

# The Almanian

Volume C

Issue 16

Friday, February 23, 2007

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

## UNDER THE COVER

*Alma College's very own Melissa Hanson has been named as a Fulbright finalist.*



SEE NEWS PG. 2

*Sodexo continues giving back to its patrons, and one student receives a room makeover as a result.*

SEE FEATURE PG. 5



*The controversy continues over funding for Alma's nationally recognized Model United Nations team.*

SEE OPINION PG. 5

*Womens tennis begins season with a spark, looks to build up talent.*

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## BY THE NUMBERS

### 29

Tomorrow's projected temperature in degrees fahrenheit for Alma, according to weather.com.

### 81

Tomorrow's projected temperature in degrees fahrenheit for Ft. Myers, Florida, according to weather.com.

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## Campus mourns sudden loss of student, friend

RACHEL DOTSON  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Wednesday evening brought sadness to the Alma College community as news spread of the death of **Samuel Geer (08)** of St. Johns.

Mitchell Hall staff discovered Sam in his room at 5:30 p.m., at which point Alma City Police and Gratiot County emergency medical personnel were contacted. Sam was pronounced dead upon arrival, and police have tentatively attributed the

death to natural causes.

Students were informed of the occurrence by residence hall directors that night, after which President Sandra Tracy send a campus-wide e-mail around 9 p.m.

A campus prayer service was held at noon yesterday in the Dunning Memorial Chapel, and counseling services have been made available to students and staff by the Chaplain's Office and the Center for Student Development.

"We are deeply saddened

by Sam's passing and extend our condolences to his mother, father, sister and extended family," said Tracy. "The thoughts and prayers



of the entire Alma College community go out to the family. Sam will be greatly missed."

## Scots fall short of season hopes



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

The men's MIAA basketball season concluded this week with a disappointing loss to Hope, 89-49.

JAMES THRUBIS  
STAFF WRITER

With spring right around the corner, another basketball season is coming to a close.

The Alma College mens basketball team has struggled this season, and some may even say "thank goodness it is over," but with the ending of this season comes the end of **Isaac Smith's (07)** prolific career.

Smith has been one of the best to ever put on the Maroon and Cream and has the numbers to prove it.

Smith leads the Scots in games started (24-24), average minutes played per-game (36.6), field goal percentage (.475), three point percentage (.450), free throw percentage (.780), rebounds (167), steals (49) and points per game

(21.3).

But with all of these great numbers, Smith still feels that he and his team have not gotten the job done.

"I think the team has underachieved this season. There were a lot of games that we were in late and just didn't have the experience to finish the way teams need to win games. The team this season is very young and inexperienced, when there's a chance to turn things around or make a run, it's difficult because the players lack the edge and confidence to perform where they need to. But this is something that will develop if they continue to work hard and stay committed," he said.

The teams' high point of the year came when they defeated the Thunder of Tri-

State, who was second in the conference at the time 76-62 on February 10. Smith felt great after the big win.

"The feeling I had after we beat Tri-State was amazing. The team played well, I had a great game, I had a lot of people there to watch me and it was my senior day," he said.

Entering the conference tournament the Scots are the number eight seed, but Smith and his teammates believe that they are ready for an upset.

"I definitely feel we can surprise some teams during the tournament. The way things look we will be playing either Calvin or Hope in the first round and both teams are beatable. Both of them

SEE BASKETBALL PG. 8

## Ben Folds officially set for April 15

ANNA ZICHI  
STAFF WRITER

The event that *The Almanian* has been reporting on for weeks has finally been set in stone. Ben Folds will be coming to Alma College on April 25, 2007. This was made possible through the various contributions of time and money that many have given to the Alma College Union Board (ACUB).

"We got the idea of having a big concert last year," said **Colin Murad (09)**. "It was originally going to be planned for homecoming, but after we looked into the logistics of something of that magnitude, we knew we would never be able to do it." Talk then began of holding it during the spring.

After this first set back it seemed as if that was all there was to come for this idea. "Through the early stages, it was just **Scott Weir (07)** and me looking over artists and their prices," said Murad. "We soon figured out that with the slim amount of money we had to do the

*"We knew that Folds was a very popular artist in our age group, and that he is one who many people listen to, even if it is only a little,"*

Colin Murad (09)

concert with, we would not get nearly as big a name as we wanted too."

The idea about bringing a less big name in was then being explored when Weir discovered a way to receive more money from Student Congress. Once this became a possibility again, Murad and Weir put on their thinking caps to come up with the perfect band. The perfect answer, they decided, was Ben Folds.

"We knew that Folds was a

SEE CONCERT PG. 2



# Alma's Hanson named Fulbright finalist

*The senior becomes Alma College's eleventh finalist in just five years*

**ANNA ZICHI**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Alma College has done it once again. The eleventh finalist over the last five years for the Fulbright Scholarship has been chosen from here. Earlier this month **Melissa Hanson (07)** was named a finalist.

There are two types of scholarships that students can apply for. The first is the Full Research Scholarship in which students design an independent project they wish to complete while at a foreign university. The other scholarship includes this aspect but students are also expected

to teach at some level of education. As such, this grant is known as the Teaching Research Scholarship.

"What the Fulbright Scholarship does is it makes sure that all of the financial aspects are taken care of so the students can focus on their project," said **Derek S. Hulme**, chair and professor of political science and nationally competitive scholarship advisor chair.

Students compose their two-page research proposal and with three letters of recommendation send it into the United States based selection committee.

Students begin the application process at the beginning of the first semester of their senior year. They start to explore

their abilities and interests to better develop their proposal, and also to decide which country they wish to apply to. There are over 100 countries that one can go to; but students may only apply

Hulme.

The other unique thing about the scholarship is that it is open to every discipline. Hulme said, "It is great for those that know exactly what they want to do after

did a wonderful job researching her proposal, and had strong letters of recommendation," said Hulme. "She is an exceptionally good student and I will be surprised if



*Photo courtesy of Melissa Hanson*

to one.

Unlike many other scholarships, this one is strictly written, meaning that no interview takes place.

Hulme said, "This means that everything must be laid out exactly and students must be extremely articulate and know exactly what they want when filing the application."

If the United States selection committee approves the proposal that student has then become a finalist. From there everything is sent to the country they applied to and it becomes their decision.

The Fulbright Scholarship is an extremely large and incredibly competitive program. "The applicants range from graduates from undergraduate programs to PH.D. candidates," said

graduation, and it is great for those that do not know because it allows them extra time to explore."

Hanson applied for the 'Teaching Research Project' at a university in Belgium. "If selected, I will spend a year in a Belgian university as a teaching assistant for an English conversation class," said Hanson. "I have also developed a research project that examines the evaluative tools used by Belgian cultural exchange organizations to assess the effectiveness of their programs."

Melissa has excelled while here at Alma College. She is double majoring in economics and French and is currently the senior class valedictorian.

"She is extremely articulate,

she does not receive the scholarship."

"I am very excited to have been chosen by the Fulbright committee as a finalist," said Hanson. "Now comes the hard part of waiting for the final decision." Unfortunately the decision is made between mid-March and mid-May.

The campus is certainly proud of her hard work and dedication to furthering her education.

"In this day and age of global conflicts and cultural disagreements, it is easy to see why a program like the Fulbright is important," said Hanson. "If I can help in some small way to promote understanding and respect amongst people, I believe that I will have left the world a better place."

*Concert from pg. 1...*

very popular artist in our age group, and that he is one who many people listen to, even if it is only a little," said Murad. A Facebook poll was then set up in December to confirm that he was the best option for the students.

With enough student support Murad and Weir took the proposal to Student Congress asking for an extra \$20,000.00. Murad said, "They gave us the money, with the stipulation that it had to be used to bring Ben Folds, and nobody else."

Once Student Congress granted them the extra money they began pushing the papers work through the administration, while continuing to find the extra \$10,000.00 needed to bring Folds to Alma. By the time the rest of the money was collected and the administration was convinced that this was a good idea, most of the dates were lost.

"However, Folds was still interested in playing Alma, and worked with us to find a date that we could both agree on," said Murad. "He gave us two options, April 4 or April 15." With the fourth being the day before Honor's Day the administration was not going to allow it.

"So, after some negotiating, we were able to show the administration that the benefits to campus of having Ben Folds on the Sunday before finals, outweighed the costs."

Not only does this concert give students something to do but it also is great publicity for the college. "It puts our name out there," said Murad. "Alma College will be on all tickets and advertisements all over the state."

Some students have issues with this being used as publicity though. "I think having a concert is a good idea but I do not think we should be trying to attract students with entertainment," said **Margaret Hewitt (09)**. "We should be attracting them with speakers such as Madeline Albright, who is coming next year."

Most are excited for such an opportunity though. **Stephanie Mills (10)** said, "I think it is cool that Alma is getting such a big name - I am really excited."

Tickets are going on sale starting Monday, March 5 through Thursday, March 15 for Alma College students only. These tickets are \$10. Then on March 15 tickets sales will open up to the public and will be \$20 a piece.

## NOW HIRING...

*The Almanian is looking to fill positions for this year and next. All positions are paid - training available.*

\* Photography & Graphics \* Writing \* Layout & Design \* Copy Editing \* Advertising \* Web Design \*



## UHPAC works to change sense of community

**RACHEL PELTON**  
**STAFF WRITER**

There's a new group on campus that students interested in health related careers may want to check out. The United Health Professionals of Alma College, or UHPAC, is open for business and accepting new members. The group was formed by those frustrated with the overall lack of opportunities for students to interact with others sharing their interests. **Rachel Naiukow (o8)**, president of UHPAC, said, "I first was drawn to Alma College because I heard they had an amazing pre-med program. It's true that there are wonderful, unique opportunities here but there is no sense of community." That lack of community is exactly what UHPAC will attempt to change. It is Naiukow's hope that this group will connect biology, chemistry, exercise and health science, and any other major that feeds into health related graduate programs.

Naiukow said, "It seems like many students here have many questions about what things they should/could be doing and many more have no idea who or where to go to for answers." In order to eradicate this problem UHPAC hopes to compile a library of admissions, academic, and ethics

materials concerning the field, graduate studies, and even test-preparation help. Although UHPAC is new on campus they have a long list of things that they hope to accomplish. They will begin by hosting practical education nights for their members.

*"It seems like many students here have many questions about what things they should/could be doing and many more have no idea who or where to go for answers."*

**-Rachel Naiukow (o8)**

These nights will provide students with the opportunity to learn basic medical skills that some people don't learn until graduate school. Examples of potential topics would include the proper use of a stethoscope, the ability to take blood pressure, complete injections, insert IVs, and to draw blood, as well as learning to use pulmonary function tests, EKGs, and many other things.

UHPAC will also provide students with many opportunities to interact with alums attending graduate school and those who are already professionals in the field. In fact, the formation

of a mentor-network is already underway. This network will match students up with professionals in their area of interest. UHPAC also hopes to help place people in situations where they can gain hands on experience. Another goal of this busy organization is to help bring in potential students interested in health related careers. In fact, they hope to work with the admissions office to ensure that prospective students are well aware of the opportunities available to them. The group has made it a personal goal to attend every admissions event from now on.

So who should join this exciting new group? Naiukow said, "Everyone interested in entering any health career should join; PT, OT, DO, MD, Vet, Dent, RN, LPN, NP, PA, pharmacy and research etc. Major certainly has no bearing on that whatsoever." Even if a student is not certain that they want to pursue a career in the health field, this group will provide optimum opportunities to gain priceless exposure that will help them make a fully informed decision. The group already has almost 50 students involved and it's not too late to join. Anyone interested in taking advantage of all that UHPAC has to offer should feel free to contact Rachel Naiukow at o8ranai@alma.edu.

## Weather presents ECCO with more time to fight

**PAULINE HAGEDORN**  
**STAFF WRITER**

As many know, earlier this year there was a large uprising

happening currently because of the weather, which is preventing construction. The members of ECCO—the Environmentally Concerned

with different sub-points, so if people would like, they can go to both meetings and not hear the same thing. These meetings will talk about the economic and agricultural issues that CAFOs bring up, but they are trying to stay away from topics such as the ethics of animal treatment, etc. Sponsored by the Agriculture Extension Office of MSU, these meeting will have MSU experts coming in and talking about the issues related to agriculture and CAFOs. People can visit the ECCO website at [www.iamforecco.com](http://www.iamforecco.com) and read their full thoughts on the issue, as well as submit questions that a panel may answer at the meeting.

Some people in the community are very upset with Michigan State University because they feel that they [MSU] are playing a partisan role in support of the CAFO. Others disagree.



opposing the Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) that is to be built west of Alma. There has not been much recent activity on the subject, so we figured an update could be useful.

As of last word, the CAFO—Confined Animal Feeding Operation—is still slated to be built. Nothing is

Citizens Organization—are using this time to try and push the CAFO out. The locally grown ECCO opposes the CAFO and is still preparing for a fight. They have scheduled two meetings in March, on the 20 and the 27, to discuss the issue. The topic is so big that each meeting is going to deal

## Food Fancy

# Pam's ode to coffee

**JENNIFER ANDERSON**  
**FREELANCE WRITER**



Pam McClintic (o7) is convinced that her coffee addiction is providing her with more than the ability to function on command. In an effort to appease McClintic's internal struggle, and as a reassurance for Alma College coffee lovers, I have collected nutritional findings that act as a testimonial to the bean.

There are two main species of the coffee plant, *Coffea Arabica* and *Coffea canephora* (robusta). *Coffea Arabica* is the older species, thought to be indigenous to Kaffa in south-western Ethiopia. Though it is considered by most to taste better than the second species, it is more susceptible to disease. Robusta contains 40-50 percent more caffeine and can be cultivated in environments where arabica cannot thrive.

Given the benefits of coffee, there are risks that I will mention briefly: insomnia, anxiety, increased blood pressure among people with high blood pressure, heartburn, worsened PMS symptoms, reduced fertility in women trying to conceive, increased risk of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women, and associated risk of cardiovascular disease. To summarize, "all things in moderation."

Consulting authorities such as WebMd, ABC News, and the infamous Wikipedia, research indicates that there are just as many proclaimed benefits to drinking coffee than there are risks. For example, Harvard researchers analyzed 126,000 individuals for as long as eighteen years and found that consuming one to three cups of caffeinated coffee daily can reduce the risk of diabetes.

Consuming six or more cups each day reduced men's risk by 54 percent and women's by 30 percent, compared to the non-drinkers. For those already consuming a high amount of java each day, doctors and researchers agree that consumption (like any good medicine) should be spread throughout the day.

The caffeine, noted by many concerned researchers, is not the sole contributor to coffee's benefits. There is a great amount of antioxidants in coffee as well as magnesium, niacin, and potassium. Decaf contains as much of these substances without the high caffeine of regular coffee.

Other benefits of coffee may include: Reduced risk of suicide among women, prevention of gallstones and gallbladder disease in men, increased alertness, improved short-term recall, increased effectiveness of certain migraine drugs, reduced risk of cirrhosis of the liver among heavy drinkers, and protection against free radical damage to tissues.

## Hot Cockey Remix



### Ingredients:

2 cups strong Italian coffee  
2 cups hot chocolate  
Whipped cream  
Grated orange peel

### Directions:

Mix coffee and hot chocolate. Pour into mugs. Top with whipped cream and orange peel.

Recipe adapted from Heather Richardson (o7), Jane Pudvan (o7), and [www.arabica.com](http://www.arabica.com)

**Continued on pg. 4**



# Sodexho brings fun and opportunities to campus

**RACHEL PELTON**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Let's face it, every year there are dorm rooms across the country that can be declared national disaster areas, and Alma is no different. Whether it is that your room is messy and unorganized or simply plain and lacking life, Sodexho's February promotion was designed to fix just that. Every month Sodexho Food Service plans fun and engaging activities to get students excited. Last summer, a group of students from different campuses around the country met to choose which programs and activities would be most beneficial for students. So it is pretty fair to say that these programs were designed by students for students.

The "Your Room on a Dime" program was set up as a competition on campus. Students were encouraged to enter photographs of their room and tell why they deserved to win a room "makeover." It was the plan to have students vote for the room most desperately in need of a makeover.

## 'The Vagina Monologues': V-day has arrived

**PAULINE HAGEDORN**  
**STAFF WRITER**

On Monday, February 19, through Wednesday, February 21, the women of the McCurdy House—the Alma College Women's Resource Center—and several theatre majors presented "The Vagina Monologues" in Jones Auditorium.

Directed by Alma College student **Rebecca Peacock (08)**, "The Vagina Monologues" is a play that came about after Eve Ensler interviewed over 200 women about their vaginas. The "vaginas" monologue topics cover everything ranging from sexual abuse to self-discovery and empowerment for women.

Chair and associate professor of Communications and codirector of Women's Studies, Joanne Gilbert feels that this play should be performed every year. "It's not just a performance; it seeks to raise awareness and funds to help stop violence against women and girls worldwide. 'The Vagina Monologues' are powerful, funny, enlightening, and most important, a way to demystify the culture of shame surrounding women's bodies," she said.

As part of the V-Day

However, only one person applied for the program.

The winner, **Jake Hanley (09)** said, "My room is as plain as white bread." Hanley's room is located in Mitchell Hall.

As the winner he received the opportunity to choose

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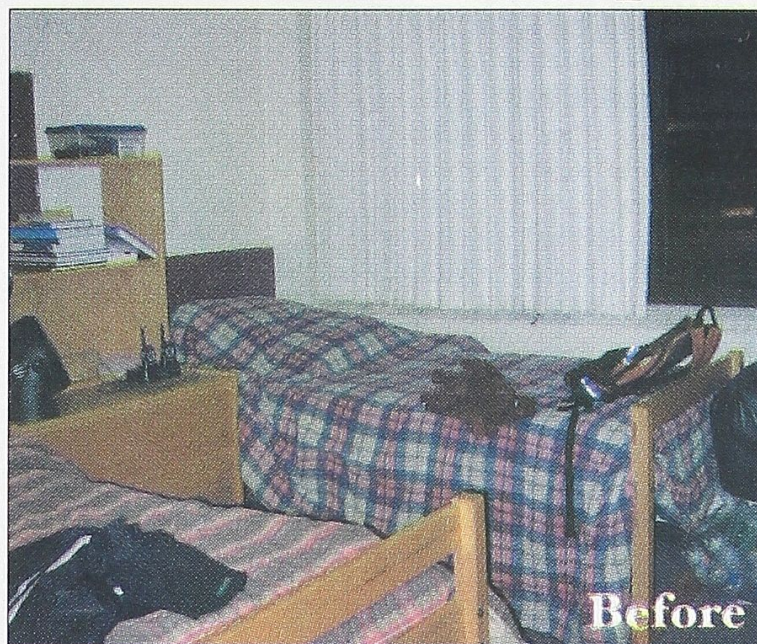
*The programs  
chosen were designed  
by students, for  
students.*

some things to make his room more fun and stylish. **Amy McClellan**, who was in charge of the promotion, said, "Basically we will be trying to accessorize what he already has." McClellan was responsible for purchasing the items for the room. Hanley received some chairs, a new lamp, a plant, a few

organizational items, such as storage totes, and a few other accessories. Hanley said, "The best thing about this competition is that I get to spend a certain amount of money to put some new things in my room."

It is McClellan's hope that students will begin to take advantage of the fun programs that Sodexho is trying to provide. "Your Room on a Dime" was an excellent opportunity for a student to win a lot of great things for their room. Every month Sodexho features a different program. For the month of March they will be hosting "Tunes & Taste," featuring foods themed around music genres. For example, there will be a disco night, a fiesta/Mexican night, and finally a carnival night. For the month of April, Sodexho will be bringing Fun Fest '07 to Alma's Campus. Details for this event are still unconfirmed, but Sodexho hopes to bring a DJ to the cafeteria for exam treats.

Please contact Sodexho dining services or Amy McClellan with any further questions.



Photos courtesy of Anothony Rosenblum

## CAFO from pg. 3

Chair and Reid-Knox Professor of History, Professor of Political Science, and Public Affairs Director, **Edward Lorenz**, is not too thrilled about the idea of a CAFO. "I don't think they help agriculture because they undermine family farms, treat animals badly, and cause environmental health dangers stemming from the large use of antibiotics given to the pigs. Although, I am slightly glad that they are building it west of Alma because it alerts the community to the problems of CAFOs and it is making people care," he said.

Lorenz feels worried about these because they are not getting good national debate and also because many are run by Europeans. "They come here and open these CAFOs in the United States because they are not allowed to in Europe," he said, "[and] why?" For Lorenz, that is a scary thought.

Most people you will talk to are not too pleased about the CAFO coming in, but there are some brighter aspects to the issue. One, it is becoming the future of agriculture and big farming, so it should be supported. Two, it brings jobs to the community. Three, CAFOs bring investment to the community through the building of the facility, etc.

As always, there are objections. The smell could lower property value. The facilities do not seem to add anything to the economy and they undermine small farms. Also, in the specific case of Alma College, it could discourage people from coming to school here, dropping an enrollment rate which is already too low.

Chair & Associate Professor of Communication and Codirector of Women's Studies **Joanne Gilbert** is very against the idea of a hog CAFO. "[...] It will negatively impact residents' health, and cause major damage—both to the local environment and economy," she said, "I strongly oppose CAFOs because they are inhumane to animals and harmful to people—I don't want my daughter growing up exposed to environmental contaminants. I support traditional family farms, not factory farms."

For Alma College student **Nate Glitman (09)**, who also is from the city of Alma, CAFOs are a no-go. "I am opposed to them because I do not like what they do and I am against corporate farms. I would rather support the small family farm," he said.

campaign, "The Vagina Monologues" were first performed at Alma College in 2002 under the direction of Gilbert; she was motivated to bring it to Alma after seeing it performed. Due to its overwhelming support, the first production raised \$4000 for women's aid.

Now, five years later, it is still being performed and Gilbert is very impressed with the people she has to work with. "I'm incredibly impressed by the passion and commitment of the students currently involved, especially director Becky Peacock."

Peacock talks about her experiences directing and producing "The Vagina Monologues." "As director, I have to get the rights to the show and work with the actors on their lines and such, as well as work on getting the production on its feet. As a women's studies minor, I have lived in the McCurdy House for two years. I enjoy this play because it teaches about violence and how it needs to end, as well as telling us what happens and how we can help." For Peacock, this is her way to say "This needs to stop!" and to get the message out.

V-Day is an international movement to help end violence against women

and girls and it raises funds through benefit productions of "The Vagina Monologues." Overall, the productions have raised more than \$35 million. Besides that, V-Day also creates global education, media and PSA campaigns, and reopens shelters. V-Day has launched the Karma Program in the middle east, gave money to open over 5000 community run anti-violence programs, and funded safe houses in South Dakota, Kenya, Egypt, and Iraq. The "V" in V-Day stands for victory, valentines, and vagina.

According to Gilbert, the V-Day College campaign makes every effort to encourage women to join together and raise their voices in protest to violence.

The Alma College productions of "The Vagina Monologues" are following typical procedure by performing the monologues between Valentine's Day, February 14, and International Women's Day, which is March 8.

Many students found the performance incredibly moving. "The performance was very powerful and left a lot of us speechless," **Rebecca Miller (09)** said, "A very fine and well put together production."





**KEVIN BILBREY**  
STAFF WRITER

So, I have been getting really annoyed with... Hey, are you even listening to me? See, this is what I'm talking about. You can't even take the iPod out of your ears for a few minutes to let me talk to you.

(Now, I realize that you are reading these words, and

## iPods may be music to your ears, but you're not listening to me

that whether or not you are listening to an iPod at the moment makes no difference because you are not really hearing me at all, but humor me.)

You get the point, however. The massive number of iPods that I see everyday is indicative of the college atmosphere, and I welcome it, but it has gotten a bit out of hand. When you can't even get someone's attention when you aren't but ten feet behind him because he is so engrossed in listening to his... Best of Kenny G? Really?

When a person can't even

hear when you yell to warn them about an oncoming car or a runaway prairie schooner, then we have a problem.

So, what I suggest is that you all take a minute to consider how this plague of personal music devices has afflicted your life.

Have you ever tried to speak to your friends and been met with only the soft muffled bass line of *Stairway to Heaven*? Have you ever yelled out to your buddy across the lawn and been greeted by your own lonely echo? Have you ever tried to have a meaningful conversation with

a friend and received only a blank look of confusion in return? If so, then you know exactly of what I speak.

The thing is that there is no real answer to this terrible crisis. I mean, Apple has created this entire sub-culture centered on the iPod, and it has infiltrated every aspect of our society, so much so that it is no longer possible for us to survive without them. After all, without them we would have to go back to actually speaking and interacting with each other. Nobody really wants that, do we?

So, I guess we will just have

to accept that we will never be able to have another conversation. Soon, the world will be filled with small white headphones consuming our every waking moment. It is better that we do so now and just forget about ever trying to talk to one another again. Our ears can be filled with the blissful sounds of Billy Joel and The Police, and we can all let... Hey, have you heard a single word I've said? Hello?

You're listening to your iPod again, aren't you? Oh well, hopefully it's not Barry Manilow.

## Gaming to please; Hole renovations mean great entertainment

### Pool, air hockey, plasma television attract constant traffic through Joe's Cafe area

**KEVIN BILBREY**  
STAFF WRITER

Remember a few weeks ago when everyone was complaining about all the renovations being done in the Hole next to Joe's? When we were all annoyed at the work that was obviously going to produce such a pointless piece of unused space?

Well, I am here to officially say that I was wrong—the renovations in the Hole are great.

I thought that it would be just some stupid waste of time and money, but I have found that it really is rather enjoyable.

The pool tables, while not the best quality, are new, and provide excellent entertainment to those who have a hard time finding entertainment during those long weekends when everybody goes home.

Also, they make for great fun during the slow hours in between lunch and dinner. It's always great to be able to

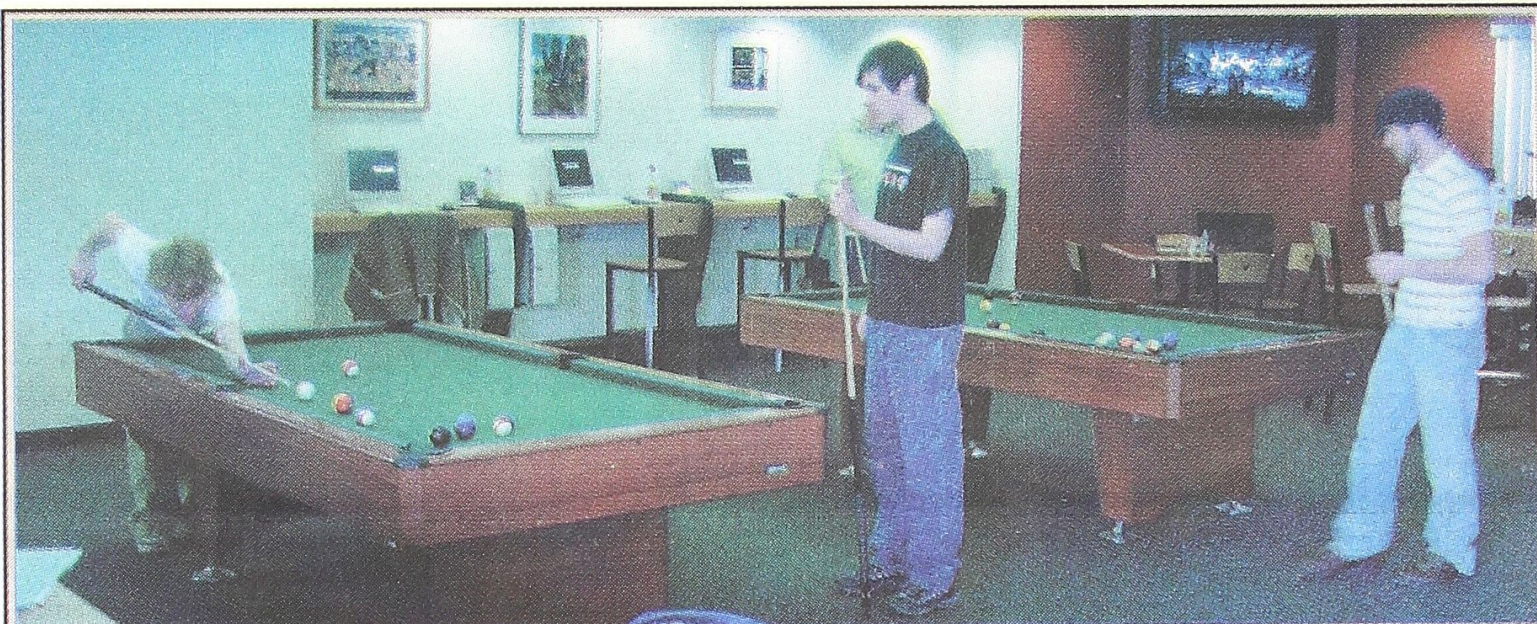


Photo courtesy of Derek Harrison

Left to Right: Paul Converse (ro), Jim Scheide (ro), Jay Vanderhovel (ro). As billiards has become a constant attraction to the area next to Joe's Cafe, students have easy entertainment between classes. Vanderhovel challenged others, saying they were the best on campus.

play some good, high-quality pool with people you've never met before without having to worry about whether or not they're going to take a loss out on your health (as sometimes has to be worried about at certain other pool halls that I have played at).

The air hockey is great as well, though it is generally in less use than the pool tables. Perhaps because billiards is just naturally a more exciting

game, or perhaps because the pool players are better able to enjoy the new T.V. that looks excellent in the lounge area.

Either way, it doesn't really matter, because both of the pool tables and the air hockey table are excellent additions to the Hole.

Now, we just need to work on making sure that the Rotunda renovations live up to the standard that was set by the ones done to the Hole.

That is why we need to make sure that the new upholstery is leather (after all, if it's going to be the senior gift, it might as well be good), and there has to be at least one massive flat-screen added along with the gas fireplace.

It would be a great place to hang out, and it could easily be converted into a theater-style area for small group movies and other events.

Oh, and I still say that

we should get some arcade games in there somewhere, or at least a pinball machine or something.

All of that aside, the renovations done in the Van Dusen campus center have been great so far, and I cannot wait to see what other great things are in store.

Now, if you will excuse me, I have to go down and shoot some balls around in the new and improved Hole.

## 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

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College's campus Thursday evenings and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly, with the exception of academic recesses.

### Letter Policy

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# Alma Model United Nations: lining pockets, leaving town

**JORDAN BROWN**  
STAFF WRITER

What if you knew that at Alma College there was an organization that got around 14,000 dollars—6 percent—of *your* student activity money, which went towards free travel and lodging for 20 or 30 students?

Oh and by the way, they're getting college credit for it as well. That's Alma College's Model UN team.

In a student congress that is already having issues with not enough money to go around, we are essentially subsidizing the resume building of a few students on campus.

Before I go further, here's my disclaimer—I respect Model UN as an organization. The tales I've been told about countless hours of study in the library, and the prestige they bring from being so successful in their endeavors garners them genuine respect.

The problem comes when they cut off such a large portion of a pie that is already dangerously small—a pie that has to be spread out amongst about 50 other organizations on campus.

The long and short of it is that Model UN is a class—not an activity. Very few of the students

involved are participating without receiving credit. Funding for classes comes from the administration, not the activity fee—classes are academic, not extracurricular.

Activity fee money is necessary for the continued survival of many c a m p u s

you want to be on the radio, just take a 15 minute training meeting and you're on the air.

On top of those other groups being accessible to any student, they plan and execute events that benefit

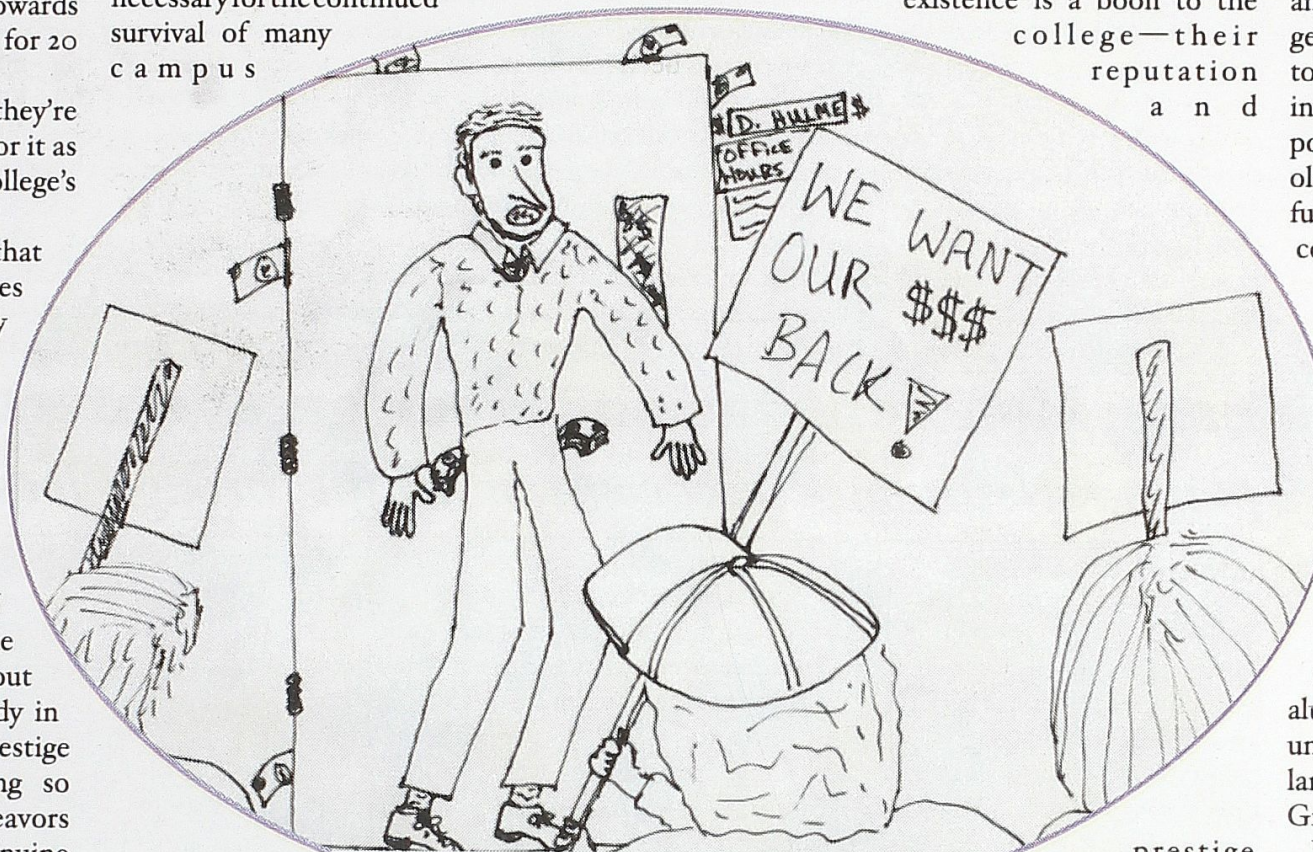
UN team does: they compete. But what are they doing for the campus community as a whole? Where are the events for the campus to participate in, or at least *see*?

The organization will argue that their continued existence is a boon to the college—their reputation a n d

brings the college prestige by winning, but they aren't digging into the activity fee. Some might say that the club lacrosse team receives money from student congress, but that team's eventual goal is to become a varsity sport and the only reason they are getting money is essentially to get enough campus involvement to get to that point. Model UN is 20 years old and still using our activity funds to supplement their competition.

The problem with Model UN's situation is that it's difficult for them to convince me that they need the money, which is exactly what they should be doing—because as it stands they receive money from the political science department, the administration, alumni donations, and an undisclosed, but reputedly large amount from the Posey Grant.

With all this other outside funding—funding that many groups that operate within student congress don't get—you would think a group that is about communal consciousness on the large scale would feel responsible enough to spread the wealth to the more disadvantaged groups on campus—rather than just lining their own budgetary pockets.



*Hey, it's not like we have W.M.D.s or anything in here!!!*

prestige make for a great recruitment tool and bring Alma a good reputation. I don't argue that—what I do contest is that a large portion of money that is supposed to be used for general campus activities is going to what is essentially classroom credits and travel expenses.

The football team also

the campus community throughout the year. ACUB just pulled off an excellent casino night with a comedian, while Model UN has an ice cream social and right now is riding off to St. Louis, Missouri to compete. Which is fine, that's what a Model

organizations—such as the Almanian, the Adventure Club, WQAC, and ACUB. These are groups on campus that are open for anyone to join, or that put on events for *everyone* to participate in. There aren't mandatory adventuring training times to be a part of the Adventure Club, and if

## Strengthening recruitment, earning interscholastic respect

*Consider the benefits because Model United Nations is dependent on funding from student congress*

**JIM ALLEN**  
FREELANCE WRITER

As an active participant for two years now, I confidently state that Alma College's Model UN team is significant for Alma's campus and its unique liberal arts education.

Humbly and without exaggeration, Alma's Model UN team has proven itself to be one of the best in the world, having left the New York conference with the Outstanding Delegation award for over a decade. Our team is genuinely respected by all of our competitors, which include approximately 350 colleges and universities from around the world. As a college seeking to raise its reputation, this is an outlet to feature Alma's strong academics.

Model UN also exposes its participants to pressing international issues, which are then brought to the campus through projects and organizations. One example

is Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe (FCEE), which is primarily led by Model UN students, though certainly open to the entire campus.

Given last year's enrollment crisis, Model UN has proven exceptionally effective this year as a new admissions tool. I can personally profess, as one of the many UN members who talked with prospective students on both "Scholar Recruitment Days," that our strong program was appealing to students of various disciplines. Therefore, I am disheartened that some members of Student Congress want to do away with the Model UN budget, being that UN is working to recruit enough students to increase the revenue from the Student Activities Fee.

I understand that Alma's Model UN team (like any other team) has a costly budget, but it is efficiently utilized and absolutely necessary for the success of

the team. We literally gather binders of information on the negative effects of wasteful-spending and by no means "swim in" our allotted 6% of the Student Activities budget. In fact, when that percentage was originally agreed upon a decade ago, Model UN took a \$2500 cut.

Though the team tries to tap into other financial resources, it simply is not enough. Currently, Model UN can only draw about half of its needs from the administrative budget, and a recent grant from alumni Lee Posey was given to allow us to stay for the awards ceremony in New York for the first time in 5 years. Moreover, students pay an \$80 class fee and at least \$150 for food in both St. Louis and New York. The Student Activities money is not a bonus—it is a necessity.

Some have said, though, that the fee is too low and that UN members should pay more to participate. However, this

would make the program inaccessible to many empty-pocketed students, including myself. One of the strengths of our team is that it engages students of various academic fields by reducing the costs to make the course available and feasible for everyone. Participation is not based on one's major or financial situation, but on passions and interest. This is what makes Model UN one of Alma's many wonderful and accessible opportunities.

Others have said that Model UN does not deserve Student Congress money because it is an academic course. However, aside from the fact that some students participate without credit, we put much more time and energy into UN than we do for any other class, and the team's sacrifice of a week and a half of school for conferences can attest to that. Accepting this, the Model UN budget makes sense: our regular class work is covered under

the administrative budget as a normal academic course, while the additional time we spend in preparation and at conferences is an extra-curricular activity, which draws from the Student Activities budget.

Simply put, Model UN benefits the campus community, welcomes any student, and is an extra-curricular activity in many ways. Eliminating Model UN from the Student Activities budget would only be snuffing out a part of Alma's exceptional learning environment.

**Should Model U.N. receive money from Student Congress?**

\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_ NO

*Tear this out & turn it in to the Hamilton entrance or send an email to [07dtbarr@alma.edu](mailto:07dtbarr@alma.edu)*



## Womens tennis downs early competition, sees promise in future

**JORDAN BROWN**  
**STAFF WRITER**

The women's tennis team has opened up to a strong season.

Their first two matches were not only wins, but definitive wins over Michigan State's club team and the University of Findley—both 8 over 1 victories.

This bold start doesn't surprise Co-captain **Lindsay Wagner (08)**.

"We have amazing team chemistry," said Wagner, who captains the team for the first time alongside second-year captain **Laura Kendrick (07)**. On top of the morale she names another reason for the positive outlook, "[Coach] Jim Fox is amazing," Wagner said. "He's the reason why we're improving—he just knows the game."

Fox is just as impressed with the girls he's coaching.

"I'm optimistic; they're just such an easy group to work with, and they work hard," he said.

Wagner said that the team has a goal of placing fourth or fifth in the MIAA, compared to last season's seventh place finish.

"We have the capability if we keep our heads up," said Wagner. "We've never been extremely respected, and last year we opened up some eyes, and we want to give a good challenge this year."

Fox attributes some of the expected improvement on the strong nucleus of returning players like **Kelly Schwartzkopf (08)**, **Laura McKendry (09)**, Wagner, and Kendrick. Wagner named Schwartzkopf and McKendry as some of the team's biggest assets for this season and for the future.

"Kelly is already close to Laura Kendrick at the top spot, and she'll be there next year," Wagner said.

Wagner is eager to mention, though, that the whole team is close in skill, which will be helping them a great deal. She believes there will be some tough battles for the top spots, but down the line they will be very strong.

"We're more well rounded this year," said Wagner, citing that the new senior **Betsy Bulhuis (07)**, who is playing in the 6-person lineup, has been a big help.

The team is optimistic about the future beyond the

season as well.

Fox says that there are about ten prospective recruits, and if they get even two or three of them it will be quite a boost for the young team. The Scots are only losing two seniors this year: Kendrick and Bulhuis.

"The juniors and sophomores are going to be deep next season," said Wagner. "We're still a young team."

Wagner knows, however, that this is to the Scots' advantage.

The drive for the recruiting is strong, with both captains hitting the phone banks to call potentials while Fox calls and watches the matches of possible recruits.

Fox even has some hope for some transfers.

All of this adds up to a very bright season for the women, and a positive outlook is going to be necessary against some teams in the conference.

Albion has won for the last few years, and is the strong favorite again with Kalamazoo College, Hope, and Calvin close in tow.

Coach Fox says he knows that all the girls need is to keep their goal in mind and to "keep improving."



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

Lindsay Wagner practices with Lisl Steusloff before the weekend meets. Alma's Ladies Tennis team ended up winning both meets.

## Scots baseball looks to 'bring the heat' to Florida match-ups

**JAMES THRUBIS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

The Alma College men's baseball team improved its record in 2006 to 18-19 after a dismal 2005 season in which the team finished 9-22.

Yet even though the team doubled its wins, it was still a disappointing season according to the starting center fielder, **Dan Merian (07)**.

"Last year was disappointing, as we were expecting to be in contention for the [Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association] MIAA championship," he said. "This year we look to build upon last year's experience."

To some, this story may sound quite similar to what the Detroit Tigers endured over the course of the last three seasons. Now, the Alma College baseball team is drawing from that and using it as motivation.

"Our team will be very much like the Tigers in the respect that we will have a young team that is looking to make the routine plays and play together as a team," said Merian.

Expectations for this upcoming season seem to be high for first basemen and pitcher **Josh Reece (07)**.



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

"I think we have a chance to be better than most expect," he said. "If we can be consistent and smart we will do well."

Reece is correct: a good baseball team must be consistent and smart, but most importantly, it needs those characteristics from the pitchers and defense.

"With solid pitching and good defense we hope to finish at the top of the MIAA," said **Mike Slesinski (07)**.

It seems that there is only one downfall to this team and that is the departure of **Pat Ott (06)** and **Brandon Teenier (06)**, who graduated last spring. Merian feels they lost two great players, but thinks that he and his teammates can fill the void.

"Pat Ott's bat will be missed, but the returning senior position players—myself, Josh Reece, Mike Slesinski, and **Tyler Bolley (07)**—will be looking to fill in where Pat's

bat was last year," he said.

The baseball team travels to Florida every spring break to play in a series of non-conference games. Teams try to use this to set the tone for the season, but Reece feels differently.

"It really isn't that much of a tone setter in terms of wins and losses," he said. "Our goal is to win every game, but it is a better chance to really learn what type of team we have. It is like our spring

training."

But how will this Florida trip affect conference play once back in Michigan?

"The Florida trip will affect conference play in a positive way because it gives us an opportunity to get out on the field and play six games before conference play starts," said Merian.

Leading the Scots baseball team for the tenth year is former Michigan State Spartan and Boston Red Sox pitcher John Leister.

Merian could sum up playing for coach Leister in one word: "Interesting."

"You never know what you're going to get from Coach. Although he is a character at times, we always know that he's got our back. Like Coach always preaches, 'we are all family,'" said Merian.

The Alma College baseball family will start its season in Florida this Sunday, February 25, against Hanover College, with either **Wade Slavik (08)** or **Joe Thiry (09)** taking the mound for the season opener.

The Scots' home opener is set for March 24 against Hope College in a double-header that starts at 1 p.m.



## Mens tennis demonstrates depth and promise

**JORDAN BROWN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Scots mens tennis team has come out swinging this year with an opening record of 3-1. One of those wins was over Wabash College, who beat the Scots last season with a heavy hand. This kind of turnaround win has given the team a tone for their season.

After long years of being a zero impact team in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA), Coach **Chris Sandro** has a new goal for the team.

"We want to be fourth in the conference this year," said Sandro. "We want to continue to get more competitive."

The team concurs.

"We'd like to beat Albion to take that fourth spot," said **Brett Seymoure (09)**. "What we'd love is to beat Calvin—now that'd be amazing."

As projected, to take fourth place in the conference, the Scots would fall beneath Kalamazoo College, Hope College, and Calvin College; but there is always hope to take Calvin.

The competitive drive is a tool that Sandro uses to make sure there is constant growth

in the team.

"We're young, and we're deep," Sandro said, "but everyone knows they're going to be pushed. It forces people to step their games up."

Sandro uses this youth to his advantage. He says that it's easier for younger players to make greater leaps in terms of skill.

"When they're young, it's easier to improve every day," said Sandro. "It's hard for the seniors, but when they're young, it's easy."

Sandro said this is visible too. "There is a drastic improvement from last year's team."

Sandro says his sophomores have made a particularly strong showing, and they make up the bulk of the team—in fact, four of the six spots are held by sophomores. **Chris Noel (09)**, **Dan Frazier (09)**, **Josh Sanders (09)**, along with Seymoure, are all in the main lineup.

This is not the whole team, however.

"I like to carry ten," said Sandro. He likes this because it makes the other four work harder to achieve the higher spots, and the top six work to keep them. Having the two freshmen in the top

lineup gives a good sense for the other first years on the team—**Alex Montoye (10)** and **Tom Hardin (10)** play the four and five spots respectively

The competition doesn't seem to be hurting any morale though.

"We all get along really well," said Montoye, a sentiment shared by both Seymoure and Sandro.

They must, since the cramped van rides to places like Indianapolis and Ohio are interesting ways to build team bonds.

The future of the Scots tennis program looks strong for all of this. Sandro and the players feel recruitment is going well. A first singles player from Clarkston has already deposited for Alma, and there are about eight other players that Coach Sandro says he is in contact with.

Sandro says his recruitment is active, and he is straightforward with the prospective players. He makes the team aware as well, to keep them working, he says.

"We're going to keep bringing guys in," said Sandro, "and we're going to keep adding more depth."

## Basketball from pg. 1...

have beaten us twice and beating a team three times is a tough thing to do. There is a chance we could upset Hope or Calvin because both teams will underestimate us and



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

The Alma College mens basketball team huddles together to listen to its coach during a recent game.

if we continue to play as hard as we have been and hit some key shots, it's a different story from the two previous games," he said.

The Scots last regular season game was on February 17 against the Bulldogs of Adrian. They lost in overtime by a score of 86-81. But some positives came out of the loss, going into the conference tournament.

The Scots had three players scoring in double digits, Smith led the charge with a double-double scoring 34 points and pulling down ten rebounds. **Venias Jordan (08)** added 23 points of his own while **Matt Brown (09)** was good for 12 points in the loss to the Bulldogs.

The Scots hosted the number one seed Flying Dutchmen of Hope College on Wednesday, and the nationally ranked Dutchmen were too much for the Scots to handle. They play Adrian College in the conference semi-finals in Holland at 8:15 tonight.

## Final tournament signifies completion of intramural volleyball

**LAUREN RUSSELL**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Since its beginning on January 25, intramural volleyball has drawn a wide range of students to the Stone Recreation Center to bump, set and spike their stress away while building relationships with others.

"[IM sports] give students the opportunity to release some stress and pressure from the everyday college lifestyle," said **Jake Kanine**, an intern from Central Michigan University who is working at the Rec Center and supervising the IM

sports.

The sport, which was offered by the Rec Center, allowed students to play volleyball on competitive teams with less pressure and selectiveness of the actual collegiate team

"In IMs, people put a lot of pressure on themselves to win, but other than that the pressure to win isn't there... there is more pressure to do well and succeed [when playing for] a college sport," said Kanine.

IM volleyball was offered to all students and the six co-ed teams that played in the season were made up of a variety of people.

The teams consisted of members of Greek life and athletes from the track team, mens and womens soccer teams, volleyball team and volleyball assistant coach and director of the Rec Center, **Cheyenne Luzynski**.

There was even a team of Biology majors, who were late for the championship playoffs because they had biology work, according to Kanine.

No matter who made up the team, many players shared something in common, their love for the sport.

"Volleyball is my favorite

sport," said **Melanie McIntyre (08)**, who used to play volleyball for Alma College but could no longer continue due to health reasons. "I wanted to play the sport that I love to death."

Her love for the sport showed as she was still grinning from the success of her team this season. Her team won the final tournament last Thursday, which ended the almost-month long season. The winning team was awarded IM champion t-shirts.

The success of her team was not the best thing about IM volleyball, according to McIntyre.

"Being able to play Volleyball again [was the best]," she said. "I am a defensive specialist and on the team I was specifically the DS. Just digging every ball, that's what I love to do and that's what I got to do. That's the best part."

Even with a win and a chance to play again, McIntyre enjoyed the benefits from playing any IM sport.

"Not only do you get to meet new people, but it's just something fun to do," said McIntyre. "It was a big stress



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

McIntyre and Mark Daisy (07) stand ready during a game.

reliever for me... The one sane place I could go was the rec. [I could] play volleyball and have fun."

Though volleyball is finished for the semester and intramural basketball is in its second week already, students are still able to sign up for other IM sports.

The deadline to sign up

for indoor soccer is March 1 and March 15 for dodge ball. Outdoor soccer and softball will be offered to those sticking around for spring term, according to Kanine.

Those interested in participating in other intramural sports can find out more information from the Rec Center.

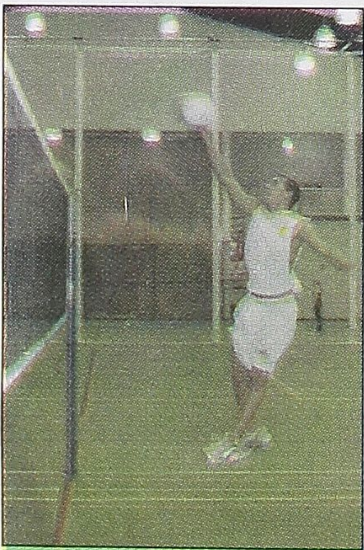


Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

Nate Weirauch (08) spikes the ball during a game.