rooms are also available, but most are first come, first serve; two in the basement can be reserved by groups for 2-hour blocks. The library can be a great place to study, with fewer distractions than

a residence hall. Study rooms are usually more available in the mornings, and the stacks are fairly quiet all the time."

So you've studied the best you can and now you have the test in front of you: what do you do now? Read the directions and never assume that you know what the directions say. Answer the easy questions first because this will give you confidence and momentum to get through the rest of the test.

While looking over the test and doing the easy questions, your subconscious mind will have been working on the answers to the harder ones. Answer all questions unless you are penalized for wrong answers and do not be afraid to ask the instructor to explain

any items that are not clear.

Try to remember what the instructor emphasized and felt was important; use the margin to explain why you chose the answer if the question does not seem clear or if the answer seems ambiguous.

Everyone approaches a test differently and there are many unique learning styles. Finding a path to successful exam taking can be tedious and difficult: just be prepared and don't worry. Most professors advise that you should just use common sense and also use the full time allowed; don't worry about the person next to you who finished in fifteen minutes – just concentrate and look forward to mid-winter break.

When employment seems bleak, students can fight back

Students can use networking and expertise to their advantage when job-hunting

BRAD POTTS
FREELANCE WRITER

Many students experience insecurities about what they will do after they graduate from college. These insecurities are quite conceivable as the competition for jobs is currently very steep.

However, not all Alma College students are worried about their future. In fact, there are many ways a student can prepare for a career after Alma College.

"Internships are the appetizer of the career field," said Anna Grajek of The Center For Student Development. "Internships are important because they help you decide if you are really interested in that type of work."

According to Grajek, the most important skill a student

can have is to start a network. It is much easier to get hired if you have connections. Internships develop contacts and give you experience in your desired field.

The Center offers the "Living And Working In" series, which Grajek finds extremely beneficial to students. The program involves trips to major Michigan and surrounding area cities so that students can get a feel of what it would be like to work in a large city.

The program is traveling to Metro Detroit February 19, Western Michigan February 24, and a tentative Chicago trip is scheduled for March 15 and 16.

The Center also offers a job pursuit program to students. The Center brings employers

to Alma College who are looking for students with a liberal arts background. "This way Alma College students are competing with other liberal arts students, not students of larger schools," said Grajek.

Students attend the job pursuit program, provide résumés, and talk with potential employers. The employers issue callbacks for interviews later the same day.

For students who are unsure of what they want to do with their life, The Center provides the Myer-Briggs type indicator, a personality test that helps students to discover their best attributes and talents.

Kat Lanphear (06) landed a job as a sound engineer with the Summer Studio Theater Company in

Urbana, Illinois. She got the job after SSTC interviewed came to Alma College and interviewed theater students.

Lanphear spent time with her adviser, Kristeen Crosser, working on her portfolio and résumé. Lanphear says that experience is the key to finding a job. She does freelance sound design for the Boar's Head Theater in Lansing. She is currently working on her senior thesis in lighting design.

Emily Whitmer (07) is unsure of what type of job she will get when she graduates from Alma. Whitmer is a Psychology major and Communications minor, who plans on going on to graduate school after Alma. She hopes to be a hall director at her graduate school and

eventually a college professor.

Whitmer agrees that experience is important to success in your career field. This summer she will be working as a counselor at Point Of Pine camp in New York. She is involved in Cross Country and track, jazz band, and the Alma College Theater Company. She is also currently a senior RA.

"Taking part in a lot of different activities is what sets me apart from everyone else," said Whitmer.

There are many opportunities that students can take advantage of to make themselves look appealing to potential employers. The consensus is that experience and forming contacts is an important part to finding a job in a career you like.

What really grinds my gears

JON MORRIS
STAFF WRITER

Hello Alma College! Hopefully you have been anxiously awaiting another dose of what ultimately is a brief expression of my inner angst and overall detestation of a particular topic. Last week I argued for the legalization of marijuana. This week I must attend to another very important topic, Lindsay Lohan. If you are a fan of Lindsay Lohan's "music" or her "acting", I am truly sorry. She is not very good.

I won't keep you waiting any longer. You know what REALLY grinds my gears? Celebrities. Why do they make so much money? Actors, entertainers, professional athletes, and Paris Hilton, whatever she is, make more money than doctors, teachers, professors, attorneys, accountants, scientists, and preachers! WHY?

Why is it that we, as college students, dedicate at least 1/4 of our time here on earth to studying, learning, memorizing, and working to better ourselves through education? We invest not only

time, but money! At Alma we invest over \$100,000 for an undergraduate education that will provide us with a return of \$50,000/year if we are extremely lucky. For most of us, our salary will be in the range of \$25,000-\$40,000/year. For those of us going on to graduate or professional school, we will be investing a great deal more. Some of us will be over \$100,000 in debt by the time we finish school. Will our starting salaries be worth the investment?

In some professions, such as medicine and law, the starting salaries can be \$75,000-\$125,000/year. This might seem like a tremendous amount of money, but it is barely sufficient for the amount of time, effort, and money invested in the required education.

Teachers and professors are underpaid. The average salary for a teacher in the United States, including starting salaries, is around \$35,000/year. The average salary for college professors ranges from \$55,000-\$90,000 depending on rank and field. Some people live comfortably on these salaries, but it

becomes more difficult to do so when you have student loans, a mortgage, a car loan, a credit card, a husband or a wife, and a baby or two.

What does this have to do with Lindsay Lohan? \$11 million says this has everything to do with Lindsay Lohan. \$11 million is how much Lindsay Lohan made last year. \$11 million! WHY?! # \$ @ % ^ & % # % What education did Lindsay Lohan ever have? Which college or university did she work so hard to graduate from? Why should she be making \$11 million to sing and act poorly? She's not even good! Do you know what really upsets me? Paris Hilton charges \$300,000/night to make an appearance at a night club. Any idea how successful that method is for her? Along with her stupid TV show and her own perfume and jewelry line, she made \$6.5 million last year! That's enough money to employ over 180 teachers! It's also enough money to employ 32 emergency room

SEE GRIND PAGE 9

Head's Up!

Millennial students

SCOTT WEIR
OPINION EDITOR

Hello Alma College. I know it's been awhile since you heard from me, but I'm back with a vengeance and ready to tackle another tough subject. This week issue is time... or lack thereof.

It all revolves around the saying that 20% of the people do 80% of the work (okay so I made up those numbers, it is the opinion section).

Regardless, the bottom line is that there is just not enough time in the day. By all means, I'm not saying I don't have time to do things solely for entertainment purposes, but with all that Alma College has to offer, and with all that I have chosen to involve myself in, free time is becoming scarce to none.

In what little free time I do have, I had the chance to sit down and read a magazine called Campus Activities Programming. Although my intent was to find new programs for ACUB, I found myself attracted to an article entitled, "The Next Generation is Here: The Impact of Millennials on Campus." The premise of the article is that as "millennials" we often feel a pressure to succeed and that in order to get ahead we must take advantage of all opportunities available to us.

The other thing the article mentioned was the need to build up a millennials resume. With the increasing competition in the job market these days, degrees are almost a prerequisite for any job, and what sets you apart from everyone else, is the depth of your resume. Maybe that's why I find myself in IFC, ACUB, Student Congress, ALA, Sigma Chi, and the *Almanian*, among other various committees that these groups entail.

Back to what I like to call the 20/80 rule (no... I'm not talking about the one I

learned from Professor Baleja in my marketing class), but the relationship of who does what on this campus. Well Alma College is a great place to get an education, there is so much more to ones college experience. This is going to sound counter productive to my argument, but I guess what bothers me is people that don't participate in the many things campus has to offer. Be it Greek Life, a Reggae band sponsored by the Co-Curricular Committee, or an aerobics class offered by the Rec. Center (yes I have participated in one or two), Alma College has a wide array of extra curricular offerings for its students that often go unnoticed by students. This is not by lack of publicity by any means, but lack of interest and participation.

The bottom line is that if the other 80% of the student body were as active as the initial 20%, imagine how much more Alma College would have to offer. Well I'm not by any means trying to classify anyone in to either group, as everyone as their niche on this campus, I'm simply encouraging exploration of new things. While I may find myself staying up an extra hour or two to study because I had a meeting to go to, I have never had any regrets, even as I write this at 11:45pm.



Pet policy a bone of contention

TIFFANY BALDUCCI
STAFF WRITER

Do you miss your pet? A non-scientific study conducted on Alma College's campus resulted in the finding that three out of five students would feel less homesick if pets were allowed on campus. The current and out-dated pet policy states, "For health, sanitation and insurance reasons, no animals except tropical fish are permitted in residence halls or other College-approved housing." My initial question is what makes tropical fish more sanitary than regular fish such as a goldfish, or other aquarium animals such as iguanas, turtles, or hermit crabs?

There is, of course, an exception to this rule. Hall Directors are allowed to have one pet (cat, fish, or small dog not exceeding 25 pounds) in their own apartments. Do the insurance reasons not apply to them?

Hall Directors who wish to have a pet pay a refundable cleaning deposit of \$250.00. Dorm rooms are small

enough for two people to live in, but why wouldn't students living in small-housing or Wright Hall be given the same opportunity as Hall Directors? If all residing members sign an agreement and a cleaning plan is a devised, small pets (i.e. rodents, snakes, aquarium animals, cats and dogs under twenty-five pounds) should justifiably thrive in such an environment.

Students really miss their pets when they come to Alma College. It is an over joyous experience during one of the rare occasions when a professor brings their dog to class. Studies also show that playing with pets can increase serotonin levels and alleviate depression. The administration could even allow students' therapists or doctors to submit a note that strongly suggest it would better the student to have a pet; it would give them something to look forward to coming home to.

At Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., the first floor of a residential dormitory is assigned as the pet floor.

Animals must be crated or caged when students are not in the room, vaccinated and spayed or neutered if a cat or a dog. According to a college representative, the pet floors are heavily requested housing options. Pets are not allowed in common areas and waste must be properly disposed of.

A pet in a dorm is a bit extreme; but it has been done. It would be easier for Alma College to allow small housing to have small pets, as long as all the bases are covered as they are with Hall Directors.

The pet policy also states, "Stray animals should be taken to the Gratiot County Animal Shelter." The college more than likely does not know this, but after a little research one can find that the Gratiot County Animal Shelter has been recognized as a random source for Michigan Class B Dealers. Class B Dealers are licensed to sell pound dogs and cats to research institutions; these animals are not bred in captivity for research purposes, they are your animals that have ran

SEE PET PAGE 8

Photographers!

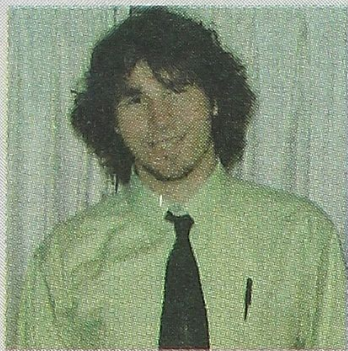
The Almanian is looking for devoted photographers to capture the essence of campus life and compliment newspaper articles. Creativity, dedication, and an interest in improving this publication are the only necessary qualifications.

Contact Derek Harrison at o7dtharr@alma.edu

A Radioflyer Soapbox

Actions speak louder

DEREK HARRISON
EDITOR IN CHIEF



When arguing with the angst of a newer generation, the older of the two must recognize that they may never win. There are always new claims of displeasure and the pace becomes increasingly out of reach for those who feel they are in charge. It is possible, however, to make great strides if the correct measures are taken.

Most immediately, I think of "The Administration" as being those behind pace and those facing a seemingly impossible battle with the student population. The term "administration" is almost derogatory when coming from the mouths of students. I believe this is mostly because of a bilateral lack of understanding.

The Administration should know that they might still perform successfully without necessarily *winning*. However, to perform successfully, it is essential to show students the results of important projects and to have an adequate understanding of what the important issues are.

Citing the latest attempts at solving the communication gap, it is notable that there have been an increasing number of forums, feedback systems, and options to voice student opinion. The latest example is the Strategic Plan and Beyond Discussion. This highly accessible web forum can be found after navigating through Alma's website. (<http://www.alma.edu/community/offices/president/discussion>)

This electronic discussion board lists a number of topic areas for students and faculty to comment and suggest upon. Current topic areas include the addition of a nursing program, renovation of buildings, additional of new majors, and the provision of daycare for the faculty. These measures are promising however the student population needs to speak up.

Few topics have netted more than posts in the single digits. Though the administration can gain ground by continually offering these options for students, from a business

standpoint this becomes a waste of resources.

Though it is reasonable to say there is little evidence to suggest these ideas will be acted upon in the immediate future, are there not enough list-makers conscious enough to recognize the value of determining goals or bulleting objectives? Believe it or not, there are grants or donating alumni out there to provide some of these improvements for the campus and they cannot be obtained without worthwhile spending plans. Someone has to show that they care.

From the student point of view, someone has obviously decided that it is important to hand the microphone over for a while, but is there any evidence that it is reaching the right people?

Perhaps an inspiration to those attending Alma College may be some sign that the administration not only hears the voices that are speaking up, but also that the decision-makers are actually listening. Despite what simplicity might say, there is a difference.

For example, after the discussion with President Tracy in the Rotunda on January 17, many students were not positive that anything would actually be done to remedy the current or prevent future occurrence. Before the forum, more students were irritated that it seemed no one had their ear to the ground to know of the frustration in Bruske Hall.

To put it succinctly, it is not enough to just be there for the students. This process starts out with a jog, but it turns into a full sprint. Many students believe they have yet to see a full sprint from the administration unless it is chasing down alumni to gain money, and that is one of the few transparent actions the population is seeing.

Pet policy continued...

away, or the scruffy kitty you dropped off at the shelter. The policy should suggest students take stray animals to the Isabella County Animal Shelter in Mount Pleasant because this shelter does everything they can to prevent euthanasia, even if the animal is very sick.

It is time for the pet policy to be revised so at least small housing can become owners of small pets. It is a stress-reliever and also teaches responsibility, and as stated before, alleviates homesickness. Campuses everywhere are taking these measures, if Alma wants to remain exciting to prospective students then there should definitely be a second look at the pet policy.

Response to MLK Day

I would like to sincerely congratulate Sam Stoneburg on her article about MLK Day. She has managed to inspire much talk about the ideas that she's expressed in her article. After all, isn't that what freedom of speech is about, the exchange of ideas in order to create discussion? Yet, there were many things within this article that got many of the students of "darker pigment" to cringe. While Ms. Stoneburg is entitled to her opinion, there are some things I do not agree with.

I can understand her disapproval of the canceling of classes. I've seen and heard and read about the Civil Rights Movement since I was in grammar school. My grandparents lived it; therefore, I can go without attending presentations of this era (even though I wouldn't want to). There are students in this school, however, who really need it. When a student looks a poster of Dr. Martin Luther King jr. and asks, "Is he speaking today?" they need to attend those presentations.

My second problem is I'm not sure she quite understood what Susan Morris was presenting. The horrific images of the past do have an effect on the present. That's how the world works. Yes we don't have "Whites Only" fountains, but how often do you see a dark-skinned lead in a movie where he or she is not playing some sort of stereotypical role. There are still roles out there that suggest "White Only" and "Black Only", and that's just a small part of things. If we want things to change we have to take a cue from the past, otherwise the past will come back and bite us in our butts.

My third qualm is as follows: Sam Stoneburg, as well as others, use the argument that they have seen the images of the Civil Rights Movement, but blacks shouldn't use it as a crutch. "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." Other than the fact that this statement is condescending, comparing the hardship of one individual to the hardship and entire race/culture had to endure for 400 years just doesn't seem to measure up. I'm not saying that black people are victims (far from it), but 400 years of hatred has to have some consequences. It's getting tiring to hear people trivialize the suffering that African-Americans, Jews, Native Americans, etc. have gone through simply because those incidents make them uncomfortable.

Ms. Stoneburg has only seen these images. My family has lived through them. It's pretty hard to move on after you've seen a picture of your great-uncle being lynched on a postcard with a white family standing around like it's a picnic. If that "seems unjust" to anyone, then I believe that they are right.

My final problem with her article is the pure ethnocentric nerve that Ms. Stoneburg has telling African-Americans that they shouldn't call themselves what they call themselves. If you don't call yourself Scottish/English...American, that doesn't mean that I can't call myself Black/Native American, or person of African descent. I'll call myself a mutt if I like. The point is that it means something to me.

African-Americans are unique to other groups in that they have no specific place to call a homeland. They have no specific heritage to take their history, and it's all thanks to the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade. Remember, out of all the immigrants that have come to this country, African-Americans were the main group that migrated here against their will on large scale. No one has the right to tell people of African descent what they can call themselves!

Shakaria Kirk (07)

**Submit letters to the editor electronically to
07sdweir@alma.edu!**

Grinds my gears continued...

doctors! What makes her so valuable? Is she talented? No. Is she beautiful? Some people think so. What incentive do we have as college students to continue getting an education, when we are basically signing up to make a small fraction of what an uneducated, somewhat attractive bimbo can rake in over one year? I'm rethinking this college deal. I will put in my time here and then 4 more years of school for a JD/MBA to make about \$6.4 million less than Paris Hilton per year. Wouldn't it be easier to save the \$120,000 I will spend on the education and just become a celebrity? It sounds easier, and the return is much better. This is the thought process many young people will go through today, they want the celebrity lifestyle and they think that they can get it with a college degree, which is not true. In order to improve education, health-care, and technology/scientific research in this country there must be an incentive for young people to get the education and experience. The needed incentive is higher pay. Right now it makes the most sense for young people to aspire to be celebrities or athletes of some sort because the pay is the best. A trend such as this one will put the continuing success of our country at risk.

Lebron James made \$22.9 million last year to throw a ball through a hoop. Shaq made \$33.4 million last year working just as hard as all of us, as he says in a commercial for a pain reliever. Professional athletes complain about the pressure they go through during a game, and they constantly want more money. Maybe they should try open heart surgery, removing a tumor from a patient's brain, teaching a room full of hyper adolescents or raising a couple of kids full time before they complain about pressure or the money they make for doing something we don't have time for because we work.

I think entertainment is a necessary and wonderful thing. I don't think that professional entertainers need to make so much money, and I do think that people who invest in an education and work very hard to educate the future leaders of our country, save lives, or find the cure for diseases deserve to make more. What can we do to stop the celebrities? Don't buy their music if they lip-synch, don't watch Paris Hilton's stupid TV show, if its still on, don't see a movie with no plot and bad acting that was put together in minutes for easy money, instead of buying season tickets to the pistons, start investing and saving for retirement, and next time you see a teacher, professor, doctor, or anyone who is not a celebrity, thank them for all that they do.

Alma College

Little Siblings Weekend

Rollerskating

Swimming

Crafts

Sports

Ice-cream

Movies

And More!



Experience college life—without the classes! Alma's Little Sibs Weekend allows kids to attend great events like the Science Blowout, a carnival, and ACUB- and RHA- sponsored activities. Look for registration forms at home, at switch or at the Student Life Office (x7147).

Bring your brothers, sisters, cousins and friends to have fun at Little Sibs Weekend!

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.

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

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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 Races to the Finish Line

Colin M. Wasiloff, Sports Editor

Swish.

The Alma College Men's basketball team put an end to their 10 game losing streak Saturday when they defeated Tri-State University 81-76.

The Scots saw extraordinary production from starters **Corey Massey(09)** and **Isaac Smith(07)**, who each racked a double-double, and combined for 28 points on the day. Also ringing in for the Scots was **Drew Barnhart(07)**, who accounted for 13 points and three rebounds. This was the Scot's second MIAA conference win.

Taking the court also this past weekend was the women's team, who elongated their winning streak to four. In the four point victory over the Comets of Olivet, both **Ashley Matuzak(08)** and **Darcie Philp(08)** picked up double-doubles. The victory pulled the Scots into a tie for fifth place with foe Albion College, but with two games left to be played, hopes are bright for the women's team.

If the Scots can pull out two more victories, over league leaders Calvin and Hope, they will be set to take over third place in the MIAA, setting themselves in contention for the conference tournament

during break.

Finally this weekend, the men's and women's swim and dive teams faced off in their last attempt to save a sinking ship at the MIAA conference meet.

Hope College stole the show per usual as the Scots found themselves in troubled waters. Pulling through for the Scots were **Jim Abrams(08)**, who placed ninth in the 100 meter breast stroke, and **Brent Gostomski(07)** who also placed ninth, but in the 100 meter fly event. Both teams fared decently, and will take to the office season to tune up and prepare for next year's season, still in search of victories.

GAME OF THE WEEK: Women's Basketball at Calvin College.

WHEN: Saturday the 18th at 12:45pm

WHERE: Calvin College (visit MIAA.org for directions)

SCOTS TO WATCH: Darcie Philp, Ashley Matuzak, Ashley Borcharding

KNIGHTS TO WATCH: Lisa Winkel, Adrian Harris, Marcia Harris

PICK: Scots by 4 in a tight, well fought game coming down to the buzzer. GO SCOTS!

Competition for the Big 10 Title Heats Up

JOSH MORGAN
SPORTS WRITER

Just when I thought I had no idea how the Big Ten conference college basketball race would sort itself out, last Saturday took place. And totally cleared everything up, well, for me at least.

Somehow the Penn State Nitanny Lions (11-9, 3-6) went into Assembly Hall in Champaign, Ill., and ended the nation's longest home winning streak at 33. Illinois guard Rich McBride's game-winning three-pointer as time expired was disallowed by the officials following video replay, giving Penn State the improbable upset win on the road 67-66. No one wins on the road in the Big Ten, much less Penn State over Illinois (20-3, 6-3).

The loss gave Gonzaga sole possession of the nation's longest win streak which now stands at 35. Don't worry though, the upsets didn't stop there. The Wisconsin Badgers (15-7, 5-4) were in West Lafayette, Ind. over the weekend taking on the last place Purdue Boilermakers (8-13, 2-8).

So an easy win for the Badgers right? Wrong. A depleted and schizophrenic Wisconsin team struggled in all facets of the game and fell in shocking fashion to the Boilermakers 70-62. The loss really put the Badgers in a tough situation to still win the Big Ten regular season championship. If they do have something going in their favor, it is their strength of schedule. It is probably one of the easiest remaining in the conference.

The Michigan Wolverines (16-4, 6-3), coming off their best stretch under head coach Tommy Amaker hit a major road block, or shall I say humbling block last weekend against the Iowa Hawkeyes (18-5, 7-2), losing in a big way, 94-66.

The Hawkeyes took sole possession of first place in the Big Ten at 7-2 with the combination of their win and Illinois' loss at home. I seem to be forgetting about a team here. Ah yes, that team from East Lansing just waiting to make their move.

Michigan State (17-5, 5-3), won at Northwestern (10-10, 3-6), 77-66 after struggling in the first half. Following the Spartans loss at Michigan people began to write Michigan State off as a contender in the Big Ten. After two wins against Penn State and Northwestern the Spartans are right back in the mix, sitting only one game out of first place in the loss column.

Yes, MSU still has to play the top six teams in the Big Ten, but this time four of them are at the Breslin Center. I can promise you right now they will not lose at home. The only loss that I see remaining on the schedule for the Sparty's is either at Iowa or at Indiana. I think they lose one and win one, thus giving them a final record of 12-4 in the Big Ten.

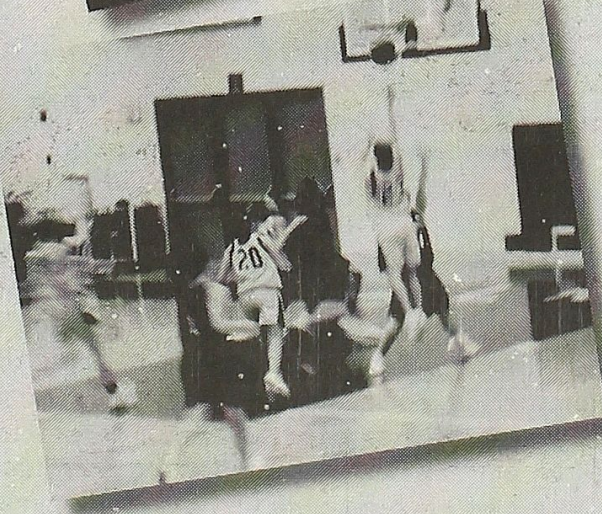
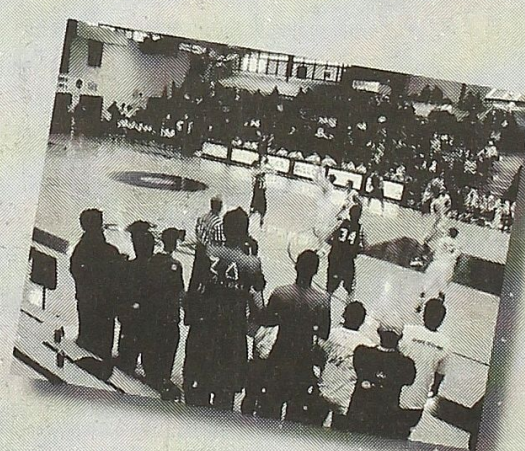
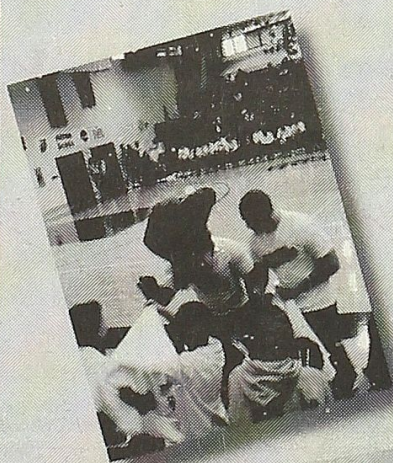
This will be good for at least a share of the Big Ten conference championship. I think the big question is who they could possibly share it with. Illinois still has to play at Ohio State, Michigan, and Michigan State. If they can manage just to lose at Michigan State then they will share the title.

Ohio State still has to go to Michigan, Wisconsin and MSU and plays Illinois at home. I see more than one loss in that schedule. Indiana still plays at Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan and has MSU and Iowa at home.

Again, they probably will lose more than one game. Finally, there is the Iowa Hawkeyes. They still have to go to Indiana and Illinois and have both MSU and Wisconsin at home. And the verdict is? MSU and Iowa will share the Big Ten championship at 12-4. Court adjourned.

Scot Shots!

Pics from the Scots in action last week.



Clockwise: Scotty hands out shirts during the Scot Appreciation Day extravaganza. - Members of the TKE Fraternity show their support for fellow Scots. - Fred Anthony(06) drains a free throw. - Senior Katey Peacock tips in a Scot rebound.

Pictures by Kate Bruder, Almanian Photographer

GREAT SCOTS!

Alma College Athlete of the Week:

COREY MASSEY

Men's Basketball



Corey Massey(08) is being honored for his double-double, 24 point game against TSU last week. This is Massey's second time being honored. Congrats!

All Access Hockeytown Tips for AC Students, Tickets Not Included

DEREK HARRISON EDITOR IN CHIEF

As the Detroit Red Wings make another convincing effort for the Stanley Cup, students should know that it is possible to plan a trip to Joe Louis Arena and have the experience of a lifetime.

It can cost a couple hundred dollars, but this figure gets severely inflated if you plan without all the essential knowledge. Those who are anxious to plan a trip to the Joe without their family and those who have never enjoyed a game in person can plan a trip and budget effectively.

Attending a game and getting the most out of it just requires a little planning and some information of the event, as well as some knowledge of the area. Here are the basic tips that can enrich the experience drastically.

Buying Tickets

Instead of buying tickets directly, many hockey-goers buy from second-hand markets where they can get better seats and buy in pairs. Though checking Ticketmaster should be the first step in acquiring tickets, spectators find that it is often hit or miss, and almost always impossible to buy seats next to one another.

As an alternative to directly buying, season ticket-holders who are unable to attend a game sell their tickets via an internet market like Ticketsnow.com, Bigtimeworldwide.com, or StubHub.

com. Tickets are usually around \$140 each for those in the first bowl of the arena, though tickets near the bottom of the second bowl are usually sufficient for the less particular. Buying tickets in the second bowl can shave as much as \$50 off the price.

For the best positioning, center ice is significantly more appealing and it is imperative to view the seating chart at the Official Red Wings or Ticketmaster website when buying tickets. For those who want to get a chance for television airtime, they are much more likely if they sit on the players' side of the arena. Two main cameras, usually from Fox Sports Detroit, scan the crowd for interesting looking fans and bright signs with poignant messages.

Mapquesting

Before braving the streets of Detroit it is always a good idea to plan out the route using an online source like Yahoo! Maps or Mapquest. Sometimes the routes differ from each other, so it is well-advised to do the homework. Researched routes lead to quicker arrivals and less stress especially in the occurrence of bad weather.

The trip to Joe Louis Arena will probably require a jaunt on the highway within Detroit and beneath Cobo Hall. This is often a confusing portion of the trip and can lead to a hassle if a traveler is not prepared. Be prepared for the trip

between locations if you are planning on eating out somewhere before the game.

Parking & Eating

In order to eat prior to the game, visitors can indulge at locations like Greektown, the Hard Rock Café, or the Hockeytown Café. Greektown offers a great variety to a normal diet, however, the Hard Rock Café and the Hockeytown café offer free shuttles to the Joe and usually have superb parking options with short walks. The free shuttle can be extremely valuable when alcoholic beverages on the agenda.

Patrons often eat somewhere less expensive than Hockeytown or Hard Rock, and use the free shuttle service after buying a small appetizer or a couple of drinks at either location. Taking the shuttle prevents long waits in a parking garage, unnecessary fuel consumption, and less waiting times when departing.

Inside Joe Louis Arena

Be prepared to be patient. The bathroom lines will be long, the drink lines will make you seem more parched, and just meandering through the crowds can inspire growing frustrations with society. Remember that everyone there has something in common and temperance is a virtue.

Hockeytown Magazine is free, so visit the concierge on the way to the seats. The magazine will be filled with

information about the services, contests, and other important and interesting facts pertinent to that night. It also becomes a great method to start conversation during stops in play.

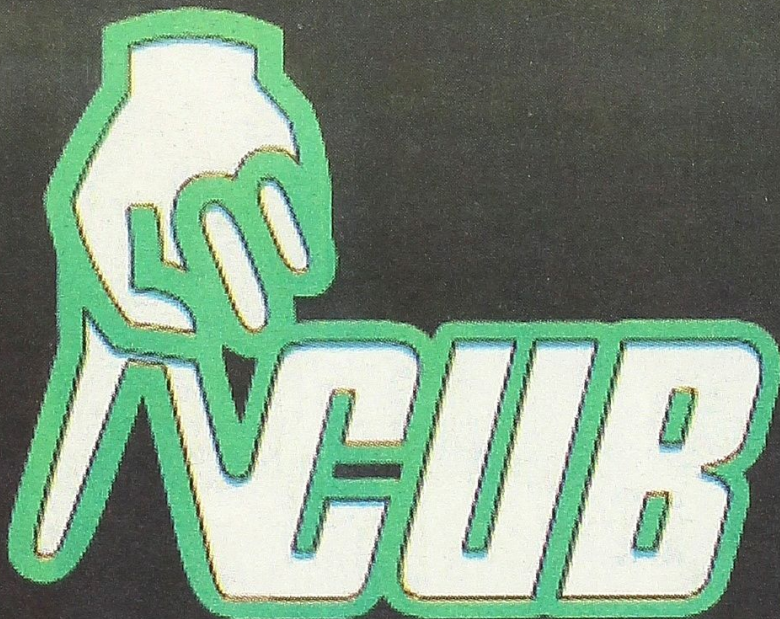
Concessions are expensive yet vendors are abundant, so convenience is of high utility. A pint of beer runs around \$7 so drinking at the Hard Rock or other locations may be a wise choice. Bring plenty of cash for refreshments as this is a major revenue source for the arena and a major drain on a consumer's wallet. Planning and timing become very important for getting the most of the experience.

Wear the Jersey of your favorite player, but don't wear the jersey of a former player who has since traded the Red Wings in for a bigger paycheck and some sort of individual glory (Fedorov). If this isn't an option, wear red and white to support the team. The crowd is loyal to those colors.

Be courteous and conscious of those around trying to watch the game. Each fan should understand that talking aloud on the cell phone is very obnoxious and unnecessary.

Anyone who enjoys the have a drink or have a few drinks, but don't get drunk and disorderly. This also goes hand in hand with being courteous because belligerent spectators are rarely selfless.

CASINO NIGHT F/ COMEDIAN JOSH WADE
Friday Feb. 17th 8:00-12:00
in Hamilton Commons.



alma college union board

Upcoming Events brought to you for free by ACUB:

Tron System 2/21/2006
Frank the Magician 3/9/06
Little Sibs Carnival 3/18/06
Iron Chef Alma 3/22/06
Wayne Hoffman Illusionist/
Mentalist
3/31/06

Spotlight: National College Hoops and the Final 4

JOEY ZEHNER STAFF WRITER

The college basketball season is currently half way through its conference season and the top teams are starting to separate themselves from the pack. So here is one writers take on eight teams who he believes has a chance to have one shinning moment cutting down the nets in Indianapolis after the Final Four.

Final Four Worthy

DUKE: JJ. Reddick might be the most hated 21 year old in America, but I would gladly take that role if I could have his jumper. The Blue Devils are on cruise control right now as they are currently undefeated is what is a down year in the ACC. One major issue that the team will face in March is the ability to keep Sheldon Williams out of foul trouble. Reddick is a great player and a potential lottery pick but he needs Williams if the Dukies have any shot of getting to the Final Four.

Connecticut: This roster could have up to eight players on NBA rosters at some point in the near future. The

Huskies currently have only one loss on the season and have looked unbeatable since the wake up call against Marquette in January. Forward Rudy Gay will likely be the number pick in June's NBA draft and he is just starting to reach his potential. This is going to be a scary team come tournament time.

Memphis: Currently the third ranked team in the country, the Tigers are getting ready for the tourney by playing against a weak Conference USA schedule. The Tigers are young and gave Duke all they could handle in their meeting in the early season. Will playing to many easy teams right before the tournament effect how they play once they start playing against teams of their ability. The Tigers will not play one ranked team the rest of the season.

Villanova: This team will go as far as their guards can take them, which is a good bet of a deep run into March. Last year, the Wildcats were one bogus travel call away from upsetting the eventual national champion Tar Heels. With another year of experience, expect 'Nova to be a top seed and reach Indianapolis.

Elite Eight Potential

Gonzaga: Everyone's favorite mid-major has been talked about for the Final Four since the beginning of the season. The reason why can be summed up into two words: Adam Morrison. No matter how ugly his mustache is, this kid is the best player in the country even though he doesn't play a lick of defense. The same problem that was always been there for the Zags is there again this year; will they be able to come up with a defensive stop late in the game?

Texas: Hard to judge this team so far because of their inconsistent play. They got smoked by Duke earlier in the year, but then came back to beat Memphis and Villanova. Daniel Gibson is a special player and Texas is the class of the Big 12 conference right now.

Illinois: Gone are Luther Head and Deron Williams, but no matter because Dee Brown is still around which will always give Illinois a chance to compete with any team in the country. The team will ride their leader as far as he can take them, which was the championship game

last year.

West Virginia: Pittsnogle is back. The seven foot center that can shoot better threes then lay ups leads a team that was within a few points of shocking the country and getting to the Final Four. This year though, no one will be shocked to see the team make it all the way. They have a perfect record so far in the nation's toughest conference.

Michigan State: Tom Izzo's Spartans are still a consensus pick to reach Indianapolis even though they are playing as unpredictable as any team in the country. They have the talent to reach the title game but for some reason, there seems to be a bigger chance that they are upset in one of the tourney's first few rounds.

Those are the eight teams with the most realistic shot at being able to survive come March. As of right now I would put Duke, Connecticut, West Virginia and Villanova in the Final Four. There is usually a surprise team that can crash the party though, but it doesn't look like any team will be able to stop an inevitable Duke Connecticut title game.

Pistons land four in NBA All-Star game

EVAN BEACH SPORTS WRITER

There has been much talk of how the current Detroit Pistons team would match up against great teams of the past such as the 89' 'Bad Boy' Pistons and the 96-97 Bulls, but the Pistons will be able to showcase their talents against an even better team on February 19th. Who is this great team you may ask? The Western Conference All-Star team.

Well...not the entire Detroit Pistons team but close. In a vote of conference coaches, Rasheed Wallace, Ben Wallace, Richard Hamilton and Chauncey Billups were selected to the team. It will be the fourth All-Star appearance for Ben Wallace, the third for Rasheed Wallace and the first for both Billups and Hamilton.

They will join Flip Saunders and his staff, comprising the largest Pistons All-Star contingent ever. This is the first time in NBA All-Star Game history that the coaches have selected four

teammates as reserves and the seventh time that a team will have four representatives in the All-Star Game, the last being the Los Angeles Lakers Shaquille O'Neal, Eddie Jones, Nick Van Exel and Kobe Bryant in 1998.

Along with Billups and Hamilton, other first time selections are, forward Chris Bosh of the Toronto Raptors in the East and Memphis Grizzlies forward Pau Gasol and San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker in the Western Conference. Pau Gasol is the first Grizzlies player to ever make an All-Star team.

The most deserving players who did not make the game are Washington Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas, Milwaukee Bucks guard Michael Redd and Orlando Magic forward Dwight Howard in the East (one of which could be selected by NBA commissioner David Stern to replace the injured Jermaine O'Neal) and Denver Nuggets forwards Carmelo Anthony and Marcus Camby, Utah Jazz

forward Andre Kirilenko and New Orleans Hornets rookie guard Chris Paul in the West.

The 2006 All-Star weekend airing on TNT February 17th-19th should once again prove to be very entertaining. Included in the All-Star festivities will be the T-Mobile Rookie Challenge, RadioShack Shooting Stars, PlayStation Skills Challenge, Footlocker 3-Point Shootout featuring Piston guard Chauncey Billups and the Sprite Rising Stars Slam Dunk contest featuring returning champ Josh Smith.

Look for the sophomores to beat the rookies in the Rookie Challenge, Phoenix Suns guard Steve Nash to win the Skills challenge, Chauncey Billups to win the 3-point shootout, the 5-9 New York Knick Nate Robinson to win the Slam Dunk contest and for the Detroit Pistons.... I mean the Eastern Conference All-Star team to come out winners during NBA All-Star weekend in Houston.

ALMA COLLEGE Sports Calendar

Men's Basketball
vs. Adrian College
Bulldogs

Saturday
at
3:00 pm

Women's Basketball
at Calvin College
Knights

Saturday
at
12:45 pm

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

Grand Rapids Ram- page:

Michigan's only AFL team takes on San Jose.

Detroit Red Wings:

The Wings will be off until the 28th, when they place San Jose at the Joe.

Detroit Pistons:

The Pistons will take on LaBron and the Cavs Sunday at the Palace.

Michigan Wolverines:

The Wolverines take on the Spartans at 4:00 Saturday.

MSU Spartans:

The Spartans will host foe U of M Saturday at 4:00pm.

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