

The Almanian

Volume C

Issue 107

Friday, January 19, 2007

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

UNDER THE COVER

Martin Luther King Day is celebrated by the Alma College community.

SEE NEWS PG. 2

Relay for Life throws their kick off celebration last week.



SEE FEATURE PG. 4

One-Act plays deserve more recognition than typically received.

SEE OPINION PG. 5

The Stone Recreational Center prepares to kick off the winter intramural season.

SEE SPORTS PG. 7

BY THE NUMBERS

\$300

The amount of profit made by Alpha Phi Omega for working the SIFE cafe.

313

The number of completed surveys sent to Student Life in regards to the TVD renovations.

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Exterior keys: thing of the past

Swipe cards provide access to students for all residence halls...

ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

By now we have all noticed the changes that occurred around campus during the last break. Extensive remodeling is continuing in the Jones rotunda area throughout this semester, but one change that is now

in use is the new key system.

Instead of having a separate exterior key, students now need to use their identification card to access residence halls around campus. With that change, students are now able to enter residence halls other than their own with their card between

8:00 am and midnight.

The reason that this system was implemented during the middle of the school year was because it ended up being less expensive for the college and because it was covered by the most recent bond. "The card access system was

SEE ID CARDS PG. 2

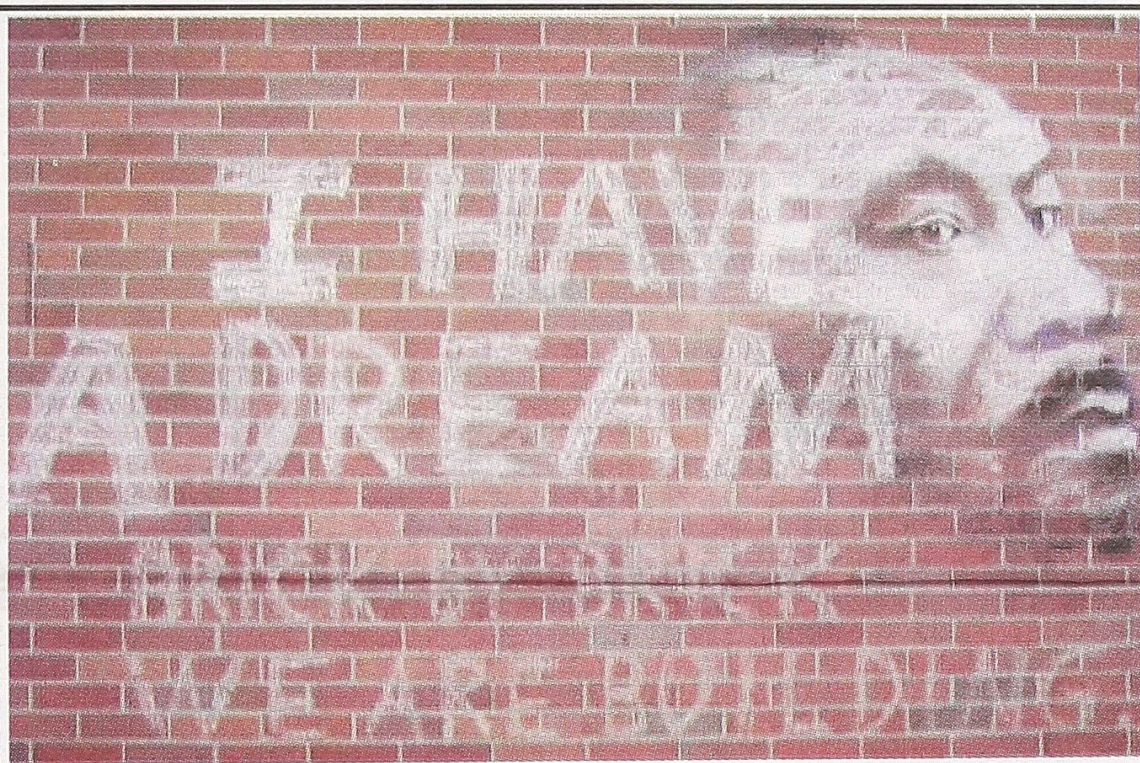


Photo courtesy of Lauren Russell

Outside of Newberry Hall and across from the Clack Art Building was this mural celebrating the legacy of the late Martin Luther King. Activities planned by the MLK Committee took place throughout the week and the theme centered around a day on, not a day off. Read more about these activities on page 2.

Dusen to re-open with new look

JORDAN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Alma College has purchased a plasma screen television just for you. "The Plasmascreen just came in, and has been installed," said Jerry Scoby, the Vice President of Student life.

Regretfully, the television will not be placed on any lucky dorm room wall; it has been placed for the view of the masses as they pass by on their way to Joe's or pull up seats in the student dubbed "Hole."

This new television is the first completed sign of the renovations occurring in the Tyler-Van Dusen campus center. The work being done is dictated by a student survey that was emailed to the campus in an effort to find ways to increase the use of areas in Dusen such as the Hole, and the rotunda.

There were 313 completed surveys sent back to Student Life, and Jerry Scoby has headed up the project of the renovations and improvements.

SEE VAN DUSEN PG. 4

Big changes bring big results for student run Highland Java

Student groups that worked the cafe first semester greeted with a nice profit

LAUREN RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

With one semester behind it, the Highland Java has become the student business that could.

Already making an over \$300 profit for its first organization, Alpha Phi Omega, the Highland Java Cafe has become a household name on campus.

And now, the cafe is making changes to become an even bigger success.

"With any new business, you learn what the customers' wants and needs are," said Katie Boyer (08), CEO of Highland Java. "We are incorporating

different questions and concerns the customers have. [We are] changing at a fast rate and improving the quality of Highland Java."

Improving the quality requires some changes to the cafe. Upon returning to campus students may have noticed that Highland Java has extended its hours. The cafe is now open Sundays from 9-11:30 and Monday through Friday from 8:00-11:30.

As of yesterday, the cafe received funding to get a commercial espresso machine, which will increase productivity and decrease the wait time, according to Boyer.

One of the biggest changes



Photo courtesy of Nick Green

the cafe has made is that it now accepts munch money.

The idea of munch money had been an original idea for the cafe, but with the new cards going online, the cafe had to wait for them to get

set up and handed out to students, Boyer explains.

With the new cards ready and in students' hands, Highland Java

SEE JAVA PG. 4

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

Alma College devotes entire week to MLK, Jr. Day

LAUREN RUSSELL
STAFF WRITER

For this year's celebration of Martin Luther King Day, Alma College presented the theme, "a day on, not a day off" to remind students that they were not given the day off for sleeping in and shopping, they were given the day off for reflecting and servicing.

The theme for the celebration should have been "a week on, not a day off."

Though students only received Martin Luther King Day off after 12:30 pm, the college has organized events all week in order to allow students to participate in reflection and service.

The events began Friday, January 12 with the Friday Night Films presentation of *Pay it Forward* and a chance to perform random acts of kindness throughout MLK week with "The Giving Game," which was sponsored by the Service Learning House.

A special worship service took place Sunday night in the Dunning memorial Chapel in honor of Dr. King. Artheillia Thompson, the Hunger Action Coordinator for the Presbytery of Detroit, was the guest preacher.

Monday brought a slew of events including "street activism" in various locations on campus in the afternoon. Put on by the Multicultural Black Student Union, this event celebrated "street activism" with demonstrations across campus.

Dr. Robert Bullard came to campus to speak on environmental justice, an idea he is known to have fathered.

A panel to discuss this concept in a more local aspect was held in the Heritage Center in the afternoon. Later in the evening, Bullard spoke to an auditorium full of hundreds of students, faculty, staff and locals to discuss the battle for environmental justice, using examples from Hurricane Katrina, Warren County,

"I personally found it very eye opening... he was able to put a lot of problems into perspective."

Michael Miller (07)

NC and urban sprawl.

"I personally found it very eye opening," said **Michael Miller (07)**, of Bullard's speech. "I never knew the topic of environmental justice was as dire of a problem as he made it out to be... He was able to put a lot of problems into perspective."

Tuesday's events included a viewing of the film "The Color of Fear" in the afternoon and a poetry slam in the evening.

The poetry slam was in the intimate setting of the Clack Art Center auditorium and was packed with students and faculty sitting in desks, chairs and on the floor in the aisles.

"The poetry slam was an artistic and creative way to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I think that it was a good way to celebrate the occasion," said **Mark Lavengood (07)**, who performed a song at the slam.

"[Participants] have some sort of connection [in this smaller setting]. That doesn't happen with hundreds and hundreds of people," said **Laura Von Wallmenich**, an English and American Studies professor at Alma, who had organized the slam. Von Wallmenich was part of a task force that combined two students, four faculty and three staff members that organized many MLK events, according to Von Wallmenich.

Wednesday's events included an African Drumming and Dance Workshop and a Teach for America presentation on Education and Social Justice.

Thursday ended the celebration with a blood drive and Community Café Service Project. Finishing the celebration were the Reflections Contest Presentations, in which students focused on this year's theme: social justice. This student competition was held in the Dow Science Center and awarded prizes to the top three finalists.

With a week full of events, students could find something to remember the late Martin Luther King.

There is a discussion board for reflections on Alma's website that will be up past this week. Students are encouraged to visit it and discuss whatever comes to mind in reference to MLK week. The site can be found at www.alma.edu/academics/MLK.

For more information on environmental justice visit www.ejrc.cau.edu

Swipe Cards from pg. 1...

a planned project funded by the most recent College bond issue," said **Robert Boyce**, director of the Physical Plant.

This system not only is less expensive for the college to run, but is also an improvement to the security systems. "Students are involved in all sorts of activities around campus which require them to have access to residence halls that aren't their own," said **Grant Woodman**, director of campus activities. "This system allows these students to have access to halls without issuing them keys which in turn will increase security to that hall."

It will also cut down on random people entering buildings



Photo courtesy of Nick Green

To see how accurately Student Life could track your campus activity, our News Editor Scott Weir, had a report printed off by the Student Life Office. The results were pretty accurate.

because they no longer have access to them through the lobby. Student Life decided to lock the lobby doors to the residence halls 24-7 to help secure the buildings.

"A couple of years ago we had a peeping tom incident in one of the Halls and by locking the

lobbies we hope to eliminate this problem all together," said Woodman. This adds another layer of security and forces students to take responsibility for their guests.

While it is an inconvenience for students to let their guests in, Student Life feels that it is an inconvenience they are willing to make. To help with this, Physical Plant is installing phones by the lobby doors to allow guests to call up to student rooms upon their arrival to campus.

Boyce said, "In the past, if somebody lost a key, we would have to re-key, which is expensive. Now we just eliminate the card from the system and the card will no longer work." The new key cards allow for a less expensive system and heightened security throughout all of the residence halls. "We will also have the ability to respond more quickly to exterior doors that have been blocked open," he said.

The other security feature is that students' identification numbers are no longer their social security numbers. "The number that students find underneath their name is now their access to everything," said Woodman.

Over the next few years Student Life and Physical Plant hope to install this same system in some of the academic buildings, the gym, and the recreation center. This will not happen for at least two years due to monetary constraints. Eventually though,

they hope to have it installed in all of the residence rooms as well.

One issue that was a topic of conversation among students, however, was the ability for Student Life to track card activity. While the obvious benefit to the school is the ability to keep track of who is entering each building (in case, say there happened to be an incident or damage to a residence hall), detractors say that it seems like a "big brother" situation. Just how closely can they track your card? Anytime you attempt to use your card whether or not you were granted access Student Life

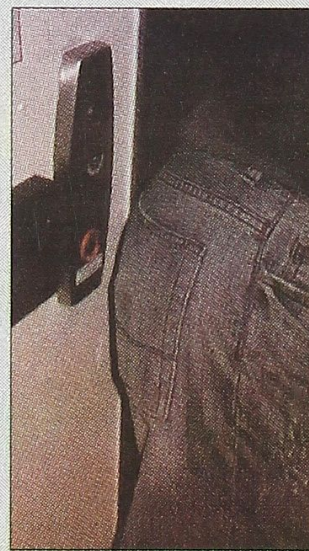


Photo courtesy of Nick Green

A common swipe technique. shows that in their system.

All that said though, this is still a relatively new system, and Student Life has only received positive reports from students. And their best advice to them is "Always carry your card," Woodman said. Commuters are reminded to stop by student life to pick up their new card to gain access to the buildings and to learn their new number.

The new key system is only one of the improvements that have been made around campus over the last few weeks and it seems to be working well and be widely accepted.

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Keynote focuses on environment

Dr. Bullard speaks about the power of young people to take action

KRISTA PENNINGTON
STAFF WRITER

The Martin Luther King Day keynote speaker, Dr. Robert D. Bullard of the Environmental Justice Center at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA, spoke in the Heritage Center's Presbyterian Hall at 8:00 PM on Monday, January 15.

In his introduction, Murray Borrello, professor of geology and director of the Environmental Studies Program, referred to Dr. Bullard as the "father of environmental justice." Bullard has authored more than twelve books on the subject, with two more out this year, and served on the United States EPA Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

Bullard began by speaking of his background. A native to Alabama, he was an undergrad in the mid to late 1960's, during a time of great political change. Being a child of the 60's, Bullard said that, "activism is in his blood."

"Where you live can impact your quality of life," said Bullard, "Environmental justice embraces the idea that all communities are entitled to equal protection of our environment, health..." He defined environment as everything, a "very holistic" approach.

Dr. Bullard also spoke of Dr. Martin Luther King's fight in Memphis for the garbage workers who were on strike after the death of two men on the job, and of his own work with garbage in the landfills of Houston in 1978.

"Students, young people do have power," said Dr. Bullard of environmental justice in action in Warren County, NC in 1982, where the government was dumping toxic soil.

In 1991, the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit adopted the seventeen principles of environmental justice, the first being that people must speak for themselves.

Dr. Bullard also spoke a fair amount about the government's response to Hurricane Katrina. The

impact of the disaster on wealth and community health proved that "disasters push poor people into poverty."

"The way the government and insurance companies are dealing with it [Katrina] are making a second disaster," said Bullard. There is still debris all over the place and New Orleans is "the mother of all toxic cleanups." People are not getting their damage claims, which equal billions of dollars. Thousands of people are still displaced from their homes and many are unable to safely clean their houses and yards. He also pointed out the irony in the fact that the racetracks were cleaned and reopened last fall, but many schoolyards still have countless toxic chemicals in the soil. "This is a human experiment that should not be allowed to happen," said Bullard.

On a different note though, Bullard said that he has "seen a tremendous outpouring of volunteerism across the country," which instills hope.

"We have a long way to go, we've made a lot of progress," Bullard said at the conclusion of his speech.

Pets in dorms not likely at Alma College

KAITLIN LOGAN
FEATURE EDITOR

One well-known and highly enforced Alma College policy stipulates that the only pets allowed in campus housing are fish; but just how much can a fish do for someone who is missing home, or who just wants companionship?

Around the country a small amount of colleges have decided to let their students keep small pets, such as rodents, cats, and even some are going as far as allowing dogs in their dorms. Their reasoning, stretches all the way from wanting students to have more of a gradual easement of moving away from home, all the way to trying to relieve stress.

Surprisingly to some, almost all of the Colleges who have allowed pets on a trial basis have continued to allow them because it worked so well. College administrators have found that students have been responsible and have followed all of the rules and regulations.

Although for those students on Alma's campus who are hoping to see Alma join in the trend and are looking to have their family pet or a new friend move in will be very disappointed. Alma specifically states

consequences as outlined in the handbook include, odor, noise, mess and health issues.

"In addition to that, students are incredibly busy with various academic, social, and athletic endeavors on campus, all of which take time away from being spent with an animal and caring for it properly," Woodman said. "In addition...a residence hall room is too cramped for two residents and an animal, so one, if not all of the residents of the room (including the pet) would suffer."

Yet some students on campus think that pets would be a good addition to dorm life.

"I like cute and cuddly things," said **Liana Easterby (08)**. "Pets should be welcomed into the dorms, but only if the student is responsible enough to handle it."

Students found in violation of this rule will be subject to a fine of \$100 per resident in the room, along with possible judicial action, and instant removal of the pet.

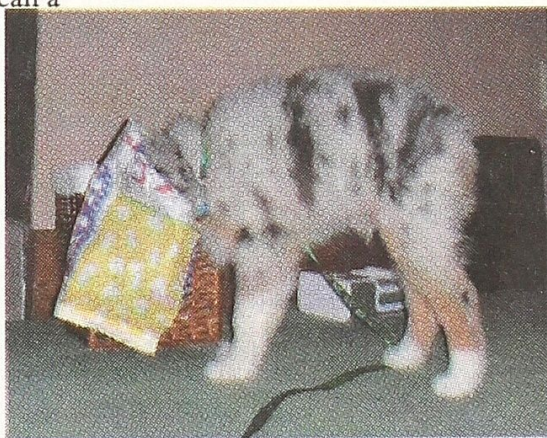


Photo courtesy of Rachel Dotson
Large pets are likely never to be found on campus because they are too messy.

in its handbook that "the only pets that can be kept in a residence hall or other college-owned housing are tropical fish, small lizards, (geckos, chameleons, etc.) or small reptiles (turtles only) that must be contained in a tank at all times."

Grant Woodman, Director of campus life, said, "The potential problems with students having pets far outweigh the benefits of allowing them." Such negative

Food Fancy

Food for sleep

JENNIFER ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER



Though it is not scientifically proven that there is a direct link to food and sleep, there is a distinct relationship between the two. If you could stand to increase your Z's, it may be wise to increase your M's and T's.

Melatonin is a hormone the body naturally produces at night that helps initiate sleep. Tryptophan is the raw material the brain uses to build this relaxing hormone. Eating carbohydrates with tryptophan-containing foods makes the amino acid supply increase to your brain. In effect, insulin is released, cleansing your bloodstream and making tryptophan more readily available to create melatonin and serotonin. This increases your chances for sleep.

There are many foods that are sleep-friendly. Drinking a glass of warm milk is a said remedy for insomnia. Milk is rich in calcium and tryptophan. Other products include cottage cheese and soy milk, tofu, soybean nuts, seafood, meats, poultry, whole grains, beans, rice, hummus, lentils, hazelnuts and peanuts, eggs, sesame seeds, and sunflower seeds.

Though it is best not to have a large meal before bed, sometimes a small snack is wise to reduce hunger pains that prevent quality rest. Protein-rich meals without the accompanying carbohydrates will stimulate the brain and keep you awake due to the amino acid, tyrosine. Consuming foods that are high in carbohydrates and calcium with minimal protein are the wisest choices. Examples of these meals include whole-grain cereal with milk, oatmeal and raisin cookies with milk, apple pie and ice cream, and peanut butter sandwiches.

If you plan ahead, you can also prepare a dinner that will set you up for a good night's rest. Such meals include pasta with parmesan cheese, scrambled eggs and cheese, tofu stir-fry, hummus with whole wheat pita bread, meats and poultry with vegetables, sesame seeds on salad and whole wheat crackers, and chili with beans (not spicy).

High-fat meals make your digestive system work longer, which may keep you awake. Some find spices such as hot peppers and garlic to interfere with sleep, especially those suffering from heartburn. Other foods to avoid include caffeine and alcohol. Caffeine is a stimulant found in teas, chocolate, and soda, for example. Alcohol, in contrast, is a depressant. Though it may induce sleep, it decreases the longevity and quality of your slumber.

Recipe of the Week: Low-fat (no-oil) Hummus

Note: Don't forget the whole wheat pita bread; Heartburn sensitivities: This recipe does contain garlic.

Ingredients:

1 cup dried chickpeas, soaked overnight and drained
1 bay leaf
5 cups vegetable stock
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
6 garlic cloves, oven roasted, and 1 clove, chopped
Zest of one lemon (optional)
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon ground coriander
1/8 teaspoon cayenne
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/2 cup minced fresh parsley
Salt to taste

SEE 'RECIPE' pg. 4

Joining together, doing a lap to beat cancer

KRISTA PENNINGTON
FEATURE EDITOR

Tracing back to May of 1985, The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life has been running, walking, and even cycling to raise money to fight cancer.

This March will mark the third Relay on the Alma campus, with the kickoff informational meeting having been held in Van Dusen on January 16.

The Relay will be held in the Stone Recreational Center, and will begin on Saturday, March 25 at 10 a.m., and finish on Sunday, the 26 also at 10 a.m.

Last year, Alma was ranked one of the top fund raising schools in the nation, having raised over \$30,000 to support cancer research and the American Cancer Society.

"Relay is more than just a walk around a track," said the website, <http://www.acsevents.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=205932>. There are also designated

times to honor cancer survivors and remember those who have been lost. Registration is available

track at a time. Every teams raises money via donations, which you can also do through the website. Currently, the

Learning Coordinator, Anne Ritz is leading the individual fundraising.

Alma College's first Relay

eighteen teams and \$380 has been raised so far. Last year there were 248 participants and 21 teams.

Relay for Life began in Tacoma, Washington as the City of Destiny Classic, twenty-four hour run against cancer. In the mid-1980s, Dr. Gordy Klatt, a surgeon, in hopes of raising more money for his local Society office, decided cycle a marathon. At the University of Puget Sound, he circled the track for more than 83 miles.

Friends paid \$25 to run or walk with him throughout the night, and in doing so he raised \$27,000. The next year, 19 teams took part in the relay, and raised \$33,000.

Teams across the world participate in three symbolic Relay walks, and the funds go towards a more international cancer fund.

All this information and more can be found at the American Cancer Societies Relay website, http://www.cancer.org/docroot/par/content/PAR_1_Relay_For_Life.asp.



Photo courtesy of Nick Green

Sami Spedoskie, Rachael Pelton, and Danielle Creguer, volunteer for relay for life so that more funds can go towards helping families of cancer, more cancer research, giving hope to families who have lost loved ones and honoring cancer victims.

through the website.

Teams compete by always having one member on the

Alma Faculty and Staff is leading the group competition in money raised, and Service

for Life in 2005 had twenty-eight teams and raised \$22,000. Presently there are

Recipe from pg. 3

Directions:

For a shortcut, start with 2.5 cups of canned beans, drained and rinsed. This is much better if you cook the beans yourself. The lemon juice and stock add flavor and lighten the texture.

This recipe is also much better if you roast the garlic. It is easy to do -- just put your oven on 375 degrees or so and put the cloves, with the peels still on, in until the peels turn a bit black (about 15 minutes). Let them cool and they peel very easily.

Add beans, bay leaf and vegetable stock to 2-3 quart pot. Bring to boil, lower heat, and simmer covered for 2.5 hours, or until tender. After cooking, drain the beans of any remaining liquid and reserve the stock.

Transfer beans to a food processor and puree. Add lemon juice and continue to puree. Gradually add some of the reserved bean stock if a creamier texture is desired. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. Add salt to taste and serve a room temperature or chilled.

Humus serving size: 1/3 cup. 140 calories, 2.2 grams fat, 0 cholesterol, 21 mg sodium (plus added salt).

Recipe from VegWeb.com

Java from pg. 1

was finally able to allow for munch money.

"We are very happy with the addition of munch money," said Boyer. "[It] is bringing in new customers."

One of those new customers is Carolyn Snoap (07), who has never purchased anything from the café before the allowance of munch money kicked in.

"I do not usually carry money with me when I'm walking around campus," said Snoap.

With the use of munch money, Snoap plans on visiting the Highland Java more often.

"I think that, with the amount of time I spend at the library, it will be convenient to take a break and get some caffeine," she said.

The Highland Java Café has already seen the success of munch money since coming back from break. According to Boyer, sales have already doubled on average.

As popularity and sales for Highland Java rise, Boyer can only remain positive about the café.

"I only see good things for the café. Nothing but good changes have been identified by customers," she said.

Though the changes have helped the café greatly, Boyer still credits the customers and staff of the Highland Java.

"I would just like to [extend a] thank you to the campus and everyone else who has helped [the café]. Thank you for being cooperative and understanding. It has been an incredible opportunity for [SIFE and the management team]," she said.

Van Dusen from pg. 1

"We already have the pool tables ordered and received. The air-hockey table should be in this week, and soon we'll have some function specific lighting for the pool table and other games," he said.

On the rotunda side of the survey, Scoby said that Alma students expressed interest in having it made into more of a friendly area. While the

study and meeting Hole has been of game room, show a more

"We hired an come in and help needs expressed survey," said

The top rotunda were brighter lighting, and new carpet. are being done, further by having

Finally Scoby is rotunda fireplace wood-burning type so as to let and the setting

Scoby expects of approximately completely within

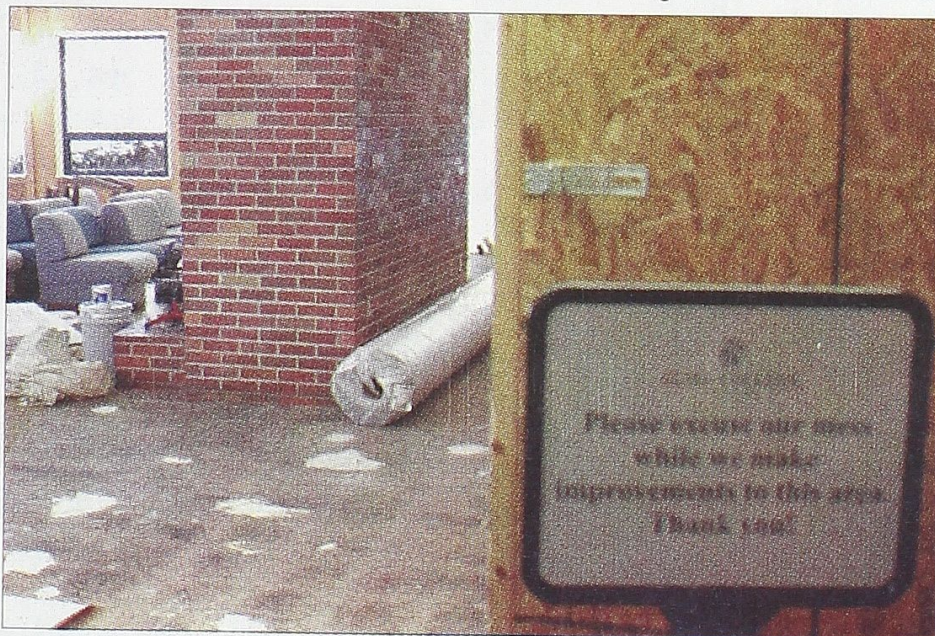


Photo courtesy of Nick Green

The renovations of Van Dusen will cost approximately \$35,000, and should be finished within the next 8 to 10 weeks so that students can start to enjoy the new setting and style.

transformed into a sort the rotunda renovations practical lean.

interior decorator to us to fit the room to the by the students in the Scoby.

suggestions for the wireless Internet access, new seating, new artwork, All of these suggestions and Scoby went a step the room repainted.

looking into having the changed from its current style to a gas or electric students warm themselves while studying.

the work, costing a total \$35,000, to be done the next 8 to 10 weeks.

One-Act Play Festival deserves more recognition

MIRIAM JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Though it has been a little over a month since the "One-Act" plays had their debut at the Heritage Center I wanted to take the time to express my admiration at how incredibly well done they were.

As a freshman, I am more accustomed to amateur plays like the typical high school musical. I have never felt emotional while watching a play, nor found myself inspired by the acting before. That is, until I saw my first productions at Alma College. The One Act Plays were performed exquisitely, were very thought provoking, and invoked a lot of emotion through their various themes.

In regards to acting, I personally found each

character very convincing. This allowed me to inadvertently find myself completely involved in the storyline, believing that it was, in fact, real. The audience felt the sentiment because these emotions were presented completely realistically on the stage.

Nothing appeared forced or awkward as many on-stage interactions so often do. I was more impressed by several of my fellow students than I have ever been by a few Hollywood actors and actresses. They interacted with each other well, spoke eloquently, and overall made the stories easy to follow and easy to become immersed in, which was surprising for multiple quick and short plays.

Also, I really enjoyed the choice of short stories.

The plays were clearly picked in order to arouse thought and introspection in each audience member. Their themes covered many different aspects of life, forcing the audience member to think about his or her own convictions. The themes included abusive relationships, poverty, beauty, superficiality, dead-end relationships, and homosexuality.

The most interesting and striking thing about the One-Acts was the fact that these themes were so profound. It really made me think about myself and about life, maybe even changing some aspects of myself in the process. It was overwhelming, yet cathartic, to experience and come to terms with all of these ideas in a period of

three hours.

Finally, as I have mentioned a few times previously, these plays were very emotional. It seemed as though the comedic and the downright depressing acts were interchanged to some extent. The comedies such as "Beauty" and "Who Made Robert DeNiro King of America?" succeeded in making the audience laugh

and smile throughout, while "Up, Down, Strange, Charmed, Beauty and Truth," a story about love lost and broken families, almost brought me to tears.

The emotions in all of them felt so real to me that I almost forgot I was sitting in a theater, simply watching

SEE ONE-ACTS PG. 6

Choose quality over quantity: toilet tissue debate gets rough

KRISTINA SCHWAB
STAFF WRITER

One thing the administration drills into the student body is keeping within budget. All the new budget reductions are due to the overspending of almost every organization. Is there any other way the school could save money?

Everyone's familiar with the orange stickers over the light switches that state, "Turn off to save energy and save tuition." It is notable that a fair amount of students do try to conserve energy for one reason or another.

Obviously it hasn't lowered tuition at all, but they fail to report to us the effects of these stickers. Maybe it simply prevented tuition from rising even faster.

The school also tries to save money by using the cheaper, half-ply toilet paper they provide in all the bathrooms. The only decent toilet paper is located in the Chapel basement. It would seem logical at first glance to use the cheap toilet paper.

But is it really that much cheaper? When using the bathroom, how much toilet paper does the average person use? With thicker and sturdier paper, one would have to use much less on an average trip to the porcelain throne.

The negative outcome that Alma College seems to fail to recognize that occurs with using the provided tool is we must make up for

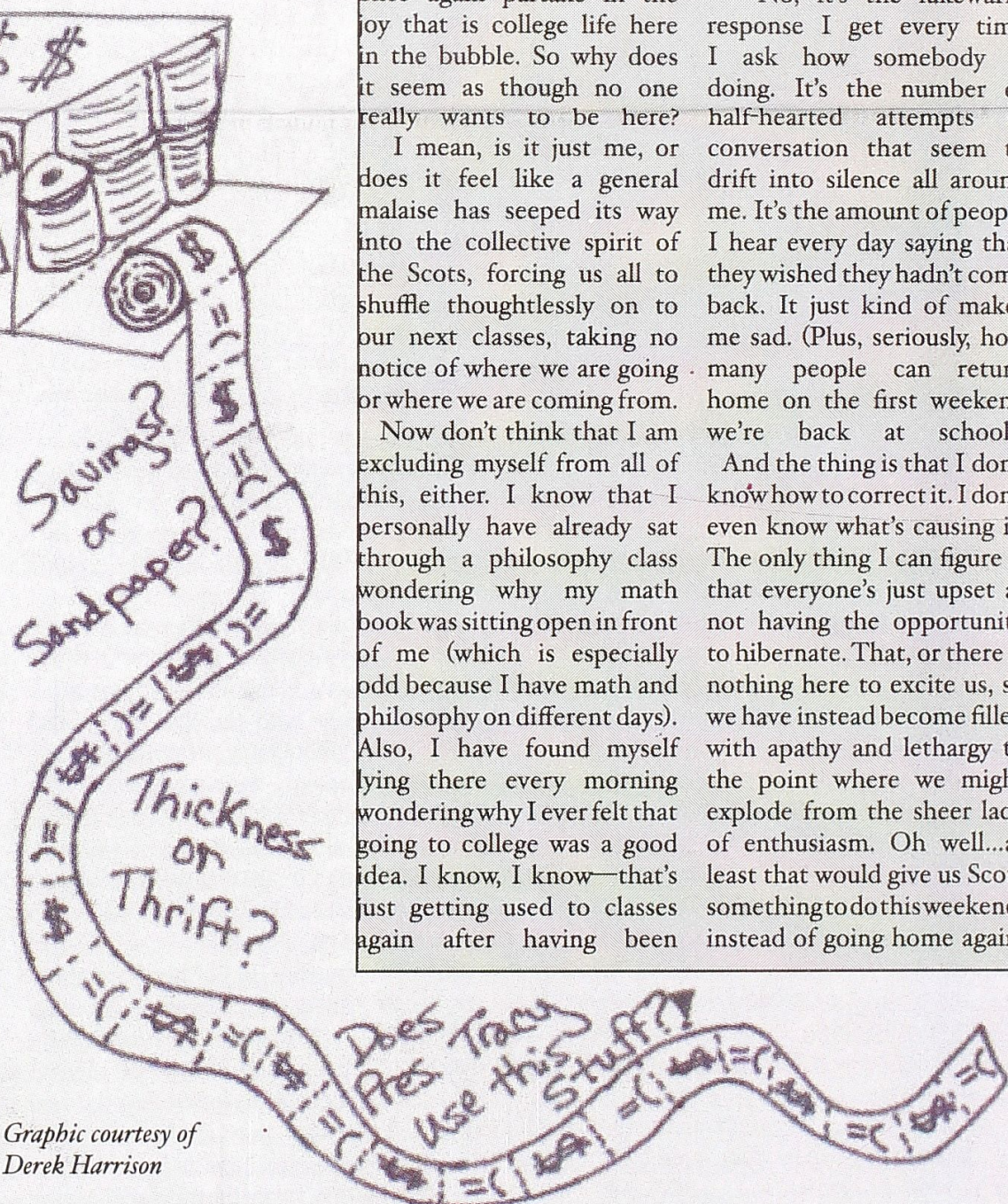
the lack of thickness with a larger quantity of paper used per call of nature.

It is not even just with going to the bathroom. Living in Bruske where there is no kitchen in our rooms, unlike Wright Hall, there is less need for paper towels. Some people do have them and use them quite often I'm sure.

But for those of us who rely on the toilet paper in the bathroom to clean up messes in our room such as a spilled pop and the like, the thin bathroom tissue takes practically five handfuls to clean up one sip of pop on the counter.

So if we use more in one sitting with what we're given, would it really be cheaper? Charmin is pretty cheap, it's extremely soft—not like the sandpaper we have here; and the rolls are actually quite large and last a long period of time.

It may take a while for students to get used to not unravel a piece of toilet paper four feet long every time they use the bathroom facilities, but eventually students will learn that less is more and adequate toilet paper



Graphic courtesy of
Derek Harrison

doesn't require that much.

I do not claim to know the actual numbers in this example, so just run with it. If every student uses 4 rolls of the current paper per month and they would only use 2 rolls a month with something like Charmin, would that

Here we are again. Alma. Winter break has come and gone and we are able to come back together to once again partake in the joy that is college life here in the bubble. So why does it seem as though no one really wants to be here?

I mean, is it just me, or does it feel like a general malaise has seeped its way into the collective spirit of the Scots, forcing us all to shuffle thoughtlessly on to our next classes, taking no notice of where we are going or where we are coming from.

Now don't think that I am excluding myself from all of this, either. I know that I personally have already sat through a philosophy class wondering why my math book was sitting open in front of me (which is especially odd because I have math and philosophy on different days). Also, I have found myself lying there every morning wondering why I ever felt that going to college was a good idea. I know, I know—that's just getting used to classes again after having been

not save money? Charmin would have to be twice as expensive as our current brand in order for it to not be worth getting nicer paper.

Alma College no doubt has some kind of deal with the company they buy the toilet paper from and so perhaps

off for three weeks, right?

Yet, I find that my coherent thoughts are not improving. Instead, I just seem to be getting better at falling asleep with my eyes open. Then again, I guess that it is still a little early to be deciding that I can't function this semester, and I really shouldn't judge the whole student body based upon my own experiences. However, it is not really the academic side of things that has me wondering.

No, it's the lukewarm response I get every time I ask how somebody is doing. It's the number of half-hearted attempts at conversation that seem to drift into silence all around me. It's the amount of people I hear every day saying that they wished they hadn't come back. It just kind of makes me sad. (Plus, seriously, how many people can return home on the first weekend we're back at school?)

And the thing is that I don't know how to correct it. I don't even know what's causing it. The only thing I can figure is that everyone's just upset at not having the opportunity to hibernate. That, or there is nothing here to excite us, so we have instead become filled with apathy and lethargy to the point where we might explode from the sheer lack of enthusiasm. Oh well...at least that would give us Scots something to do this weekend, instead of going home again.

it really is cheaper even if students would use half as much. Maybe someone should do the math if it hasn't already been done before.

The only fact I can state right now is the student body would be much happier with better quality toilet paper.

ID cards stir unnecessary controversy

Rumors lack evidence though benefits already evident

KRISTINA SCHWAB
STAFF WRITER

Over break, Alma College finally got a new and advanced form of technology that it had been lacking: a key-card system. Most colleges and universities have switched over to this technology years ago.

One thing Alma has on these schools: no swiping necessary. Simply wave the card by the sensor and the door is unlocked.

Many people, especially guys, have walked past the sensor with their ID still in their pocket and positioned themselves to where the door still unlocks—quite a sight to see. Some guys who keep it in their wallet take out the wallet and wave the whole thing in front of the sensor.

There might be one issue with keeping the key-card in a wallet. The rumor going around campus right now is if the key-card is kept in the same wallet as a credit card, gift card, or license, it can delete the information on all magnetic strips.

While it is yet to be proven with these specific cards, it has happened in the past when two or more credit cards, or any other type of card with a magnetic strip on it, were being kept together in the same place with multiple others.

Are there any downfalls

to this new system? Some students have expressed concern with the Housing Department's ability to track where the students have been at any given day. While it may be useful, it has some students thinking their actions will be watched more

"It's hard to believe that the tracking device will be used as anything more than a security measure."

carefully.

It's hard to believe that the tracking device will be used as anything more than a security measure. Let's say a roommate has left, for one reason or another; the Housing Office can then locate the last dorm he or she entered.

Another downfall could be the price of replacement. Before, all it took was \$10 of munch money—now it will cost \$75 to replace. Granted it is basically a small computer, but that price is a bit steeper than before. Be careful with your cards.

Another thing students have brought up is why were the devices not put on the school buildings? Most protests for

this lack of updating come from the Natural Science majors.

How many times has a student tried to get into DOW or SAC to work on a project of some kind and not been able to, due to the lockdown?

And what of the Art Majors who work all hours of the night on their projects as well?

What about music students who can't get into the Music Building after hours and need to practice for a concert?

One addition that would be put to good use would be to add these cards to the academic buildings. Security wouldn't have to be called nearly as often to get students into buildings when needed.

One objection to this suggestion would be the unauthorized use of these buildings, which is the reason they are locked at night in the first place. Perhaps only students that have labs would be allowed into the building. Perhaps only on special request. There are many ways to figure this out, which would greatly benefit the student body.

One more controversy has been the discussion of why the doors are locked during the day. When keys were still being used, the front doors were left unlocked and many students would like it to continue being that way.

But honestly, how hard is it to wave an ID in front of the sensor?

Overall, this system is a good use of the college's money. It's much easier and much more reliable than keys. If a card is lost, it simply has to be turned off and reissued to the student instead of worrying about who picked up the key and now has access to the dorm in question.

This system brings Alma College into the Twenty-first century and will benefit students much better than keys.

One-Acts from pg. 5...

it happen. Although this extreme response from me may relate to the fact that I really have never seen any stage production like this, I was utterly amazed by the resonances they had. I thought that it was important to be able to express the awe that I felt after seeing them. I also thought that this would be a good congratulations to all those involved in the One-Acts. The fact that students directed them is also a very admirable quality that I have not yet mentioned. Overall, the plays were a success and I congratulate all who were involved.

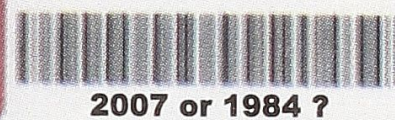
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George Orwell

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Graphic courtesy of Derek Harrison

Food smugglers continue to bend dining rules

When meals are pre-paid, many students silently protest restrictions

KEVIN BILBREY
STAFF WRITER

Have you ever been sitting in Hamilton, looking down at your plate, wondering how to best sneak out with the sandwich staring back at you? Should you try to sneak past really quickly and hope you're not seen? Should you grab a bunch of napkins and create a make-shift lunch bag? Or should you set up a deliberate system of pulleys and winches, using plastic straws woven together for rope and forks and knives as a massive crane and lift the tray up through the ceiling panels to be retrieved at a later time?

I know that I think that every time I get up to leave from a meal (ok, maybe not that last thing, but, seriously, that would be pretty awesome).

The thing I don't understand is: why not just let us take the food without a problem? I mean, it is an all-you-can-eat meal, and we have already paid for all of the food, so why can't we just take it? Is that so much to ask?

We're going to take the food anyway; I know this, you know this, and the Hamilton Commons staff knows this. It just seems like a bunch of unnecessary work for us to try to devise these elaborate schemes to try to get away with some extra food...then again, perhaps that is why we aren't allowed to take food.

We are, after all, at a liberal arts institution, where we are encouraged to learn about all manner of subjects and broaden our horizons into other areas than we are used to.

Maybe this is all just an effort to test our ingenuity. It's like Industrial Espionage 111 (so

maybe it counts as a business or economics course), where you have to learn to sneak out with the desired product without anyone noticing. Then again, I think we all know how great Alma is about offering credits that everyone can take, so I doubt that we'd have such a readily available distribution that everyone wants so much. So I bet it's more about the character building.

Now, don't get me wrong. Even with that whole rant up there, I do know that the real reason they don't want us to take any food is because they don't want the trays or dishware to be taken out of the building.

I completely understand that, because I don't want my tuition money going towards paying for replacement plates when it could be paying for better things, like hot water heaters in Gelston, more modern popular

What's your opinion?

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

- Should Division III schools be able to offer athletic scholarships? Why?

- What artist would you like to see ACUB bring for the Spring Concert?

- How could Sodexho improve dining to alleviate 'Saga Stealing'?

fiction novels for the library, or maybe even air conditioning. So, I just have to say, go ahead and take all you want from

lunch (within reason) and don't get caught. It's what they want you to do; but please, leave the plates there.

World class athlete to bring message of giving

MIRIAM JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Feeling in need of motivation and inspiration? Look no further because Alma College is hosting world record ultra marathon athlete, Jim Dreyer. The extraordinary swimmer's compelling story has made headlines around the world and inspired the media to label him "The new American hero," "The Lindbergh or Hillary of our generation," and "The Lance Armstrong of the swim-world." These titles should convey amazing amount of talent that this man has. In his talk, Dreyer will describe to the audience here at Alma, his astonishing endeavors, and more importantly, what motivated him to achieve this greatness.

What is it that inspires him? Mainly it is his work promoting the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and the help that it offers children all around the world. "Part of developing mental toughness is identifying an emotional attachment to your goal. It is a powerful motivator to tie your goals to spirituality and/or any driving force larger than yourself. That 'driving force' for me is the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program," Dreyer explains on his personal website, (www.swimjimswim.com). He is

able to push himself beyond human capability because he knows he is doing it for a greater cause: the children of Big Brother Big Sister.

This event should be a great opportunity for swimmers, other athletes, or anyone looking to hear from an extremely driven person. Dreyer is an example of a man who found inspiration to do great things by helping others. Perhaps those who go to hear him speak will also

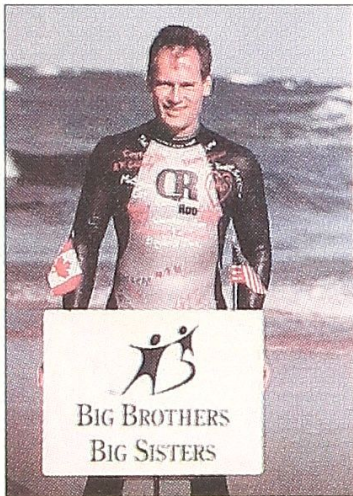


Photo courtesy of swimjimswim.org

be inspired to help children, the world's future, through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. He is clearly very passionate about it and wants to share these feelings with others.

Dreyer believes that the best way to change the world in a positive way is by doing something extraordinary. He is using his talent, swimming, to do just that. He figures that the best way for him to

help Big Brothers Big Sisters is by attracting mass media by achieving inhuman feats and using this attention for a good cause. He raises awareness and funds by asking people to, like he does, give some of their lives to help underprivileged children. He has made a big impact on the program so far and continues to do more.

This presentation will not only inspire athletes to go to greater lengths within their sports, but it will encourage them to keep other people in mind while pushing themselves to the max. Dreyer will explain the joys of helping others, along with the changes that it brings to them and to the world. He is doing whatever he can to use his gifts and talents to make a change. Of course, Dreyer plans to encourage the students of Alma to participate in the program, and hopefully the audience will respond.

Overall, this event should be encouraging for many Alma students and faculty. Thanks go out to Alma College Service Learning, Alma College chapel, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Gratiot and Montcalm Counties for organizing this event, free of charge. It will take place in the Dunning Memorial Chapel at 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 25.

Intramurals bring study alternatives

MARTIN KUUSTIK
FREELANCE WRITER

A new semester has started, and while everyone is busy with his or her homework I am waiting for a great sporting season to start. Some of you are confused; but do not worry, I will let you in on my little secret: Intramurals. For those people like me, who are not incredibly involved with athletics, this serves as a perfect release valve for that excess stress. This time the season will commence with the 6-on-6 volleyball tournament, for which entry forms are due January 18. This is a chance for all you out-of-season volleyball players to show off your skills and entertain yourselves. "It's some fun that you can have instead of studying," said Kelsey Bailey (10). It is not that far away, so for each and every one of you that is unable to contain the excitement, all entry forms can be found online at www.alma.edu/community/student_life/stone_center/. Just click on intramurals.

I know volleyball is wonderful, but it is only one of many sports that are in store for us students.

Entry forms for floor hockey are due on Feb 1 and 5-on-5 basketball forms are due February 8. Personally, I think

"Don't forget that above everything else is to behave as an exemplary athlete, no matter if your team wins or loses."

this sounds great and every person that has the time for these activities should definitely participate. If you have not yet found anything that caught your attention, in March, there will be indoor soccer for which entry forms are due on March 1.

Last but not least dodge ball will yet again be making its way back to the courts of Alma, and that is by far my personal favorite. I will

have to remind you all that dodgeball entry forms are due on March 15, so be sure not to forget. Some people will enjoy the game of dodgeball more than others. "I will be playing dodgeball to win," said Travis Maxey (10).

All of these athletic competitions will provide some change to our daily routine. "Intramurals are a good way to stay active if your not involved in varsity sports," said Tony Romano (10). 'Fun' is the word I like to use, because a lot of us are consumed by our studies, and to blow off some steam by throwing a soft rubbery ball around might just do the trick.

After you have completed the forms for any of the sports mentioned above just turn them in to the REC center. Hopefully a lot of you are able to find something to your liking, and get that chance to have some fun. Don't forget that above everything else is to behave as an exemplary athlete no matter if your team wins or loses.

Dance team begins halftime performances

ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

As most students know, Alma College has a dance company that performs for the community three times a year. But now there is a new form of dance that is entering the stage and making themselves extremely prominent throughout the Alma College community. They are the Alma College Dance Team.

The Dance Team was founded in the 2006-2007 school year by two students: Allison Doran (09) and Marita Urban (08). "Alma College had a Dance Team a few years ago and some of us girls wanted to put our talent and love for dance to good use," said Doran. "All of us have had dance experience, so it made sense to make a dance team again."

The girls that comprise the team have had training in ballet, jazz, and tap, but the type of dance that they do for the team is called poms. Doran said, "It is a form of dance



that is unified but also allows for great body control."

"This dance team represents an opportunity for students to be involved on campus, to meet new people, and to support our athletic teams," said Peggy Thelen, Assistant Professor of Education and advisor to the Dance Team. "Side benefits, of course, include a great way for the members of the Dance Team to stay fit and do something they love."

Currently the team is performing during half time at both men's and women's basketball games. "By only performing at basketball games it allows the team to adjust to performing in front of crowds and also start with an easy schedule during the first year," said Doran.

They are hoping to expand their repertoire and perform at other athletic activities in coming years. "I would like to see this program grow to include Dance Team members involved at football games and any other athletic activities that are appropriate," said Thelen.

Angelica Lutrell (09), a member of the dance team said, "I joined the dance team because I wanted to do something that was fun and not a big time commitment."

The main thing that both the founders and members of the team wish to convey to the students is that they are out there to have fun and would love to see more participation and support from the students. "My hope is that students will view the Dance Team as a serious program and hopefully more people will come and try out next year," said Lutrell.

Doran said, "I would like to communicate to the students that we are all very talented girls and we are working very hard to make the halftimes of the basketball games exciting and worth watching."

Just as with every other team, the Dance Team hopes to grow throughout the year and gain respect. "I hope that we, the Dance Team, can gain respect from our fellow classmates, but also come together and improve ourselves individually and as a team every week," said Doran.

"For a first year program, I think we are doing amazing," said Lutrell. Even though the team has just begun, they are showing great potential. The one thing that will make them exceptional is gaining support from the Alma College student body.

Thelen said, "The Dance Team members should represent the spirit of Scot pride." And indeed they do.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY:

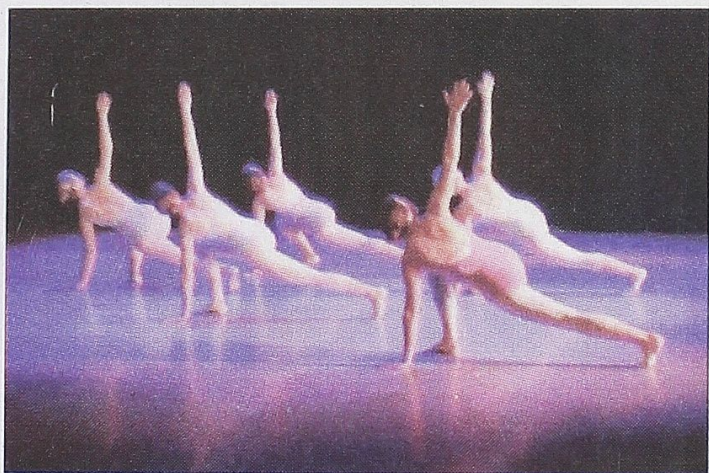
**Last day to add a 14-week class*

TOMORROW:

**Special Olympics basketball tournament (8 a.m.)*

**Alma College swim team v. Olivet College (1 p.m.)*

**Student Choreographer's Concert (8 p.m.)*



SUNDAY:

**Student Choreographer's Concert (3 p.m.)*

WEDNESDAY:

**Womens basketball v. St. Mary's College (6 p.m.)*

**Mens basketball v. Adrian College (8 p.m.)*

THURSDAY:

**JV mens basketball v. Adrian (7 p.m.)*

Alternative Winter Break

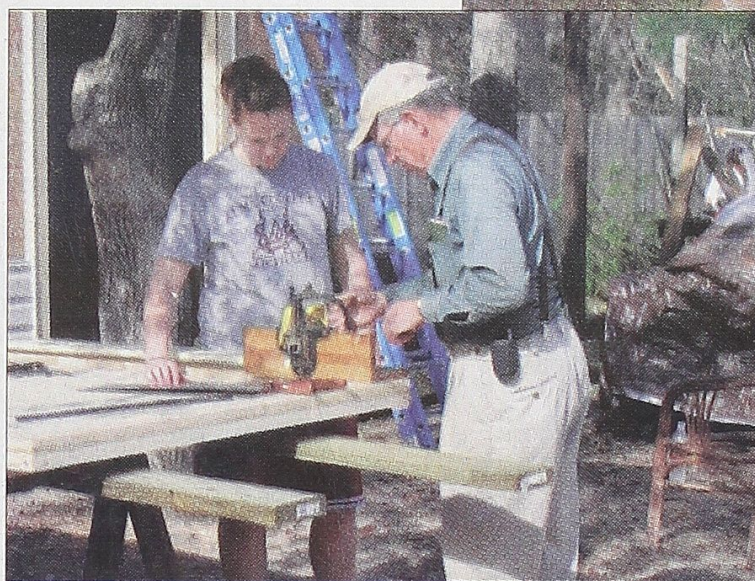
DOWN & DIRTY:

WHO: Chaplain Carol Gregg and 19 Alma College students

WHAT: Hurricane relief work, with an emphasis on home repairs

WHEN: December 16 through the 23

WHERE: Gautier, Mississippi



(From top to bottom, left to right) Emily Whitmer (07) and William Scarborough (09); Liana Easterby (08) and Jerry Mantela of the Milford Church; Craig Boyles (09).

Photos courtesy of Carol Gregg

"What was most impressive was the students' hard work and accomplishments; they awed the volunteer coordinators with what they accomplished,"

**Carol Gregg,
Chaplain**



The Almanian

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

Statement of Purpose

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

Publication

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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 o7dtharr@alma.edu or address letters to *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College.

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