

The Almanian

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Issue 20

Friday, March 21, 2008

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

Vicente Fox speaks on campus next semester

THOMAS McGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

In a switch from previous years, this September Alma will have a certain international flavor as the institution plays host to a former president of one of the United States' most important foreign allies.

Vicente Fox, president of Mexico between 2000 and 2006, is slated to speak at Alma on September 24 as the keynote speaker for the Robert D. Swanson Responsible Leadership Speaker Series.

Fox has been a significant player in the Mexican political scene since his election to the presidency in 2000, which many have considered to be the first fairly won election in Mexico since the end of the Mexican revolution in the early twentieth century.

While Fox's tenure in office received mixed reviews from critics as a result of the small growth in the Mexican economy and lack of accomplishment regarding Mexican-American border issues, the college was pleased to announce Fox's plans to visit Alma.

"I was thrilled," said John Leipzig, director of the Center for Responsible Leadership. "He was always one of the folks on our short-list of people that we really wanted to have."

Also on that short-list of potential speakers were big names in American culture, such as Robert Redford and Oprah Winfrey.

While a possible visit to Alma by Winfrey is still in the works for future years, Leipzig believes that Fox brings a new twist to the annual fall event, which has hosted former American senators Bob Dole and George McGovern and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

"We've had a number of U.S. political figures in the first

SEE FOX PG. 2

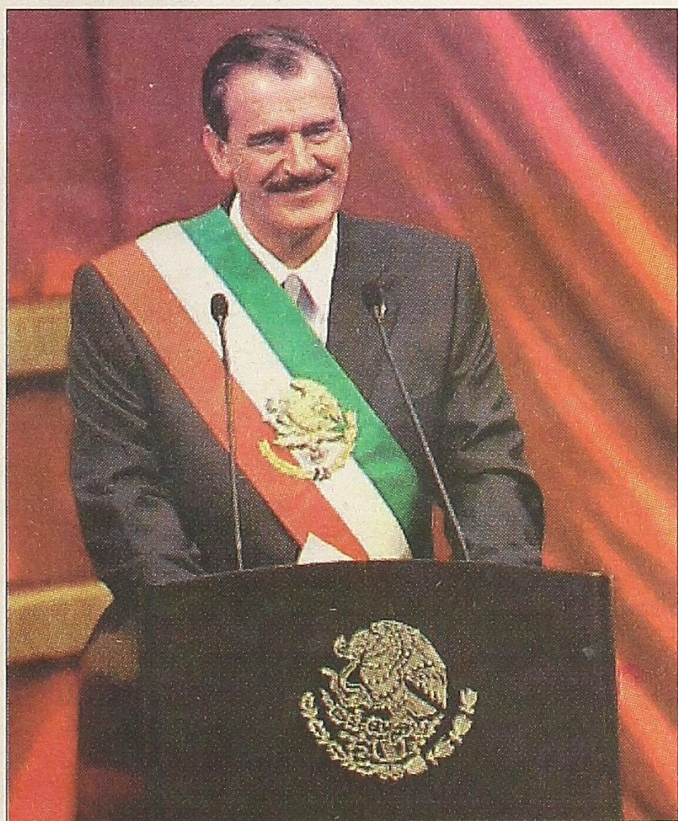


Photo courtesy of www.updatecenter.britannica.com



Compilation by Catherine Finley

This week marked the five-year anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Protests advocating the end of the war were held on college campuses across the United States. More than 80 high schools, universities, and activist groups participated in Student's for a Democratic Society's National Day of Student Action. American casualties since the invasion five years ago are estimated at 3,991.

Two students attend Clinton Global Initiative Conference

HADLEY BOEHM
STAFF WRITER

On March 14-16, Laura Kohn (10) and Dave Bechtold (10) attended the inaugural meeting of the Clinton Global Initiative for University students held at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

In 2005, Bill Clinton, former president, established the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI) to help turn ideas into action.

The mission statement for the William J. Clinton Foundation says, "CGI is a non-partisan catalyst for action bringing together a community of global leaders to devise and implement

innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges." In 2008, President Clinton expanded the initiative to work with college and university students, CGI U.

"[The goal was to] meet other people who have similar ideas and inspirations,"

Laura Kohn
(10)

The CGI U conference brought together students, academics, and social, political, and cultural leaders to discuss important issues and find ways to bring about the global action needed to solve them.

Areas of focus included energy and climate change, global health, poverty alleviation, and peace and human rights.

The purpose of the conference was to incorporate college students by encouraging them to make commitments to improve global issues as well as challenge universities to offer service-oriented commitments. Through this conference a younger

SEE CLINTON PG. 2

UNDER THE COVER

Seven "new" sins you should already know about

See page 6



Spotlight on
Katie Porter

See page 8

Because of how the date of Easter is determined it won't fall this early again until the year 2228. The last time it was celebrated on this date was in 1913.

Easter can only fall one day earlier, which won't happen again until 2285. The last time this occurred was in 1818.



Fox from pg. 1...

Photo courtesy of www.news.minnesota.publicradio.org

Vicente Fox and wife, Marta de Fox, will speak on campus next semester helping to raise student awareness on foreign issues.

two and we really wanted to approach that a little differently for this next one," said Leipzig. "The claim could be that we certainly have a political figure still, but we certainly don't have a U.S. political figure during the election season. That was something we really wanted to not be caught in."

According to Leipzig, Fox can offer an important perspective on international

relations that is often lost among the history of recent American dominance in this field.

"Certainly economically, the last century has been an American century and our neighbors have had to live in that legacy," said Leipzig. "[Fox] has [also] seen the time in which America has gone from holding a lot of goodwill to holding a lot less goodwill."

The college also hopes that Fox's former role as a world leader will bring a unique perspective that will connect to the institution's goal of developing the next generation of responsible leaders.

"Fox brings experience as a head of state, something we have not had in our recent speakers [at] Alma," said Sandra Tracy, president of Alma College. "His perspectives will be very informative for the campus due to Alma's commitment to preparing global citizens and our current projects and partnerships in South and Central America and the Tex-Mex border region."

Leipzig agrees that Fox's experience as a head of state will offer a message that will be unique when compared to those of past speakers at Alma.

"Certainly, Albright was phenomenal," he said. "It will be tough to top her message. But I think, in a sense, when she said that we had to reach out and understand America's role in the world, [Fox's visit] is a natural extension of that."

"We're doing what

[Albright] said we ought to be doing by bringing our partners together to talk about [international relationships]."

Adding to Fox's presence will be his wife, Marta de Fox, who has been active in a variety of initiatives during and after her husband's presidency, including the Vamos Mexico Foundation and a range of programs concerning major social issues.

"Mrs. Fox has an impressive leadership record in her own right with particular emphasis on the issues of social justice," said Tracy. "We anticipate that the two of them will make a unique contribution to our understanding of global leadership."

Overall, Leipzig is excited

about the future schedule of events for both the campus and the Center for Responsible Leadership (CRL).

This brimming schedule will include a spring term by Professor Edward Lorenz that will lead a visit by Mexican farmers to the Alma area this spring, Ecuadorian students will be working with CRL students at the Ghost Ranch Institute in June, and Seeds of Peace board member Bobbie Gottschalk will be visiting campus in early September.

All of these events will serve as primers to the Foxes' visit at the end of September.

"What a wonderful series of individuals coming in a really coordinated manner," he said. "And I wish I could say we planned it that way!"

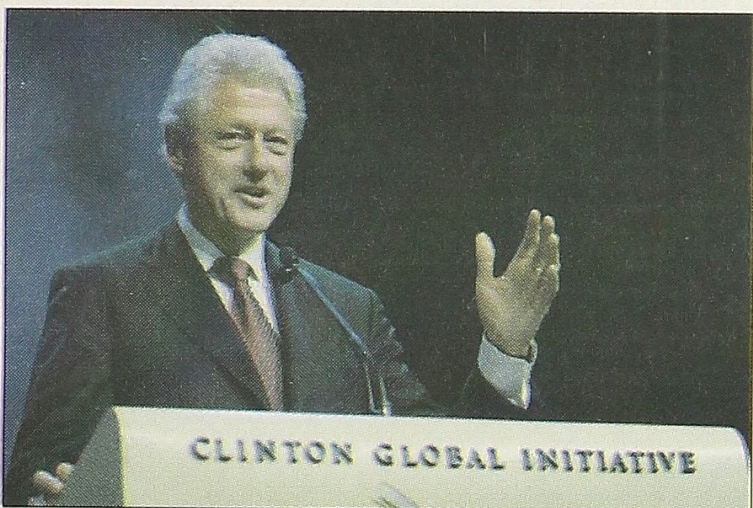
*Clinton from pg. 1...*

Photo courtesy of www.businessinnovationinsider.com

President Bill Clinton spoke to students about making a difference and how everyone is able to if he or she puts their mind to it.

audience was exposed to CGI's mission and connected people from around the world who are working on similar issues.

Kohn and Bechtold applied online and were selected as two of approximately 700 out of 2000 applicants to attend the conference.

Before leaving the conference, all attendees were required to make a commitment to make a difference, bring about change, or impact lives. Commitments were made individually, as a student group, or as an entire university.

Kohn's commitment to

action fell into the arena of global healthcare and focused on the importance of donating blood to the American Red Cross.

Bechtold's commitment to action focused on poverty alleviation through grassroots work with middle school children, particularly in Alma.

The Conference goal was to bring together college students - graduates and undergraduates - from all over the world to, as Kohn said, "meet other people who have similar ideas and inspirations" about solving global problems.

While at the conference, students got to meet and speak with influential leaders committed to global action such as Lance Armstrong, the Presidents of Tulane, Brown and Columbia, and Brad Pitt

who spoke about his Make It Right Foundation. And, of course, they got to speak with President Clinton.

Kohn and Bechtold now can

bring their commitments to action back to the community and implement them. And as follow up, "there [are] to be periodic checkups on our commitment progress as well as assistance in realizing them," said Bechtold.

In a recent New York Times article, Clinton said, "Today's college students have an unprecedented capacity to make a difference, both in their communities and half a world away. They also have incredible enthusiasm, optimism, passion to learn and a desire to help others ... I hope CGI U will give [students] a new outlet to tackle problems and foster social change."

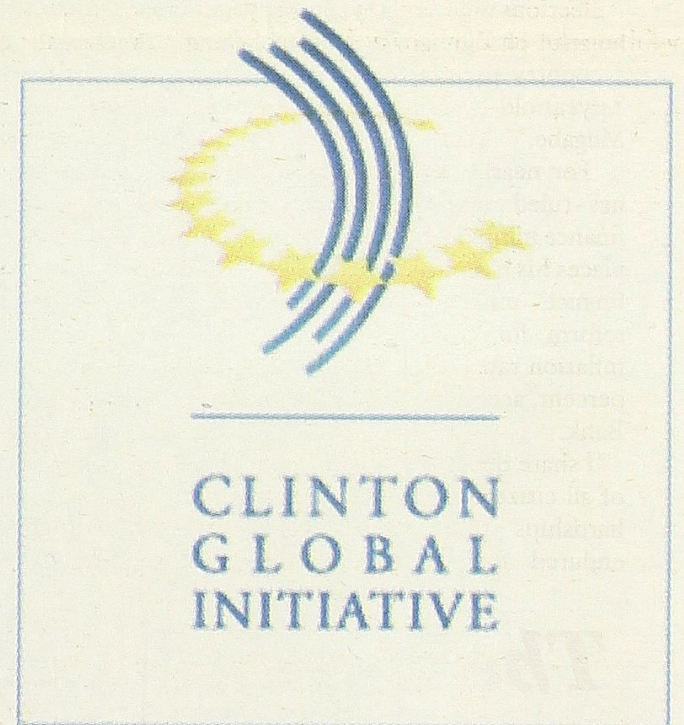


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Upcoming elections provide hope for Zimbabwe

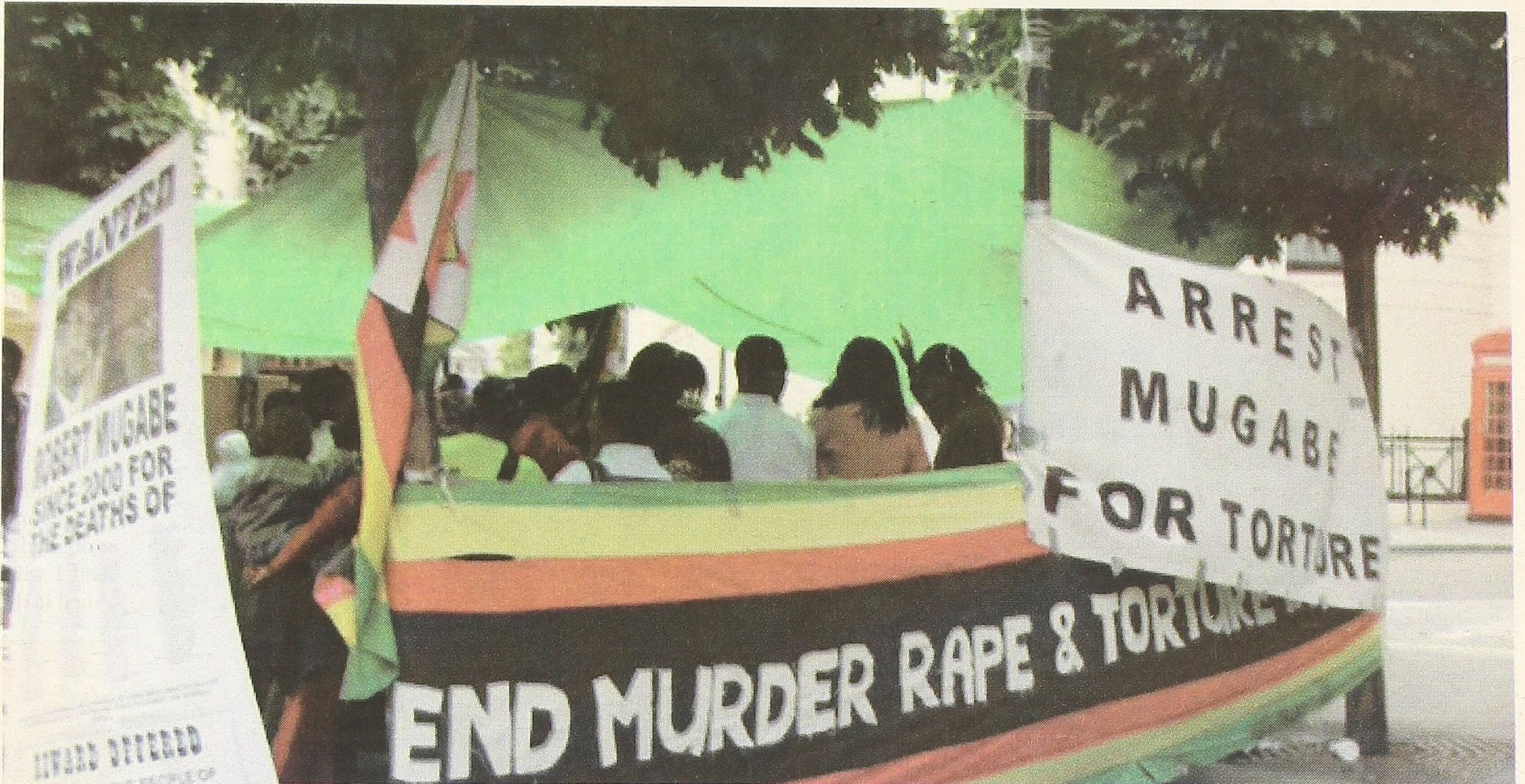


Photo courtesy of www.wikipedia.org

AARON POOLEY STAFF WRITER

Elections on March 29 suggest hopeful change in Zimbabwe — a country imprisoned by their 84-year-old president Robert Mugabe.

For nearly 28 years Mugabe has ruled — now his former finance minister, Simba Makoni, places his name in the race. The finance minister plans great reform for Zimbabwe, where inflation rates have reached 139 percent, according to the World Bank.

“I share the agony and anguish of all citizens over the extreme hardships that we all have endured for nearly 10 years

now,” Makoni said to BBC News reporters.

The South African Development Community (SADC) and the Zimbabwe Election Support Network anticipate freer elections by establishing elections polls in areas of the city where opposition support is the strongest. Despite opposition support, Zimbabweans can still be imprisoned for defacing Mugabe’s election posters.

Zimbabwe, the former Southern Rhodesia, was once home to large commercial businesses, primarily controlled by whites. When Mugabe’s Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) rose to power, the white-owned land was dispersed among landless Africans.

For years Mugabe’s presence at international conferences, namely that of the African Union, caused many country representatives to stay at home.

Mugabe’s platform still rests on his revolutionary credentials, having ousted the racist regime of Ian Smith, and blames the economic dangers of Zimbabwe on sanctions imposed by the United Kingdom.

“Everyone is a millionaire in Zimbabwe. You have to be, since a loaf of bread at present costs 1,000,000 Zimbabwe dollars (Mugabe dollars, as they are known disparagingly) and a newspaper costs twice that. ... [T]he price of many necessities doubles every few days,” BBC field reporter, John Simpson, said after a visit to Harare, Zimbabwe’s capital.

Hope in the coming elections raises suspicion of a military split off in the ZANU-PF. Makoni has built support within the police organizations, and some worry about riots without a united police to intervene in the outcome of the election.

“How will he manage if Mugabe thinks he needs to cheat? As he cheated in 2002? There are many, many ways he could do it and never be caught, or the courts could delay any electoral challenges almost indefinitely,” the Cape Times said.

The present constitution of Zimbabwe, which allows Mugabe a rubber-stamp response from parliament, could present an advantage to presidential hopeful Makoni. If Makoni overcomes the positive

legend that surrounds Mugabe, the old constitution — and the intricately oppressive laws it contains — may be through.

“The main opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) party secretary general has echoed statements made by their party treasurer by calling presidential aspirant and former finance minister, Simba Makoni, a ‘fake product’ sponsored by Western embassies out to confuse the electorate in the joint March 29 elections,” said Peter Munhenga of the *Zimbabwe Guardian*.

Munhenga, a government endorsed reporter, said that Makoni refuses to involve himself in spear campaigns, though opposition parties refer to him as a “cheap Chinese import.”

The Hives: Swedish garage rock band makes it big

GAVIN STONE STAFF WRITER

With a sound that punches like Jet, and riffs comparable to the Ramones and a feeling that calls back the era of heavy rocker’s Led Zeppelin, the Hives still managed to invent their own sound in a music scene filled with bland, mediocre sound.

Hailing from Fagersta, Sweden, The Hives have been around in some form or another as early as 1993. The band’s roster is made up of five men: Chris Dangerous, Vigilante Carlstroem, Nicholas Arson, Howlin’ Pelle Almqvist and Dr. Matt Destruction. In 1995 the group released their first album, *Oh Lord! When? How?* on record label Burning Heart Records. The band released another album in 1997

named *Barely Legal*, and started touring to promote that album. A year later they released a final E.P. *A.K.A. I-D-I-O-T* before disbanding.

Two years passed, and The Hives finally regrouped, releasing album right off the bat with, *Veni Vidi Vicious*. The album produced the Hives biggest hit, “Hate to say I told you so”, and several other records that would be used in commercials and other mediums. In 2001, Poptones labels picked up the group, and made an album that amounted to a “best of the hives”, titled *Your New Favorite Band*. The Album quickly punched its way up the UK charts, finishing up at the number 7 position. Since then, the band has only released two albums, *Tyrannosaurus Hives*, and *The Black and*

White Album. However the band has kept up its popularity. *Tyrannosaurus Hives* released in 2004, which produced an instant #13 hit “Walk Idiot Walk”, as well as several other top 100 hits. During this time the band signed onto Universal Music, a deal that was believed to be worth 12 million to the Rock-Punk group. The band launched on another massive touring spree, making it to venues all over the world. Last year in October and November (depending where you are in the world), the Hives released their most current Album, *The Black and White* album. The name references the bands attire for live shows, which has always been matching black and white suits that change for every album. The Album has done very well overall, and following

in the footsteps of previous album, produced songs that appear in popular commercials, TV shows, and even a couple of video games (most notably the single “Tick Tick Boom” is featured on *Madden NFL 2008*).

While it’s taken them over a decade of hard rocking, The Hives have begun breaking out into the mainstream, slowly but steadily gaining popularity, especially through their tour de force live shows. *Q Magazine* rates them as the number eight best live performance on the music scene right now.

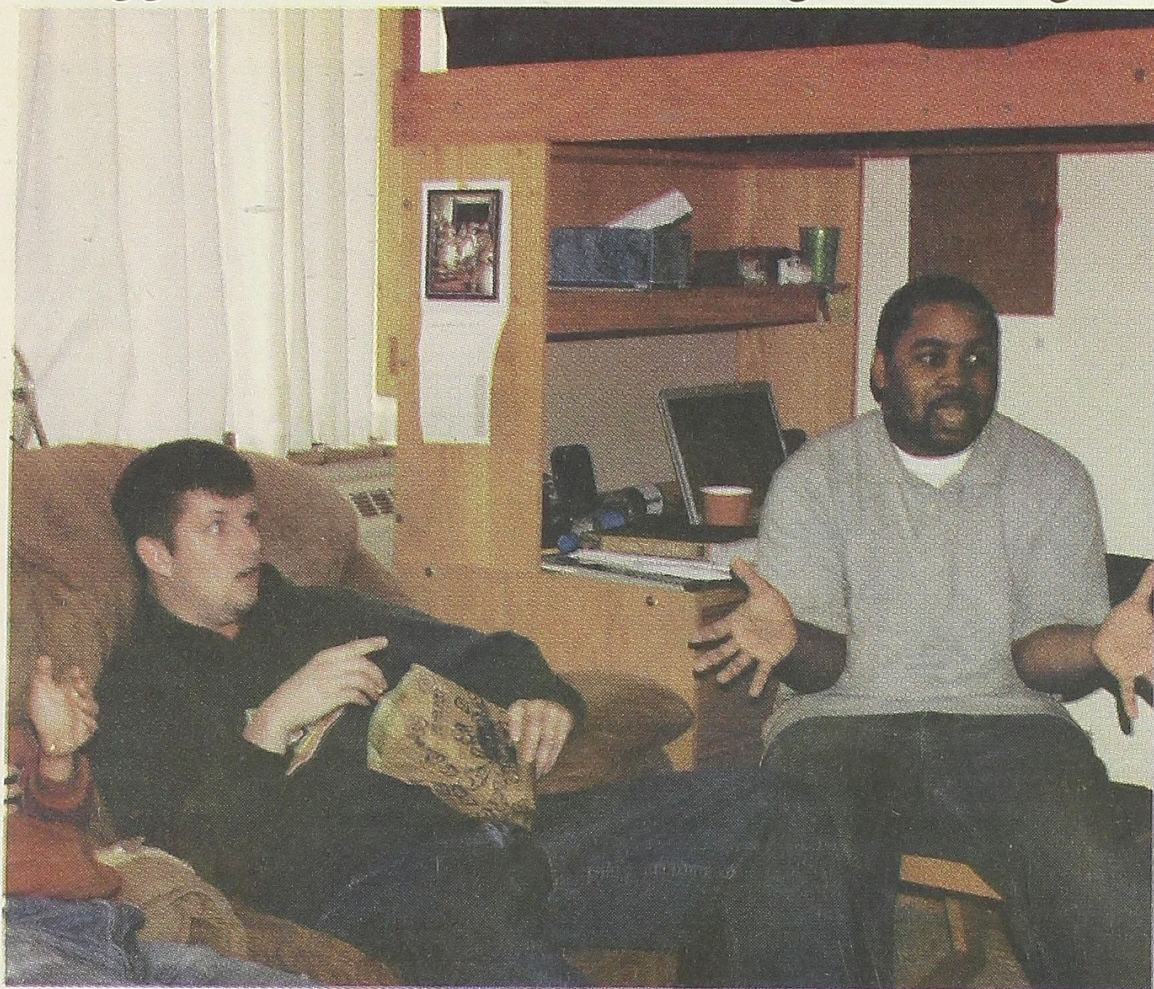
Though they didn’t invent a genre, and haven’t done anything that makes them stand out as a unique performance, The Hives do deliver an excellent and enjoyable sound, and has done so for years and years. As



Photo courtesy of www.viewimages.com

of now things are only looking better for the band, so fans can only hope they last to produce a couple more albums.

Suggested titles for a fulfilling movie night



Jim Dezeew and Antuan Davis-Featherstone are startled at the plot twist which has just occurred in the movie they are watching.

LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI STAFF WRITER

Planning to watch a movie over the weekend? Well, there are a couple to choose from.

In the horror genre, Japanese director Masayuki Ochiai and the executive producers of *The Grudge* and *The Ring* offer *Shutter*.

The Thai remake introduces a newlyweds Ben and Jane, played by Joshua Jackson and Rachael Taylor respectively, on their trip to Tokyo, Japan. On their way, they witness a tragic accident in which a local girl dies. They find no trace of her body. Troubled, the couple finally arrives to start their new job as fashion photographers. However, white blurry images begin appearing in Ben's pictures. Believing them to be images of the girl they supposedly killed in the car accident, Jane and Ben take the road of curiosity too far into a mystery they should have never considered looking into.

In contrast to horror, a comedy hits theaters today. First, there is *Drillbit Taylor*. The film stars three boys who are ready to start their high school years all pumped and ready to go. That is, until they meet the school bully. Terrorized, they seek help by placing an advertisement in "Soldier of Fortune" magazine. The cheapest response came from a down-on-his-luck soldier named Drillbit Taylor (Owen Wilson) who lives his version of homeless on the beach. What follows is Drillbit Taylor's extensive training of the three young boys to face their opponent. The only problem is Drillbit Taylor has not a clue that he is anything but specialized in this area.

"Everyday was a blast," said director Steven Brill who directed such movies as *Knocked Up* and *Mr. Deeds*. "Owen Wilson

plays Drillbit in a way that you are always wondering if he's a good person or a scumbag – there's all this mystery and ambiguity and contradiction about him – but also he does it all with a smile and his own kind of comic edge."

And to have a little of each genre, the romantic-drama *Meet the Browns* also comes out today. Starring Angela Bassett, David Mann, Jennifer Lewis, and Tyler Perry, it is the story of Brenda (Bassett), a struggling single mother. Under pressure for years trying to keep her three children cared for and pay the bills, she lives a hectic life in Chicago. Things change, though, when she receives the news her father, whom she has never met, dies.

Heading to Georgia with the hope of getting some kind of help from this family she has never been acquainted with, Brenda is shocked at what she finds: a crass, fun-loving Southern family. While experiencing this new relationship with her father's family, Brenda also finds a man that may make a large

impact on her life.

Meet the Browns was written and directed by Tyler Perry, and is based on his 2004 play by the same name. Perry, who has been writing plays since the age of 18, became a successful filmmaker with the introduction of the 2005 *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*.

For those students who happen to live in larger cities where limited-released films hit theaters, try one of these two choices: *The Hammer* and *Under the Same Moon*.

The Hammer shows the sad reality of Jerry Ferro's (Adam Carolla) life. The once amateur boxer now jumps from job to job and deals with an unsettled relationship. But when things start looking up for him in respect towards the boxing ring, he makes an effort to return to competitive boxing.

Under the Same Moon tells of Carlitos (Adrian Alonso) who plans, after the death of his grandmother, to cross the U.S.-Mexican border in an attempt to go to L.A. to reunite his mother.

DVD

TOP RENTALS

- 🍎 69% **Beowulf** BUY
- 🍎 83% **Into the Wild** BUY
- 🍎 79% **American Gangster** BUY
- 🍎 91% **Michael Clayton** BUY
- 🌟 50% **30 Days of Night** BUY

[more...](#)

NEW ON DVD THIS WEEK

- 🌟 16% **Revolver**
- 🍎 68% **I Am Legend**
- 🍎 94% **Enchanted**
- 🍎 69% **Stephen King's The Mist**
- 🌟 27% **Love in the Time of Cholera**

[more...](#)

Photo courtesy of <http://www.rottentomatoes.com>

Upcoming Events:

March 27

Alma College hosts a pair of "Making a New Michigan" forums on Thursday, March 27 in the Dow Science Center Room L-1. "Reforming Public Education for a Healthier Michigan" takes place from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. "Behind the Scenes of Michigan's Economic Crisis: Labor Unions Vs. Right to Work?" takes place from 7 to 9 p.m. Both forums feature guest panelists.

March 29

The Alma College Kiltie Wind Ensemble presents its annual spring concert at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 29 in the Remick Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall.

April 2

Marine biologist, oceanographer and environmentalist Sylvia Earle presents the Alma College Honors Day keynote speech at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 2 in the Remick Heritage Center.

April 3-6

Alma College Theatre presents "The Dining Room" by A.R. Gurney at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 3 through Saturday April 5 and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 6 in the Remick Heritage Center, Strosacker Theatre.

April 5-6

The Alma Symphony Orchestra and Alma College Choir join together for a masterworks concert highlighting Handel's "Messiah" at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 5 and 4 p.m. Sunday, April 6 in the Remick Heritage Center.

April 9

The Alma College Jazz Ensemble performs at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 9 in the Remick Heritage Center. The concert, featuring a varied program of big band music, kicks off the 2008 Alma College High School Jazz Festival. Admission is free and open to the public.

April 10

The 12th annual Alma College Jazz Festival takes place from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, April 10 at the Remick Heritage Center. Admission is free and open to the public.

April 12-13

The Alma College Percussion Ensemble presents the world premiere of "Concerto for Steel Drum" by Chad Stoltenberg featuring guest steel pan soloist Stephen Lawhorne and other works at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 12 and 3 p.m. Sunday, April 13 in the Remick Heritage Center. Tickets are \$10 for adults and free for Alma College staff, students and youth 18 and under. Seating is reserved.

Through April 19

The Flora Kirsch Beck Gallery in the Clack Art Center at Alma College presents the annual Senior Show from Monday, March 17 through Saturday, April 19. Admission is free and open to the public. Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. An artists' reception takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 29.

Information provided by Michael Silverthorn.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am compelled to comment on the article, "Sex in dorms is often good, leads to awkward situations" that appeared in the March 14 Almanian. Is this where freedom of the press stands as the reason why faculty advisors and editors would allow that article to be published?

Personally, I'm asbamed that it's been published in our student newspaper. Prospective students often look for student newspapers as an insight into what our campus has to offer, and I send the Almanian off to our off-campus study students. Can you imagine them sharing this with their friends abroad? Not an ideal imagine of Alma, I'm afraid.

Cordially,

Julie Elenbaas
Office Associate
Academic and Career Planning

Dear Editor,

Week after week, I pick up a copy of your newspaper. I flip through it, looking for catchy headlines or an interesting article or two. I always seem to run into a problem, though...I can't find any. Not that everything's necessarily terrible, just repetitively disappointing. I mean, aren't you supposed to be representing Alma College's English program? Is this seriously the best you can do?

Let's go back to the March 14th issue. Now I know what everyone's thinking: the sex article. While I do have some comments on that a little later on, it's surprisingly not my main point. What I am trying to get across is that you need to make a point. Don't be scared to have an opinion! "Students pull all-nighters, damage health and GPA." This may not be the worst thing I've ever read, but honestly, who is going to see that and think, "There's something I didn't know!" You are supposed to be the creative minds of Alma College here! That's the best current issue you can come up with? To quote the article's first sentence, "Sleep deprivation and college go hand in hand." Good job! Way to state the obvious.

Now, about this opinion section. Have a little trouble thinking of topics and not sure what to write about? Maybe yet another article talking about the addicting powers of the internet is in order. Everyone knows that Facebook is addicting without a pointless, space filler about your personal wasted time on the computer. I would advise you to use that time to work on a worthwhile article.

Speaking of Facebook, how about the March 7th issue? Same place, same length—an article about Facebook. This one enlightens us with the title, "Decline in Students' Care for Literature." Seriously, I know Facebook is a staple for us as college students, but this is a stretch. Using the information you read on your friends profiles to make the broad statement that people don't like to read? Take me for example. I don't have any favorite books, music, TV shows or movies listed on my Facebook profile. I guess that means I don't read, listen to music, or watch TV and movies. Sounds a little far-fetched.

We'll go back a little further to an older issue. Specifically, the February 21st article entitled "Random Thoughts" by Kevin Bilbrey. Where do I even start? Is this supposed to be funny? Let's ramble about the cold for an entire article just to take up some more room in this already sub-par newspaper. I especially like the opener, "I have got to say, I am sick and tired of all this freaking cold." Catchy? Yeah, I didn't think so either. Save your "random thoughts" for mspace.

So now that I got that out of the way, there's the whole controversy over the "sex article." While I do find the article rather immature and obnoxious, I'm actually going to compliment the Almanian on this one. It's about time something stirred up some controversy. It's actually hard to find a copy of the Almanian (this could be because it was taken off the shelves, unless that was a rumor). People want to read it!

Don't get me wrong, I am aware of all the legitimate reasons why this shouldn't be in our newspaper. I'll start with the complaint of paper thin walls. Engineering walls to be "sex sound proof" probably isn't on the to-do list for physical plant. My personal favorite is the quote, "Hey, where is my boyfriend and why isn't he inside of me right now?" Would anyone actually want their parents, professors and administration to read this? Probably not. I would like to thank you, though, for coming up with the most widely used quote on campus.

In my eyes, this article did what newspapers are supposed to do. Spark some conversation, controversy and increase the amount of people reading your paper. It was even talked about it one of my classes. When was the last time that something written in the Almanian was considered worthwhile enough to be discussed in class? It was a first for me. All I'm trying to say is, stop being so safe, boring and predictable. Anyone can write about being tired, Facebook and cold weather. Give us something we really want to read!

Sincerely,
Allie Gibson

Letter from the Editor

As the Editor of the Almanian, I feel compelled to address the concerns raised over the article "Sex in dorms is often good, leads to awkward situations," which was published on Friday, March 14.

First and foremost, I would like to make known that this article is in no way a reflection of our advisors' judgment, as they are not generally granted prior review of the newspaper. This practice is something that, as the leader of a collegiate student newspaper, I stand by strongly.

The Almanian receives no funding from the administration and, as such, we opt to fall in line with the national trend of limiting prior review. Furthermore, as college students, we are working endlessly, even at the subconscious level, to strike the appropriate balance between autonomy and reliance on others. An overwhelming portion of this struggle is that of decision-making.

What I find most troubling about the article's publication is not the article itself, per say, but rather the fact that it made it through all of the stages necessary to be printed—that it made it through that many staff members' decision-making processes.

Just as important as these lapses in judgment, however, is my failure to review the article. As the Editor I am solely responsible for the content that makes its way into paper, yet I failed last Thursday to notice and read through this now highly contested article. Still, this is not my only shortcoming.

Stereotypes prevent understanding

LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

I do not wish to be classified as a dumb blonde with a heart of cold steel who belittles everyone around her so far that they feel like unworthy dung beetles. That is why I was never interested in cheerleading. I also do not want to be thought of as a jock girl who chews bubble gum with her mouth wide open occasionally spitting a loogie while wearing baggy sweatpants hung so far low as to clearly demonstrate the sweat shirts beneath them. Well, that is why I never played sports. Feels great, huh?

Stereotypes rule our society, and although I personally do not feel the way I explained in the opening paragraph, that does not make stereotypes any the less prominent. Back in the day I had been classified as the religious homeschooled psychopath. Even though this categorization has not been as strong as it was during my high school years, I still get slighted by the occasional onlooker of my life, who sometimes happens to be a friend or acquaintance.

Throughout my ten years of homeschooled life, public school teachers found it necessary to ask me belittling questions about my situation. During the times I visited the highschool in my town to take the ACT and SAT and such tests, many

Aside from my duties related to editing, I also have duties as a leader. It is in this area that I further failed. I failed to impart upon my staff—from writers to copy and layout editors—sound principals for journalism. I failed to make known that any such article ought to be brought to my attention. I failed to distinguish what is worthy of freedom of speech.

While I do believe wholeheartedly that intimacy is an issue worthy of coverage, I believe just as strongly that it is one such topic that must be approached with as much tact and taste as possible. What's more, any and every opinion article, regardless of topic, must be clear in its objectives. This includes putting forth one's views, supporting them with sound and well thought-out arguments, and finishing with coherent recommendations. We held this article to none of these standards.

Coming out of this experience, however, I emphasize the need to find the positives, to learn, and to grow.

From the newspaper's end, I see a tremendous opportunity to better our principals, our coordination, and our standards. I see a prime opportunity for organizational dialogue that will help to prevent such situations in the future. And finally, though not under ideal circumstances, I see this as an opportunity to facilitate communication with our readership.

Moving to an outsider's perspective, please allow me to challenge you

to the following. First, I challenge you to accept that what is done is done, and to move forward in a productive manner. Discuss your views over the topic or the merit of the article with others, particularly those with opposing viewpoints. Write a letter to the Editor if you are not satisfied with our response. Apply to the newspaper and assist us in developing new structures and operational procedures to better our production. Continue to hold us accountable in efforts to meet your standards, and resist the urge to do this only when something of this magnitude occurs.

Do not criticize your peers on staff for what has happened. Recognize that what some see as a desperate attempt for attention, others see as bravery from one small voice on one small campus. While your anger or confusion may be strong, remember that we are people and students. We feel your anger and do not go along blissfully ignorant of the fact that we let many of you down.

Finally, please remember that the sole responsibility of the publication rests in my hands, just as the responsibility of your education ultimately lies with President Sandra Tracy. If you do not feel at peace with the situation, please approach me, not my writers, and not my editors.

E-mail: o8radots@alma.edu

Sincerely,
Rachel Dotson
Editor-in-Chief

teachers took the opportunity to interrogate me. They acted as if the conversion was private. "It's OK, Lauren. You are safe now. You can confide in us and tell us the truth about the atrocities of being schooled at home." Disappointment befell them every time.

It was as if the teachers were just itching to hear me say how confined I felt and how sheltered I was from the world. Upon each occasion, though, I, instead, told them of my passion for being at home each day close to my family and of the many different activities I was involved in.

Apparently unappeased, they usually asked what activities I did, thinking they could catch me participating in one that "did not count." After listing off orchestra, youth group speaker, lecture at Sunday Mass, theatre, choir, horse 4-H, two jobs, high school and college classes, they usually shut up. But they never failed to make sure I knew that no matter what I did or who I was, I still did not hit the mark. I was not good enough in their eyes because of how they stereotyped homeschooleders.

It was hard to handle at times, this insult. Sometimes all I wanted to do was yell at them and tell them they were just jealous because my mother, who had no degree in teaching, could give me a better education than they could. Yet I held my tongue, demonstrating the virtues

instilled by this same woman.

Besides being chided for my education, I was and am more snubbed for my faith. Not only teachers led this rally. Everybody got their chance and used it in the category of my Catholic beliefs. The saddest part of this story of my life is that I received the most rejection from other Christians: those that claimed to believe along the same lines as me and professed to love their neighbor.

I am not saying everyone did this; I have some really good friends who respect my beliefs. I just think that those people who tell me I am wrong and insult me for it are definitely going down the wrong path for conversion. I love what I believe and I believe the truth of my faith. I love to share it with others. However, I know that stereotyping people only makes this harder.

In the end, hating someone or thinking low of them just because you think you know what they think is not only confusing to say but it is the wrong approach to seeing anyone. Everyone should start out in another's life as a blank page. Then they write it in themselves as they go. Whatever anyone else says or thinks cannot go on the page; just the writing of your own hand. I am proud of my background in life, and if others believe it is necessary to make insults and jokes about it to make them feel better, so be it. My pride remains.

Hands Down: Lecture classes rock

AMANDA LABBY
FREELANCE WRITER

Like most students, I absolutely love lecture classes. I am always excited to be a nameless face in a sea of students. I am also thrilled by the prospect of sitting and listening to one monotone voice for fifty minutes three times a week.

What a rollercoaster of fun. Hurry! Sign me up for another one!

Actually, I hate lectures. As much as I enjoy being a body in a faceless parade, I'd rather write twenty page papers than get graded solely on a few labs or tests.

Besides the small amount of things to be graded on, what I hate most about lectures may boil down to the other people in them.

Doodling is a fun way to pass time during a boring lecture, but I have decided that pointless doodles may actually have a point. The kid behind you is not just drawing a cute picture of a bunny rabbit biting into a tasty carrot. Oh no. He's sharpening

his lead to stab you in the eye if you raise your hand and ask a stupid question.

We've all had those types of people in our lectures before: those who raise their hand and ask pointless questions or try to relate the lecture to their life. These questions never happen after a hard lecture, but always after a simple, common knowledge fact is thrown out, such as the fact that mixing red and blue makes purple.

"So, you mean that if I were to add red and blue paint together, I would make purple?" They ask innocently as if their question is the hypothesis for their scientific study to win the Nobel Prize.

While the professor usually remains nice, calm, and contained, the rest of the class is a sea of grumbles, threats, and jokes.

"What a stupid question," the doodling kid behind you mumbles and resolves to sit behind the person who asked the question next time, ready to poke them with the needle-like lead on his pencil.

Then there are those who raise

their hands to argue ridiculous points. "Well, there was this one time that I mixed blue and red paint and I got this really strange shade that I thought was more of a blue shade than a purple. I think that all evidence supporting that blue plus red equals purple should be thrown out the window and be declared illegal. Those who still hold such beliefs should be banished to an island."

Even the God of our generation, Facebook, hates the people who raise their hand and ask dumb questions during lectures. People have dedicated a Facebook group to the cause: "Keep Your ... Hand Down in Lecture and Shut Up. No One Cares."

Now, if Facebook says it, we all know that it must be true.

Without fail there is someone like this. If you don't understand or think there is no one in your lecture class like this, pay close attention to your lecture hall when you raise your hand and ask a question. If the hall bursts into whispers or groans even upon seeing your hand go up, surprise! It's you.

PUZZLE CORNER

			7			1		
9		7		1			3	
8			6			7		
		8		5	7			4
	1						5	
6			4	2		8		
		6			2			8
	8			4		9		2
		4			3			

Puzzle courtesy of www.sudoku-puzzles.net

Answer to last week's puzzle:

6	8	2	4	5	3	9	7	1
4	5	9	7	1	6	3	2	8
7	3	1	2	9	8	4	5	6
8	2	5	3	6	4	7	1	9
1	4	6	5	7	9	2	8	3
9	7	3	8	2	1	5	6	4
5	1	4	6	3	2	8	9	7
3	9	7	1	8	5	6	4	2
2	6	8	9	4	7	1	3	5

SUDOKU

Fill the 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 boxes contains the digits from 1 to 9. Each number must occur only once in each column, row, and box.

By Kevin Bilbrey

Seven "new" sins you should have already known

SIMONE MISHLER
STAFF WRITER

The 40 days of lent are drawing to a close, and those tempted by that which they have given up can take heart knowing soon they will reunite with their indulgences. Catholics, seemingly at their breakpoint, all in the name of prayer, were presented with seven new "deadly" sins by Pope Benedict XVI to avoid during the High Hold Days.

The term "deadly sin" is misleading. Committing one of these sins - actually called a mortal sin by the Church - does not mean you will die

some terrible death. It means that one should repent or risk eternal damnation. You would already be dead before facing the consequences of your actions.

It seems a bold move, the Pope taking into his own hands the interpretation of what imperils the immortal soul. In truth though, popes have been doing this for centuries. There was no definition of seven deadly sins in the Bible, they were given by Pope Gregory in the sixth century. The only list of "what-not-to-do" recorded in the good book is still the Ten Commandments.

Maybe it was time for a little re-vamping of the Church. Catholics need to keep up with the times.

Lent is a time for cleansing

the soul in preparation for the Lord. It makes sense that the Pope would choose to reveal his big news during this time in the liturgical calendar. Confessions are at an all time low - it looks like followers needed a reminder of what to be sorry for.

So what are the new sins which Catholics are to avoid? Pollution, contraception, and genetic alteration are among the new "deadly" sins. Well, the Catholic Church has been against the use of contraception since its early days. Any teen having grown up in a Catholic home would have had many the abstinence lecture, so I guess that is one sin that should have already been understood. In all the heated debates surrounding the idea of embryonic testing

and cloning, the Catholic stance has always come out on the side against these scientific tests. Chalk another "new sin" up to what Catholics should already know.

Pollution sounds like new territory for the Church. You are supposed to care for the Earth that God has given to you, according to the Pope. Maybe his message would have been more effective had he made a documentary about the subject. It worked for Al Gore. We gave him an Academy Award and the Nobel Peace Prize for saying we should not pollute the Earth.

What is my point? Here it is: people should not be shocked that the Pope came out and said these things. It is not outrageous that he issued a statement to

Catholics, during Lent - a time of penance - what they should be wary of in the new world. Pope Benedict XVI is only trying to usher the Church he has been elected leader of into this century. Temptations and sins are bound to have changed between now and the days of Moses' stone tablets.

Oh, and to the people who point out that one sin not among those enumerated by the pope is the molestation of young boys: you are not funny. Unless you are into bigotry, I suppose. Then I guess your comments would be hilarious. From where I stand, as a practicing Catholic, I suggest you weigh your words more carefully before speaking in such an offensive way. It may just be the next new sin.

The Almanian

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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.

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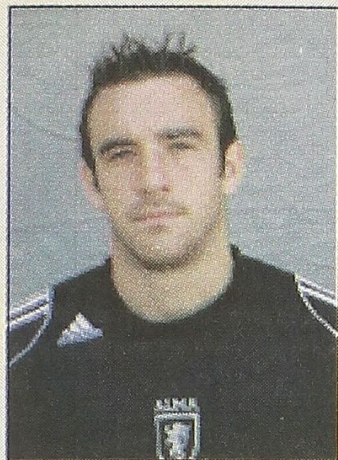
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Expansion would have negative effect on March Madness



SCOTT SNYDER
STAFF WRITER

The best event in all of sports is here. It lasts longer than the Super Bowl, has more upsets than the World Cup, and is more exciting than the Olympics. Selection Sunday has passed and the brackets are set. March Madness is finally here. Two and a half weeks of buzzer beaters, Cinderella stories, and nail bitters. The NCAA basketball tournament is perfect, right? According to the Nielson ratings, over 132 million viewers tuned in to watch at least a portion of the tournament in 2007. Aside from the Super Bowl, it is the most hyped sporting event each year on American soil. So why do people want to change

the format?

Coaches, like Jim Boehiem of Syracuse and Jay Wright of Villanova, want the tournament expanded to include more teams. Boehiem would like to see the tournament expanded to 128 teams, creating one more round in the tournament. Wright would take a more conservative approach and take the tournament to 96 teams. He proposes giving the top eight seeds in each region a bye to the second round and let the lower 16 seeds play each other for a chance to move on.

One argument for the expansion is that so many good teams are left on the outside looking in when the final brackets are set. This year the last four teams left out seemed to be Arizona State (19-12), Ohio State (19-13), Virginia Tech (19-13), and Syracuse (19-13), all which got first seeds in the NIT. Each of these teams feel they had strong enough resumes to get a spot in the tournament but were unrightfully denied by the selection committee.

By expanding the tournament, these great teams will their rightful chance to be champions, right? Well, the fact is they had their chance. They had over 30 games to prove they were worthy of being in the tournament and

they didn't get the job done. They also got a second chance in their conference tournament. Had they won four straight games, they would be in the tournament with the automatic bid. They had their chance... twice!

Even if they did get an at

"So why do coaches and schools really want to expand the tournament? Is it so deserving teams get their chance at glory? Is it so more kids can experience the magic of March Madness? The answer to the question is simple: Money!"

large bid, in all likelihood they would have received nothing higher than a number 12 seed. Historically, the highest seed to reach the final four has been a number 11 seed (LSU in 1986, and George Mason in 2006). The lowest seed to reach the finals was Villanova in 1985 as a number eight seed. Basically,

these teams would have no chance to do much damage in the tournament and should face the fact that this year wasn't their year.

Let's say the committee agrees to expand the field of 65 to 128 like Boehiem said (something the committee would never do). All this would mean is one extra round of games, not too bad, right? Well, first of all this would dilute the talent pool in the tournament and diminish the accomplishment of actually receiving a bid. In all likelihood the added 63 teams would make no difference in the final outcome.

Our new last four in (based on RPI) would be Indiana St. (14-16), Virginia (15-15), NC Wilmington (20-13), and NC Greensboro (19-12). This would leave Georgia Southern, Northern Iowa, Duquesne, and Old Dominion left on the bubble feeling they had a strong enough resume to get a spot in the tournament but was unrightfully denied by the selection committee. Nothing changes.

Even if we expand the pool of teams to 96, there still would be no effect on the overall outcome of the tournament. So why do coaches and schools really want to expand the tournament? Is it so deserving teams get

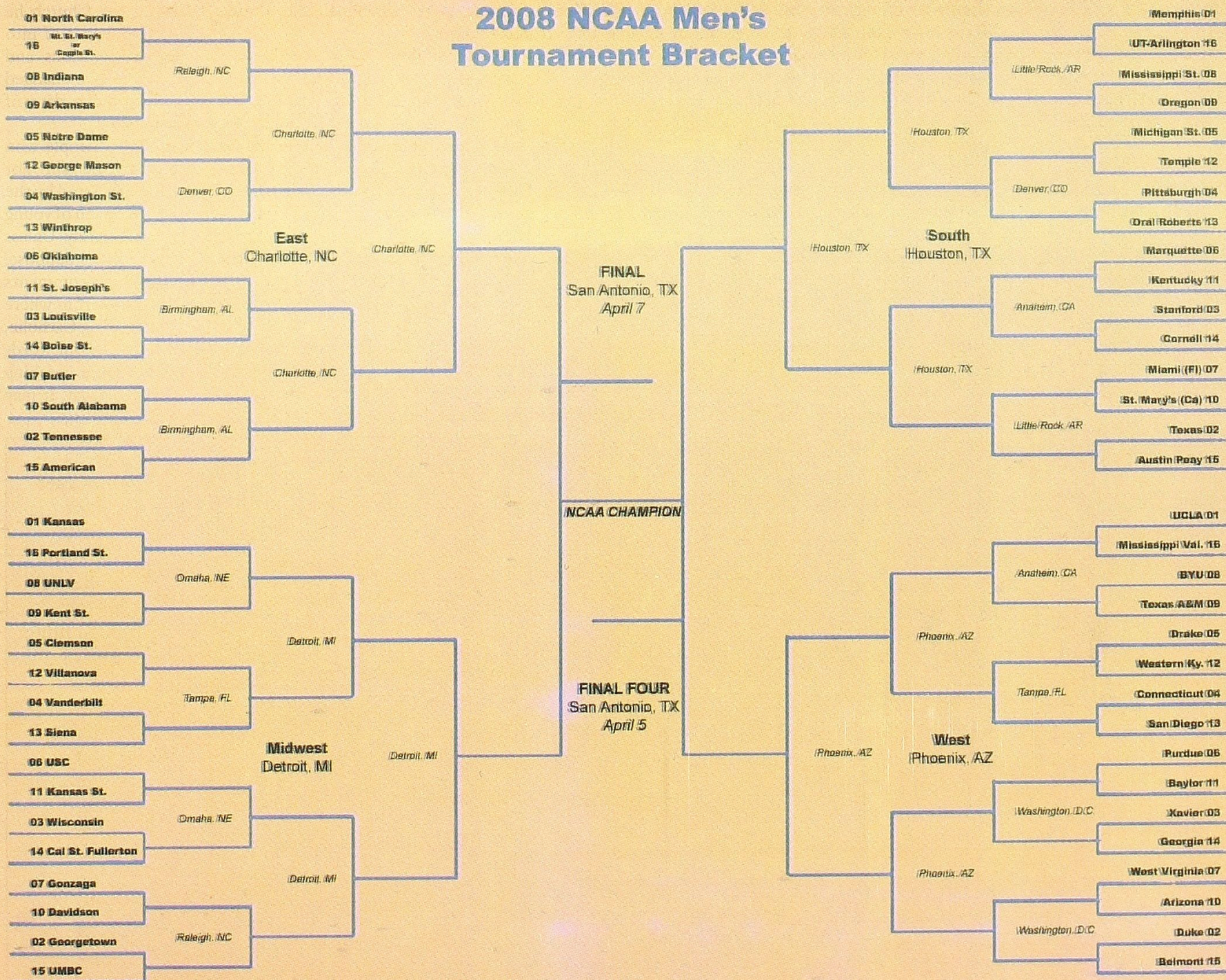
their chance at glory? Is it so more kids can experience the magic of March Madness? The answer to the question is simple: Money!

When coaches lead their team into the tournament, athletic directors are happy and so are alumni, boosters, and fans. This means job security for the coaches as well as money for the schools.

Also, the Division I Men's Basketball tournament is the only championship tournament where the NCAA does not keep the profits. Instead, the money from the multi-billion-dollar television contract goes back to the schools and the conferences with added bonuses for higher performance in the tournament.

There are currently 326 Division I men's basketball teams. Of that number, 65 are invited to "the dance". That means roughly 20 percent of all eligible teams are selected into the tournament with another 32 teams entered into the NIT. March Madness is so perfect right now, and it would be horrible if the greed from coaches and schools ruin such a great event. There can be too much of a good thing. 128 teams, even 96 teams, would be too much.

2008 NCAA Men's Tournament Bracket



Spotlight: Porter credits supporters for athletic success

ELEANOR KING
STAFF WRITER

From a large family of athletes, **Katie Porter (09)** has a long history of sporting. She was born in Cheboygan at the Memorial Hospital and grew up in the same small town. During most summers, Porter could be found on Mackinaw Island with her four siblings. Until the sixth grade, she was home schooled.

"We got to do exciting things, like go on field trips and excursions," said Porter. Her family also spent a lot of time playing sports. Her father played lacrosse and was also a member of the swimming and diving team at Kenyon; her mother plays tennis.

With her family she engaged in much athletic competition and memorable experiences. "Just last weekend we played football in three feet of snow," said Porter. She accredits her passion for all sports to her close-knit family.

Because of this idyllic childhood of competing, learning, and growing as an athlete with her family, it was no surprise that the minute she entered public high school she made her self known in the sports scene.

At Cheboygan Area High School, Porter participated in both volleyball and track and field. Porter has been playing varsity volleyball in 2007 and varsity track in 2005. She was a member of the All-Region Dream Team, All-Conference First Team in volleyball and named varsity "Most Valuable Defense." She also shone as an individual when she was elected as the Cheboygan Chiefs' MVP her senior year.

Track was no great challenge for this ambitious high school student. Porter

was state qualifying in pole vault. Additionally, she was all-conference, named most valuable field athlete, and a participant in the MITCA Team State Meet for two years.

By her senior year, Porter was ready to move on to new challenges as an athlete. Unlike most players, Porter was unafraid of the time-commitment and physical and mental strain that comes with carrying two sports.

Since her first year at Alma, Porter has continued playing both volleyball and track. "I have learned that the body will keep functioning long after you feel like it should have collapsed which, amazingly, has helped me out in all aspects of life."

In fact, Porter is grateful for the busyness of being a student and athlete. She finds that it is the combination that keeps her focused and managing her time. Porter has also been involved in the Catholic Student Organization as well as an intramural referee. "I feel that if I just keep working hard, everything will come out okay," said Porter of the trials and tribulations of dual sporting and maintaining her grades.

The satisfaction of succeeding as well as the personal growth is more than enough to keep her playing and she encourages anyone thinking about joining a team to do so with the same attitude and energy. "You will make friends for life because both the track and volleyball teams are filled with such incredible people," said Porter.

It is often times the people that are with us along the way that motivate us to be diligent. For Porter, it has been her boyfriend, Matthew Novakoski.

"[He] has helped me so much in everything I do. I am often upset ... and he really helps me to maintain the little sanity I have. He puts up with so much and is my inspiration to work hard, stay focused, and to live

with integrity," she said. It is this type of support that has helped her, especially last year when she sprained her ankle briefly before the track season got underway.

In addition, Porter also thanks God for giving her the ability to play, and it is no surprise that she is very grateful for such a loving and supporting family. In another year, Porter - a history

major and English minor - plans to attend graduate school for Museum Studies. She plans on staying active in years to come. "I just love to compete," said Porter.



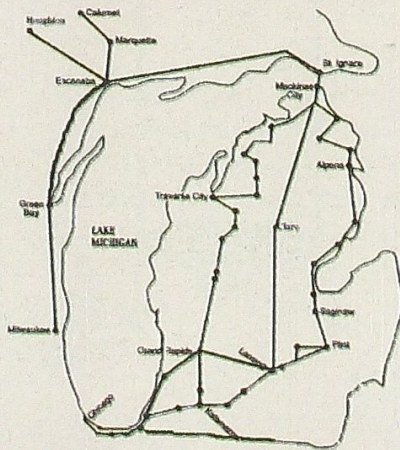
Photo courtesy of Katie Porter

Porter long-jumps at an Alma meet. In addition to track and field, Porter plays varsity volleyball and intramural basketball, among other sports.

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