

The Almanian

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

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Serving Alma College Since 1907

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IT explains net behavior, portal

BRAD POTTS
STAFF WRITER

Students plugged into the Alma network have been complaining about the IT Department and its technical difficulties.

"There's really nothing students can do," **Aaron Kerr**, Web service Administrator for of the IT Department, said when asked if there was anything students could do to limit the amount of problems IT encounters.

"File sharing does slow down the network tremendously, but we've put tools in place to limit that."

As many have noticed, instant messaging programs were constantly being kicked offline, forcing

"We're in good shape. The problems we were having have been figured out."

Aaron Kerr
Web Service
Administrator

repetitious logins to get back on every couple of minutes. This created a major inconvenience for students trying to chat with friends and the situation also made it nearly impossible to leave on an away message.

For some students there has been a recent decline in difficulty and Kerr spoke about the technical difficulties and the resolutions.

Kerr said that Alma College uses systems that are by an industry standard company, Sonic Wall. They provide systems that protect the campus from outside traffic and viruses.

"There are two systems for controlling outside traffic and viruses that Alma College uses," said Kerr, "If one system fails the other is supposed to take over."

"The problem ensued when the two systems wouldn't work well together," Kerr

Alma College celebrates Women's History Month



Photo courtesy of Kristi Trinkle (06)

Some of Alma College's own international students participated and presented food at International Women's Day.

DANA CALANDRINO
FREELANCE WRITER

February 28, 1909, marked the first celebration of International Women's Day in order to support the movement for women's rights and women's suffrage. Over the course of the next year, over one million people became involved in the

fight, demanding that the government allow women to claim their right to vote, hold public office, have vocational training, and put an end to sexual discrimination.

Now International Women's Day is held on March 8th every year. Around the world, the month of March has become known as Women's History Month. Here at Alma College,

Women's History Month is celebrated by a series of events, all of which are sponsored by the Women's Issues Advisory Board (WIAB), Women's Studies, the residents of MacCurdy House, and the Alma College Speakers Association.

On March 6th, for instance, residents of the MacCurdy House celebrated women's suffrage by

distributing candy in SAGA and throughout campus. Each package of Smarties was inscribed with quotes from revolutionary women throughout history. On March 8th, Women's Studies and the WIAB invited guest speaker Jane Elliot to campus to present "Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes," a program discussing discrimination and prejudice. The content of these programs expands beyond the restricting title of "women's issues," providing invaluable information for all students, regardless of sex.

"Implying that women's issues are only women's issues does a disservice to women and men as well," said Dr. Joanne Gilbert, co-director of Women's Studies since 2001.

"The main thing is to get students to be aware that women have done great things in the U.S. and around the world - to showcase their achievements," said Kristi Trinkle (06), manager of the MacCurdy House. "The main

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Wellness Matters brings health to forefront in Gratiot county

DANA CALANDRINO
STAFF WRITER

Targeted Gratiot-area businesses are offering employees free health screenings and education classes through a new program called "Wellness Matters," sponsored by Gratiot County's Physicians Foundation, the Gratiot Medical Center and the Chamber of Commerce. The goal is to improve employees'

physical health, mental well-being, efficiency, and long-

"This is a stepping stone; we can only build from this point,"

Cheyenne Luzynski,
fitness coordinator

term health costs.

At Alma College,

Wellness Matters is offered to current faculty and staff as well as retirees on the college health insurance plan. According to committee-member and fitness coordinator Cheyenne Luzynski, "Alma was chosen to pilot the program because they thought we'd get a good turnout."

At a total of 65 current participants out of a potential 350, Luzynski feels that the level of participation has been excellent so far.

"We didn't get a real chance to get the program out there beforehand. It was really short notice," she said. "Eventually, with the appropriate planning and initiative, this can be a very successful program. This is a stepping stone; we can only build from this point."

Participants will undergo free health screening in order to become more

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This Week In Alma

- Fall term pre-registration runs from today through Friday, March 31
- Dr. Richard Kogan speaks about musical creativity and the human brain from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in Presbyterian
- Campus fraternities compete for Greek God 8 p.m. Thursday
- Relay for Life kicks off its 24 hours 10 a.m. Saturday
- David Zerbe directs the Kiltie Wind Ensemble 8 p.m. Saturday

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See PORTAL page 2

Housing Calendar and Deadlines for students

Senior Off Campus Lottery

Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2006

When: 7:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Where: Fireside-Tyler / VanDusen

Retaining Rooms - All Classes

Date: Thursday, March 30, 2006

When: 7:00 pm - 10 pm

Where: Fireside-Tyler / VanDusen

Room Selection - Part I

(Seniors, then Juniors, then Sophomores)

Date: Tuesday, April 4, 2006

When: 7:00 pm - 10 pm

Where: VanDusen-North

Room Selection - Part II

Date: Wednesday, April 5, 2006

When: 7:00 pm - 10 pm

Where: VanDusen-North

Final Roommate Placement Event

Date: Thursday, April 6, 2006

When: 7:00 pm - 10 pm

Where: VanDusen-North

Any questions should be directed to the Student Life Office at extension 7147

Student Life explains policy changes

Housing cards, new accommodations, housing options defended

**JAMES WALTER
FREELANCE WRITER**

Established three years ago here at Alma and changed slightly over the last two, the housing system is designed to make the process as simple as possible – but do the students agree?

Grant Woodman, the Director of Campus Life, said, “The changes were made to accommodate students’ needs.”

According to Woodman, students fall into three categories when choosing options for housing: those who are keeping their current rooms or “squatting” with a roommate, those who want a different room and enter the lottery with a roommate, and those who want a single room.

The last category represents one of the recent changes. Students used to be able to squat single rooms, only having to give them up to a student whose needs require them to have a single room. Now the students with needs

go first and any single rooms left over are then available to others, going by seniority.

The emphasis on the first two is that the student must have a chosen roommate to select a two-person room; otherwise, the housing office will place a student in the room with them.

“Usable space must be utilized,” Woodman said, “especially with different dorms closing for renovation.”

After Newberry’s renovation over the summer, Nisbet and Brazell will be closed for next school year for their face-lift.

“About the same number of students will be displaced as with a tower of Bruske,” Woodman added, referring to this year’s renovation, “and without the hassle of moving students halfway through the year.”

As for those currently living in Bruske, students are being allowed to squat their old rooms in south tower, provided that they have a roommate and agree to the

substance-free option, which may expand if the need arises. Likewise, if they prefer, their current north tower rooms may also be squatted. Either way, a roommate and a housing card are a must for this process.

Several students have wondered about the housing card and its usefulness.

“The housing card is an older tool of the system used for two reasons,” Woodman explained. “First, it confirms that the student is interested in on-campus housing for the next year, and second, it lets us know how many students are looking for roommates by knowing who bought cards.”

The \$50 cost is an arbitrary fee. Though it comes off of the student’s housing costs incurred over the year, it also serves as a reservation fee to hold the room and gives the student a good incentive to use it.

Woodman concluded, “Students are less willing to pay \$50 for a room they aren’t going to use, as opposed to \$25, for example.”

WOMEN’S continued from page 1

goal is for the campus to bond together and recognize these issues – the positive and the negative.”

The MacCurdy House also created the display for Women’s Month in the library and is sponsoring a team for Relay for Life, along with the WIAB. Among a list of other events, Wilcox Medical Center will be leading the Clothesline Project from March 14th through March 16th, wherein survivors of sexual assault design t-shirts to hang in the DOW lobby as a protest against sexual violence and a testament to the strength of women. On March 27th, a play called “Extremities” will take place in Jones auditorium, and on March 28th, Newberry Senior RA Emily Whitmer (’07) is organizing “Take Back the Night” in conjunction with Becky Peacock. This event, which will begin on the chapel steps at eight in the evening, involves a “speak-

out” and a march protesting sexual assault and violence against women.

“It’s a really important thing for people on this campus,” said Whitmer.

Other events include a presentation by Nancy Cowles, who developed a nonprofit organization called “KID: Kids in Danger,” and “The Labyrinth,” an event that teaches students stress-relief and relaxation. The programs are expansive, reaching out into all areas of the community.

“Ideally, the events during Women’s Month allow students to hear, learn, and see new perspectives,” said Gilbert. “In the best of all possible worlds, people will look differently at themselves, their relationships, and their place in the world.”

Those interested in becoming involved with Women’s Month events should contact the MacCurdy House at extension x8305 or Dr. Gilbert at x7054.

PORTAL continued from page 1

said.

In addition to cleaning up the Internet problem IT has completed a new project: the Alma College Web Portal.

“The Web Portal is a website where campus users log in and have access to a variety of services and information,” said Kerr. The Portal feeds from the Alma College website and students can view information on

Alma College news, sports, and calendar events.

The Portal also gives students access to Moodle, a service similar in nature to that of Blackboard.

With the new Web Portal students will be able to register for classes online. This will save the administration time and energy as they will not have to deal with the physical filing and paperwork.

This can also serve students more efficiently. In the past, students would not get their schedule until three weeks after course registration, and with the new portal students will receive their schedules the Monday after the last day to turn in forms.

“We’re in good shape,” said Kerr. “The problems we were having have been figured out.”

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familiar with their physical health. The program also aids employees in creating a fitness and exercise program that caters to their specific health needs.

Initial screenings, which included a confidential blood test, took place in February. Participants also filled out a self-health evaluation, which was sent to the University of Michigan for analysis. Employees unable to attend those screening sessions will be given another opportunity at a future time. Along with the screening, education programs, and personalized exercise plan, Alma College participants are also encouraged to make use of the Stone Recreation Center and the Hogan Physical Education Center. With special permission, Alma employees can also move their scheduled lunch break

by a half an hour in order to exercise at the campus facilities, and are allowed to extend their lunch hour by fifteen minutes if necessary.

“A lot of people are interested in walking clubs, which they can do during their lunches,” Luzynski said. “We have walking clubs, biking clubs, swimming clubs, body image workshops, and yoga and pilates classes. I’m just playing matchmaker and trying to hook people up with each other and resources.”

These are only a few of the offered courses and programs, which also include a smoking-cessation workshop, a meditation and stress relief course, karate, and healthy cooking classes.

Employees can exercise other options as well. There are optional group sessions with Dr. Gregg Stefanek, during which participants

can discuss the Wellness Matters program, ask health-related questions, get their blood pressure checked, and sign up for fitness programs.

Participants may also choose to discuss health screening results with a physician, physician’s assistant, or nurse independent of the college. To schedule a one-on-one discussion, contact Kathy Sanchez of Alma College Human Resources. Personal health information is confidential and will take place only during these appointments.

“I love the vision of the program and what it stands for,” said Luzynski. “It will bring awareness. I hope it motivates people to take initiative for themselves, to become more health-conscious and fitness-driven. Change is good.”

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3
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"Cliffs notes of
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4
YELLOWCARD
"Lights and sounds"

5
MATES OF STATE
"Bring it back"

6
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7
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"Get it"

8
BIG CITY ROCK
"Big city rock"

9
BUILT TO SPILL
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Dance Company as art: creative, elegant

DEREK HARRISON
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
KRISTA PENNINGTON
STAFF WRITER

It began with the sound of typing and the gradual increase of dancers on stage. The intricate maze of movement begged the question of what this experience would inspire if viewed from another angle, like watching from above.

This "intriguing dance about a topic near and dear to all of us" was done by Mitzi Adams, a guest choreographer from New York City. Her

neo-modern approach placed props, like tables and chairs, as though they were tools for movement and transition. The pieces seemed juxtaposed into the mix of an industrial atmosphere of subtle lighting. Weaving dancers teased the peripheral.

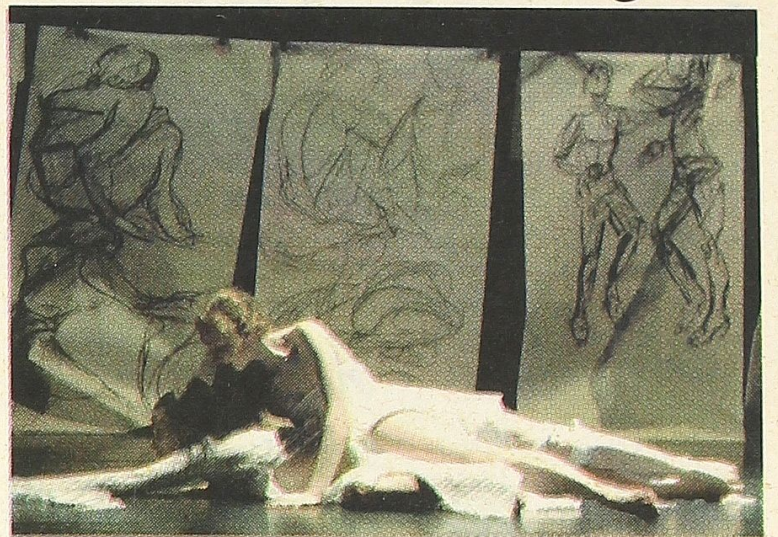
Some of the other pieces

seemed more classical and focused on precision while others yet pushed the boundaries of dance and moving art.

Associate Professor of Dance, Carol Fike, Visiting Instructor of Dance, Kathleen Whitman Francis, Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance, Tom Morris, and Micaela Church (06), all choreographed. Church, the only student selected to choreograph at the Spring Dance Concert this year, said that it was an honor to get this opportunity.

"This is the standard you hope for, with real costumes, Tina Vivian did a great job, and with real lights, it gives you the goosebumps; your work up there with the work of these great choreographers," Church said.

The next piece in the play was an elegant display of dancers



Photos by Kate Bruder

who seemed perfectly timed to each intricate movement and response. Soft and focused, the dancers interacted like ripples in a stream. The costumes seemed perfect for this type of movement and synchronization.

Another highlight was the ballet solo that appeared to be inspired by a solo moonlight performance. Light as a piece of thread, the dancer seemed to court the light blue luminescence.

After the intermission, art imitated dance. Paced movement and non-traditional displays of dancers kept the artists in the background hard at work. Sketching the scantily clad dancers in cloth and precarious poses made the audience split attention to the works in progress and the poses in process. A transition from this interesting display seemed nearly impossible.

To finish the production, an active ballet of ten dancers

allowed for the lead male to show off some of the most impressive moves of the night. It was a crescendo of talent and technique and the build up led to mass applause. Overall, the effort was an excellent piece of art, even for newcomers to the experience.



Sigur Rós: a beautiful harmony of mind and music

MIKE MILLER
STAFF WRITER

Sigur Rós is an odd band name that many people may not recognize but they definitely should.

Sigur Rós can be translated to the words, Victory Rose, which is a common female name in Iceland. The name may be common, however the band plays some of the most unique and beautiful music I have ever heard. With a mix of electronics, classical and rock ballads, they cover almost every genre of music.

Sigur Rós consists of native members of Iceland. All of Sigur Rós lyrics are in Icelandic, making the songs completely foreign to American ears. They have released four albums and their newest release *Takk...* has become their largest selling album to date reaching number 27 on the American charts.

It should be mentioned that Sigur Rós is not your typical band, nor your typical concert. The guitarist plays with a cello bow, creating an amazing electronic violin sound. Holm will play his bass, on some songs, by tapping a drumstick against his strings. In almost every one of their songs they have orchestral instruments such as violins, cellos, xylophones and flutes. Even though you can't understand anything he is saying, speaking in Icelandic/Hopelandish, it comes across as another instrument that is an alluring addition to the mix.

On Saturday, February 18th I attended my first Sigur Rós concert at Calvin College Fine Arts Center in Grand Rapids, MI. They played two shows one starting at 6:00 P.M. and the other at 11:00 P.M. Once the lights dropped and a silk screen was lowered in front of the stage, the crowd cheered. As soon

as the first note was struck, silence fell over the Fine Arts Center of Calvin College. As the band played their opening song, "Takk", flashes of lights cast shadows of the band members on the screen, creating a mysterious vibe.

Unfortunately, three songs into the set, at the peak of their show, the bass cut out, causing the band to stop playing for two minutes. The lead singer then started to improvise with the drummer, a unique experience to see at a Sigur Rós show. There was hardly any break in the show, the band seemed a little nervous but handled the situation very well, giving the audience a sense that even though they are music artists, they are still human.

From song to song, each one started off slow and peaceful. As each song progressed the band began to play with more heart and intensity. You could tell that their music has deep personal meaning

and they expressed this in their performance. The sounds from each instrument increased just as much as the bands intensity, blending and molding into an amazing epiphany of sounds.

As I looked around at the people around me, many of them were frozen in trance, including myself. Sigur Rós plays so well together in a live setting and are able to capture all emotions through their music. Some parts of the show were almost overwhelming. I have never been to a concert that affected that so many people in the same way. Each person was so engrossed with the show they could barely move.

After the show much of the audience was still in awe. A while after I was speechless. I did not know what to think. I thought back to when I was looking at the crowd during the show. There were people with their eyes closed and heads down,

a few people were crying because the whole experience was so moving.

If I had to describe the Sigur Rós concert experience in one word it would be breathtaking. There were parts where you became so lost in their music that you forgot to breathe, holding your breath through the intensity of the song, not knowing what to think. Their music is so busy and eclectic, but it connects into one momentous calming peak making everything seem so simple. I don't think that any concert that I will ever go to again will be able to live up to the emotional experience I felt during Sigur Rós' performance.

If you are interested in checking out Sigur Rós you can go to their website (<http://www.sigur-ros.is>). If you would like to download a song or two (free!) you can go to <http://sigur-ros.co.uk/media/index.php>.

Those Transatlantics appeal to boys and children - everyone

BRAD POTTS
STAFF WRITER

If you're into the local news from the independent music, then the name *Those Transatlantics* should ring a bell.

They came together as a band in Mount Pleasant, Michigan, and they combine genres of rock and pop to deliver an enjoyable and entirely unique sound.

"We pull our music from a lot of different genres", said **Trevor Waldron (08)**, drummer of the group, "It's up to the listener to decide what category we fit into."

The band consists of Kate Bracken (vocals), Mike Spence (guitar, vocals), Chris

Hatfield (keyboard, vocals), Brian Siers (bass), and Trevor Waldron (drums). Waldron is a music major at Alma College and Siers is earning his doctorate degree in psychology at CMU.

The band formed in the summer of 2003 when Waldron and at the time bass player Joe Clark met Spence at a local guitar store.

"We were just playing around on the instruments", said Waldron, "and Mike introduced himself."

Waldron said that the threesome practiced once and soon afterward invited Bracken to attend the sessions.

"We just began writing music together", said Waldron. In

January 2004 Hatfield joined the ensemble and with the recent addition of Siers the band became what we now call *Those Transatlantics*.

The group recently enjoyed success when they were selected by the Toyota Automobile Company to participate in a music video contest.

"Toyota is looking for a way to reach out to today's youth and they decided independent music was the way to do it", said Waldron.

The company chose 10 independent, unsigned bands to match up with college filmmakers and record their own music videos. *Those Transatlantics* video for the song "In Your Neighborhood" is finished and currently touring with the rest of the 10 videos.

Fans at screening parties across the United States vote on videos and the winning three will be available to stream on the internet in late April. The Michigan screening was March 21st at the Magic Stick in Detroit.

Those Transatlantics have recorded two independent records and just released a full-length album via Suburban Sprawl Records titled "Knocked Out."

For more information on *Those Transatlantics* you can visit their myspace page at www.myspace.com/thosetransatlantics, go to www.thosetransatlantics.com, or check them out at their March 25 show in Lansing, at Mac's Bar.

"They're an original band that's opened my eyes to a new style of music." **Mike Cruz (06)**, music director for WQAC said.



Photo courtesy of WQAC, 90.9 FM

With Kate Bracken on vocals, Mike Spence on guitar, and Alma College's Trevor Waldron on drums, *Those Transatlantics* played on campus last year.

Philosophical Fancy

We see ourselves in other people's houses

JEN ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER



It is probably something we all have thought: I wonder what it would be like to be that person. We each have our own bodies, our own minds, and our own lives. Sometimes I just want to know what others are thinking - and why.

As I was walking home from work yesterday with a mob of rush-hour foot traffic, I paused for a red light and watched the cars swirl past me. Where are they going right now? What are they doing? Who *are* they?

These questions recur in my thoughts on several occasions. I think it is partly because I want to understand people; I want to look in their eyes and know how they view the past, present and future. Another part is because it simply boggles my mind that we can all have such intricately different make-ups.

We encounter hundreds or more bits of stimuli on a daily basis that impact our perceptions and ideals. For the more technologically literate: we are like little computer systems with different wirings and programs that make us run. It is obvious I do not know much about computers, but I do know that I love pondering ideas like these, whereas others despise the thought; they would rather live and not think about living.

We all have brains (despite how much of them we actually use), yet we all choose different paths, careers, and lifestyles. I wonder how it works out so perfectly that we have enough people excited to perform millions of different jobs to keep the world running. True, some people might not be "excited" about their work, but not all individuals aspire to be the same thing - that is my point.

Remember being a little kid and being able to see in peoples' houses at night? If their lights were on and people were walking around, you suddenly wanted to know what it was like inside the home. I still think this way; now I just want to know about the light inside *people* too. As corny as it may sound, I get a euphoric feeling when I think of spreading my arms out and zooming around like a helicopter in an open field.

That is one thing everyone has the equal opportunity to do (assuming there is an open field nearby). I see people in Philadelphia using the essentials (cans, tubs, metal rods) just to make music. It is beautiful. Despite how similar we become by trying to be different, I fancy our complexity reveals itself when we picture ourselves in others' houses.

Sabbaticals explored, explained: professors research, travel

JESSICA BLOOMFIELD
STAFF WRITER

Every seventh year at Alma College, tenured professors have an option to get experience away from campus, going on sabbatical.

To be eligible, a professor needs to have had worked for ten years. During this time period, the professors can take time off to go to conferences, work on research, or travel. "I think sabbatical is essential," said Catherine Fobes, Associate Professor in the

Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Fobes, who was able to take off a full year for sabbatical when she received a grant from the Discovering Vocation Project, did a study on the racial inequality from campus ministries from 1924 to 1939.

With this, she was able to work as a visiting professor in Tallahassee, Florida. She found that there were indeed inequalities between both gender and race within the Episcopal Church.

To start the applications process, the professor has to submit their proposal when the seven-year period comes

up. From there, the Faculty Personnel Committee looks over the application, along with the President. Once approved, the professor is able to take his or her leave.

Professors have been able to choose between taking off a term with full pay benefits, or to go for a full year and receive a dock in pay. During this time, the school may even choose to hire a temporary instructor to cover classes that may have been cancelled otherwise.

"You can meet with other scientists, learn new things, share data, and even go to conferences," said Timothy

Keeton, Assistant Professor of Biology, about his experience with sabbatical.

During his sabbatical, Keeton got a chance to do some research on a bio-pesticide receptor that kills gypsy moths. Keeton said that this was valuable because this method was a much less dangerous way of controlling outbreaks.

Also, during this time, Keeton was able to go to conferences he otherwise wouldn't have been able to attend due to the workload he receives as a professor.

"It's nice to have flexibility," Keeton said. He continued

saying that this also gave him the opportunity to get in contact with someone from the United States Department of Agriculture in Ohio.

As sabbatical seems to be a time for the professors to take a break from their duties as professors at school, it likely also accurate that process takes a great deal from the professors, especially upon their return.

"It is challenging to focus on research and agenda on a daily basis with the demands of teaching and service," Fobes said. "I have to write over fifty letters of recommendations this term."

Political indifference blankets youth, threatens democracy

**RACHEL DOTSON
NEWS EDITOR**

In February of 1965 students from Alma College joined together in planning a 50-mile march to Lansing. The reason? —A protest to the Vietnam War. Some 40 years later the United States is again engaged in a serious international conflict, and the streets are again lined with demonstrators—but there are some substantial differences. For starters, the protestors and supporters are much fewer and farther between. And, more importantly, they are apt to come in the form of bumper stickers and magnetic ribbons, not students. On the whole, today's youth

are far too complacent having little sense of the world's problems. When driving past protestors and supporters alike of the War on Terror and the Iraq war, take note that they are often the same people who spoke out during Vietnam—not those whose peers are the substance the ever-growing casualty count. Especially now, with the Iraq war having reached its three-year mark and having claimed the lives of over 2,000 Americans, it becomes particularly difficult to justify apathy toward political and military platforms.

The problem here has multiple tiers, and thus must be addressed accordingly. First and foremost, it is crucial that everyone become aware of what exactly is happening.

Simply knowing that troops are in the Middle East and elsewhere is not enough; the “why” is what's truly important. From here, shape an informed opinion. If the past three years have claimed the lives of thousands of allied troops and an uncountable number of Iraqi citizens, in addition to costing the US \$400 billion and financial debt, know if it's worth it; know if you agree with where it's going. And finally, act upon your decision in some way or another. Even partaking in educated debates and conversations on topics such as the War on Terror promotes the betterment of an involved and informed society, and thus the betterment of an effective democracy.

Seniors — what will you miss?

**TIFFANY BALDUCCI
STAFF WRITER**

With only thirty-three days left until graduation from the time I write this, I can not help but sit back and contemplate my last four years at Alma and everything that I will miss. Now I know this article seems a bit pre-mature, but this will give all the rest of you seniors a chance to make

your own lists of the Alma experience that you will miss, and of course the few things that you will not miss.

I must say that I will definitely miss Pizza Sam's. I know there are students who are very against this venue, but Sam's is the only way to go. When I make it back for Homecoming next year, the first stop is Pizza Sam's — who can resist double-crust,

double-cut, baked on screen, spices and ranch on the side?

I will not miss the small town feeling of the Alma Bubble. In some ways, I will miss it a little bit — I will miss being able to see what everyone has been up to just by clicking on facebook.com or away message stalking and sometimes I am proud that I

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Letter to the Editor

To The Almanian:

Thank you to the Alma College family who gave so generously to the Wing quintuplets. The diapers, monetary gifts, clothing, and the many baby items were greatly appreciated by the Wing family.

Three of the quintuplets are now home. The other two babies are getting stronger and hopefully will be home by the first of April.

Please keep this family in your thoughts and prayers!

Thanks again!

Karen Lake

A Radioflyer Soapbox

You probably think this story's about you

**DEREK HARRISON
EDITOR IN CHIEF**

Anyone breathing a second of Alma air should remember that this is a small campus, and everyone knows more about you than you think they know. If you are doing things that are particularly great conversation pieces, the word “secret” becomes a foreign idea to the people that know the “juicy” information, and they will justify breaking the rules for garnering more attention.

In one set of secret-breaking instances this year, students have had their bicycles stolen and placed in the most inconvenient places on campus. Locations have included a couple trees, the spire monument, strewn in the middle of walkways, and in the bushes outside of dorms across campus from the bicycle's original location.

If no damage was done, this may be a small instance of immaturity and inconvenience; however, the inconsiderate perpetrators caused damage to each bike, every time, and performed no action of consideration. There was not one hint leading the victims to thinking that this was someone acting out of anything but malice.

Instead, it was simply the most horrible of timings for the victims, the bikes sustained enough damage that time must now be spent repairing them, and now the 1,200-person community seems much colder and like a vacuum for compassion. However, the campus doesn't seem expansive and cold for long.

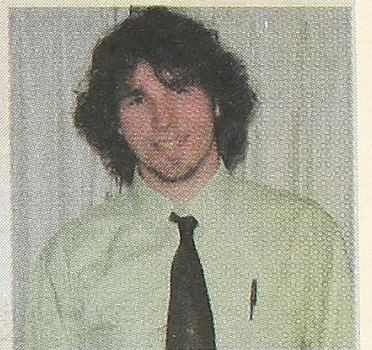
To counteract this unsettling feeling, rumors spread quickly as to who the bike pillagers were. Truths and half-truths and falsities circle around like leaves in a crosswind. Some may say it is

merely gossip, but the point is that there is always some trail of truths to follow in order to get the answers.

The bruit becomes incriminating when the criminals decide that this great idea is better when they are drunk or when they repeatedly give in to these types of behaviors at all. The brazen individuals help solidify some insinuations because of their own sloppiness. By this time, immediate response is not even necessary and revenge is a dirty thing, so the only actions for the victims can be to pursue are those of incidental retribution.

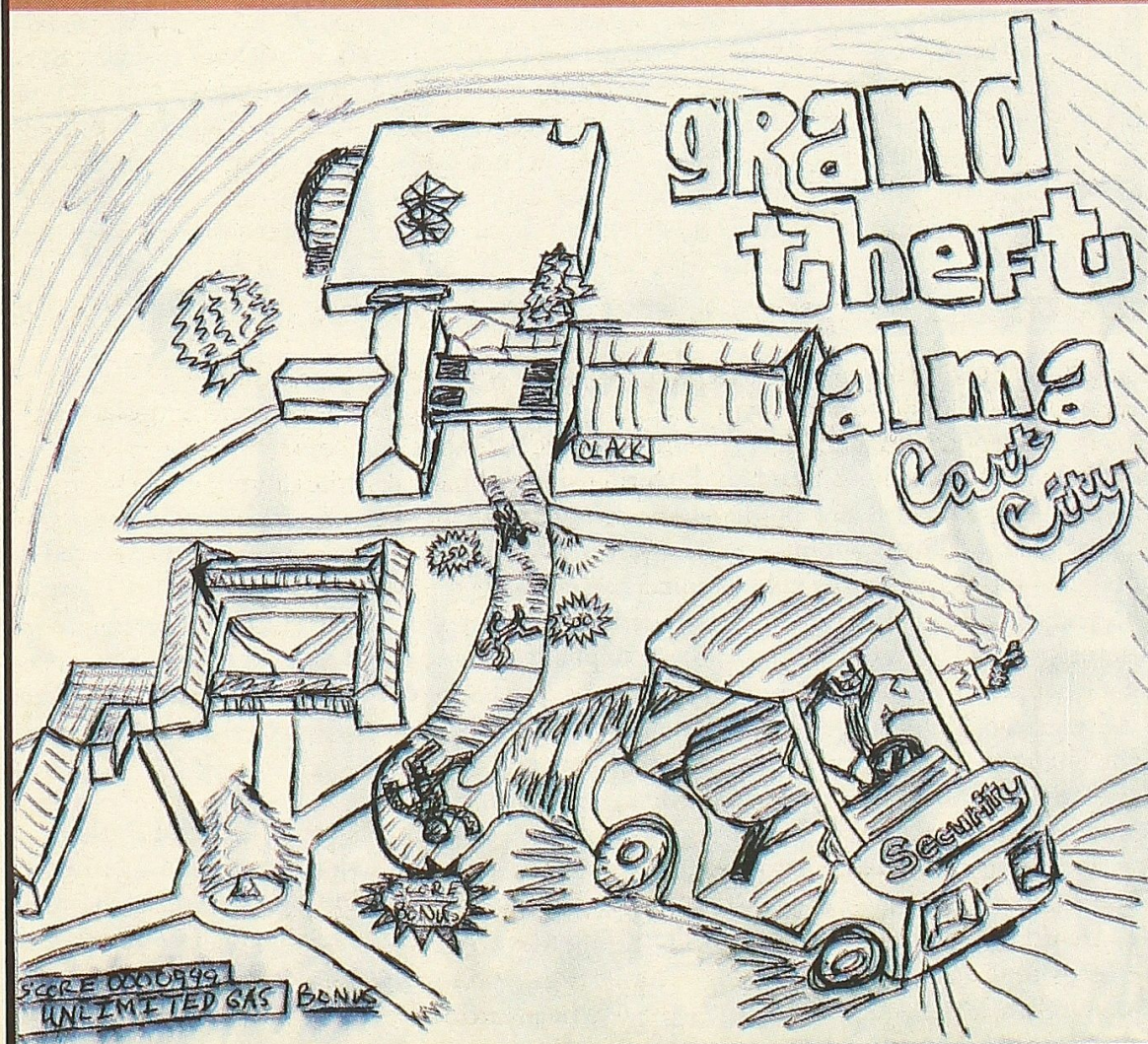
Being passive is probably the best option. There is comfort in believing that those who do wrong will eventually have wrong done to them in such a situation that is not life and death. It's just too bad there isn't a camera there to catch it. It would be funny to see the bicycle thieves caught in a moment of light misfortune that offsets their day.

Furthermore and without using the cliché about burning bridges, I suggest thinking about the fact that this community is so small and word spreads so quickly, that anyone who performs an act so blatantly disrespectful should watch out for himself or herself. For those that do not believe in karma should probably worry about revenge. For those that do believe in karma should know they'll get the same in the end.



Zero-sum

**DEREK HARRISON
EDITOR IN CHIEF**



Curbing gas consumption in a demanding economy

LUKE LIVINGSTON
FREELANCE

As gas prices nation wide continue on an upward spiral, American's continue to consume the same amount of energy. It amazes me that it does not even cross their minds to try and conserve the amount of oil they will use when driving their vehicles. After spending as semester abroad in the UK where they all drive rice-burners, we really do look like a ignorant society as we pile into our gas guzzling, four wheel driving, mountain climbing, lake crossing, off road, utility vehicles. To make this more relevant to Alma, how many of you get into your cars to go from South Complex to SAGA for dinner? Every time I come up to school and I see someone driving one of those new hummers, I do not think to myself "Wow! That person must have some money!" rather, I pull out some *Wedding Crashers* rhetoric and blurt out, "Wow! Rule 5. You're an idiot!"

Instead of waiting for industry to act, the government must take the initiative in changing the way American's ultimately think about conservation. Unfortunately for us as a nation we have a president, an administration, and a congress who are not willing to risk political capital to do the right thing. It is a shame that they are so short sided and give into lobbyists who only care about making the quick buck. In some ways I hope gas prices continue to raise so that Americans finally realize the current situation is only going to

get worse, unless we start to curb our dependency on not just foreign oil but oil in general. Americans need to look at the big picture and start making decisions that will help prevent a major energy crisis from happening in our lifetime. The early effects of a major energy crisis have already begun and it can be seen in the economy. I will not pretend to be a financial or economic wizard, but just having a basic understanding of these factors allows me see the start of an energy crisis. The production cost of electricity is up which in effect raises the manufacturing costs of electricity. This winter alone many people in America had to pay huge heating bills. The unique quality about the recent increase in oil prices is that typically during an energy crisis the consumer confidence and spending drop dramatically. Instead, most Americans continue to spend and purchase petroleum for their vehicles at a constant rate in the face of high prices, which leads me to believe that either Americans do not recognize that we are on the verge of a major crisis, or they just do not care. I hope for our sake that it is the former as opposed to the latter.

The American attitude has been that as long as the energy problem does not immediately affect me, then I am not going to be worried about the problem. But that attitude is not an excuse for outright laziness and stupidity. America is addicted to energy consumption and if the habit is not kicked, there could be some real rough times ahead.

Seniors from page 6...

know every single person in every single class I'm taking, but anonymity can be good. Seriously, Australia could have sunk into the Indian Ocean and disappeared off the face of the planet and we would have no idea, but somehow we can recite who was kicked off American Idol last night.

Once I get into the "real-world" (which I am prolonging and keeping my "student" status by attending graduate school in the fall) I doubt I will be able to party all night and still be able to roll out of bed, throw on some flip-flops, still clad in pajama bottoms and call it good. I will also miss how anything, and I mean anything, can be turned into a drinking game. I can just imagine that trying to transcend it's way into the office setting: "Take a drink for every time the copy machine won't work!"

I will miss the Med-Shed; it's another advantage to living on such a small campus. Have a slightly sore throat? Throw on a coat and walk a few feet to the readily available building on campus that will provide you with medical attention then and there. Try to find that in the real world.

I will not miss writing, writing, and more writing. Ten page papers used to sound impossible and now when I hear "ten- pages" I am like. . . that's it? I will also not miss those distribs that I really did not want to take - I'm glad those are over forever.

I will also never look forward to communal showers - okay, I haven't lived in the dormitories that have communal showers in a long time, but I don't think I will ever miss them; I won't miss the fire-alarms in the middle of the night either.

I am really going to miss Greek life and all the leadership opportunities it offers along with life-long friends and great memories. I will also miss watching a bunch of predominately white kids dancing (or trying to dance) to gangsta rap or hip-hop at a party. That is priceless.

I will not miss trying to figure out what there is for a vegetarian to eat at SAGA that will actually taste like something, but I will definitely recommend the Stir-Fry bar to anyone - it is a God-send. I will miss Dusen.

I will not miss the finals or mid-terms that are somehow 45% of my grade; I really can't say that I will ever miss finals again - it's too stressful. I will miss Braveheart's and 7-11 and their blessed Toquitos at any time of night.

We are a college of over-achievers and I can not decide if I will miss that or not. I get tired of everyone talking about how much they've done or accomplished while everyone else is pretending to listen when really, as the movie *Fight Club* so eloquently states, they are only waiting for their turn to talk - seriously, it seems like no one ever takes a break around here; but that is something that I love about Alma. We work hard and we want to be the best.

The most important things that I will miss are my friends, roommates, sorority sisters, co-workers, staff, and professors that have made my college experience so memorable and exciting. If it weren't for them, sometimes the bad would out-weigh the good; with them Alma will be something that I will greatly miss.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In this past issue of *The Almanian*, an article titled "Looking for love in all the wrong places" was published in the opinion section. For those of you who didn't read the piece, the writer reveals her opinion of how girls on our college campus are being too promiscuous which in turn leads to less respect for all women everywhere. The author of this article lives on 3rd floor Newberry and was saying that this is the place where she has found the worst cases of women's self-esteem issues. I live on 3rd floor Newberry and was very offended by this article. The way Newberry is portrayed in this article is extremely negative, and, though I do not like living in Newberry, I have met some of the most wonderful girls by living here. These girls are some of the hardest working and kindest girls I have ever come into contact with, and I am so lucky to know them. The author of "Looking for love in all the wrong places" seems to focus on the few problems some of us have had with drinking, partying, and having one-night stands. In general, we are a great group of people. By writing articles like these, without realizing it, the writer makes women look worse than we actually are. I'm not going to pretend that drinking, partying and sleeping around doesn't happen in Alma, but that is a person's own business. Publishing a piece about how awful girls are on this campus is only going to make the majority of us, who are really extraordinary women, look bad. It's true. Women have made giant leaps away from becoming just sex objects, so lets not dwell on the few instances when women are thought of as sex objects because that only hurts the efforts made by women in the past.

Grace Iglehart (09)

The Almanian

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

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.



Help Support the Hurricane Katrina Relief Effort!

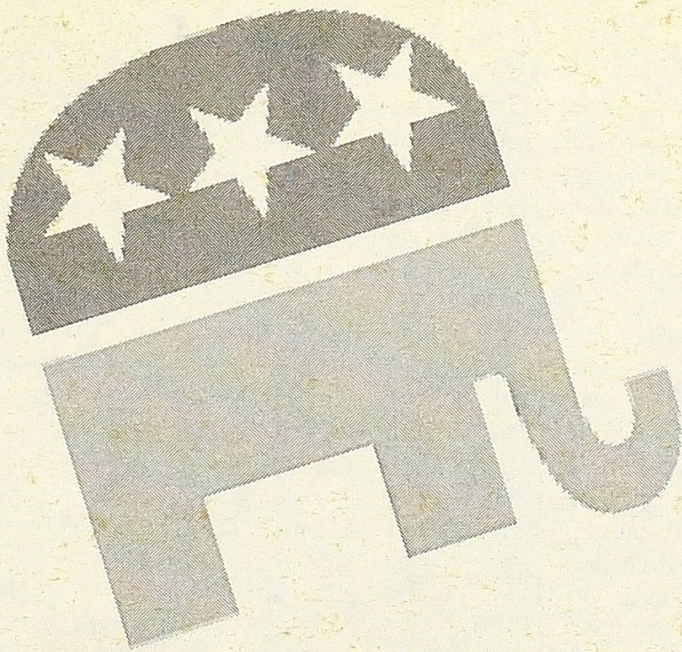
As the Alternative Spring Breaks Have Demonstrated, There is Still a Large Need in the Areas That Were Devastated by Hurricane Katrina This Fall.

What Better Way to Raise Funds than a Little, Friendly Competition?

**The Alma College Democrats & Alma College Republicans
Will be Facing Off in a Penny War Like Alma Has Never Seen!**

**Bring Your Pennies, Nickels, Dimes and More to Saga
The Week of March 27 - 31**

Support Your Group and Hurricane Katrina Relief!



**The Alma College Republicans Would Like to Announce an Open Meeting
Thursday March 30th, 2006 at 7pm in VanDusen Fireside
Mike Trebesh, former Alma College Professor & Candidate
for House Representative,
Will Be Visiting to Talk About His Campaign.**

**The ACRs Will Also Be Holding Nominations for Next Year's Officers.
Don't Miss Out on the Best Party on Campus!**

Tigers prepare for MLB play in Spring '06

**JOSH MORGAN
SPORTS WRITER**

Not only are student athletes on the campus of Alma College looking forward to the beginning of the upcoming baseball season, but everyone on campus is looking forward to the start of a new and promising year for the Detroit Tigers. For some reason, each year come April 1, Tiger fans have a mental malfunction making them believe that this is the year that the Tigers get back to the playoffs. It will be no different this year – come opening day at Comerica Park, the stands will be filled and there will be enough electricity in one stadium to power the entire city of Detroit for months.

So now it is up to the players and coaches to turn the latter part of that tradition around. The last time that the Tigers had a taste of postseason action happened all the way back in 1987 when they were beaten by the Minnesota Twins, 4-1. The Tigers last World Series appearance was in 1984 when Detroit beat the San Diego Padres, 4-1. So that makes it 18 seasons since the last playoff appearance, and 21 years since their last World Series championship. But, if you compare those streaks to the last two teams who have won the World Series (Boston Red Sox and Chicago White Sox), maybe

the Tigers' hiatus from winning a World Series isn't that bad.

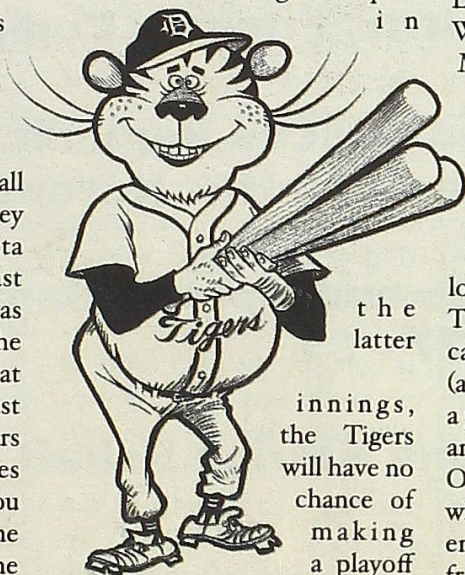
But loyal fans have been disgusted with Detroit not even being able to put a viable competitor on the field. Blake Williams (07), an Alma College baseball player, has been a Tigers fan since before he could walk. Unfortunately, before Blake could walk was in the more recent past than the Tigers winning a World Series. According to Williams, he doesn't expect it to be much different this year as well.

"All of the Tigers' experienced players retired soon after the 1984 season, and they never truly rebuilt," Williams said. "Unless their middle relief pitchers start hitting their spots

very vulnerable part of the Tigers plan to make it back to the postseason. In the off-season, General Manager Dave Dombrowski was able to bring in a couple of veteran arms to help strengthen the Tigers rotation. Todd Jones, a former Tiger and member of the United States team playing in the World Baseball Classic, will be back in Detroit. In addition, Kenny Rogers, a crafty veteran left-hander, will be on his way to the Tigers after a lengthy stint in Texas.

Not only did the Tigers bring in a couple veteran pitchers, though – they brought in a World Series winning manager in Jim Leyland. Leyland, who won a World Series with the Florida Marlins in 1997, replaced Tiger great Alan Trammell after he could not get the Tigers on a winning track.

If the season will have any reflection on how spring training has gone, the Tigers look to be in good shape. The Tigers will look to be led by catcher Ivan "Pudge" Rodriguez (after having his worst season as a pro), shortstop Carlos Guillen, and right fielder Magglio Ordonez, who showed signs of why the Tigers signed him at the end of last year after returning from both knee and hernia injuries. The Tigers have to improve.



Pitching has been a

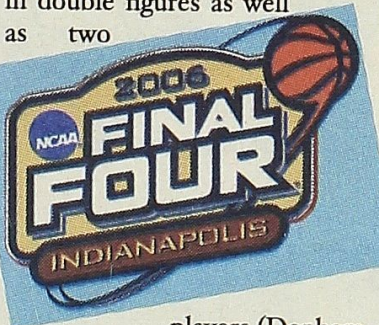
the latter
innings,
the Tigers
will have no
chance of
making
a playoff
run."

Can you feel the Madness of March ?!

**JOSH MORGAN
SPORTS WRITER**

Is there a better a day of the year than selection Sunday? I didn't think so. The annual NCAA tournament kickoff show aired at 6 p.m. Sunday leaving bracket enthusiasts in a frenzy. "Bracketologists" from around the country sat and waited anxiously as each of the 65 college basketball teams that make up the field were announced. Of course, only 34 of those 65 teams had to actually wonder if they were going to be a part of the dance due to automatic bids that were issued to teams that won their respective conference tournaments. Out of those 34 that needed at-large bids, only a handful really had something to worry about. But by the end of the night the field was finally set and the complaining and speculation was already in full swing. Teams upset that they didn't get in (Michigan, Cincinnati), teams that got in that should not of (Utah St., Air Force), teams that were seed to high (Tennessee, Nevada), and finally teams that were not seeded high enough (Boston College, Gonzaga). However, putting every school in exactly

the right spot is every bit as tough as picking who is going to win the national championship. Especially in this bracket, which is by far has the most parity of any recent year. This simply means that there is no stand out pick to win the national championship. The favorite, although not the overall number one seed, looks to be Connecticut, who sports six players who average in double figures as well as two



players (Denham Brown and Josh Boone) who have a championship ring. However, the Huskies have history working against them. No team has ever gone on to twin the national championship after losing the opening round game of their conference tournament (lost to the eventual champion Syracuse). The other number one seeds in this tournament consist of overall number one Duke, Conference USA champion Memphis and

Villanova. Hometown favorite Michigan State, after stumbling down the stretch of the regular season, managed to gain a number 6 seed and will be playing George Mason in Dayton, OH. The intriguing part of Michigan State's draw is a possible rematch from last year's final four against North Carolina, the three seed in the Washington, D.C. region, in the second round. As mentioned earlier, the University of Michigan was snubbed from a chance of making the tournament after losing seven of their last nine games including being upset in the first round of the Big Ten tournament by Minnesota. As a consolation for the Wolverines, they received a number one seed in the Nobody's Interested Tournament—I mean, the National Invitational Tournament. The best time of the year is upon us, so don't waste it by going to class or to work. Enter as many pools as you can, hook up 4 TV's, put "One Shining Moment" on your iPod 65 times; transform your life into a hoops dream, because come March 16 that dream will finally become a reality. (Logo courtesy of Logoshak.com)

Alma baseball team ready for MIAA action

**EVAN BEACH
SPORTS WRITER**

After a tough 2005 schedule, when the Alma baseball team went 9-22 overall and 9-12 in MIAA action, the Scots are looking for vast improvement in 2006.

The



2006 campaign is just beginning, and the team made their annual trip to the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic in Fort Myers, Florida, over Winter Break. Although they came back to Alma with a 3-4 record, they have already taken steps towards success.

"We definitely improved in all areas of hitting," said second baseman Pat Ott (06). "I think the biggest benefit was getting our pitchers the opportunity to face live competition, and allowing the hitters the chance to face game-like situations."

In an attempt to achieve the goals, the Scots will draw on their experience.

"The goal is definitely to win the MIAA," said Ott. "With the experienced seniors and juniors at fielding and hitting and pitching, I think we can carry the team

Folske brings a lot of intangibles to the team, with his long and successful career. His resume includes stops at Ferris State University, Central Michigan University and Saginaw Valley State University. As coach for the Chippewas, Folske posted an impressive 131-98 record.

"I feel that adding Coach Folske already has benefited us in many ways," said Ott. "Just his knowledge of the game and desire to do things the right way has allowed us to learn more and become more open-minded as to how the game is supposed to be played. Coach Folske knows more about the game than anyone I've ever met, and I know that he will help us in every aspect."

Coach Folske, along with Head Coach John Leister, who pitched for the Boston Red Sox, should provide the experience and knowledge needed to help the Scots improve while learning to win. The



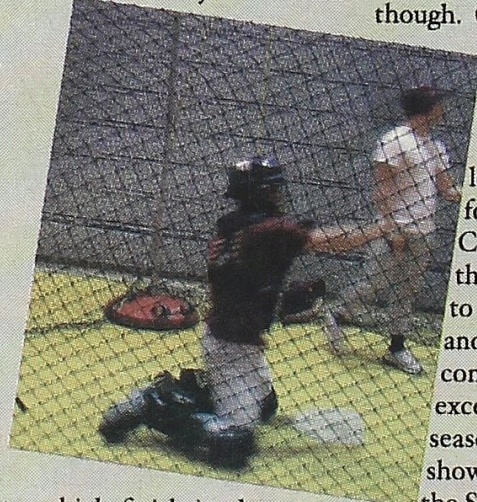
thing that needs to be improved most is learning how to finish games.

"Every game in Florida, we had the lead at one point or another, and we always let the other team come back," said Ott. "I think that just comes with confidence and practice, though. Once we learn to put teams away, we will be a tough team to compete against."

The Scots are looking to contend for the MIAA Championship – with the addition of Folske to the coaching staff and a team that has committed itself to excelling in the off-season, look for a strong showing in 2006 from the Scots.

"We have all the pieces there needed to be a good team – we just need to put them into place," said Ott.

(pictures by Tony Rosenblum)



to a high finish in the conference."

The improvements made in Florida could be largely attributed to the addition of Judd Folske to the coaching staff.