

The Almanian

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Friday, December 1, 2006

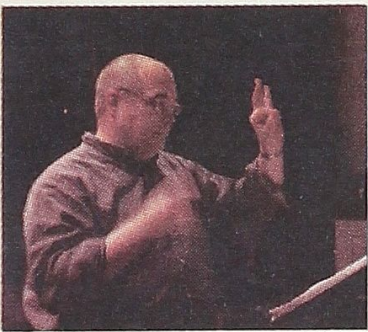
"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

UNDER THE COVER

Rumors about expulsion procedures are cleared up by campus administration.

SEE NEWS PG. 2

Alma College prepares for its annual Festival of Carrels performance.



SEE FEATURE PG. 4

Staff writer discusses commonly held view of community bathrooms.

SEE OPINION PG. 5

Scots football offensive coordinator reflects on season, looks ahead to program's future.

SEE SPORTS PG. 7

Study shows depth of campus drinking

Almanian investigative report provides insight on student habits

LAUREN RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

Drinking. Boozin' it up. Getting wasted.

Whatever it is referred to, alcohol use is something that is notorious for college students.

"It is very hard to avoid not being exposed to [drinking in college]," said Jesse Russell

(07). "It is not necessarily a good thing or a bad thing; it is just a part of college."

Though a popular belief that drinking is a part of college, has it become a common occurrence on campus here at Alma? And, has it become a problem?

In a recent online survey

completed by 420 students at Alma College, 73% said that they consume alcohol. And 71% of those surveyed were under 21, the legal drinking age.

"I feel that [underage drinking] is something that everyone knows goes on," said Don Easlick (08).

SEE ALCOHOL PG. 2

Coca-Cola contract now questionable

AMANADA METZLER
STAFF WRITER

Students may be surprised to learn that Alma College athletics are sponsored by Coke. Coke, who won out a contract agreement over Pepsi, started serving the vending needs of the campus last year during the winter semester.

The contract was brought before Student Congress last year to gauge student input, and based on the "potential" programming opportunities, students decided to go with Coke for their vending machines. Sodexo facilities still provided Pepsi based on a separate contract.

Part of the agreement with Coke pertains to a limited amount of funds generated by Coke vending machines for marketing and promotional activities, specifically for a new scoreboard for athletics.

These items "are usually provided for athletics use in running their programs. In addition, there is some additional money from Coke [provided] to the college in consideration

SEE COKE PG. 2

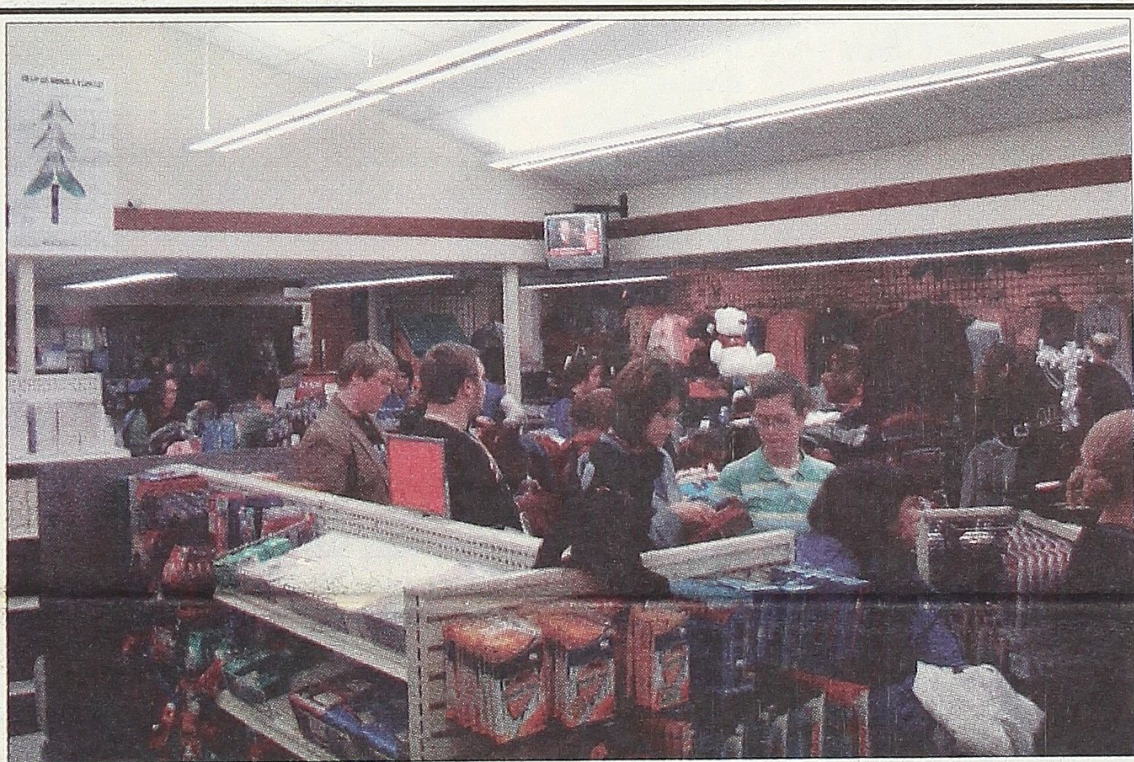


Photo courtesy of Derek Harrison

Students lined up to take advantage of the Kiltie Korner Super Supper Sale, which took place Thursday from 7-9 p.m. The Kiltie Korner offered discounts ranging from 10% up to 50% for one lucky customer. Many used the discounts for Christmas gifts for friends and family. This was the second of this type of event for the Kiltie Korner. Rob Duvall, assistant manager, told *the Almanian* that it was not quite as successful as the first.

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1,000

The amount of money that Coke's contract provides annually for program opportunities.

20

The number of cases, out of 25 total, heard by Student Judicial that were alcohol related.

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ACUB invites campus to see Pistons live

Over 100 students depart from the Reid Knox parking lot this afternoon

AMANDA METZLER
STAFF WRITER

After hosting the annual Songfest, one of its staple events during the year and its own version of "Deal or No Deal," ACUB will be sponsoring a trip to a Detroit Pistons game on Friday December 1.

The Pistons will be facing the New York Knicks for the first time this season at the Palace in Detroit.

ACUB is offering tickets to students for \$15 and non-students for \$25.

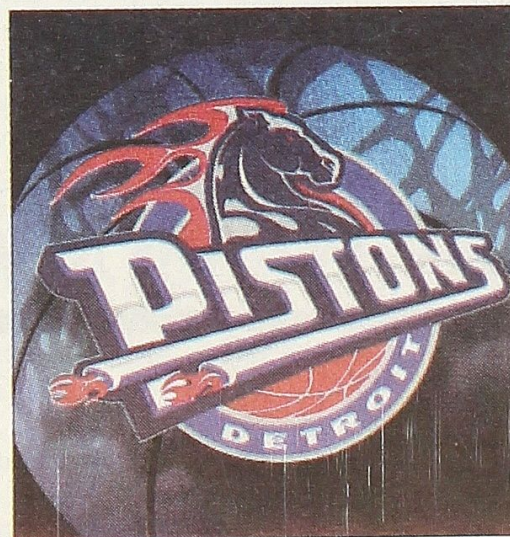
The price includes transportation from Alma to Detroit, snacks on the bus,

and admission to the game.

Past ACUB activities have also included an all-nighter, Casino Night, and the Annual Poker tournament as well as showing a number of movies.

To encourage more students to participate in activities, the organization

recently introduced the Activity Incentive Card. The card, if all 10 holes are punched as proof of attendance, is



valid for entry in a raffle.

The grand prize of the drawing is a free trip to the winner's destination of

choice. The Union Board foots the bill for hotel stay and car rental expenses, and provides certificates for food.

But in order to win, students must participate in 10 ACUB sponsored events.

Traveling to Detroit not only provides students with the opportunity to get off campus, but it is a way to meet new people.

Additionally, students are able to attend a game they otherwise may not be able to due to transportation expenses.

"The only reason we are asking students to pay for...

SEE PISTONS PG. 2

Congratulations to *The Almanian* on 100 years of service to the Alma College community.

Rumors about expulsions; administration give facts

ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Over the last few weeks rumors have been flying around Alma College about expulsions. Administrators feel that with these tall tales, the student body is losing sight of the important points; especially the "why."

Not only does expulsion of a student affect the student body, but it also affects the student life offices. "When faced with this situation we have to consider the health and welfare of the student involved but also the entire student body," said **Patricia Chase**, Director of Student Development.

At the beginning of the year, every student received a copy of *Alma Colleges Quick Guide to Policies, Procedures and Plans*, where guidelines for disciplinary actions are laid out. **Nicholas Piccolo**, Vice President of Student Life, said, "We carefully look at whether or not we can simply suspend the student, in which case they can reapply to the college in two years, or if expulsion, which lasts forever, is the only option."

In simple disciplinary, and academic, situations there is a system to mitigate damages. First the student is put on probation; and then, after a

set amount of time if actions have not been remedied, the student becomes in jeopardy. "We all make mistakes," said Chase, "but that is where we [student services] come into play."

When a student's behavior is brought to the Center for Student Development's attention they have to ask

"The standards and procedures at Alma are extremely close to those you would find at every other college."

Patricia Chase

themselves a not-so-simple question: "What is the student really thinking?" No matter what that answer may be though there will always be an impact on others, and on themselves.

Chase said, "The standards and procedures set out here at Alma are extremely similar to those that you would find at every other college." But because we are a smaller campus student services is allowed the opportunity to closely examine each case and do what is best for the

student in each situation.

"The interesting thing about going away to college is that many times students say they now want to be treated as an adult," said Chase. "With wanting to be treated in such a way, certain standards are set in place." Even life after Alma College will have its set of natural consequences and in the work place administrators will have to decide what is fair for everyone.

Because Alma is so small, many times the game of telephone is played and rumors are started; and with this, many confidentiality issues linger. In the end, the Center has to ask if it is fair and ethical to divulge information, which is why specifics involving this most recent issue may not be released.

"This issue does not present itself often, but when it does, our goal is to help all of the students involved," said Piccolo.

The important thing to remember is that a decision like this is not made hastily. All of the people involved take their time to figure out what is best for everyone. "We pride ourselves on our relationship with the students," said Chase, and that can truly be seen.

Alcohol from pg. 1...

"Students are going to drink. I am not saying that is right, but I accept that," says **Amy Simonson**, student judicial coordinator. "[However], I do not promote underage drinking at all."

With underage drinking, comes consequences.

Of the 25 cases to come in front of student judicial, 20 have been alcohol related; and a majority of those cases have been underage drinking, according to Simonson.

Among those who took the survey, 73% lived in either Gelston, Bruske, Mitchell, or Newberry-living accommodations where Alma's drinking rules are enforced by the hall directors and RAs.

Many students agree with Alma College's rules on drinking, which can be found on page 48 of the 2006 student handbook. About 70% of the students surveyed said that they agree with Alma's policy on drinking.

"The problem with Alma's policy is the people who carry it out... It does not help that these people are our peers and seem very judgmental if they catch you [drinking]," said **Diana Walton (09)**.

Opinions may differ.

"Student Life and RAs are not out to get anyone," said Simonson. "It is really important students know that we are here to help them learn, not to punish them."

One of the biggest problems with Alma's alcohol policy is that students don't fully understand them, according to Simonson. "We need to communicate better so there is not the excuse of 'I didn't know,'" said Simonson. "Just because you don't know, does not mean you can do it."

The best action to take if caught, according to Simonson, is be honest about it, accept the consequences, and take it as a learning experience.

Though there have been problems with drinking on campus, many students believe that drinking has not become a problem for Alma. "Drinking is another part of college- you don't have to do it, but for those who do and are responsible, it shouldn't be a problem," said Walton.

"Responsible drinking goes on, but that is not what is in the spotlight," said Simonson. "...It would be more appropriate for administration to take a stance for responsible drinking- not including minors."

"I have no problem with [drinking] as long as the user is being responsible, said **Ruth Nardecchia (09)**. "I think the real problems come from... [drinking] so much that it turns into a ritual, and sometimes even an everyday habit."

Whether an accepted college tradition or a growing problem, alcohol consumption is not leaving campus anytime soon. According to Russell, students have either of two attitudes toward drinking. "Some students first come to campus trying to protect themselves from the mysterious corruption that is 'college,'" he said. "Other students that come to college for the first time are generally exposed to a much, much higher level of freedom than there were used to at home... It's new. It's exciting. It's in their capacity. It's drinkin' time!"

Pistons from pg. 1...

the ticket is because of the transportation cost," said **Samantha Lyttle (08)**, the ACUB Special Events Chair. What students are paying is considerably less than if they were to buy tickets directly from the box office.

Currently, upwards of 80 students are signed up to participate, but the number of participants has increased this week.

"Because this is the first year, I am not sure if the numbers will be as high as we would like them to be," said Lyttle.

Still, ACUB expects even greater campus response in the future if this trip goes well.

The Pistons game has also allowed the Union Board to target different groups within the Alma community.

The organization is trying to branch out to incorporate new types of activities that might reach the whole campus with more creative ideas.

This event, though, "was proposed at the right moment," said Lyttle. "It worked out wonderfully."

Coke from pg. 1...

of the right to have their vending machines on campus, for the space they use, and for using our electricity," said Alma College Vice President, **Jerry Scoby**.

The programming from Coke is the result of a bidding process, conducted to secure distribution rights for beverages along with sales privileges.

In return, Alma will receive \$1,000 for promotional expenses to cover those of the entire campus, including athletics. Many other schools have prominent advertisements, but Alma comes up short with Pepsi logos on only a couple of scoreboards.

Scoby, reluctant to share the details of the contract, explained that "most of these considerations were in the last contract which was with Pepsi."

The reason for the switch from a Pepsi account to a Coke one was that Coke pledged more funding and programming.

During the Xbox tour in November, the showcase's organizers almost pulled the plug on the event due to Alma's affiliation with Coke and Xbox's ties to Pepsi.

Coke did, however, allow a one time exception and the event proved successful.

It is still unclear as to exactly how the money from Coke is specifically being allocated and it is possible that some of the promises made last year to Student Congress were just a facade for Coke to gain a contract.

We make your ideas work for you!



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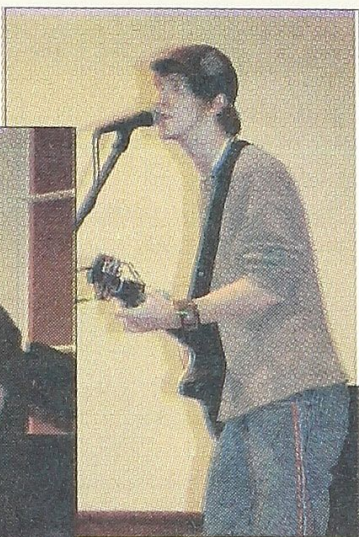
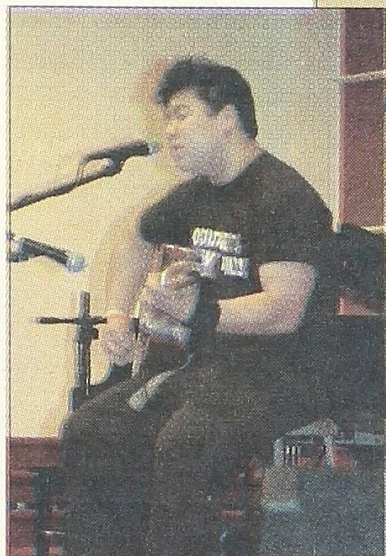
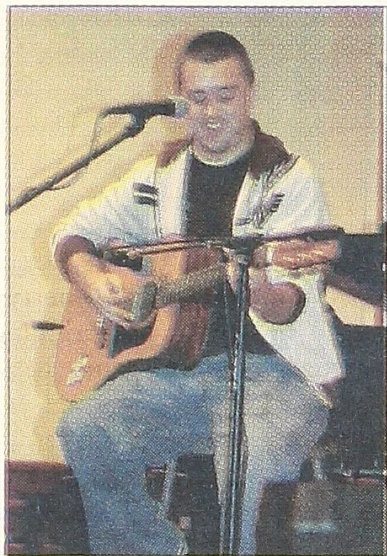
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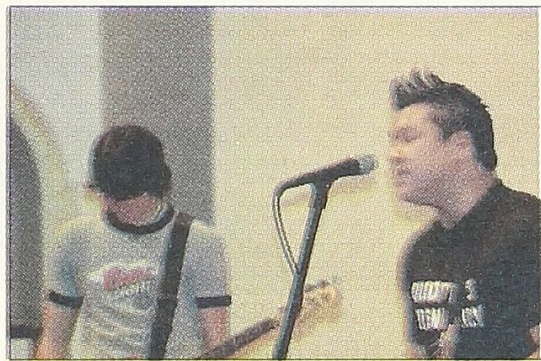
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Songfest 2006



Photos courtesy of
Nick Green



World AIDS day unites all

FAINA POLT
STAFF WRITER

For millions of people the world over, December 1 is a very important date. Today is World AIDS Day, a worldwide opportunity for people from all corners of the earth to work together in an attempt to bring further attention to the ever-spreading AIDS virus.

HIV/AIDS can easily be called the worst epidemic in human history. According to The World AIDS Campaign, there are currently 40 million people living with HIV or AIDS all over the world, with 14,000 becoming newly infected every day. This is no longer a problem contained to a single continent or a single people. AIDS reaches wide and can impact anyone. "AIDS is a very serious problem all over the world," said **Taylor Gibson (10)**, "It's not isolated in Africa, and more people need to be aware of the effects of AIDS; it's not just something that 'can't happen to you.'"

This afternoon, a rally is being held in Washington D.C in an attempt to bring government attention to the AIDS problem. The United States has pledged financial support to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, but has yet to fully deliver. Meanwhile, over 8,000 people die of AIDS each day and less than 5% of children born HIV positive will receive the treatment and care they need. "People need to get over the

stereotypes of AIDS—that only homosexuals get it," said Gibson, "they also need to know exactly how the disease is contracted."

Knowledge—along with condoms—is the best prevention technique when it comes to HIV. The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) is a sexually transmitted retrovirus that ultimately causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in those that become infected with it. As of yet, no cure has been found. However, there are medications and remedies that can help those with

"Whether you have AIDS, know someone with AIDS, or know people who know people with AIDS, we're all affected"

-Cathy Millon (09)

HIV/AIDS live better, longer lives.

While the political fight for more resources rages in D.C, Alma College students will be doing what they can to promote awareness

and knowledge closer to home. All week, members of Pride—Alma's Gay-Straight Alliance—have been handing out condoms, informational pamphlets, and the widely recognized red AIDS ribbon during dinner in SAGA. Pride is also organizing a Tree of Hope with red ribbons draped around it. A movie will also be shown tonight, with **Drew Emgee (09)** speaking beforehand about his experience working in an AIDS hospice in Africa.

"Whether you have AIDS, know someone with AIDS, or know people who know people with AIDS, we're all affected," said Pride vice-president **Cathy Millon (09)**, "It is important to realize how huge this disease is and to start fighting it."

"Every student also needs to know how to prevent it and where to get tested," said Millon. It is very important to get tested, especially if it is after unprotected sex or the sharing of needles. The earlier that HIV is detected, the longer one can stave off full-blown AIDS. Many places will test you for free; then you will always have a point in your life that you know you were HIV/AIDS-free.

For more general information on HIV/AIDS or to make a donation, check out Until.org, a good website with some great ideas on how to help. To find out more about local testing sites or to obtain condoms, contact the Wilcox Medical Center.

Food Fancy

Combat dry skin with nutritious oils and other hydrating foods

JENNIFER ANDERSON
COPY EDITOR



It's about that time of year when our skin starts drying out and eventually cracking. Many of us search for the right lotions and skin care products, but the answer may begin with the food we consume daily. You can actually eat your way to healthier skin.

Dry skin is caused when the oil glands do not supply enough lubrication to the skin. The basic supply of hydration is water; you should drink at least 2 quarts of water every day to maintain hydration. You should avoid or limit fried foods, animal fats, soft drinks, alcohol, caffeine, and sugars; these food items speed up dehydration and require your body to consume more water daily.

Omega-3 fatty acids are compounds that help reduce inflammation in the body, which helps combat puffiness or sagging of the skin. Salmon, flaxseed, and avocado are great sources of the acids. Salmon that is wild (rather than farmed) and flaxseed that is ground (and eaten atop cereals or salads, for example) are the most beneficial ways to consume these foods.

Low-sugar fruits, such as berries and melon, help make the skin firm. And nuts and wheat germ are both full of biotin, a nutrient that helps strengthen hair and nails while creating healthier skin. Nutrient deficiencies, especially vitamins A and B (such as cantaloupes, carrots, and apricots), contribute to dry skin and should be consumed regularly.

To maintain smooth and youthful skin, eating foods high in sulfur, such as onions, eggs, garlic, and asparagus could help immensely. Also, unrefined, cold-pressed flax seed oil used daily on salads or mixed in dishes that don't require baking at high temperatures will combat dry skin and make it moister.

There are a number of ways to incorporate these food items into your daily lifestyle. Following will be two recipes—one for nutritional consumption and the other for a natural remedy to use food as an external moisturizer.

Egg and Salmon Bake

Serves 3

Extra virgin olive oil

1/2 dozen eggs

Salt and freshly cracked pepper, to taste

2 oz smoked salmon, sliced into thin strips

1/2 large yellow onion, sautéed

1/2 bunch scallions

Preheat oven to 300°F. Warm a large oven-ready dish coated with olive oil. In a large bowl, whip eggs with salt and pepper until frothy; add salmon, onions, and scallions. Whip again. Remove cooking dish from oven and add egg mixture. Bake until eggs are to your liking; they will cook for several minutes after they are removed from the oven.

Recipe adapted from wholefoodsmarket.com

Beauty Mask for Dry Skin

1 egg

1 tsp. honey

1/2 tsp. olive oil

Few drops rose water

Mix the ingredients thoroughly and use as a mask.

Recipe from Beauty Skin Care: Holistic-online.com

Annual festival of carols bring traditional hymns, sung with spirit

KRISTA PENNINGTON
STAFF WRITER

Leaving Frosty and Rudolf out in the cold, the Alma College choirs will be performing very traditional hymns and carols at their annual Festival of Carols concert on December 8, 9, and 10 in the Heritage Center Presbyterian Hall.

Tickets are \$3 for students and children, and \$10 for adults. Also, the choirs will be performing in Midland on the December 7 at the Midland Center for the Arts.

"The secular music of Christmas is not part of the Festival of Carols; we concentrate on the carols that tell the Christmas story, and we leave Santa, Frosty, and Rudolf for the radio stations," said Will Nichols, Professor of Music and Choir Director.

Aside from "O Come all Ye Faithful" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," Scots on the Rock (Men's

a cappella ensemble) and Pretty in Plaid (Women's a cappella ensemble) will be singing, and the Percussion Ensemble and Alma College

year, and then moving on to the Alma College Choir, Bryan remembered her first year with the Festival, "There were huge glass bulbs

hundred people in the face up on those risers—kind of an unnerving experience," said Bryan.

The trip to Midland isn't a

this year," said Nichols.

"My favorite memory from Festival of Carols has to be from two years ago when one woman passed out at every performance. Luckily, no one was hurt, and this occurrence was greatly reduced at last year's concerts," said **Elizabeth Simon (08)**. This year's show will be number three for Simon, a second alto in the Choir. "The Alma College Choir will be singing between nine and twelve carols in addition to the six that the choirs will sing together," said Simon.

Nearly 200 students from the three choirs are involved in the Festival of Carols, and many Alumni are known to return for the Festival. For ticket information, contact the box office at boxoffice@alma.edu, or on the phone at 989-463-7304. The box office is open weekdays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and tickets for the Festival are likely to go quickly.



Symphony will be adding to the festivities. And of course, Pianist Anthony Patterson will be in accompaniment.

Laura Bryan (07), will be performing in her fourth Festival this year as first soprano. Beginning in the Glee Club her freshman

hanging from the ceiling, the stage was lined with was seemed like fifty or more red poinsettias and there were a ton of twinkling white lights. It was my first time in the hideous Glee Club concert dress, but I forgot all about it when I got to look at five

new thing, and the volunteers at the Midland Center for the Arts even prepare dinner for the students. "We have been pleased to have wonderful audiences in Midland for the past years, and we expect another large and enthusiastic audience

ECCO leading fight against CAFO

FAINA POLT
STAFF WRITER

This year has turned out to be an important time for environmental issues. As the amount of dialogue about the proposed CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) increases and heats up, the sentiments of the college campus and the Alma community at large stir with greater and greater fervor.

Leading the fight against the CAFO is the Environmentally Concerned Citizens Organization (ECCO). ECCO is a grassroots activism group based in Gratiot County that includes Alma, Elwell and other neighboring areas. As part of their mission statement, ECCO declares their intents to help "preserve and protect the high quality of life that rural and suburban residents of the whole community desire and value." They proudly support local area farmers and encourage environmentally responsible agricultural practices.

ECCO's strong stand against CAFOs is based on the information resulting from official studies conducted by various government agencies along with university and college research findings. ECCO's formulated stance

on CAFOs is that they are environmentally unsound, unhealthy for workers and local residents, and ultimately economically unsustainable. They use up a huge amount of resources and leave behind a used up and depleted environment.

"We need to realize the impact that our actions have on this world, that everyone relies on for survival"

-Cecilia Teets (09)

While ECCO focuses primarily on matters surrounding CAFOs, there are plenty of other environmental issues that deserve recognition. Making things better doesn't always have to consist of drastic changes. "The average Alma student doesn't need to alter their daily life that much to help the environment," said Students United for Nature (S.U.N) president Holly Halifax (07).

Everyone can do their part to help by making small adjustments in their lives. "S.U.N. wants students to do the little things that add up to big changes," said Halifax. She suggests recycling, turning off the

lights when leaving a room, shutting down computers and other electronics when they're not being used, taking short showers and turning off the faucet while brushing teeth to avoid wasting water, and trying to buy products that are known to be more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Caring about the environment is about more than just being a tree-hugger—although that was a great way to grab the campus' attention earlier this semester. "Being environmentally responsible is actually an exercise in taking responsibility for your own welfare and the welfare of those you care about," said S.U.N member **Cecilia Teets (09)**, "being environmentally conscientious isn't enough. We need to realize the impact that, our actions have on this world, that everyone relies on for survival."

Most people don't give environmental problems the right amount of thought; there is always the assumption that someone else will do it. But the truth of the matter is that helping out is an individual effort. "I think it's important for a campus community to nurture a group like S.U.N.," said Teets, "because such groups deter stagnation and ignorance."

Weekend jazz concert to present favorites

KRISTA PENNINGTON
STAFF WRITER

This Sunday, the third of December, the Jazz Ensemble will be putting on its fall concert.

There is no ticket required for this show, in Heritage Center Presbyterian Hall at 3 p.m.. The Jazz band plays two shows a year, their next being in April, as a kickoff for the Alma College Jazz Festival 2007. Many high schools across Michigan send their bands to the Jazz Festival each April.

"The Alma College Jazz Ensemble presents a varied program of big band jazz by prominent artists, composers and arrangers," according to the Heritage Center Box Office website. For more information, the Heritage Center can be contacted at boxoffice@alma.edu.

Justin Rito (08) has been playing in the Jazz Ensemble since his freshman year. Now, in his fifth semester, the keyboardist said he really enjoys playing "great music every week."

"We're doing a variety of things including some Latin jazz, some Christmas jazz arrangements, standard swing tunes everybody will recognize, and some they

won't."

The Jazz Band is directed by Jeffrey Kressler, a visiting faculty member originally from Central Michigan University. Kressler is a graduate of Michigan State University.

Former member, **Brett Sanborn (08)**, played baritone saxophone with the jazz band, but could not this term due to scheduling conflicts. He remembers during the 2004-2005 school year "when we had professional bass player Marco Franco perform with us. He did like a ten minute funk bass solo, the audience loved it."

Marco Franco, a bassist from Alma, has been playing since his days at Alma Middle School, and has been touring with the Wiseguy's band.

The concert, featuring songs such as "Tenor Madness" and "Winter Wonderland," the ensemble will be playing eight to ten songs and the whole thing will run between an hour and a half and two hours long.

"I enjoy playing in the jazz ensemble, it's a very relaxed atmosphere" said **Andy Hubert (08)**. "The songs are always fun and we get to improvise solos."

Community bathrooms cause much distress, disgust

KEVIN BILBREY
STAFF WRITER

I have to say that I love Alma College. It is without a doubt one of the most important, and one of the greatest decisions of my life. I love the campus, the students, faculty, even the dorm rooms. There is one thing that I don't like about it, however, and that is the sharing of communal bathrooms.

I mean, you have to put up with all of these people using the same bathroom you do, with the showers that never seem to give out the proper temperature water, and with the crap that people do to the facilities.

This is especially true in my hallway. You see, I live in first-west Gelston.

For any of you that know about campus, you know that Gelston is the most-traveled hall on campus, and that every weekend, we have to deal with a great many people who come wandering in a little, shall we say... hammered out of their minds.

We have to deal with their vomit (and just so you know, it is pretty much the worst experience ever to be standing

there going to the bathroom when you hear somebody run in to the stall next to you and start throwing up, then realize that some guy you have never even met before just puked on your foot).

Now, I understand that communal bathrooms are common in dorms all over the country, and many look on them as a sort of rite of passage into the collegiate life.

I'm pretty positive that there are many upper classmen living on south campus who are thinking back on their days in the dorms and laughing at those of us who still call them home.

I'm sure that one day I as well will look back on these days and smile; but right now, I have to say that it pretty much sucks. Especially because anything that goes wrong is then put on everyone who lives in the hall.

For instance, just recently, somebody trashed one of the bathrooms in our hall, and I mean trashed. Toilet paper dispensers torn off the wall, paper towel dispensers broken, trash all over the floor—it was a mess.

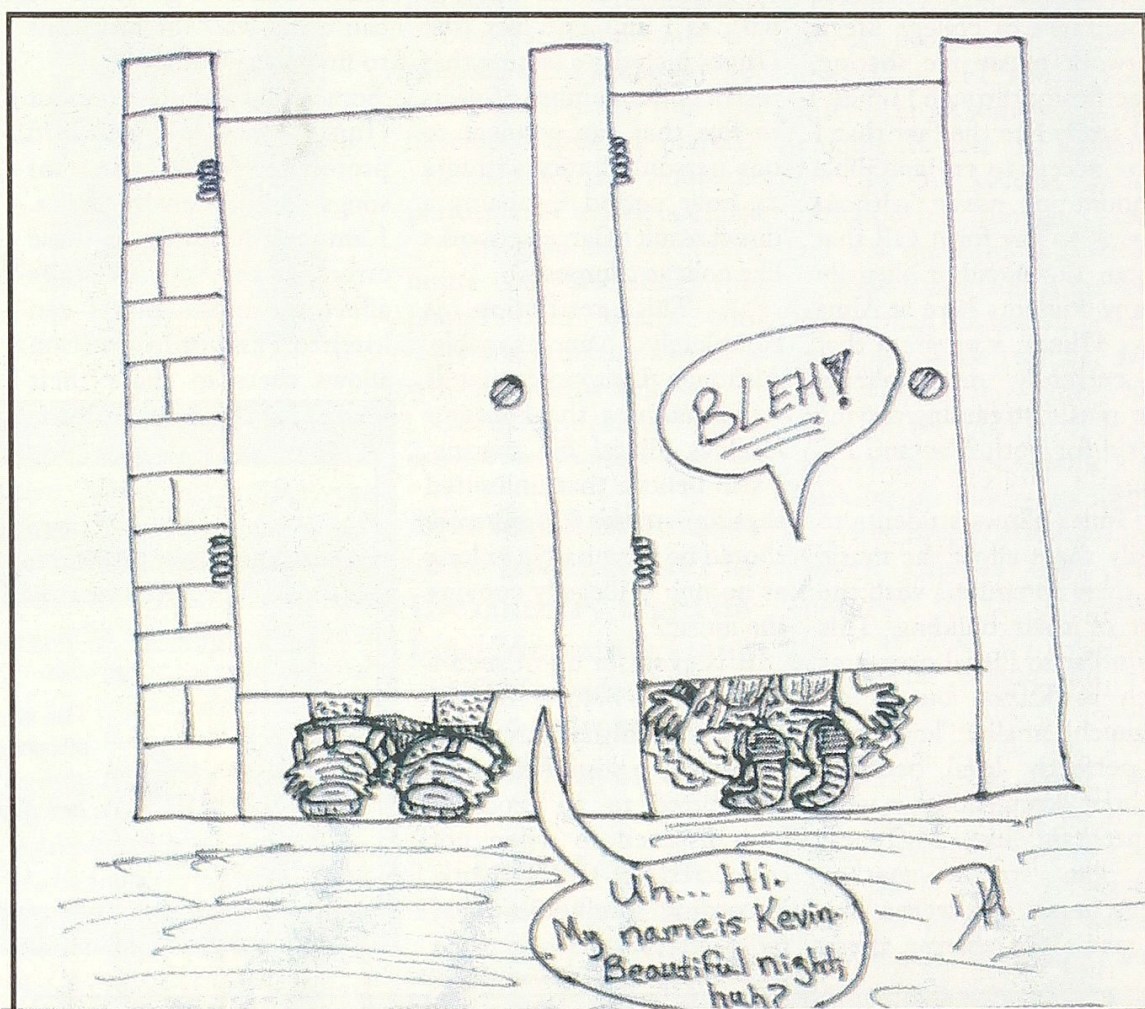
After this incident, we were told that if anything

like that were to happen again, we would all be charged the cost of damages.

I don't know about everyone else, but I am very rarely

in my hall due to the other business I do on campus, and it kind of pisses me off that I get punished for what some other stupid people do.

I doubt that anything is going to be done about it. I guess I'll just have to make sure to stay further away from the other stalls.



ZERO-SUM

DEREK HARRISON
OPINION EDITOR

Price decreases temporary, oil crisis impending

KRISTINA SCHWAB
STAFF WRITER

When Seniors first arrived in Alma, every parking lot was filled. It was impossible to find a parking space because and students traveled freely.

Now there are spots open in most parking lots—with the exception of Wright Hall and Gelston, which seem to never have parking spaces; but that's another topic.

What is that cause for this sudden drop in cars on campus? In 2003, prices reached a maximum of around \$1.70. Prices steadily increased until they finally broke in September of this year, falling from over \$3.00 to numbers in the low \$2.00 range.

Listening to most people on campus, all that can be heard are complaints. There were sighs of relief when the prices dropped 80 cents in one month, but nerves are still on edge wondering if they'll continue to drop, stay steady, or increase once again.

It seems Americans have been spoiled with the low prices. Six years ago prices fluctuated around \$1.00.

Those were the good ole' days. They are long gone, never to be seen again. Europe has been suffering through prices around four to five dollars for years.

If in fact gas prices stay around where they are now, the average citizen will be

use for short distances.

In European countries, the use of cars is much less frequent. Because there are so many countries in such a small area, trains and subways are used much more often. The appeal of "backpacking through Europe" is based

More and more, students are having family members drive them to and from college when they want to visit home—or they just don't go at home. It seems less people are going home every weekend than three years ago. For some people, their first trip home was Thanksgiving.

According to Grant Woodman, Student Housing Director, "the number of commuters has dropped from 200 students in the Fall of 2005 to 156 students this term." This number doesn't include high school students who are participating in co-op classes.

Could this drop be due to the higher prices for gas? Are more students opting to either live on campus or go to a school closer to home? There's no way to tell for sure, but it's likely some of the effect is due to gas.

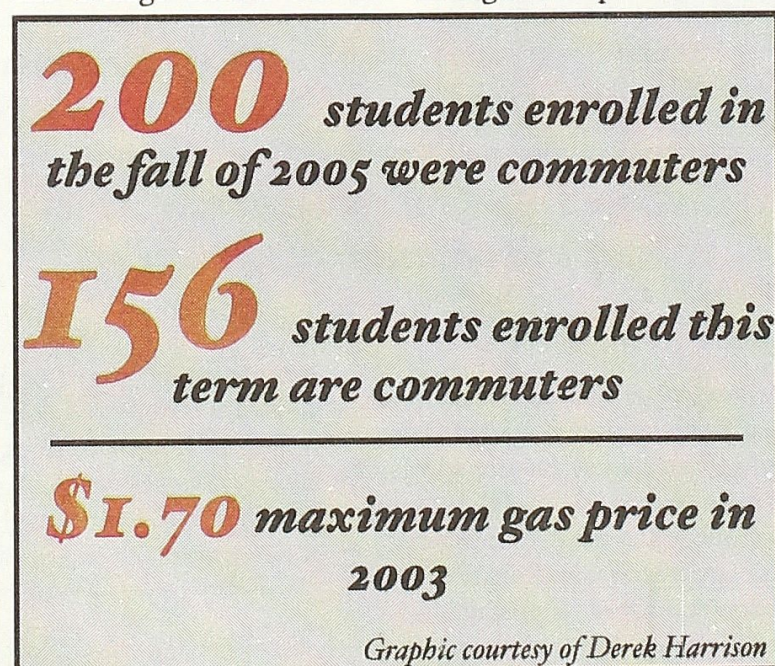
The most recent drop in gas was based most likely on the drop in oil prices. How much of the price of gas can we really base on oil? From 1990 until 2003, with the exception of 1999 and 2000, the price of gas and oil were no where near one another, giving higher profits to oil

and gas industries. Finally in 2003, oil was in the same range as gas.

Does this mean the U.S. government or gas industry have price setting abilities? Probably. Again, there's no way to say for sure, but the odds are likely. To be quite honest, I think the end of price increases are no where in site.

That doesn't mean prices will be \$5.00 a gallon this summer, but they will steadily increase as winter dies out and summer shows up, increasing every summer. It is simple inflation and lack of resources. The truth is, crude oil is limited and there isn't enough to support the tremendous population the human race has acquired.

Sooner or later, however, something newer and better will be implemented. Maybe it'll be E85—the new corn-based fuel made of 85% ethanol and 15% gas. The price per gallon for E85 is cheaper currently, but it's less efficient than the gas currently used. Perhaps this new fuel will be perfected and will take over the market. Until then, gas prices will fluctuate, slowly creeping skyward.



better off monetarily. In economic terms, due to the nature of gas, people find it hard to avoid purchasing it, even at higher prices. In America, types of transportation other than cars are rare—trains are dying out, buses aren't used except for major cities, and airplane tickets are way too pricy to

mostly off the cheap nature of traveling between countries.

But in American cities, cars have been deemed mandatory. Because of this, citizens are forced to spend more of their incomes on gas. College students find it more difficult to handle with the low incomes most students are working from.

Students, industry complicate 'ethical' music-sharing

MIRIAM JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Though there are several complications with the system, one of my favorite advantages of college life is network music file sharing, specifically, through iTunes.

I really like the fact that I have access to an incredible amount of music without having to pay for it OR that I can download it illegally. Many students here at Alma have iTunes, a program that is currently monopolizing the music streaming/playing world for both Mac and PC users,

iTunes allows students to easily share all of the music on their computers with the rest of their building. This is similar to illegal programs such as Kazaa, but is on a much smaller level and is perfectly legal because, without downloading it with a program like MyTunes, you can stream another user's music. However, like all music file sharing these

days, it does come with some issues of convenience and ethical use.

The first of these is something that I'm sure everyone is just as annoyed with as I am: The fact that iTunes includes a setting that restricts the number of users to five that can connect to one person's library within a 24 hour period (probably a direct result of large networks like college campuses).

This restriction is completely unreasonable. Although I suppose that it was stretching the limits of legal vs. illegal file sharing, I still believe that unlimited sharing *within a network* should be permissible as long as no one is illegally copying the music.

It is even set up in such a way (and was before) that the music can only be streamed. It cannot be copied, burned, transferred to an iPod, or even listened to when not connected to the network. Recording industries *pay* radio stations to play their

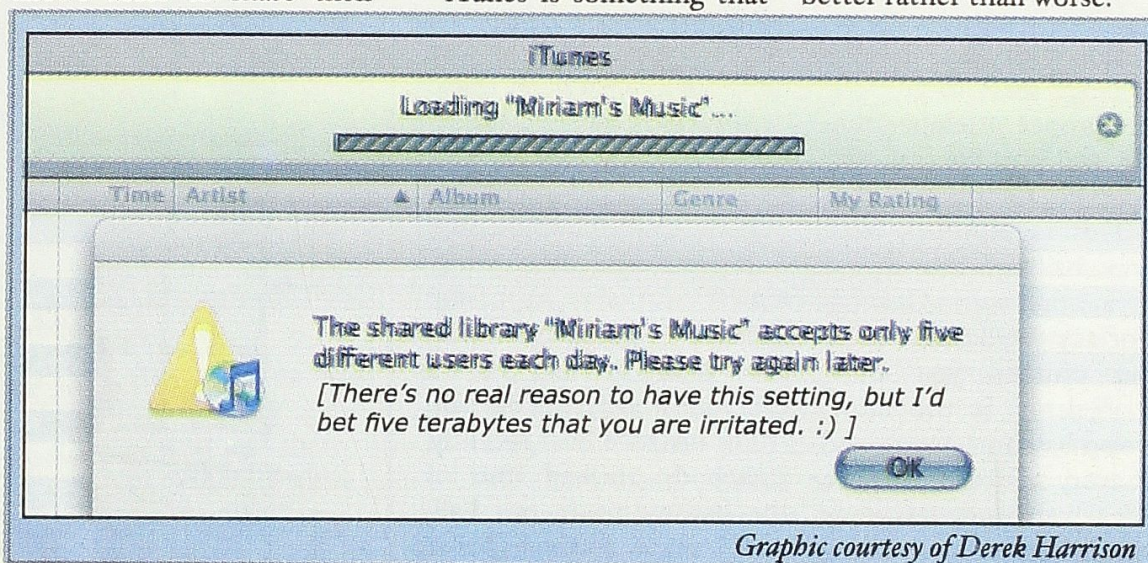
music. This is free. Why do they not support the idea of students advertising their music for them? This five-day limitation is completely unreasonable. I guess all we can do is wait for programs to find a way around it.

Some other complaints about iTunes include password protection, mislabeling of songs, and offensive titles. I am very forgiving of these errors, as they do not really affect the music that I can listen to. Password protection allows users to share their

music with a select few whom they disclose the password to, which is a great thing in my opinion. Mislabeling of songs, although annoying, is something that I do not feel that I can complain about, as it is only a result of people's stupidity; and you can't really get around that within any program. Offensive titles are also something that I really haven't had to deal with, but if I had, I would probably simply not listen to that particular person's music. iTunes is something that

I assume will continue to improve. It has shortcomings, but that's why there are upgrades every few months. Until I came to college, I did not realize how much I appreciate this program.

Students have music available literally all the time, and I have come to believe that I could not live without it. Although the recording industry is making certain aspects difficult, I am still happy with what I have and am anticipating it to get better rather than worse.



Graphic courtesy of Derek Harrison

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

What a switch! I was preparing mentally for a serious operation last week, when Professor Selmon e-mailed me a copy of Monica Rentfrow's letter from your 10/25 issue. What a boost for my morale. If I had been wasting any time feeling sorry for myself, her reminder enabled me to focus on the task at hand positively. That spirit was communicated to the staff of the hospital and they seemed to be determined that I would enjoy a complete and successful recovery. As Paul Harvey would say "That's the rest of the story."

Have a GREAT day!!!

PS – Our project to build the Great Lakes Energy Park had a big boost Tuesday, when every one of the candidates on both sides of the political aisle who [have] supported our application to the US Energy Department enjoyed winning margins.

- **J. Michael Muckleroy, Great Lakes Energy Park**

What's your opinion?

Sound-off about any of the following issues by emailing 07dtharr@alma.edu:

- **How should the Rotunda be remodeled?**
- **What gift could the campus use most from 2007 seniors?**
- **Why has enrollment been decreasing?**

The Almanian

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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.

Publication

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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 Tuesday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at 07dtharr@alma.edu or address letters to *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College.

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The Better Darn Sports Column

Ultimate depression

I hope everyone's Thanksgiving was excellent, and seeing your families was just what you needed to make it through the rest of the semester until Christmas.

I'm sure you all were able to sit back with a leg of turkey in one hand, the remote control in the other, and recline in the lay-z-boy and watch the Lions get destroyed by the Miami Dolphins led by the one and only Joey Harrington.

I was not that lucky. Unfortunately for myself, I was at Ford Field all of last Thursday, sitting in the 28th row, on the goal line, crying.

The only good part is I got there late, unfortunately it was just after the Lions scored the last points they would score—in the game.

If the Lions are looking for new personelle, I hear Brehm is graduating in April.

But, let's be honest. Harrington threw an amazing game on Thanksgiving, we have to admit that much.

And really, Kitna was playing pretty well. But it seemed like the Lions defense was playing a prevent defense after they went up early in the first quarter.

I'm pretty sure there's an organizational problem with the Lions, I'm no expert, but just a guess.

The thing is, when you go to a sporting event, you expect to see your team be spectacular and you always hope for a win.

Not so with the Lions; I went expecting to see a loss. And that reminded me of how much I miss watching the Scots on Saturdays. You don't really know what you've got until it's gone is how it goes.

I'm already looking forward to homecoming

DREW COLEMAN
SPORTS EDITOR



Scots Watch

| | |
|----------------------|----------|
| 9/9 Cornell | L, 31-32 |
| 9/16 UW-Eau Claire | W, 33-30 |
| 9/23 Wittenberg | L, 14-42 |
| 9/30 Tri-State | W, 58-36 |
| 10/7 Hope* | L, 43-49 |
| 10/14 Wisconsin Luth | W, 42-0 |
| 10/21 Albion | W, 45-35 |
| 10/28 Oliyot | L, 24-28 |
| 11/4 Kalamazoo | W, 37-35 |
| 11/11 Adrian | W, 45-28 |

*Homecoming

Bold indicates home games

weekend next year.

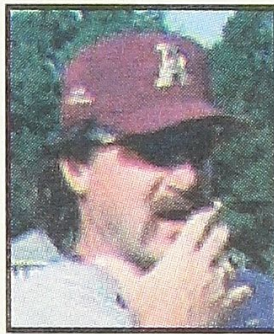
So, what is there to look forward on campus this month before we head home for the holidays?

Football is over, and that's something I'm rather addicted to. But if you're a true die-hard Scots fan, there's still plenty of men's and women's basketball, along with swimming and diving meets to attend now until next semester.

The men's basketball team kicks off with their home opener against Madonna University in the Cappaert Gym. Be sure to show up and support your Scots!

John Leister talks season, Brehm, and future for Scots

JORDAN BROWN
SPORTS WRITER



"We were close this year," Says John Leister, Offensive Coordinator for the Scots, "We were really close."

Alma's football team finished 6-4 this season, and casually looking at those numbers, one would say that the Scots weren't close at all. John Leister would disagree.

"We never got blown away by anyone. We took Hope into overtime, and they were throwing everything but the kitchen sink at us," says Leister, "I think I saw a few officials blitzing with them."

Leister says that the Hope game, and two others went to the wire and could have gone either way, and the team really did as they expected.

"We knew we had a lot of questions coming into this season. There were some on the wide receiving end—which we answered well; and we knew we had a really young defense."

That was key to Leister, and not in a negative way. He says the team expected a fight on the defensive side, but that they did better than expected.

"We had new coaching this year. With

Brock leaving, Coach [Jim] Cole had to take over, and the boys are mostly young on that side. He had to help them change over from high school football, to the speed and size of college ball." The defense did show signs of struggle through the season. While Alma's offense put on shows of yardage of over 480 yards a game, and about 38 points, the defense let things stay almost even by allowing their opponents an average

of almost 32 points per game.

Leister thinks of the defense's season as a learning experience.

"They got a lot of under fire games, and the young guys got lost of valuable play time that developed them as players."

He also doesn't attribute the performance to lack of effort.

"The guys had an intense desire and discipline, they played their hearts out."

Leister says the improvement will continue as well.

"Our defense evolved during

"We finished number two [offensively] in the country, right behind Mountain Union in Ohio, who by the way killed Hope in the playoffs."

John Leister
Offensive Coordinator

the season, and it will evolve in spring drills, and during the summer, and it will be where we need to be next year."

On his offensive side, Leister couldn't have been happier.

separate categories: total offense, total passing yards, and passing yards per game.

Brehm is possibly looking towards a professional career in the NFL or CFL, and has seen interest from some teams, including the Jets and Raiders.

Brehm's success wasn't unsupported though; Leister was quick to voice that.

"Kyle Ryan (08) is the forgotten man this season, he had 700 plus yards rushing, and Josh wouldn't have gotten his time in the pocket without Ryan reading the defense and picking up blocks so well."

After Ryan, Leister named Wren Chellis (08) and the rest of the offensive line as big contributors.

"The O-line did everything and more that you could ask for."

When asked about how the offense would be next season without Brehm running the field, Leister waved his arm around his office, pointing out the plaques and photos of quarterbacks past.

"Every time a quarterback graduates, everyone freaks out and wonders who the next one will be, and the next season steps up a guy with talent."

Leister says he's not worried.

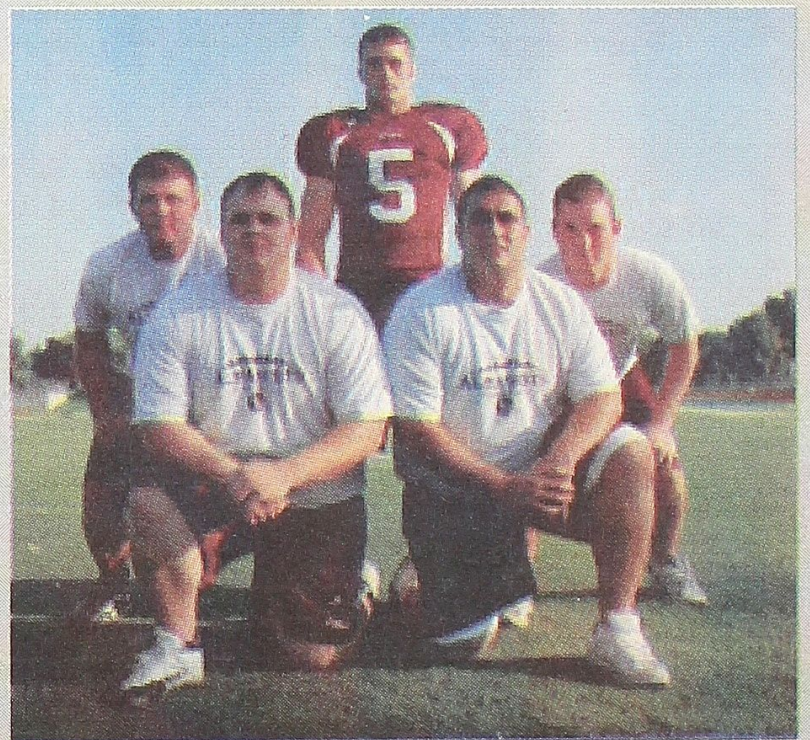


Photo courtesy alma.edu

Quarterback Josh Brehm (07) with his offensive line

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"We finished number two in the country, right behind Mountain Union in Ohio, who by the way killed Hope in the playoffs."

Much of that offensive production can be attributed to Josh Brehm (07), the quarterback who is up for division III player of the year—The Gagliardi Award—which will be announced on December 15th. Brehm leads the country in three

Fall Season Results

Football

| | MIAA | Overall |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| Hope | 7-0 | 7-3 |
| ALMA | 5-2 | 6-4 |
| Olivet | 5-2 | 6-4 |
| Adrian | 4-3 | 5-5 |
| Albion | 3-4 | 5-5 |
| Kalamazoo | 2-5 | 2-7 |
| Tri-State | 2-5 | 2-8 |
| W. Lutheran | 0-7 | 0-10 |

Golf

| | Total | Average |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Hope | 2351 | 293.9 |
| Olivet | 2421 | 302.6 |
| Tri-State | 2432 | 303.9 |
| ALMA | 2480 | 310.0 |
| Calvin | 2510 | 313.8 |
| Albion | 2566 | 320.8 |
| Adrian | 2618 | 327.3 |
| Kalamazoo | 2620 | 327.5 |

Mens Soccer

| | MIAA | Overall |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Hope | 12-1 | 14-4 |
| Albion | 11-2 | 13-5 |
| Calvin | 8-2 | 10-5 |
| Kalamazoo | 7-7 | 9-11 |
| Tri-State | 4-8 | 5-12 |
| Olivet | 4-10 | 4-15 |
| Adrian | 2-8 | 2-14 |
| ALMA | 2-12 | 3-14 |

Womens Soccer

| | MIAA | Overall |
|--------------|------------|-------------|
| Calvin | 12-1 | 14-4 |
| Albion | 11-2 | 13-5 |
| Saint Mary's | 8-2 | 10-5 |
| Kalamazoo | 7-7 | 9-11 |
| Adrian | 4-8 | 5-12 |
| Olivet | 4-10 | 4-15 |
| ALMA | 2-8 | 2-14 |
| Tri-State | 2-12 | 3-14 |

Volleyball

| | MIAA | Overall |
|--------------|------------|--------------|
| Calvin | 16-0 | 34-2 |
| Hope | 13-3 | 25-10 |
| Adrian | 12-4 | 18-9 |
| Saint Mary's | 9-7 | 17-10 |
| ALMA | 9-7 | 16-15 |
| Tri-State | 6-10 | 9-20 |
| Kalamazoo | 5-11 | 9-19 |
| Albion | 2-14 | 10-17 |
| Olivet | 0-16 | 1-26 |

Coach Schack and team are sore, but feel strong

**JORDAN BROWN
SPORTS WRITER**

Alma Swim coach Kyle Schack has had injuries, players quit, and new players join mid-season since October. "The season's going well."

Coach Schack has the team doing two a day practices, 13 to 15 thousand yards daily, and the team even swims holidays. This New Year's Eve, while the entire world is singing Auld Lang Syne, the Scots will be in the pool from 11 p.m. to 3

goal of a time, everyone is pushing themselves, and supporting everyone else towards their goals."

This program that Schack runs is showing results too.

"I have had a swimmer, Sarah Anderson, beat her lifetime best in a practice, and later that night, just destroy another lifetime best. This is all in one day."

Among other girls, Schack mentions Sarah Swanton, Nicole McCarthy, Emily Smith, and Caylee Coe.

"Those girls have had really positive amounts of success so far, and they are aware of that, and that they have even greater potential."

Schack is also excited about a freshman on the men's side.

"Spencer Johnson understands the sport really well. He asks good questions and holds onto what he learns. He's really close to beating a lifetime best, he almost did against Albion. He shows signs of greatness."

Schack's seniors are doing well, one particularly Brent Gastomsky, who performed well in the 200 meter against Albion, snagging a victory.

These individual achievements have encouraged Schack, and shows the team that the tough training is paying off.

"Competitive swimming isn't a hobby, it's a lifestyle. We have to create a vision every day of a new goal, and we're doing it."

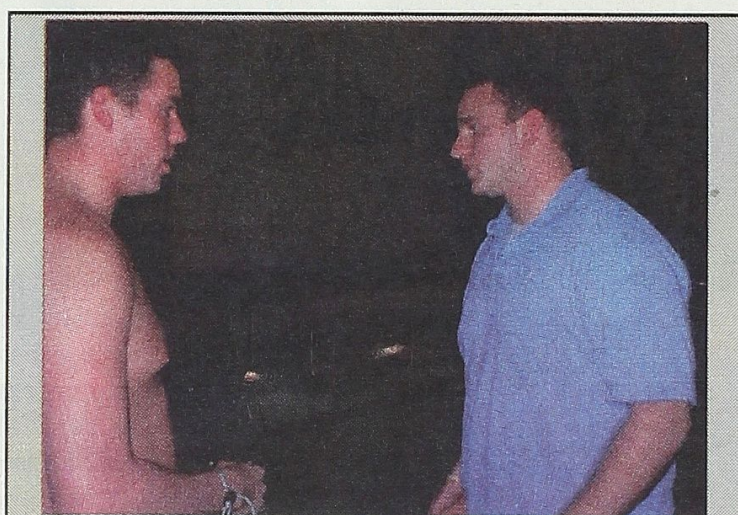


photo courtesy Nick Green

Kyle Schack instructs Luke Livingston (07) during a midweek practice

Both the men's and women's team have three losses a piece, and some might wonder where the word "well" fits in the season's description. Schack is still in his first season as swim coach, and the record doesn't seem to phase him.

"It's a process. At the beginning of the season we had to find the right questions to ask ourselves, everyone on the team, individually, and I think we found those questions. Now we have to answer them."

The team has faced some hurdles in the way of the answers, though. Some swimmers dropped the sport early in the season, leaving the team barely able to field full numbers, and the team has had to recruit in-season from campus.

When asked how the old players leaving and new players joining are affecting the team's chemistry and general morale, Coach Schack admitted it has showed some.

"It does mix up the chemistry a little, but there haven't been any lost friendships over it, and we're moving forward and working hard."

Working hard is aptly put.

a.m., and many swimmers spend most of Thanksgiving break in Alma's pool.

"We're striving to be the best, and that takes this day to day lifestyle of work. We have to put ourselves in a certain place to be better than we ever have been."

Schack knows he is pushing the team, but he says the work has purpose.

"You can run a dog all day for a bone, but if they don't want it, they'll just stop. I think my team has their goals in mind, and I know what they're willing to do for them. There is a message in the work for each person, whether it's the abstract goal of being 'better' or the concrete



photo courtesy Nick Green

Kyle Schack instructing the team during practice