

The Almanian

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Issue 17

Friday, March 16, 2007

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

UNDER THE COVER

Alma seniors set to fulfill ambitious post-graduation plans.

SEE NEWS PG. 2



The Almanian provides an exclusive look into the lives of several SAGA dining crew members.

SEE FEATURE PG. 4

In theatres now, Frank Miller's 300 is more than a "must see," according to one opinion writer.

SEE OPINION PG. 5

A sports writer provides insight in to March Madness picks.

SEE SPORTS PG. 7

BY THE NUMBERS

34.7

The number of American residents, in millions, claiming Irish ancestry.

1759

The year Arthur Guinness started brewing ales in Ireland. Today, Guinness beer is one of the most consumed on St. Patrick's Day.

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Model UN continues tradition of excellence

Alma team earns two outstanding and one honorable mention awards

ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

High schools, colleges, and universities across the nation participate in Model United Nations (Model UN).

While it is an honor to be a member in high school, it is even more prestigious if one

is a member at a college or university. Especially if one is a student at an institution that has already received numerous awards in this area. Alma is one such school.

Recently, Alma's team competed in the Midwest Model UN conference in St. Louis, Missouri, and next

week they will compete in the International Conference in New York City.

"At St. Louis there were 600 students competing on behalf of 75 colleges and universities," said **Derek Hulme**, chair and professor of political science and nationally competitive

SEE MODEL UN PG. 2



Photo courtesy of Sandra McCormick

Alma College's Model UN team recently competed and won top honors at the Midwest Model United Nations conference in St. Louis, Missouri. The students travel to the Big Apple this Sunday for the most prestigious and competitive Model UN conference in the world.

Female rabbi to visit Alma

KRISTA PENNINGTON
STAFF WRITER

On Monday, March 19, as a part of Women's Month, Rabbi Sally Priesand, America's first female rabbi, will be speaking about "Groundbreaking Leadership" in room L1 of Dow Science Center at 8 p.m.

Her visit is cosponsored by the Woman's Studies Program, The Center for Responsible Leadership, Discovering Vocations, and the Chaplain's Office. Priesand is the author of *Judaism and the New Woman* and has received many awards during her career, which has primarily been centered in New Jersey.

"We are very pleased to welcome Rabbi Priesand to campus," said Chaplain **Carol Gregg**. "Her commitment to justice, peace, and equal opportunity for women, the needs of the hungry and the homeless, and the survival of Israel is reflected in her lifetime accomplishments and organizational affiliations."

Rabbi Priesand was

SEE RABBI, PG. 2

Alma College announces nominees for Barlow Award

Bernethy, Hanson, and Hong recognized for outstanding collegiate achievements

ANNA ZICHI
STAFF WRITER

Spring is finally in the air, which means that graduation for the class of 2007 is just around the corner. Many activities surround this event. There are the results of graduate schools applications, job hiring, Honors Day, and the giving of the most prestigious award here at Alma: the Barlow Trophy.

"The Barlow Trophy has become the most highly prized award given to a graduating senior," said **Sandra Tracy**, President of Alma College. Right before spring break the three finalists were named. They are **Erin Bernethy (07)**, **Melissa Hanson (07)** and **Marcus Hong (07)**.

Joel Barlow, class of 1929,

was not only a student here but also a highly esteemed Trustee after his graduation. "His prominence as an attorney in Washington, D.C., his international acclaim, his service to this college as a Trustee and as a loyal supporter, endow this award with special meaning," said Tracy. "A distinguished alumnus of this college, he was a person who pursued excellence throughout his personal and professional life."

There are two main criteria that a student must meet in order to be considered as a finalist. First, the student must be in the top ten percent of the senior class. Second, scholarship should play a large part in consideration but at the same time not be the only criteria. Barlow said, "Participation in

campus activities should be considered."

Finalists are chosen through a faculty and student committee and are then asked to write about the Alma College activities that they partook in that taught them the most. The final decision is based on a vote from both the faculty and student congress.

Bernethy is receiving her degree in biology and has done much to further her education while here in Alma. She has gone on several alternative break trips and studied abroad in Kerala her sophomore year. During her senior year she has stayed just as active.

"It is exciting to be named a Barlow finalist," said Hanson. "My activities at Alma College have shaped my experience here, so to be

recognized for my involvement is an honor." Next year, Hanson hopes to be in Belgium with her Fulbright scholarship. However, if that does not work out, she has also applied for a teaching

SEE
BARLOW,
PG. 2



Photos courtesy of Skip Traynor
From top: Erin Bernethy, Melissa Hanson, and Marcus Hong were named Barlow finalists.

Alma seniors make post graduation plans

RACHEL PELTON
STAFF WRITER

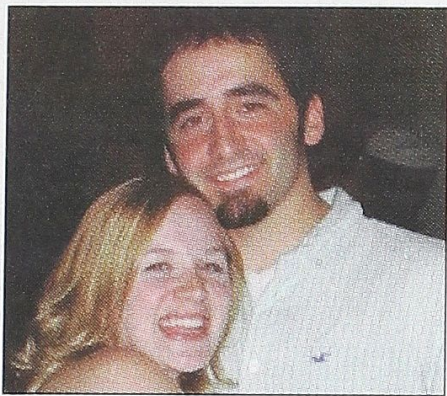
As Graduation draws closer, many Alma College seniors have big plans taking shape. These students have accomplished great things during their time here at Alma and it is clear that they will be taking the world by storm after leaving this place behind.

Many underclassmen may be wondering what they will do after graduation, and some might even be facing anxiety about whether they will find jobs. Read on to learn the stories of five seniors who have taken on the challenge of life after Alma head on and are sure to succeed in their future endeavors.

Megan Gillespie (07) has accepted a position with Ernst and Young, a "Big Four" accounting firm, at their Detroit office. Gillespie will begin work in the fall of 2007. She will have the title of Staff 1, working for Ernst and Young's Assurance Practice. This position will have her working with a team of auditors and assessing the financial data of many clients. Gillespie is working toward the ultimate goal of obtaining her CPA (Certified Public Accountant) license. She said, "I'm excited to learn what auditing entails and discover if that's truly the field in which I want to further my career."

Another accomplished senior, **Josh Reece (07)**, has some big choices facing him as he prepares to graduate from Alma. Because of his excellent academics at Alma, so far Reece has been accepted to Valparaiso Law School, University of Kentucky College of Law, Michigan State University College of Law, Wake Forest University,

Quinnipiac University, Hofstra Law School, and Baylor University. Reece has also received full scholarships from three schools and half scholarship to two others.



Megan Jarczyński and Chris Regan plan to devote their time after graduation to Peace Corps operations in either the Caribbean, Pacific Islands, or Asia.

He says that this decision is so difficult because each of the schools has been very friendly. Reece hopes to pursue a career in Professional Sports Administration someday and a law degree is very important. About the experience of applying to law school, Reece said, "Overall the process has been very humbling. I was always afraid of not even getting in to one school and now I have and I'm actually receiving scholarship money. I never would have predicted that and I think it goes to show a lot about the reputation of a school like Alma and the faculty that have prepared me so well without my even noticing."

Mollie Smith (07) has devoted herself to service after graduation. She will be heading to Philadelphia to work for Teach for America. Smith first heard about Teach for America through an Alma Alum. Smith went through a rigorous interview process and was eventually selected to be a secondary general science teacher for the Philadelphia School District. While teaching in Philadelphia, Smith also

plans to take courses at the University of Pennsylvania or Chestnut Hill College and pursue her masters in Education, along with her teaching certification. Smith said, "I am excited to be able to contribute something meaningful back to society."

Two other Alma students will also be devoting their lives to service. **Chris Regan (07)** and **Megan Jarczyński (07)** are in the process of applying to the Peace Corps. They plan on departing at the end of 2007. They decided to join the Peace Corps because they were not positive what they wanted to do with their degrees. However, both feel a strong passion to help others and make a difference. Regan plans on pursuing small business development and Jarczyński hopes to work on community development. The two have requested placement in the Caribbean, Pacific Islands, or Asia.

These students are a great reminder of the quality of the education that is received at Alma. Each of them has set strong goals and they are working hard to achieve them. Smith said, "For the past four years, Alma College has taught me that we, as students, are distinguished in many ways from other universities across the nation, but among the most important is our dedication to—and passion for—serving the communities in which we live."

If you find yourself wondering where the road will lead you after Alma, take heart in the fact that you have been adequately prepared, and if you see any of these seniors around campus be sure to congratulate them on their outstanding accomplishments.

'Model UN' from pg. 1...

scholarship advisor chair.

Of these 600 students Alma students were able to bring home 32% of the individual awards and 40% of the team awards. For a team with only 31 members, that is impressive.

The students representing Uruguay and Uzbekistan received awards as "outstanding delegation," and Rwanda received honorable mention in this same category. Many students also received "outstanding" individual recognition and "honorable mention" individual recognition.

In New York there will be over 4000 delegates, with approximately 2000 of them being from foreign countries. All together, 31 countries will be represented at this conference. "It is truly an enormous conference," said Hulme.

Like in St. Louis, each team works with delegates from other institutions to create suggestions of ways to solve issues within certain countries that are being represented. "The unique part of New York is that once this conference is done, the suggestions get sent to the countries and are then reviewed, and some are even adopted by the country," said Hulme, "In that case it is a tremendous honor for these students."

While on campus, students' research topics that relate to the committees they are working on. Each committee has two to three topics to address. Hulme said, "The students spend the semester becoming an expert at these topics."

Each team member then is responsible for an extremely detailed and extensive research paper. The paper addresses the issues for each country and takes about two months to complete. At the competition the paper is worth one quarter of their final score.

"Every committee puts together a binder for each topic, and each binder ends up being about three inches thick," said **Elizabeth Espinosa (07)**, "It is a lot of research." She is a Foreign Service major with a Spanish minor.

While Espinosa's career aspirations pertain to many of the topics, other students on the team are simply there because they realize the relevance of the topics. "It is something that I am really interested in and it gave me an opportunity to learn about a wide array of topics," said Espinosa.

"We are a truly diverse group, that pulls together students from all over campus," said Hulme, "We deal with issues that are important for everyone."

Over the next year, the group hopes to continue to expand and recruit more people. Espinosa said, "The more people we have, the more perspectives we are able to gain, and the more we are able to learn from each other."

With the successes that they had in St. Louis, they are sure to repeat them in New York. "I have a great group of talented and enthusiastic students," said Hulme. "I am proud of all of their hard work and of them."

'Rabbi' from pg. 1...

ordained in June of 1972 by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio, her hometown. She holds a B.A. and an M.A. in Hebrew Letters, as well as a B.A. in English from the University of Cincinnati. In 1973 she received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Florida International University, as well as an honorary Doctor of Divinity from her Alma Mater, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Priesand's first position was at Wise Free Synagogue in New York City, where she stayed for seven years as an assistant rabbi and then as an associate rabbi. Following that, she served as a rabbi at Temple Beth El in Elizabeth, NJ, and then from 1981-2006 she served as the rabbi at Monmouth Reform Temple in Tinton Falls, NJ.

Priesand is a member of Jewish Woman International, The National Organization for Women, Hadassah, The National Breast Cancer Coalition, and is a founding member of the Association of Reform Zionists of America. She also chairs the Religious Affairs Committee of Planned Parenthood of Central New Jersey.

Priesand currently lives in New Jersey with her Boston terrier, Shadow, where she enjoys watercolor painting. She exhibits annually in the Monmouth Festival of Arts and had a solo exhibit in the Backman Gallery at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York, in honor of the thirtieth anniversary of her ordination.

No ticket is required for entry.

'Barlow' from pg. 1...

assistantship in France. Hanson is a double major in French and economics.

"Wherever I end up, I plan on continuing my volunteer work and actively participating in my community," said Hanson.

When asked how he felt about being named as a finalist Hong said, "Ecstatic and humbled. It is a wonderful experience to be honored by the college and to know that the things that I have been involved in have made a real impact on life at Alma."

After graduating, Hong plans on marrying **Sarah DeYoung (07)** and then

attending Princeton Theological Seminary in New Jersey. There he will work towards his Masters of Divinity and eventually become a pastor for the Presbyterian Church (USA).

"It is a high honor, and I hope that the rest of my life follows in the same vein," said Hong. "I hope that I am able to be a positive influence on others, to lead by example, and to join with other people in excellent work."

All three wish to extend their appreciation to the faculty and various members of campus who have supported and pushed them

during their time here at Alma.

We are lucky to have so many talented students walking around campus everyday. It is quite an honor to be named a finalist and all three are well deserving of such a title.

"The odd thing about awards, and especially the nature of this award, is that it comes at the end of work," said Hong, "We are graduating and leaving, and we were nominated for this award not because of what we are going to do, but because of what we have done. Hopefully our lives in the future reflect our lives now."

Celebrated author visits campus

PAULINE HAGEDORN
STAFF WRITER

She is an author. She is a speaker. She is a mom. She is a feminist who stands up for women's and gay's and lesbian's rights. She is a woman. She is the acclaimed, award-winning novelist Dorothy Allison, and she was here at Alma College.

On Thursday, March 15, Allison joined the campus to have a conversation with students in Fireside Lounge and also to give a presentation and reading of one of her best

known books, *Bastard out of Carolina*.

Printed in over a dozen languages, *Bastard out of Carolina* is based off of Allison's own childhood experiences and deals with growing up in a poor, Southern family that is beset by physical and psychological abuse.

The book was a finalist in the 1992 National Book Award, won the Ferro Grumley Prize, the American Library Association award for Lesbian and Gay writing, and has become a best seller

and award-winning movie. Allison was also honored with the 2007 Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction.

Allison, sponsored by the English department, Women's Studies, and the Women's Issues Advisory Board, grew up in Greenville, South Carolina, and is the daughter of a poor, white, rural family in the South.

Her writing—drawn from childhood abuse experiences—deals with abuse and healing, social

SEE 'ALLISON' PG. 4

Purple 101: CAC spread colorful message of hope, humanitarianism

PAULINE HAGEDORN
STAFF WRITER

Every fourth Wednesday in February, people across the nation wear purple. Why? Standing for hope, purple is the signature color of Relay For Life.

That day is the one designated day a year that the American Cancer Society

answer any questions about Relay for Life. CAC also did mass campus mailings about Purple 101 and displayed a bed sheet outside the library.

Danielle Creguer (07) was the coordinator of Purple 101. As president of the CAC Alma chapter and the chair of Alma College Relay for Life, Creguer received information about Purple 101

people in life that either have or have had cancer and I want to support them."

Even though Purple 101 has already passed, it is not too late to sign up to participate in Relay for Life, which takes place March 24 to 25, 10 a.m. to 10 a.m. All are welcome to join or form teams until the day of the event. Those who are interested may contact



Photo courtesy of Tony Rosenblum

Jenny Cornachionne (07) displays a poster promoting Alma College's Purple 101 day and its upcoming Relay for Life event, which kicks off next Saturday at 10 a.m.

(ACS) calls Purple 101. Purple 101 is a publicity initiative for Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) chapters and is used as a means to help them celebrate and promote Relay for Life.

The Alma College campus, which was on spring break at the nationally scheduled time, celebrated Purple 101 during the week it returned. Alma's CAC chapter did several things to help celebrate and promote.

Aside from simply asking everyone to wear purple, members chalked the classroom boards with information about Relay for Life, draped purple crepe paper around banisters and trees in the Macintyre Mall, decorated tables in SAGA and sat during meal times to

from the ACS and assistance from an ACS partner.

Between this partnership and the support and the further contribution of the Alma College Relay for Life Committee, Creguer and CAC were able to put on a successful Purple 101 day.

Creguer is so heavily involved in Purple 101 because—like so many others—her life has been touched by cancer.

"I have lost many family members and close friends to cancer, as well as watched others fight cancer and survive," she said. "Relay for Life is a way for me to take part in finding a cure for cancer."

Corinna Kizer (08) supports Purple 101 and Relay for Life because, as she said, "[there are] lots of

Creguer at 07drcreg@alma.edu or go online and sign up at www.acsevents.org/relay/mi/almacollege.

"If they are not part of a team, they are still welcome to come and spend time at the Relay for Life event. There will be many activities going on during all 24 hours," said Creguer.

Composed of about 25 people, Alma College's Relay for Life Committee is always willing to help answer any questions about the event. Other student contacts include Rachel Pelton, Shannon Dier, Jenny Cornachionne, Kate Bruder, Jackie Jorgenson, Jennifer Lemay and Cori Drenth. Further questions about the American Cancer Society can be found at their website.

Food Fancy

4-11 for your sore throat

JENNIFER ANDERSON
FREELANCE WRITER



For some, spring break was more of an invitation to relax into sickness rather than health. Despite the individual ailments you may be facing, a sore throat seems to be a common thread among all. This is because sore throats can be caused by viruses or bacteria. They can also be caused from yelling during consecutive nights of excitement.

The technical name for a sore throat is pharyngitis, the inflammation of the pharynx (or throat). Because the pharynx is connected to the mouth, nose, esophagus, larynx, and ears, you may have connected symptoms to other orifices as well.

Everything you eat passes through your throat. It is important, then, to be very considerate not to eat foods that irritate your throat. The top six foods to avoid (in order from worst first) include: coffee, tea (caffeinated), chocolate, peanuts (and peanut butter), eggs (also cheese and milk), and red wine and other alcohol.

Coffee constricts blood vessels and dries the throat. It also is a stimulant, which increases one's desire to talk. This, in effect, is counteractive to the throat's healing. Black tea and flavored black teas contain tannins, which irritate the throat. Green tea is much milder, but it contains caffeine.

Chocolate is a strong stimulant. You will have to decide here whether you are willing to sacrifice your throat for mere happiness. Many chocolates also contain nuts, which are very irritating to sore throats. They are like sharp boulders and can lodge (or stick, if in peanut butter form) to your throat.

Egg and dairy products contain cholesterol, which attaches to the throat's walls and produces mucus. This works against throat hydration and works against its long-term healing.

Lastly, though red wine has been found to have beneficial effects on your heart, it is very counterproductive to an irritated throat. It contains the same tannins that black tea has and also acts as a dehydrator. White wine still contains alcohol but is a better alternative.

Surprisingly, some sources claim that hot sauce (normal salsa) is not irritating. The cayenne is found to actually increase blood flow and is beneficial to your overall healing. However, if you want to play it safe, stay away from the spicy foods for at least a few days.

Eating foods high in zinc are most beneficial for sore throats and sicknesses such as colds. The most beneficial sources of zinc are in beef, yogurt, whole wheat bread, lentils, oatmeal, baked potatoes, brown rice, lamb, crabmeat, pork, salmon, beans, chicken, oysters, turkey, spinach, rye bread, clams, lobster, and peas. Eat up.

430.8% Zinc Oyster and Clam Chowder

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 4 medium cloves garlic, chopped
- 3 medium stalks celery, diced 1/4 inch pieces
- 2 cups + 1 Tbs chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 cup tomato sauce
- 10 oz jar of shucked fresh oysters, drained and rinsed, (if you can get small ones it is best)
- 10 oz can of whole clams, drained and rinsed, (if available, use fresh clams and steam open in soup)
- 1 Tbs dried Italian herbs
- 2 Tbs fresh chopped parsley
- Salt & pepper to taste

SEE RECIPE PG. 4

Inside SAGA: crew provides service with a smile

Most students on campus visit SAGA at least once a day, if not more. They walk through the door, have their card swiped, and make their meal selection for the day. They may see the employees who prepare the food and swipe the cards, but many go on their way without ever really knowing these employees. This article is about to change that. *The Almanian* interviewed five dedicated employees in order to gain a little insight into their lives.

All agreed that the crew and students are like a second family, and want students to know that they appreciate the respect shown by most at Alma. All five maintain that the best part of their jobs is spending time with students and getting to know them better. Next time you are in SAGA be sure to smile and say hello to one of these caring women—or maybe even strike up a conversation and surprise them with something you learned in this article.



Mary Wenzel, Wheeler: Mary's friendly face is one that greets students everyday. She works the front door and swipes student's cards as they enter SAGA. She has worked at Alma College for 21 years and has two children, and six grandchildren. Mary's favorite SAGA dish is the sweet and sour pork. Wenzel said, "I was a cook for ten years and was reluctant to come up front, but now I love it... I call the students 'Hun' and they call me 'Mother Mary.' I think of them as my children."

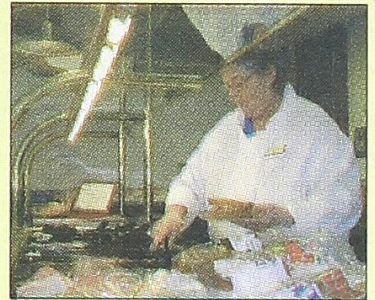


Judy Young, Shepherd: Judy works in both the faculty and student dining rooms. She has been with Alma for 23 years but is actually retiring at the end of the month. She plans to move to Virginia to be closer to her family. Judy has four children and 10 grandchildren. She prefers the beef enchilada bake. Judy enjoys cross-stitching and crocheting, as well as gardening and growing flowers. She is also the godmother to Becky's poodles.

Wanda Eberhart, Clare: You may have seen her in the salad department, making sure students have all the fresh fixings they need for their salads. She has been employed for 28 and a half years. Wanda has one daughter and three stepchildren, and her favorite dish is lasagna. Wanda lives on a large beef farm and enjoys scrap booking

Becky Flowers, Carson City:

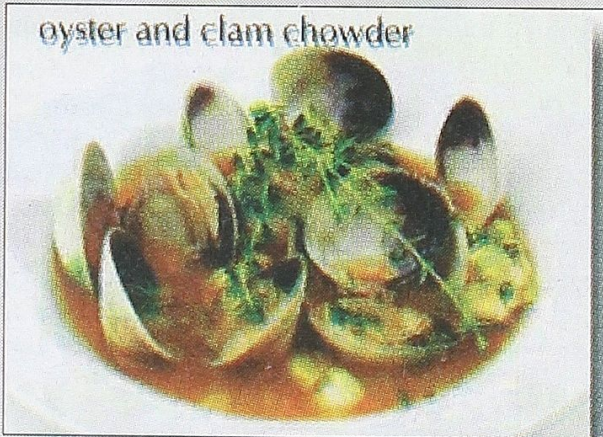
Becky is a front door greeter and a line server. She has been employed for 33 and a half years. Becky has two poodles, named Max and Sam, that are like children to her. Many students have seen the picture she carries of them. Chicken potpie is Becky's favorite meal at SAGA, and her strangest SAGA moments include being mooned three times.



Dawn Root, Alma: Dawn mans the sandwich station and prepares all of the creations for students. She has worked here for 12 years and has two children and two grandchildren. Like many students here on campus, Dawn loves the potato soup. She enjoys scrap booking and collects angles. She said, "I have a hearing problem and students may think I'm being rude or ignoring them, but in reality I just can't hear them. I enjoy the students and want them to know to speak up."

Continued from pg.3

Oyster and clam chowder



Directions:

Prepare onion, garlic, and celery. Heat 1 Tbs broth in medium soup pot. Sauté onion, garlic, and celery in broth over medium heat for about 5 minutes stirring often. Add rest of broth, tomato sauce and Italian herbs. Simmer for another 25 minutes.

Drain and rinse both oysters and clams. If oysters are big, add to chowder about 2 minutes before canned clams. Heat for another 5 minutes. If you are using fresh clams in the shell, add a couple minutes before oysters to give them a little extra time to open. If you are using canned clams you may want to wait until soup is almost done to add, so they just heat through. Season with salt and pepper to taste and sprinkle with chopped parsley.

Serves: 4

Recipe and picture from whfoods.com

'Allison' from pg. 3

classes, women's issues, and sexual identity. She attended Florida Presbyterian College on a National Scholarship and was the first person in her family to graduate from high school. She currently resides in Northern California.

Having Dorothy Allison speak here at Alma College is a big deal, according to Assistant Professor of English Laura Von Wallmenich. "Allison is in high demand in Women's Month because she is so powerful with women's issues and is widely liked in the gay and lesbian community. It is great we were able to get her."

Apparently, it was our promise to let her have one on one contact with students that drew her here. Allison visited ENG 340 Women's Literature and ENG 420 Senior Seminar classes. People in some current English classes are also reading her work.

For Alma College student **Cathy Millon (09)** nothing could be better. "I'm stoked to see her. Since I'm an active member of the MacCurdy House, WIAB, and the V.P. of PRIDE, I'm

interested in seeing her for two different reasons. One is for the feminist aspect. She's an active advocate for feminist rights and the equality of women. The second is because she's a

"She is so powerful with women's issues and is widely liked in the gay and lesbian community. It is great we were able to get her,"

-Laura Von Wallmenich

huge advocate of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) rights also. It's an honor to have her here at Alma. Plus I get to meet her and she's coming to MacCurdy afterwards for a reception so that's pretty sweet."

Allison has been scheduled to speak since May 2006. Ever since Alma College has been put up on Allison's website on the list of touring places, Von Wallmenich has been getting calls and mail about the presentation. She

said that this event was drawing lots of off-campus people.

Many people, including professors were excited that Dorothy Allison came to speak. "I am thrilled," said Von Wallmenich, "I heard her at a conference a couple of years ago, with Professor Joanne Gilbert, and when we heard her speak we knew we had to bring her. I am really excited we did this."

Along with her book, *Bastard out of Carolina*, Allison has published *Cavedweller*—a story about a woman who returns home to be with the family she had left a long time ago—and a collection of short stories, *Trash*. Becoming a national best seller in 1998, *Cavedweller* has since been turned into a play for the stage and screen, was a finalist for the Lillian Smith Prize, a *New York Times* Notable book of the year, and an ALA prizewinner. Her short story, *Compassion*, was awarded Best American Short Stories 2003 and Best New story from the South 2003. Other works by Allison can be viewed on her website, dorothyallison.net



KEVIN BILBREY
STAFF WRITER

Frank Miller's '300' worth seeing for testosterone rush

After doing this, I don't have room in my brain to think about such menial concerns as the stealing of artistic property.

Seriously, if you have not yet seen this movie, I pity you. It was a culmination of all things terrible and beautiful at the same time, with absurd physical action and unrelenting bloodshed mixed with truthful, powerful character portrayal. It showed the glory of combat in a way that we could never condone, and yet, cannot deny.

Perhaps it is just the testosterone talking, but there is something about the thrill of primal combat—

facing your foe eye-to-eye, fist-to-fist, steel-to-steel—that appeals to me. Basically, it cuts through all the crap and gets straight to the truth of the conflict.

Of course, I am not advocating that we go out and pick fights with anyone we disagree with (I think we have seen that happen enough in the past few years, thank you very much President Bush), but I do think there is something about the struggle that is necessary to our emotional and moral well-being.

For any of you that do not know the story of what *300* is about, it is Frank

Miller's interpretation of the events that took place at Thermopylae in 480 B.C., where a group of 300 Spartan warriors led a force of Greek troops from other nation-states (mainly Achaeans).

They held off what most historians believe to be a host of no less than 250,000 Persian troops, with some estimating as high as 2,000,000. The Spartans lasted for more than 6 days and killed more than 10,000 Persian troops.

Now, I know that the film is not entirely historically accurate, but to be perfectly honest, I just don't care. The performance given by Gerard

Butler (yeah, the guy that played the Phantom of the Opera) is just incredible. He is King Leonidas.

Even though the actual battle prowess of the Spartans may be exaggerated in the movie, the manner in which it is shown is so beautiful that it doesn't even matter. Finally, the plot and character development is much more insightful than I expected it to be and I was incredibly pleased with this movie.

I wonder when it will make it up onto YouTube so I can get it for free without all of those pesky copyright laws getting in the way.

When I originally sat down to write this article, it was going to be about the copyright infringement questions that surround YouTube and the way in which it has affected us as collegiate students. However, instead of starting to write it, I went out and saw Frank Miller's *300*.

Drug problem, alcohol problem; is there a problem?

JORDAN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Before I came to college I heard a lot about how this was a time in my life that I could find new experiences, and do things I had never done before.

It's just common understanding that people experiment a little with their lives when they spend four years away from any direct control, and a lot of times this translates into DRUGS.

It's a big word for five letters, especially in all caps. To many it represents a mysterious world, mostly seedy and unattractive to the outsider, and they worry if this world is part of the very one they exist in.

So here we are at Alma College, in the flat center of Michigan, where we are left to wonder: is there a drug problem here? I mean, it's safe to assume that a few people have tried a thing or two here right?

At a random, completely

scientific, SAGA table survey, 5 out of 10 of the people had tried marijuana. For the math majors, that's an even 50%, which if representative of campus is about 700 people. I *do not* claim this number to be accurate, so save your letters, but let's say for argument's sake it is. Would that be a drug problem? Law enforcement would say yes.

This leaves us with a question though. What do we constitute as a *problem*? Now, well into my sophomore year at Alma, I have only seen people using hard drugs twice, and once was by visiting students from CMU. So in my roughly 300 days here, only 0.6% of them have been visited by a problem.

I noticeably leave marijuana out of these numbers, and why is that? I do it because in all of the times that I have been witness to the use of marijuana, there really haven't been any problems, other than that it was too late to call Pizza Sam's...tragic. On the other hand, when I have seen

people on this campus drunk, there has been yelling, fights, creepsters on the dance floor, and broken things.

So the question I might pose is not that Alma might

have a *drug* problem, but rather an *alcohol* problem. I know there have been news articles on this in the past, but it seems like these two issues have been commonly

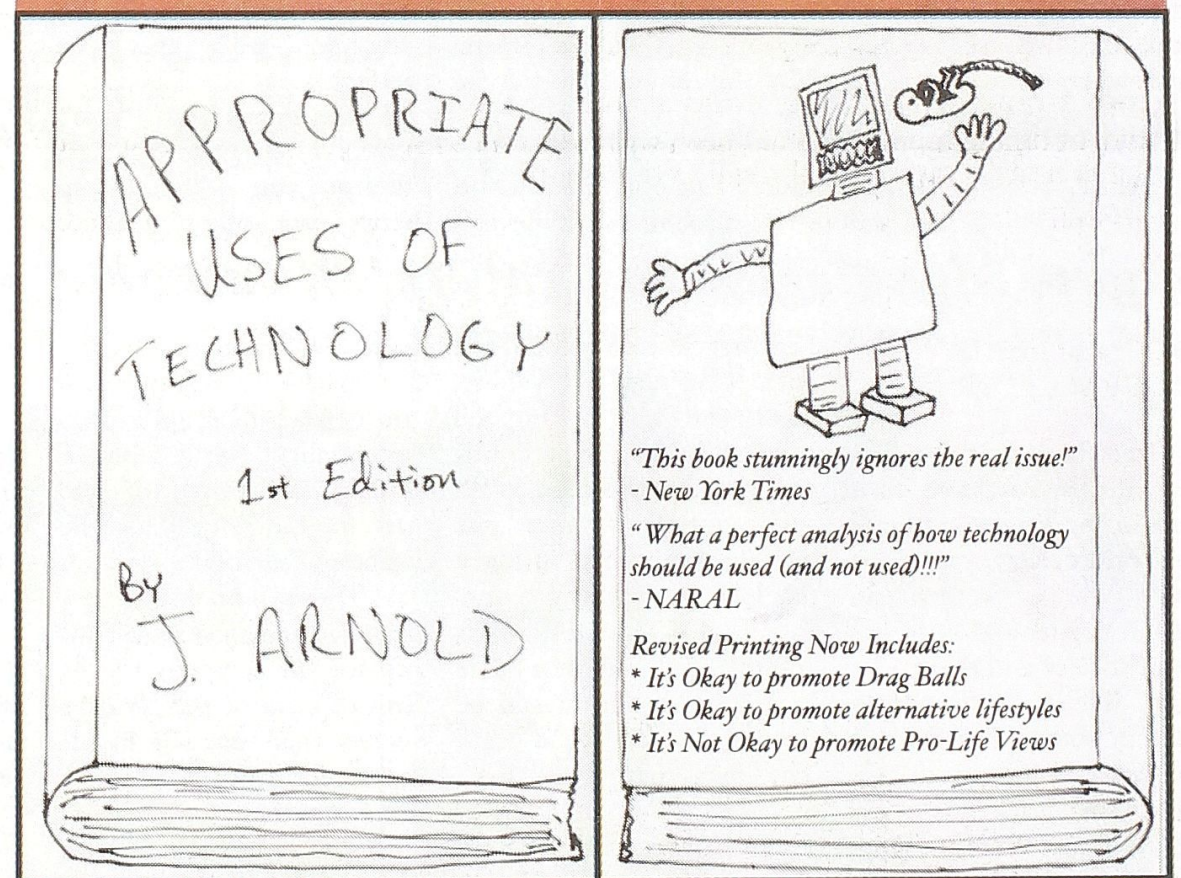
separated, never with any comparisons.

I feel that from personal observation alcohol gives drugs a bad name. That's

SEE PROBLEM PG. 6

ZERO-SUM

DEREK HARRISON
OPINION EDITOR



The Almanian

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

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Statement of Purpose

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

Publication

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Opinions expressed in editorials without bylines reflect the views of *The Almanian* editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

Choose wisely for next year; roommates are give and take

MIRIAM JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

Well, it is that time of the year when we receive our housing catalogues and are put under pressure to choose the best possible place to inhabit for the entire upcoming year.

To me, this seems like a big deal. I mean, as a freshman this year, I did not have much of a choice. I made the best of what I was randomly given. However, having a choice will be interesting. Who to live with? Where to live? So much decision is involved here.

When it all comes down to it, however, it is kind of sad that we have to choose which building our little one room habitats will be in. Even worse, we have to basically break the human need for domain and privacy by choosing a roommate. And to think, many people really think that this can turn out well.

At the risk of sounding extremely pessimistic, I think that we ask for too much when we expect to be happy in a college-housing situation. I mean, in my experience, two people, no matter who they are, are

Vagina Monologues controversial, valuable

KEVIN BILBREY
STAFF WRITER

Over the Valentine's Day weekend, there was a series of performances put on in Jones Auditorium that depicted the lives of various women and their thoughts and attitudes about society and their roles in it. These performances were, of course, Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*.

It has recently come to my attention that there are some people who question whether or not it is appropriate for such a show to be produced here at Alma College—people are worried that its sensitive subject matter might be offensive to some, or perhaps reflect badly on the campus as a whole.

The thing is that I can even see where these people are coming from because the monologues really are much more controversial than people generally give them credit for.

With one woman discussing

simply not meant to share such a confined space. If it didn't save money and build character I would say that it was a completely ridiculous idea in the first place.

It is so weird how "roommates" seems like such a common thing that we should all be happy with and accept as normal. In my opinion, it is not normal. It is simply one of the hardships

When males who drank frequently prior to college are assigned to a roommate who drank frequently prior to college GPA lowers by two-thirds of a point.

*- Arthur, Levy
(National Bureau of Economic Research)*

of college.

This year I have met many people. Out of a group of 10 at least, usually only one can say that he or she gets along with their roommate. But this is, and should, be natural.

Even in family life, when more than one child has to share a room; they fight and

get annoyed with each other. It is a fact of life. I think that in order to get along with a roommate, we have to accept the fallacy of the entire situation, and then come to accept their flaws.

Once you live with a person, you end up seeing the flaws and imperfections that they might have otherwise been able to hide. This presents a very interesting response. Many people cannot handle other people being flawed.

Hypothetically, one roommate may get annoyed with the other because he or she hums while reading. This is something that would not normally break a friendship apart. However, in a roommate situation, it may.

What I am trying to say is that when choosing the best person to room with next year, or the best place to live, we must be prepared to be unhappy and simply cope with it. We need to be able to accept their imperfections, and just let things go. No one is perfect and no roommate situation will ever be perfect.

I have always heard, "don't room with your friends, because you will end up hating each other." I think

focus on human values and relationships which promote the development of human potentiality while undergirding the worth of and care for individuals and the welfare of society."

These monologues are designed to do just that. They provide an insight into the lives of women, and how the society that they live in has for so long degraded them and taken them for granted.

It shows how times have changed to allow us to be more accepting of women's rights, and yet at the same time we see how far we as a world have yet to go in this regard. After all, the Kinsey Report on *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* has been published for more than 50 years, yet we still have trouble talking about vaginas without breaking out into fits of nervous laughter.

It falls to us, members of the Alma College community, to protect this event and others like it.

marijuana around in legality, not just legalizing one of them.

Now I know that prohibition was pretty much a joke, and just made the Kennedy family

that this is very likely. But, if you are going to hate your best friend because you room with him or her, you will hate any, and I mean ANY, roommate that you get. I think that it is all a matter of how much you are willing to accept and how forgiving and accepting you can be.

It is hard to choose a person who will end up seeing everything that is wrong with you, find out what your ticks are, and find out if you talk in your sleep. However, in this situation, because we are letting all this out, we have to be able to be okay with other people doing the same.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

It seems as of late campus has adopted the attitude: if it's not for everyone, it's not for anyone. This attitude is apparent in recent Student Congress proposals and sentiments regarding campus wide e-mails. The change of position regarding campus groups concerns me.

As a senior, I remember one of my primary reasons for attending Alma was the freedom given to student organizations. New groups are formed on campus every year thanks to the desire of motivated student leaders to provide a new option to their peers and a cooperative Student Life Office. For instance, I have witnessed the creation of ACOG, SAO, and UHPAC; the re-birth of FCA, New Life, and College Democrats. Obviously, these organizations do not appeal to the entire campus population. Rather, they serve a particular demographic. Student organizations exist because a significant part of a liberal arts education "is time spent outside the classroom," according to the Student Life Handbook.

Similarly, not all students benefit from the same activities. It is unlikely an Exercise and Health Science major will be active in the Education Club; a Democrat will not frequent College Republican events and vice versa; not all campus members have the determination and work ethic of the Model United Nations students. However, the segmentation of student organizations does not justify the suppression of their activities and events. Simply because the Heritage Center does not sell out for a speaker of PRIDE does not mean they should be prohibited from supporting speaker series. On the contrary, such events should occur with higher frequency for the number of students who do attend. If an organization satisfies a student's social and activity needs, should it not be encouraged to exist and thrive, if only for its members? Let us support the diversity of student organizations on campus and encourage students to find their niche.

On this note, an amendment has been proposed to Student Congress requiring all student organizations to apply repeatedly for contingency. This new procedure will not increase students' satisfaction of student life on campus. It will not decrease the number of students going home on the weekends. On the contrary, I foresee a decline in campus activities. A more complicated and bureaucratic process of gaining funding will discourage students who wish to do something new with their group. The previous budget process allowed a few students knowledgeable about campus groups to make informed decisions about budget allocation. This committee took into consideration previous budget use and activities sponsored. Opening this process up to the entire Student Congress will lengthen meetings, tie up Student Congress agenda, and result in fewer well-informed decisions.

Fellow students, we "belong to the Alma College community." Let our time spent at this institution be remembered for our thoughtful acts, not those of hasty decisions, desperation, or ignorance. Discuss the proposals to the Student Congress Constitution with your peers. Contemplate its consequences for your organization. And vote wisely. Likewise, consider your choices for Student Congress leaders as the ballots emerge for the next school year. Vote not blindly for brothers and sisters, but choose the best candidate. Let the integrity of this statement be our guide.

Sincerely,
Cori Drenth (07)

Problem from pg. 5...

right, a bad name. There has been a fairly heated debate for some time as to whether

or not marijuana should be legalized, or if it is too much of a problem. I don't think that's the issue—instead we should be debating whether or not to switch alcohol and

and some gangsters rich, but it's an interesting thought to me. Still, whenever we talk

about *drug* problems in this country, I wonder if they really are the problem.

Alma athletes not get paid to play

Student athlete dismisses rumors of under-the-table pay

LAUREN RUSSELL
SPORTS EDITOR

Athletes at Alma College juggle homework, practice, games and now, due to a former article written for this paper, questions of whether they are receiving benefits for playing on a team.

An article written for *the Almanian* last semester claiming that student athletes were getting paid under the table outraged sports players, many of who are still pretty steamed today.

"Every athlete was mad about that," said **Liana Easterby (08)**, who plays softball for Alma. An article was published "saying that all the good athletes here get under the table scholarships... and that the only reason people come here is for the under the table scholarships. [It] claimed it was a whole money thing even though the main thing is that the coaches did not recruit right."

Because Alma is a division III school, athletic scholarships cannot be awarded to athletes who want to play for here. Players are only eligible to receive academic scholarships. The fact that players still come to Alma without getting

scholarships has raised eyebrows from students outside of the athletic circle, which, according to Easterby, may cause false information to be given and rumors to be started.

Some people may wonder, then, why players still come to Alma for sports when they could be getting paid to go elsewhere.

"Division III sports give students the chance to play after high school," said Easterby. "They come to a division III school, not for the money, but because they just want to play. A lot of players here may not have gotten [the chance] to play at bigger schools."

Much of what it takes to get athletes to come to Alma is based on how well the coaches recruit, according to Easterby.

"How good the coaches recruit is how good the athletes are going to be," she said.

If it is not money that the coaches use to sell the recruits, what is it that does?

"Selling the school [to potential student athletes] is exactly what the coaches do," she said. "That is all they can do... They sell the school for what it's worth: with sports

and with academics, and small class rooms, [basically] all the stuff that admissions does."

When Alma College softball coach, Denny Griffin, first recruited Easterby she was not told anything about under the table money.

"Denny sat down with us and went over scholarships that I was eligible for. All academic," she said.

There is never money handed under the table, although coaches do work to get athletes money. However, it is through a fair, legitimate way. A way by which anyone, even non-athletic students can benefit, explains Easterby.

"There are also leadership scholarships and more. They can find you scholarships, but they are scholarships that everyone is eligible for," said Easterby.

To retract from a former article, which stated that athletes at Alma College are paid under the table, those who play sports for Alma are awarded in the same ways as regular students—by academics, leadership, etc. The desire to play for Alma is not based on money, but the desire to play a sport, says Easterby.

March brings madness to college basketball fans

JAMES THRUBIS
STAFF WRITER

At this time every year the NCAA basketball National Championship Tournament begins with sixty-five of the nation's best teams fighting it out to be called number one. As most of you already know, people across the nation fill out their own brackets with friends, on sports websites, and even on Facebook. If you have not had a chance to watch many games this year or just do not follow college basketball that much but want to fill out your own bracket, you are in luck. I will break down each region of the bracket



Screen shot from Facebook.com

"The biggest NCAA pool on facebook" is just one of the many different NCAA pools on Facebook.com.

and by doing so it will give you a better understanding of how to pick the madness.

The defending National Champions from Florida are the number one seed in the Midwest region and are the heavy favorite. But other teams, like Notre Dame, Oregon and not to mention Wisconsin, who was ranked number one in the nation, will all be making short work of their opponents. Maryland has five starting seniors and at this point in the season, experience is quite important, but the lack of a superstar is their only downfall. Last season, two number twelve seeds beat the number five seed, so look for Old Dominion to pull off the upset against the number five seeded Butler Bulldogs.

The West region can be quite interesting going into this weekend. Kansas is the number one seeded team in the East, but has been known for being chokers when it comes to the tournament. Duke finds themselves as a number sixth seed, which is the first time they have been seeded that low since 1996. The real story in this region is Virginia Tech; the Hokies have beaten North Carolina twice and Duke once this season and look to turn some heads from their number five seed.

It can be said the East region is the toughest with teams that have been battle tested so far this season. With solid teams from the top like North Carolina, Georgetown and Texas, it is hard to tell if teams such as Boston College, Marquette or home town favorite Michigan State could make their way to the final four. My big upset of the first round this season comes out of the East region with number five seed USC falling to the number twelve seeded Razorbacks of Arkansas. During the regular season, Arkansas beat the number sixth seeded Vanderbilt Commodores, who are also in the East region, twice.

Finally, the South region has, without a doubt, the best top three seeded teams. Ohio State has been dominating all season long, Memphis has won 22 games in a row, and Texas A&M has one of the best pure scorers in the nation. Acie Law of Texas A&M has scored over 20 points in a game sixteen times this season and has lead the Aggies to wins against both Kansas and Texas. With such a top heavy region there are no for sure sleepers in the South region, but BYU has had a solid year in the Mountain West Conference and looks to make some noise in the tournament.

I hope this helped you and your understanding of what the Madness is all about. The NCAA Basketball National Championship Tournament is a great time of year; there will be blowouts, close games, and upsets. But hey, that's why they call it March Madness.

This week for the Maroon & Cream

- **March 15: Womens tennis @ Aquinas, 3 p.m.**
- **March 16: Womens tennis @ SVSU, 5 p.m.**
- **March 17: Mens tennis @ Bluffton, 9:30 a.m.**
@ Adrian, 1 p.m.
Softball @ Northwood, 2:30 p.m.
- **March 19: Womens tennis vs. Spring Arbor, 3 p.m.**
- **March 20: Mens tennis @ Albion, 3 p.m.**
- **March 21: Baseball @ Northwood, 2 p.m.**
Softball vs. Northwood, 2:30 p.m.



Photo courtesy of Liana Easterby

The Lady Scots will play their first home game of the season Wednesday in Scots Park.

Off season training: chance to stay fit, play more games during season

MIRIAM JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

As we can see from reading the sports section of this newspaper, we have some active sports teams that are competing right now. Track and Field is just beginning, along with Lacrosse, Tennis, and softball/baseball. However, what we don't see is what the athletes whose sports are not going on are doing. What are all those

swimmers up to these days? Do the football players get to take some time to catch up on studies and relax? My guess is, probably not. So, what are these people doing? What do athletes do in the off-season?

The answers vary not only from person to person, but also from sport to sport. However, I will shed some light on what a few of these groups or individuals do.

As we saw a few weeks ago

in this very paper, there is a conditioning class going on right now. Although this is available to all students, it is mostly being taken advantage of by football players. During this class period, football players get a chance to lift, and do whatever it is they do to keep in condition.

According to **John Rittenburg (09)**, who plays football for Alma, football players do not always choose to do this. They are required to follow a certain amount of conditioning and physical activity each day. Football players are given a packet of instructions from their coach during the off season that has a suggested amount of lifting, running, etc. to do on a daily basis. John explains that they must lift and run at least every other day. Football players who work harder during the off-season are then rewarded during the actual season, by being able to play more in games.

Another sport that I looked into is volleyball.

Working out during the winter is just something that is assumed, according to **Megan Marsh (10)**, who played JV volleyball last semester.

Players are expected to keep in shape, but do not have to follow a set workout routine. However, now that spring is coming, it is time for organized practice once

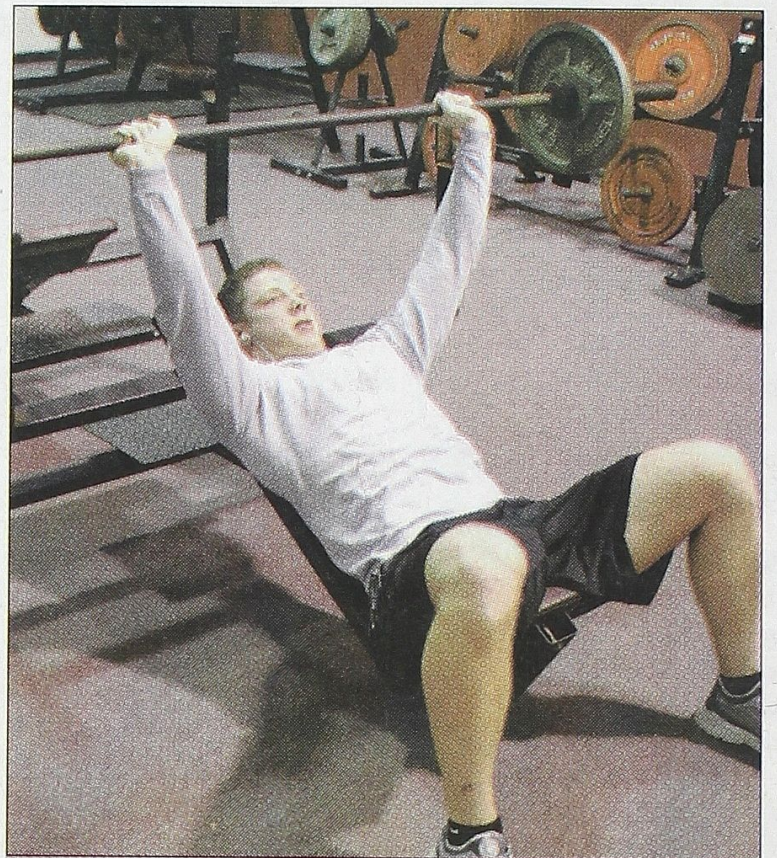


Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

Travis Maxey trains hard in preparation for upcoming seasons.

again. Marsh mentions that spring workouts not only involve playing volleyball, but also following a day-by-day schedule of cardio and lifting. It appears that most sports follow the same idea that volleyball does.

I know that for those who do cross country and track, there is just an assumption that you will run every day, no matter if season is on or off. However, there aren't any rules or regulations about it given by the coach.

One of the only cases of an athlete with no off-season at Alma is **Steve Rose (09)**, who was on the men's cross country and men's diving team.

"Not having an off-season

while in college is quite tiring and stressful. It makes me tired. [Especially] the freshman phenomenon we call **Wade Peacock (10)**, [who ran on the men's cross country team]" he said, in regards to his lack of off-season. "The day after cross country was over I started diving (which I missed two months of to start with), and then the day after diving was done I started track."

So, there are athletes who consider one sport's season as 365 days, and there are athletes who somehow manage to maintain three sports without any break. Either way, keeping in shape is imperative to college athletics.

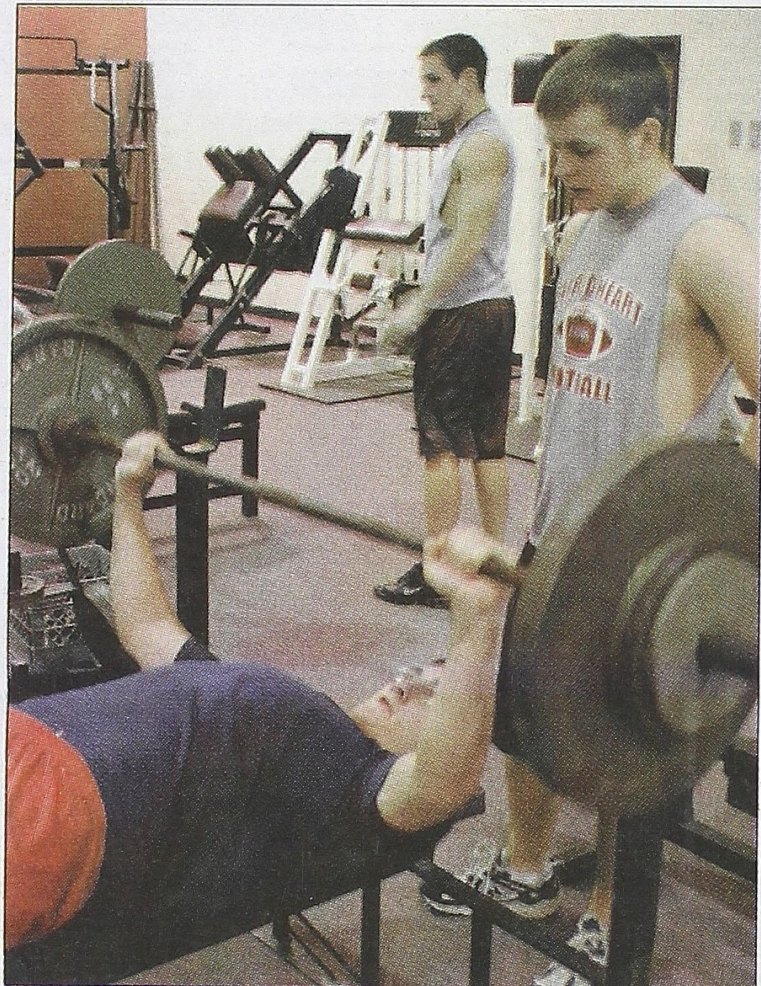


Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

Mark Mankowski and John Roberts train in the weight room.

Softball team returns from second trip to Florida in three weeks

Scots pitcher Kay McDonald discusses immediate and anticipated benefits travels have on her team

JAMES THRUBIS
STAFF WRITER

Over spring break, the Alma College womens softball team traveled to Pensacola, Florida for the NFCA Leadoff Classic Tournament. This is the second trip to Florida the Scots have taken this season and they looked to keep the pace set while playing in the Gene Cusic Classic.

Senior pitcher **Kay McDonald (07)** went 4-0 while on the first trip and thought the team got off on the right foot.

"In the beginning we struggled because we have a young team, but by the end of the week we had evolved into the team that we are now. We battled and came out with a 7-3 record that I think we were all happy with. I can honestly say that we developed into a great team

that has amazing potential," she said.

Before the trip, all of the practices took place indoors due to the cold and snowy weather in Michigan. Playing outdoors for the first time in almost a year can be difficult, not to mention that the hot environment can take its toll on the players.

"For me the transition is from pitching off a gym floor to pitching off a mound," said McDonald. "The dirt feels different; it gives when you push. Fatigue is different for each pitcher. I tend to not fatigue easily unless it is really hot and I am throwing tons of pitches. But for most Pitchers fatigue happens late in games and there are lots of factors that play into it."

Like most seasons, the Alma College softball team has high expectations and knows that they must be battle

tested before conference play begins.

"This second trip is a great opportunity to see how good we really are. We are going to face teams that we saw

"In the beginning we struggled because we have a young team, but by the end of the week we had evolved into the team that we are now."

-Kay McDonald (07)

at Nationals my sophomore year. I expect that we will battle and grow. We grow as a team with every experience we have together, win or lose. I have high hopes for this

team and know that all of my teammates are working for that light at the end of the tunnel...Nationals," said McDonald.

A little over two weeks after the team arrives home they begin the conference schedule at rival Albion College on March 27.

McDonald feels that the team will only benefit from taking trips like these.

"I think that it will be a positive impact. The more that we play together the harder we will be to beat. Our level of play will increase," she said.

The softball team left last Thursday for the weekend tournament and instead of taking a charter bus or school vans, like most division III student athletes, they got to fly down to Fort Meyers.

"I do not mind flying. It is better than riding a bus for 24

plus hours" said McDonald.

Last season was the first time since 1996 that the Alma College softball team did not win the MIAA championship or was selected to play in the National Softball Tournament. McDonald feels that the team has a pretty good shot of bringing home another MIAA championship for the Scots this year.

"I have all the confidence in the world in these girls. It is hard to say. It all depends on how we play that day. I would say that we have a pretty great chance to take the MIAA."

The home opener for the Alma College softball team is on March 21 against Northwood University at 2:30 p.m. Be sure to come out to the park and enjoy the winning tradition that is, Alma College softball.