

# The Almanian

Volume C

Issue 19

Friday, March 30, 2007

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

## UNDER THE COVER

*Women's Month participants make final preparations to 'Take Back the Night.'*

SEE NEWS PG. 2

*Students are working frantically to finish up the semester, though many will continue on to summer internships or jobs.*

SEE FEATURE PG. 3

*Options for reinvigorating Gelston Hall as a social hot spot are discussed.*

SEE OPINION PG. 6



*Alma College athletes find comfort and motivation in home field advantage.*

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## BY THE NUMBERS

# 76

The percentage of people who eat the ears of chocolate Easter bunnies first.

# \$32,000

The amount of money raised in the third annual Alma College Relay for Life event last weekend.

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## Model UN shines at international conference

**PAULINE HAGEDORN**  
STAFF WRITER

Talk about tough competition. 270 colleges and universities from around the world, representing 31 countries and made up of approximately 4500 students, competed at the Model

Of the 12 "Outstanding Delegation" awards the conference hands out, Alma walked away with two, a practice they have been perfecting for the past six out of seven years. Alma's MUN team has received this top award for the past 11 out of 12 years, and is considered

(10), **Rachel Dotson (08)**, **Lindsey Dunbar (07)**, **Elizabeth Espinosa (07)**, and **Kimberly Joki (09)**.

**Derick "Sandy" Hulme**, Chair & Professor of Political Science & Nationally Competitive Scholarship Advisor Chair, as well as director of Alma's

finest team in the world, and one of the youngest I have ever had, which makes this accomplishment even more gratifying; they are all intelligent, enthusiastic, and great individuals." There are ten freshman, ten sophomores, seven juniors, and four seniors on this year's

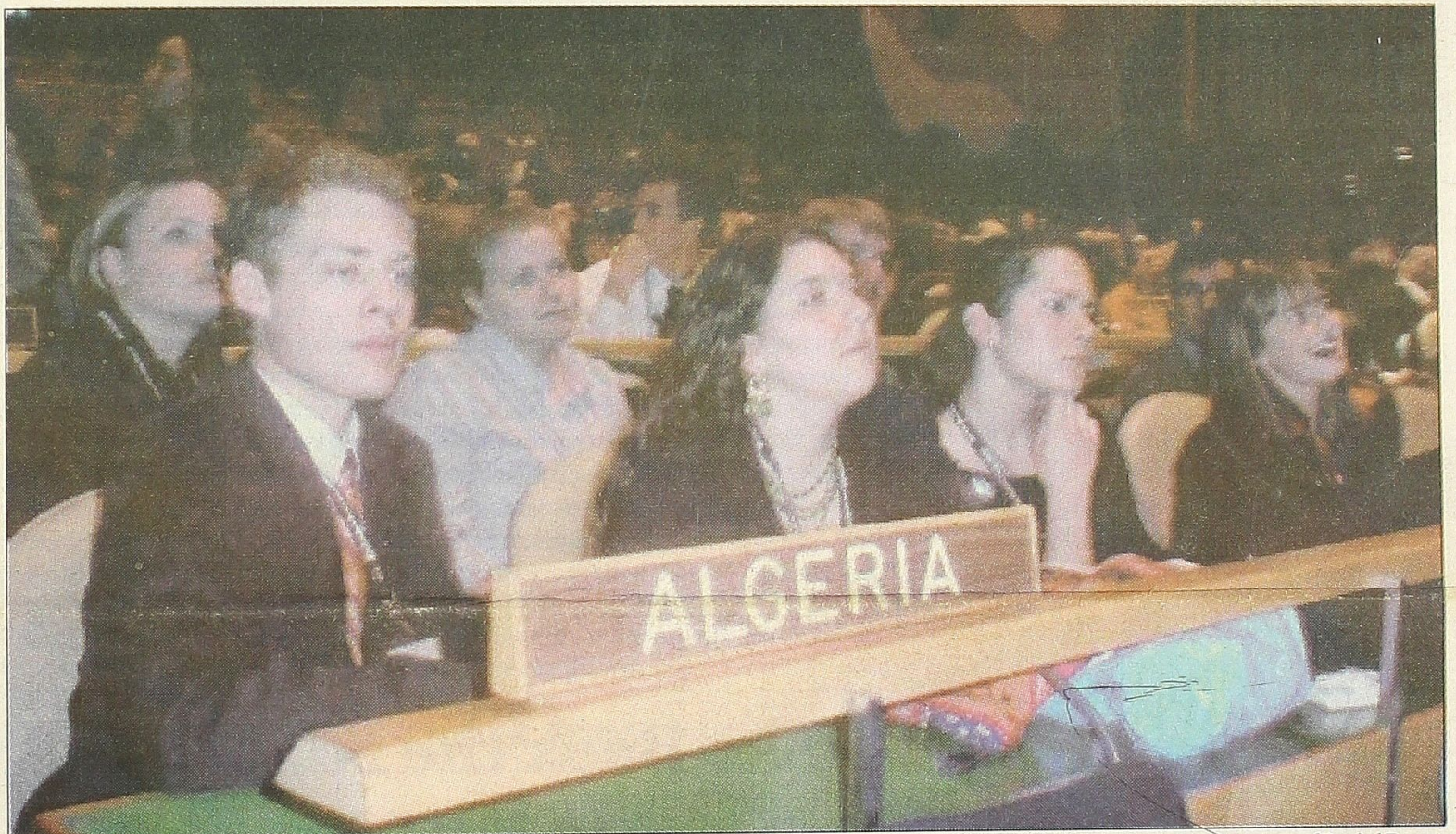


Photo courtesy of Rachel Dotson

Alma College's Model United Nations (MUN) students listen intently during the National MUN closing ceremony last Saturday. The team, which represented Algeria and Fiji, received the highest possible recognition, thus continuing its trend of excellence.

United Nations (MUN) conference in New York on March 20-25. Alma College's Model UN team, comprised of 31 students, walked away with top honors.

one of, if not the best, MUN team in the world. Along with the top honors, six students received the "outstanding delegates" award: **Jim Allen IV (09)**, **David Bechtold**

MUN team, is ecstatic. "Oh, heavens! This is the finest performance by our Model UN team in the 15 years I have been doing this," said Hulme. "They are the

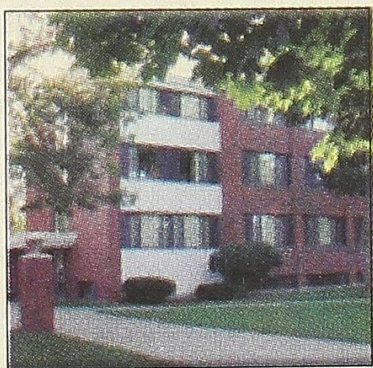
Model UN team.

**Avis Groath (08)** participates in MUN because, she said, "I enjoy studying

SEE NMUN PG. 2

## Off-campus lottery continues to draw far below quota

**PAULINE HAGEDORN**  
STAFF WRITER



Alma College is different from other colleges in many ways. One area in particular is the policy about living off campus, as most colleges and universities require students to live on campus their freshman year only. At Alma, however, all four years are to be spent in campus housing. There is, however, one

exception to that rule; every year the college hosts a senior lottery and allows up to 50 students to live off campus. Yet oddly enough, some students complain that they cannot live off campus, even though fewer than 50 people typically enroll in the lottery.

This policy was started ten or eleven years ago for students who wanted to live on their own, and when the 50 students number was agreed upon, enrollment was a lot higher than it is now.

"This may be one of the reasons not a lot of people show up for the lottery each year," said Grant Woodman, Director of Campus Life. There are also some other factors.

One is a lot of scholarships

are need-based and tie into the room-and-board and housing fee. For example, if a student receives \$10,000, a portion of that is room and board. Take away the need for campus housing and there is a loss of approximately \$2500.

Another reason is that, if a student is leasing, he or she has to pay rent as well as other bills such as utilities and cable. Woodman said that if one takes the time to sit and crunch the numbers, it is cheaper and more convenient to live on campus.

An exception to that reason is student **Lyndsey Piesko (08)**. She said, "I chose to live off campus because I couldn't afford to live on campus, even though I was

told by financial aid that my family made enough income for me to live on campus. It has saved me a lot of money this past year."

She also has some input on what it is like. "I love living off campus. I can get more work done—I never realized the amount of distractions there was in the dorms. My grades have drastically increased, and I am glad I made this decision."

A third reason students generally stay on campus is because it is sometimes difficult to find a place and get three or four other seniors to live with.

In response to the "I want to live off campus" cry,

SEE HOUSING PG. 2

*NMUN from pg. 1...*

international issues and engaging with international students." **Drew Emge (09)** also enjoys Model UN, he said, "it really challenges you. I learn better public

year Alma had Algeria and Fiji—and while the "pseudo" committees are in session, they work with other student delegates to give formal speeches, debate in caucuses,

adopted.

The students represent the countries they are assigned, so when they are in meetings they talk from the perspective of that country. For example,

am not really involved in the political science department" He said, "it is a nice way for me to enjoy my hobby of international politics, and there is something here for

all—drugs, guns, women, and more, you pick."

Sophomore Allen IV sums MUN up very nicely. "Above the awards t h o u g h , the team is satisfied with our hard work and happy to have some free time again. As any one of us can tell you, we do not study furiously for



speaking, researching, and communication skills and it will pay off in the future."

The students have been preparing for this conference since the beginning of the semester. The conference simulates real UN organizations, such as the World Health Organization and the Committee on Narcotic Drugs. Students are given countries to represent—this

and draft resolutions. The students work together to come up with answers or solutions to problems, such as how to help decline the number of orphans with AIDS. The resolutions that are produced are sent to the real UN, and some are actually implemented. Last year, some of Alma's students sent in a resolution formed during the MUN conference and it has actually been

somebody who represents a sub-Saharan African country will have a different view/stance on AIDS than will the delegate for the USA. Hulme said that he tries to have at least one group do an African country because it is a place not many know about.

For student **Aaron Pooley (09)**, participating in MUN gives him a chance to broaden his education. "I am an English major and

several weeks and collect binders of information just to win a five-day conference; we do it because we care about our topics and truly desire to learn about them in order to implement change," he said, "as I reflect on everything I learned, both on and off paper, I have found that the real awards we have won are the skills and knowledge acquired from the experience."

*Housing from pg. 1...*

Woodman thinks it is mainly from the sophomore and junior classes, who want their "freedom."

In 2006, approximately 35 seniors showed up for the lottery. They extended the date because some students forgot or did not know about it, and ended up getting the number up in the mid-40s. This year approximately 48 students came. To his knowledge, Woodman has never had to actually do the lottery.

As one of the first students to live off campus, Woodman had different views than that of Piesko. "I lived a block away and still felt disconnected. The communication between students and professors was ok, but I just missed the camaraderie of friends from the dorms, halls and parties. My studies were ok, but I had to spend a little more time going to and from class," he said.

The decision to live off campus rests with the students, and it may be right for some and not for others. For the time being, there are fewer than 50 students living off campus. If anyone does have more questions about living off campus, they can contact Woodman in the Student Life Office.

## Women gather to 'Take Back the Night,' end the silence

**FAINA POLT  
COPY EDITOR**

One out of every four women will be raped or sexually assaulted sometime in their life. It is a chilling statistic and an unfortunate truth. While it is easy to feel helpless when faced with this overwhelming number, there is still much that can be done. Above all, there must be awareness. Even in a place like Alma, so seemingly safe and quiet, rape still happens. Carol Bender, professor of English and co-founder of the Women's Studies program, said, "It's important to remember that even today women are not safe, but that all of society needs to work to increase our safety quotient."

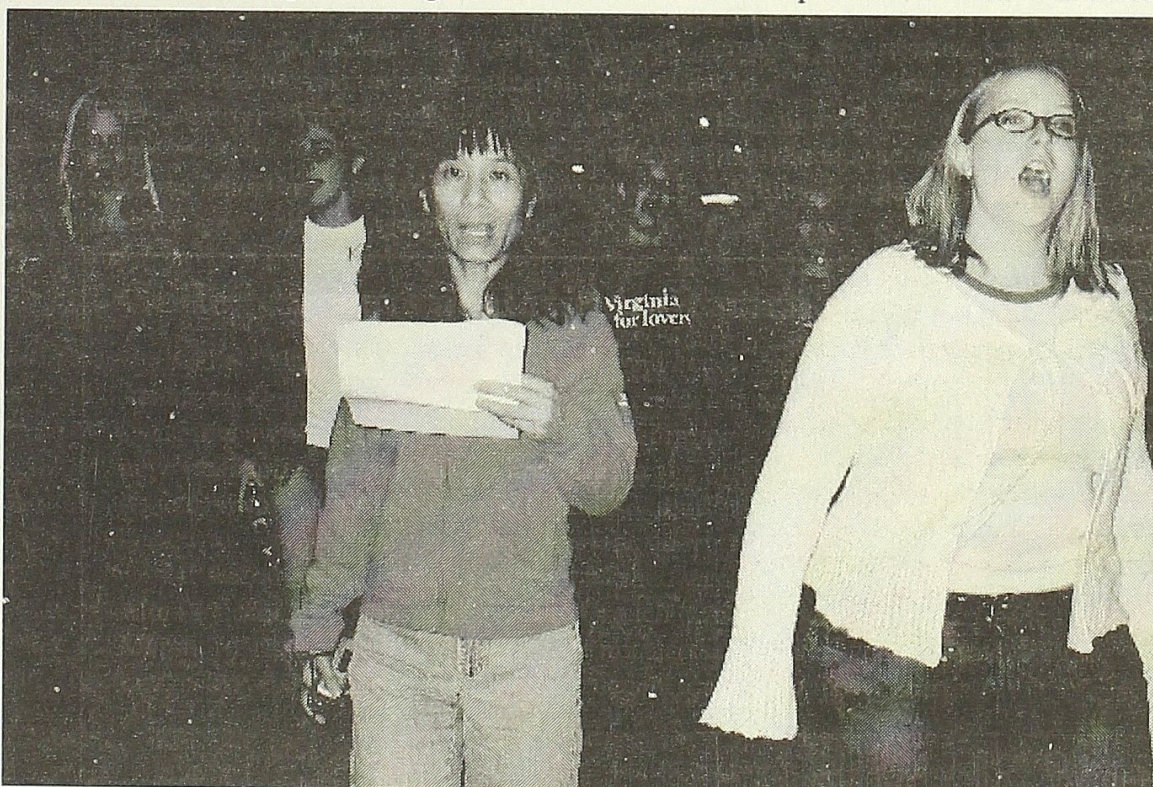
To bring light to the cause of women's safety and awareness, the annual Take Back the Night march, rally, and speak-out will be held on Monday, April 2. Founded three years ago by **Rebecca Peacock (08)** and **Emily Whitmer (07)**, Take Back the Night has grown into an important addition to campus life.

"Emily [Whitmer] and

I brought Take Back the Night to Alma three years ago because we realized that violence and sexual assault were never acknowledged on

women realize that one of the first steps to stopping sexual assault is freedom and safety of movement, day or night. "[It] is meant to break

here in Alma. More and more people participate every year. It is also very important that men take part in it as well. "More men



[http://www.alma.edu/academics/departments/humanities/womens\\_studies/news/05/tbn](http://www.alma.edu/academics/departments/humanities/womens_studies/news/05/tbn)

campus," Peacock said, "this event seemed to be a great way to build a community and awareness for the issue."

The first Take Back the Night event was held in 1973, in Germany, followed by the first American one in San Francisco in 1978. Take Back the Night exists to help

that wall of silence that we have surrounding the issue of sexual assault. Women should be able to walk where they want, when they want, wearing whatever they want—we aim to reclaim those rights," Whitmer said.

The Take Back the Night tradition has grown greatly

attended the event last year than they have in the past," Whitmer said, "I hope to see more and more men come to this event. Sexual Assault is everyone's issue." While the women take part in the march through Alma, campus men are invited to join a panel discussion, hosted by **Luke**

**Livingston (07).**

Take Back the Night, particularly the emotional speak-out portion, can be an important healing tool for survivors of sexual violence and an eye-opening experience for everyone else.

"I think too often we refer to those who have experienced sexual assault as victims when they should really be called survivors," said **Dana Calandrino (07)**. "I hope they take away from this a stronger sense of community and loyalty and the understanding that it is our sacred responsibility to be vigilant and supportive."

The best way to stop sexual assault is to be aware that it exists and to break the stigmatizing silence that surrounds it.

"If you see a woman get up and talk at the speak-out," Calandrino said. "You have to understand that she is every woman."

Take Back the Night will be held on Monday, April 2, at 8 p.m. on the library steps. The rally will be followed by a women's march, while men participate in a discussion panel, and will end with a speak-out.

## Students seek summer internship opportunities

RACHEL PELTON  
STAFF WRITER

Internships are a large part of the liberal arts learning experience created at Alma College. An internship can take place on or off campus in a wide variety of fields. Many students will complete at least one internship throughout their time at Alma, and some majors, such as communication, even require an internship placement as a graduation requirement.

Ideally, an internship provides real-world experience a given field of study. Alma offers a few placement programs, including The New York Arts Program, The Philadelphia Center, The Urban Life Center in Chicago, and American University's Washington Semester. Many Alma Students will elect to complete internships over the course of the summer or in a non-school sponsored program.

**Samantha Hughes (07)** will be interning in the Human Resources department for the City of Lansing, with duties such as negotiating contracts for the police and fire department and working closely with other Human Resources staff. Hughes said, "I plan to go into Human Resources and this will be practical experience that I can use in the future."

Another student, **Katie Boyer (08)**, will be interning in the Finance Department for Dow Corning. Boyer will be working in areas of finance and accounting to complete an influential project. She hopes the internship will give her a feel as to whether accounting is a field she would pursue. Boyer said, "This internship will offer me insight into the corporate world, and in particular the areas of finance and accounting."

**Andrea Whalen (08)** has secured an internship with Quicken Loans in Livonia, Michigan in the field of Mortgage banking. Whalen said, "I haven't really decided what I want to do with my degree yet and I figured this would be a good way to get insight into what the working world is like. It's a good chance to see what different types of jobs you can do with a business degree."

**Terra Teague (08)**, another business student at Alma, will spend her summer interning with Ernst and Young in the Business Risk Services Department in Detroit, MI. Teague will spend time working with comprehensive risk services through a suite of strategic, outsourcing, and industry-focused operational solutions that help companies around the world evaluate and enhance their internal auditing and risk management functions. Teague said, "I hope to further my understand of public accounting and determine if such a career is truly the opportunity I am looking for after graduation."

**Kyla Crawford (07)** will be an Education Specialist intern for the Ella Sharp Museum of Art and History in Jackson, MI. Crawford will work for the education department at the museum where she will learn program development, interpretive design, and museum management. Crawford said, "Internships allow students to experiment within career fields without having to make a full time commitment or permanent decision about their vocational choice."

## Students seek summer employment opportunities

PAULINE HAGEDORN  
STAFF WRITER

In an effort to remedy the financial situation plaguing a large number of college students, many take on summer jobs, such as camp counselors, bra specialists, and instructors.

Alma offers a number of positions over the summer for students who will be staying in the general area. The library often requires assistance, as does admissions, and there is also strong need during the Highland Festival for Housing Student Assistants. Regarding the latter, the Alma College Conference Office is looking for two students who can develop work schedules for other student employees, coordinate guest registration, have good organizations and communication skills, and can assist guests during the Highland Festival weekend, which is May 25-27. Applications are due today, March 30, to the Human Resources and Conferences Office, at the Centennial House.

The college is also looking for Summer Conference Managers. They will be paid an hourly wage and receive free on-campus housing as well as free meals when conference groups are in session. The hours will vary, but it does run through the summer. They are looking for people with interpersonal, organizational, and decisions making skills. Responsibilities begin after spring term and if interested, more information can be obtained at the Human Resources and Conference Office, where the applications are due today.

Alma College also needs Summer Residence Hall Supervisors. You live on campus all summer and housing is provided. Applications are available, once again, at the Human Resources and Conference Office, Centennial House, and are due today.

Some have the luxury of not being here and having fun jobs to look forward to over the summer. Students, including **Brandi Polzin ('06)** and **Summer Coe (10)**, can often find work at summer camps. "I am a camp counselor all summer and look forward to doing a variety of activities such as archery, building, swimming, and arts and crafts," said Polzin. "It is an all girls YMCA residential camp and I love it because the staff is amazing and ends up being like family at the end. I can't imagine not being there in the summer."

"I am a day camp counselor for disadvantaged children in my community and we do activities such as swimming, hiking, and spending time on the town," said Coe.

People like **Kelly Malburg (09)** do something a little different. "I am a certified bra specialist at Victoria's Secret. I love it!" she said. "I help people pick out what they are looking for, find their proper size, and try to make the buying atmosphere as comfortable as possible, because bra shopping can definitely be WAY awkward. I get to meet so many different people."

As a member of Alma College's percussion ensemble, **Katie Hoyt (08)** gets to practice her talents all summer. "I work as a percussion instructor for a few high school camps around the state. I also work at the two-week summer percussion workshop here in Alma. I love to teach and it's a great opportunity," she said.

## Food Fancy

### Easter candy: Do you eat the ears first?

JENNIFER ANDERSON  
FREELANCE WRITER



Easter is a time of celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and for many, that celebration means an Easter basket filled with candy. Unlike dark chocolate or black coffee, there is no real (researched) health benefit to sugar-filled creations. Happiness, however, may be reason enough to participate in the festivities.

Among the favorites at Easter are peeps, jelly beans, and Cadbury eggs. Identifying calories alone, five peeps are 160 calories (0 fat); 10 jelly beans are 104 calories (0 fat); and one Cadbury egg is 180 calories (54 fat). Each of those amounts is equivalent to about 1/2 cup of ice cream, and most ice cream eaters do not stop at 1/2 cup. Additionally, less than two percent of the calories in the American diet are supplied by candy. Easter, then, does not have to be a worrisome time of calorie consumption.

What we do need to be aware of when identifying nutritional information on candy is the grams of sugar. Though the candies listed above are not particularly high in fat, peeps contain 36g sugar, jelly beans contain 32g, and one Cadbury egg contains 22g. Sugar that is not burned off in one's daily routine is stored as fat in the body.

For those who are interested in learning what activity level is needed to burn off those chocolate bunny ears, there is a website that allows you to enter the amount of candy you have eaten and then select the type of exercise you normally do (or will be doing). It calculates for you how many minutes of exercise it will take to burn off the candy you ate. This tool is available at <http://www.cyberdiet.com/reg/dietwatch/holidays/easter/candyCounter/candyCounter.cgi>

Behind Halloween, Easter is the top-selling confectionery holiday. Each year, 90 million chocolate Easter bunnies and 16 billion jelly beans are made. And the candy making extends far before the holiday. Each day, five million marshmallow chicks and bunnies are produced in preparation for Easter.

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest Easter egg ever created was just over 25-feet high and made of chocolate and marshmallow. The producers of this egg probably raised the statistics that Americans buy 90 million pounds of marshmallows each year. This egg alone weighed 8,968 pounds and had to be supported by an internal steel frame.

### Marshmallows

#### Ingredients:

2 1/2 Tablespoons unflavored gelatin  
1 1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1 cup light corn syrup  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
2 Tablespoons pure vanilla extract  
Confectioners' sugar (for dusting)

#### Directions:

Combine gelatin and 1/2 cup cold water in the bowl of an electric mixer with whisk attachment. Let it stand 30 minutes. Combine granulated sugar, corn syrup, salt and 1/2 cup of water in a small heavy saucepan; place over low heat, stirring until sugar is dissolved. Wash down sides of pan with a wet pastry brush to dissolve sugar crystals. Clip on a candy thermometer, and raise the heat to high. Cook syrup without stirring until it reaches 244°F (firm-ball stage). Immediately remove pan from heat.

With mixer on low speed, slowly and carefully pour syrup into the softened gelatin. Increase speed to high; beat until mixture is very thick and white and has almost tripled in volume, about 15 minutes. Add vanilla; beat to incorporate. Generously dust an 8x12" glass baking pan with confectioners' sugar. Pour marshmallow mixture into pan. Dust with confectioners' sugar. Let stand overnight (uncovered) to dry out. Add a few drops of food coloring for colorful Easter treats.

Recipe courtesy of [candyusa.org](http://candyusa.org)

# Middle school lock-in finds huge success with local youth

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

Professor of Business, ElizabethCameron'sBusiness 323 Management Class had the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge of classroom principles on Friday, March 23 at a lock-in for Alma Middle School students.

The lock-in ran from 7 to 11:45 p.m. and was a collaborative effort between the Alma Middle School leadership class and Alma College. Two hundred and fifty students between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades attended the event. Dr. Cameron's class also helped with a lock-in that took place in September.

The lock-in was a service-learning project for Dr. Cameron's business class. Cameron said, "This project was an opportunity for my students to implement course content, while mentoring and assisting middle school students." Additionally, since Dr. Cameron was a part of the first lock-in, students were able to reevaluate and improve on areas that needed work from the first time around. Participating in experiences like the lock-in provide great "hands-on" learning for Alma College

business students. Service learning projects also grant students the chance to impact their community. Alma Students were awarded a grant sponsored by

and **William Lambert (o8)** worked on writing the grant. Boyer said, "We as a class quickly identified activities that would be of interest to the students, but unfortunately,

the funds through a grant. Writing the grant was a large undertaking. Boyer said, "This has been quite an experience from the planning and preparation of the

positive reactions and joyous looks on all of the children's faces."

At the actual event, Dr. Cameron's class was responsible for organizing activities and creating a fun, entertaining atmosphere for the middle school students. A few of the activities that the class developed and assisted with at the lock-in included: inflatables, a game room, face painting, movie theatre, and much more. **Andrea Whalen (o8)** said, "It was a great way to incorporate the leadership skills we are learning in class into real life experience, it was also pretty cool to see the kids having a good time."

The lock-ins at the Alma Middle School have been used in the past not only as a fundraising device, but also as an alternative form of entertainment for the youth of Alma. The funds that were generated from the event go toward a leadership program for the middle school students and a portion goes back in for the sustainability of future events. Although, in the end, it is ultimately the relationships built between the middle school and college students that have the largest and most important impact.



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

Lisl Steusloff spent the night painting faces, which went over as one of the biggest hits of the night.

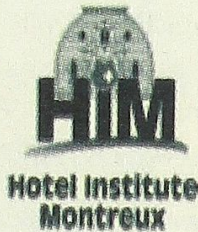
Michigan Campus Compact and Americorp Learn and Serve in the amount of \$1,000 to help plan and implement the event. **Katie Boyer (o8), Jillian Sadler (o8),**

many of these ideas wouldn't be possible without the help of additional funding." To raise the necessary funds these students took on the endeavor of securing

proposal to the development of the budget. Overall, even with all of the additional time and effort put in towards the grant, I still would do it all over again just to see the

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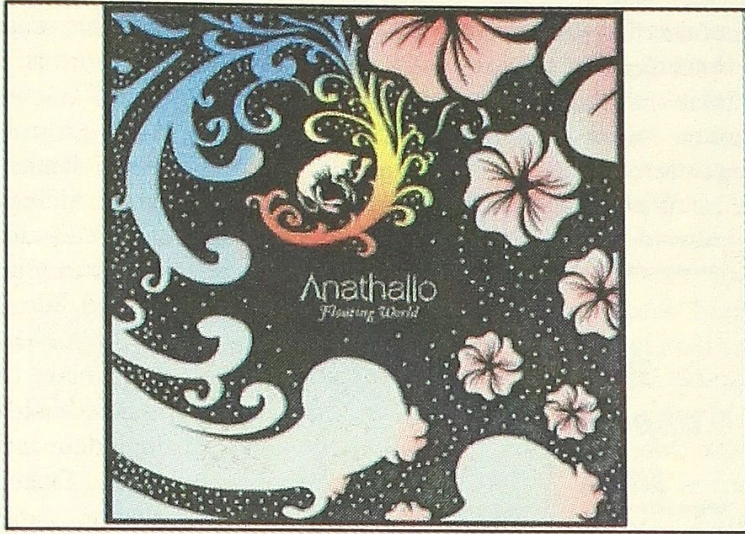
# Many students neglect liberal arts opportunities, concerts

**JORDAN BROWN**  
STAFF WRITER

The Ben Folds concert is fast approaching and it is definitely a concert that many are looking forward to. But just this past weekend, another band with great musical implications made its way to Alma College—Anathallo. And by the size of the audience, I gather that many of you missed out on it...for shame.

There it was, something fresh and exciting and entirely entertaining—right here at in Alma. A proverbial tree fell in the forest, and no one was around to hear it (for free I might add).

Anathallo is a rock band from Mt. Pleasant that works



out of Chicago. Recently, they played at Coachella—one of the premier festivals for alternative rock these days. These guys are destined for big things and they decided to play at Alma. I tell you, they deserved a better venue—at least something better than Van Dusen. They didn't even

fill the lunchroom, and most of the audience was kids from Mt. Pleasant.

I'm not here asking for campus-wide musical appreciation, or 100% attendance at all events like this; but anyone who appreciates music needed to be at this show.

Alma College *claims* to be a Liberal Arts institution, and that means we should be promoting lifelong learning in a wide variety of subjects. We recently had a Wilson Fellow here. He was invited to come to all sorts of classes and dinners and had a big hoodoo in Heritage—one that many students were *required* to attend for classes or for extra credit.

That was great—he is a respected scholar and statesman who had vast amounts of things to teach us, and did. He came to my Latin American History course with Lorenz and gave a particularly insightful lecture, but there is more out there than just these academic opportunities.

I just feel that if Alma college

talks about teaching us a diverse range of information, then wouldn't that include not only great statesmen and Nobel Laureate scientists, but intriguing forms of art and expression as well?

Anathallo is one of the most diverse and poetic bands I have seen on stage. There were seven people on stage—all of them rotating to different spots in various songs, using all sorts of instruments from drums, xylophones, stomp pads and sticks to horns, guitars, and piano. All of these pieces came together to create lush, layered arrangements backed by beautiful lyrics sung by their talented lead singer, along with stunning

SEE CONCERTS PG. 6

## Greek God adds laughs, excitement with charity

**KEVIN BILBREY**  
STAFF WRITER

I have to say that I always thought that the entire Greek God competition, while held for a good cause, was just a bunch of inane activity that was just a waste of time for a lot of people. Then I was selected to be a participant.

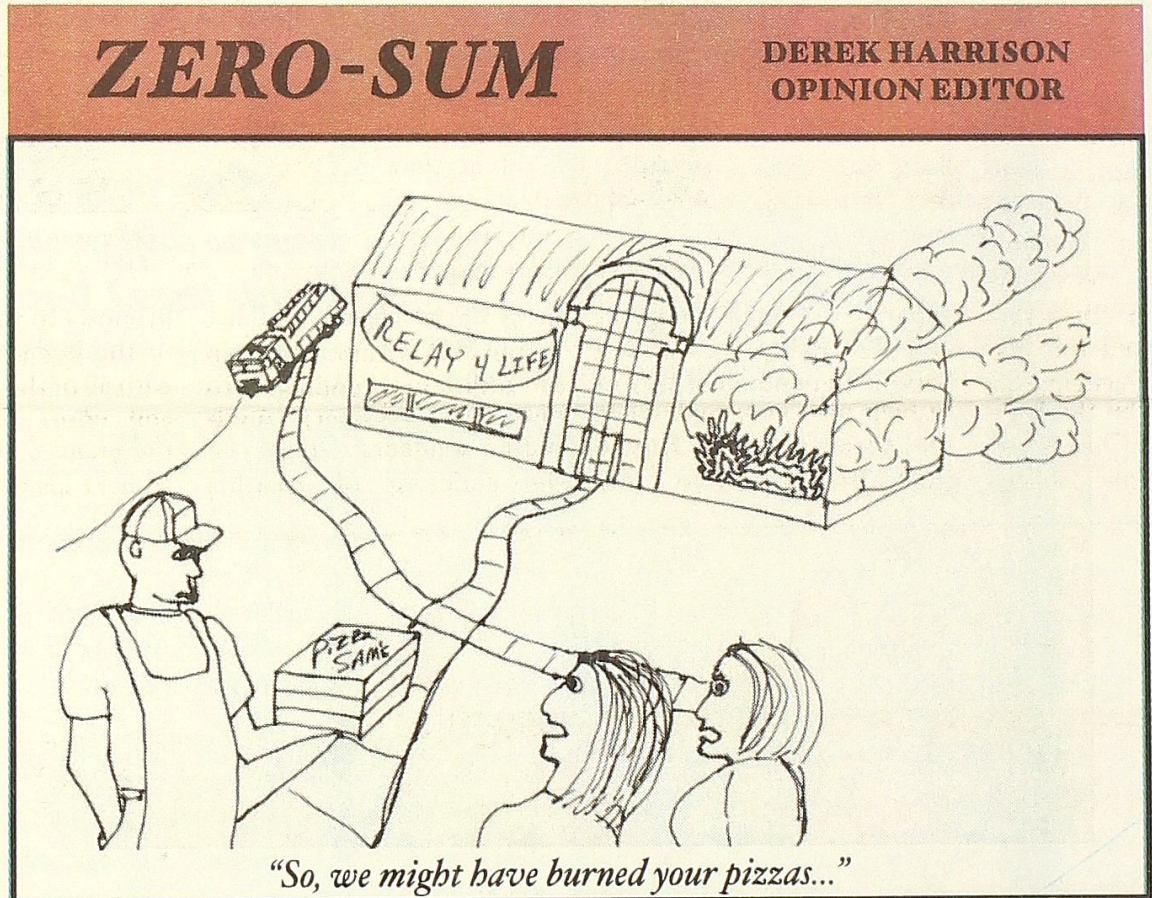
As Phi Sigma Sigma sorority hosted the Greek God competition to raise money for the National Kidney Foundation, this past week, my perspective is now entirely different.

I have to say that I thought it would be a really annoying obligation that I would dread going to every night (what with all the dance rehearsal and the questionnaire to fill out), but I found myself

secretly excited every time I had a choreography meeting. I mean, I was meeting new people, or re-meeting people I hadn't really gotten to know before.

Additionally, I got to have a lot of fun dancing to music I hadn't even listened to in years. Best of all, I was able to get up in front of a crowd of people and make a complete fool of myself—which is always a good time.

All of that is just from my end of things as a participant. For all of you who were out there in the audience, I would like to think that you enjoyed the show as well (not necessarily my part, but I think everyone got at least some twisted pleasure out of seeing **Jamie Diener (07)** chug a half-gallon of milk). Plus, who doesn't enjoy a big



bunch of guys doing a kick-line? No one, that's who.

Anyway, I am starting to drift away from the point I originally set out to make,

and it is simply this: I started out thinking that the entire Greek God competition was just some stupid male beauty pageant that was

nothing more than a high school popularity contest on a collegiate stage. However,

SEE PHI SIG PG. 6

## 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

Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. *The Almanian* reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Tuesday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at o7dtharr@alma.edu or address letters to *The Almanian*, Newberry Hall, Alma College.

### Advertising Policy

Advertisements can be submitted to o8radots@alma.edu. The Ad Manager reserves the right to restrict any advertisements for content.

### Staff Editorial Policy

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.

|                   |                    |
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# Raising Gelston up from inevitable plans, renewing a social hub

**JORDAN BROWN**  
STAFF WRITER

Mourn friends, for a great era is about to end—Gelston is about to die. The penthouse is closing, as well as the basement, while the second floor is becoming singles only.

Gelston—once the proud social center of this campus, the diverse building of all different kinds of people—will end its career very soon. Now the question remains, what will we do next? Do we renovate, or recreate?

Fond memories aside, Gelston is a building that is ready to go. The showers are disgusting, grounded plugs are rare, it smells of hamsters at times—all in all, the building is doomed. So I ask,

Alma College, please don't *renovate* Gelston, *rebuild* it.

Wright Hall is a fabulous building, and the great thing about it is that it takes a piece of Alma's history and brings it back in an attractive, modern way.

Gelston is a building with history; I have talked to Alumni who always ask if Gelston is still the fun place to be—if it's still the place that people *want* to live in.

Renovations are all well and good, but I've seen the way that the Bruske renovations went first hand. There was a coat of new paint in the rooms, and some new stackable furniture, but the stairwells weren't done, and the new fire alarm system wasn't working for months. The tiles on the floor are

cracked and chipped—they haven't been changed, and I think all that the bathrooms got were new shower curtains.

With the way that this current Alma administration

***"Gelston  
is a golden  
opportunity for  
the school."***

sees the term "renovation" it's tough for me to be excited about them "renovating" a great place like Gelston. This is a building that is in a perfect spot, it's close to SAC and DOW, connected to Joe's and Dusen, and only a few yards from the road.

This feels like a dead

horse for me, but this school *is* in trouble in terms of enrollment, and it's not just this year—it's been a trend.

We should show students that we have good facilities not only for their studies, but also for their *living*, would be a huge boost. As I said, Wright Hall looks great and everyone wants to live there—it fills every time. So why doesn't the administration take note of that popularity, and spread it to the rest of campus?

I've already written about the need for a field house and I feel that Gelston falls into the same idea as that—new buildings that can invigorate the campus and create excitement that would spread to prospective students when they come.

Hope College has spent lots

of money on updating their campus—the field house is only part of it—but that money has been well spent, because it's paying off for them in terms of enrollment.

Alma College has the lowest debt in our peer group, but one of the largest endowments. Maybe we should take some educated financial risks to make some big gains. Gelston is a golden opportunity for the school.

Plenty of Alumni have fond memories of the building, making a fundraising drive for a reconstruction easily successful, and in terms of reward—look at other colleges taking steps like this and reaping the benefits. Take the opportunity, Alma, because shiny new buildings equals starry-eyed freshmen.

## Concerts from pg. 5...

background singing by the rest of the band.

They were amazing to watch—there was so much movement on stage, what with the changing of instruments and the feel of intensity, balanced with a sense of clarity from the

band.

All of the lectures and speakers are great, but it seems that there are so few experiences like this at Alma. English classes like poetry, prose, writing, and even intro classes would have benefited from the show. I don't even need to go into what it could have given music majors.

So Anathallo came, and went, as did a chance for a

***"Anathallo is one  
of the most  
diverse and poetic  
bands that I have  
seen on stage."***

liberal arts experience. There are opportunities here. This college *is* in trouble. Our applications were low, and we accepted 97% of the ones we got—that's a community college number. If we want prospectives to know that we are *truly* offering a unique Liberal Arts experience, we need to show it. The

administration needs to open up to the campus, take in ideas—and maybe a rock show or two.

The experience was here for them—it came on *loud* from brass horns, dancing notes and the sunburst finish of a Gibson Les Paul—the only thing they didn't have were the signal flares—and no one heard them; especially the people in charge.

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

As a member of a sorority, I am very involved in Greek Life. For the most part, I am proud to be involved in this manner. Lately, however, I am becoming concerned about Greek organizations reinforcing, rather than challenging, stereotypes. Each chapter on campus has core values to which it aspires. It is each group's responsibility to uphold these values.

Unfortunately, when individuals act in ways contrary to the ideals of the group, it reflects on the entire organization and community. Although the actions of individuals cannot always be controlled, it is important that the organizations themselves are not promoting such behavior.

Dear Editor,

I am a parent who visited Alma College the week of March 19 with my daughter as she prepares to make her final college choice before graduating high school. I read in the March 16 edition of the paper the article in which student athletes had to argue that they were not being paid to play for the school.

What struck me was the question "If it is not money that the coaches use to sell the recruits, what is it that does?" Asking that question seems to imply that you may not really understand how much Alma has to offer as well as show that you don't understand the role of Division III sports. When looking at colleges my daughter, a high school athlete, specifically targeted Division III schools because what they could give her to satisfy both her academic goals and athletic goals.

She has looked at a variety of schools. Some offered her financial support and some didn't; that factor will have no bearing on her choice. What will have a bearing is the amount of personal attention she received on each visit, not only from the coach for her sport but from the teachers in the academic programs that interested her and in the

Fraternities should not encourage activities that degrade women. Sororities should not promote exclusion. These are the kinds of things with which Greeks should concern themselves. These activities are doing nothing to dispute commonly held views of our organizations. Each member of each Greek organization is accountable.

Men of good character should act as such; women who claim to be inclusive should be so. It is time we began holding ourselves, our chapters, and our community responsible for the standards that would create "a positive benefit to Alma College."

Sincerely,  
**Maggie Simon (08)**

amount of help received from the admissions department during the search process. My daughter is a well-rounded person and a leader at her high school. Sports is just part of who she is, and she knows that at a Division III school she will have the opportunity to enjoy the sport she loves as she prepares for a future that goes beyond athletics.

She wants to make an impact both on and off the field. Financial support that has been offered at different schools recognized the full scope of her accomplishments. I would hate to think that she should be made to feel undeserving of those awards because some people just view them as "under the table" athletic scholarships.

While I don't know yet what my daughter's college decision will be, I do know that on our visit to Alma everyone we met showed that they were interested in her as a whole person, not just as an athlete. That is what Division III schools like Alma offer when they can't offer money. In most cases that is more valuable than any scholarship. If she decides on this school for the fall, her father and I will think she chose well.

Sincerely,  
Julie Farrar

## Phi Sig from pg. 5...

after having seen the entire thing from the inside, and realizing what really goes on, I have to say that it is not.

It is a great social activity that allows people from all over campus, Greek or not, to interact and have a good time outside of the party atmosphere. It also provides an easy and entertaining means for Alma students to donate money to help other people. It really is a great event.

I would just like to take this time to thank the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma for allowing me to take part in what is undoubtedly one of the best experiences I have had in my collegiate career, and all of the members of the other fraternities who participated with me. It really was a great time.

Oh, and for all of you out there who didn't go see the event, I implore you to go next year. Support kidneys, support your fellow students, and have a good time doing it.

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## Mens tennis shows tremendous growth

MIRIAM JOHNSON  
STAFF WRITER

The season of spring sports is in full swing and, along with this, come the many losses and wins of various teams.

One team that has yet to deal with many losses this season is the mens tennis team. They have been playing games regularly and showing their quality just as often.

Just two years ago, the mens tennis team was not doing nearly so well, as, according to the 2005 results, the team had won only 3 games out of 16 total. But this group, though comprised of completely new members since 2005, as made some drastic changes.

Thus far in the season, this all freshman/sophomore team has won 10 games and lost only three. The future is looking pretty bright for men's tennis.

They started the season off with 3 consecutive wins.

Even though the most recent game was a disappointing 9-0 loss to Albion College, **Alex Montoye (10)** and the rest of the team remain hopeful.

"Our team is a lot stronger this year; even with the loss of our top singles player (Ahmet Demir)," he said.

This means that, even though the top singles player is gone, the general level of skill among the rest of the team is better than in years past.

**Reese Manikowski (10)**, another new player, agrees

with Montoye's description of the team as "deep."

Within our conversation about the current state of the team, he mentioned that they are doing a "fantastic job keeping up with teams that beat us last year." He is also anticipating the conference

attend home meets, Reese encourages the campus to come and watch.

"College tennis has a lot to offer," he said. This statement, though given casually, is a good reminder for us students to get out and support "a team of great and hardworking guys," in the words of Montoye.

Finally, the team has some high hopes for the end of the season.

According to **Brett Seymoure (09)**, they hope to finish the season with at least a record of 10-4.

"If we could finish the season with less than 7 losses, that would be good," he said.

He also shared the team's main wish, to be able to beat Hope College and finish fourth in the MIAA.

Thus far, it is "looking good" for them. He admits that it will

meet, which he simply sums up as "intense."

He talked also about his coach, **Chris Sandro**, who really helped him to better transition from high school to college tennis. Although the practices are more strenuous, the entire team is benefiting.

It is evident that the team, although modest, is exceptionally talented.

It makes sense that more people should get involved in supporting them. Although many people do not

be next to impossible to beat the extremely talented teams that play for Albion and Kalamazoo. Yet Seymoure has faith that they will be able to overcome the Hope team.

Overall, the team is one of the most talented that we have here at Alma. Manikowski, along with the rest of the team, asks the campus to show their support; the team works hard for the accomplishments that they have experienced and hope to achieve in the future.

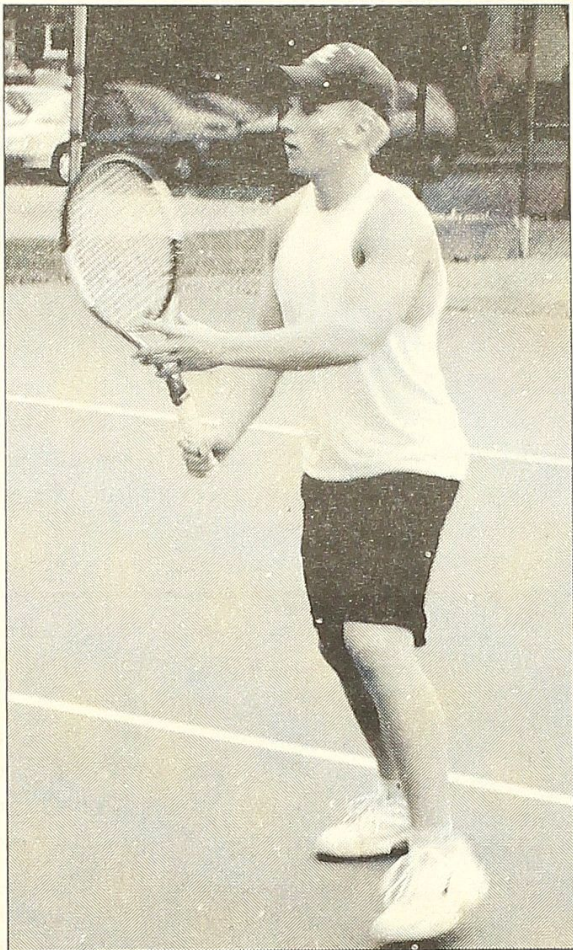


Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

Dan Fraser (09) competes for the Scots at a home match.

## College greets athletic staff with great opportunity

The Alma College Athletic Department is swarming with news of new positions offered to its very own faculty members.

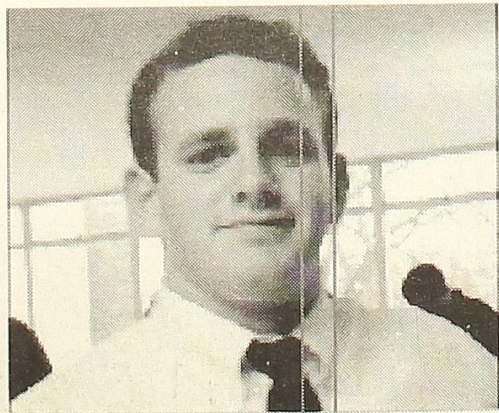
It was announced on Alma's official website March 19 that Cheyenne Luzynski was named the

head volleyball coach for the Scots, thus replacing former coach Steve Humm.

Luzynski is the director of the Stone Recreation Center and assistant coach for track and field. She was also the assistant coach for the volleyball team last season and assistant coach for the mens

basketball team for two seasons.

Announced this week: Kyle Schack, coach of the mens and womens swimming and diving team, was chosen to be one of four assistant coaches for the Central Zone Select Camp.



File Photo



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

## Fantasy Leagues: Good or Bad for Sports?

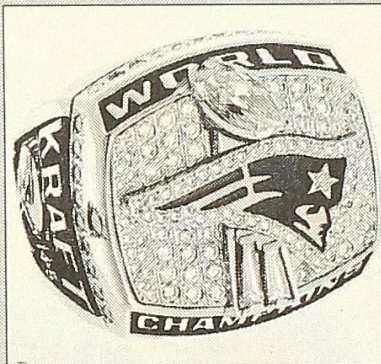
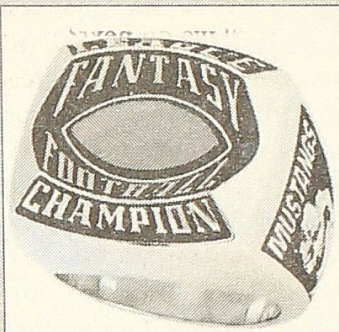
*Q: Should fantasy leagues be created for competitions such as Little League Baseball? Or are the fantasy league providers taking things a step too far?*

JAMES THRUBIS  
STAFF WRITER

A number of people across the globe participate in what is known as fantasy leagues.

For those who are not aware of what a fantasy league is, here is the run down. In any given sport, statistics are kept to see who are the best performers or athletes. Owners of fantasy teams can pick and choose any player from the entire league to be on their roster for the season.

For an example, fantasy football is one of the most popular leagues in the United States. If I were to join a football fantasy league, I could draft Peyton



Manning, Terrell Owens and Roy Williams even though in reality none of these players have ever played for the same team.

Websites such as ESPN.com and Yahoo.com offer free fantasy leagues to the public as a way to

promote sports. The most popular sports, such as baseball, football and basketball, have had fantasy leagues for quite some time. But in recent years, the popularity of these leagues and the demand for a variety of fantasy leagues has been on the rise.

As of last weekend, ESPN.com has fantasy leagues for more of the less popular sports in America, like hockey, soccer, the WNBA, boxing, horse racing, arena football, stock car racing, NASCAR racing, golf, tennis, cricket, rugby, the Bass Master Tournament and even poker.

Fantasy leagues used to be based just off of professional sports, but now they have moved down to the college level and even sporting events where twelve year olds are the athletes. College football, basketball and baseball all have fantasy leagues like their professional counterparts. But, what was most shocking was that the annual Little League World Series, where the participants are twelve years old, has their own fantasy league.

I have been a fan of all sports since I was a kid and view myself as being quite knowledgeable on a number of sports. I believe fantasy leagues are good for promoting sports and an excellent way for people to further their understanding of a game. But, where do you draw the line?

I would admit to watching most of the sporting events I have listed above and could see how most people get enjoyment out of fantasy leagues. But, I have to say, as a sports fan from the United States, that cricket and rugby are not on the top of my list of favorite sporting events. In fact, I have never once watched either of those sports in my entire life. And as for poker, come on, it is not even a sport. Last time I checked, athletes are in amazing physical shape and do not sit at a table for hours on end doing nothing.

The low point of fantasy sports is the fact that people have competitive leagues that ride on the performance of children. The Little League World Series endorses sportsmanship between youth baseball players and other nations involved in the tournament. I firmly believe that a fantasy league that uses the play of twelve-year-old boys as their athletes for an internet competition should really invest its time in something more productive.

Fantasy leagues are a great way to promote sports and give fans another reason to enjoy their favorite game. But when it moves from professional athletes to the college level and all the way down to children, it is flat out a waste of time.

# Track and field ventures outdoors for first time this season

LAUREN RUSSELL  
SPORTS EDITOR

Alma College mens and womens track and field teams returned Monday from the Emory Invitational in Georgia, in which they placed 17 of 24 competitors.

Top scorers for the women include distance runners **Allie Gibson (09)**, **Megan Gibson (07)**, and **Erin Hemerling (08)**; pole vault and high jumper **Andrea Richardson (09)**; long jump, triple jump and sprinter **Tara Bjorne (07)**; and thrower **Caitlin Fowler (08)**.

For the men, sprinter **Kyle Percival (08)**, thrower **Pat Tompkins (09)**, and long and high jumper **Chris Francis (09)** were tops.

"We had a really strong showing," said **Eric Braun (09)**, who is a sprinter for the team. "People [on the team] showed they were ahead of what they were last year. The competition was pretty stiff."

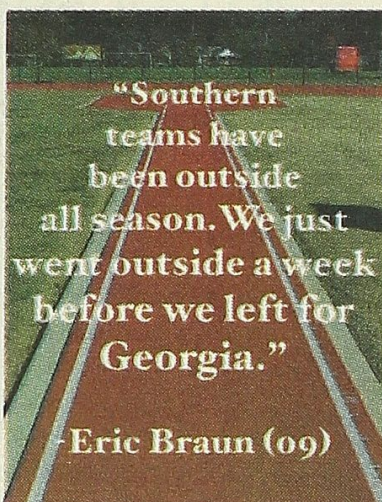
Not only was the competition stiff in the first outdoor meet for Alma, but the competition also had an advantage, according to Braun.

"Southern teams have been outside all season. We just went outside a week before we left for Georgia," he said. "In outdoor meets, the tracks are 400 meters instead of 200. [Outdoor meets] require more conditioning."

Though they require more work, Braun prefers outdoor meets to indoor because,

as he said, they are more competitive.

Braun and the rest of the track and field team will have



another chance to compete outdoors at the Manchester Invitational tomorrow in Manchester, Indiana.

"It's tough to say [how we'll do]," said Hemerling of the

predicted outcome of the Manchester Invitational. "We compete against teams we don't normally see. But, we can be pretty competitive."

The Scots will compete again at 2 p.m. on April 4 on their home field. The meet will take place at the outdoor track against MIAA rivals Hope and Olivet, and will be the first and only home meet for the Scots.

And while Hope College took second place in the Emory Invitational, Braun and Hemerling are maintaining a positive outlook.

"Hope is a very challenging team. [But,] we will do well against Olivet. It will be a competitive meet, but I think we will win against Olivet," said Hemerling of the upcoming home meet.

"I think we will do well," said Braun. "We are going to have to put a lot of people in a lot of different events. We have to be strategic of who we put in what events so we can score points. If we do that, I think we can be a lot more competitive."

With only one home meet, students are only given one chance to see the Scots in action without traveling far this season. Student support for the team is always encouraged by the track team and used as motivation.

"The more support the better," said Hemerling. "It makes us work harder and feel more appreciated... When we have people cheering for us... we feel more appreciated and we are willing to give it our all."

## There's no place like home (field) for Alma Athletes

JAMES THRUBIS  
STAFF WRITER

Imagine walking onto a field or court with hundreds, or even thousands, of people verbally attacking you and telling you how much you stink.

This scenario is exactly what student athletes face at every away game.

No matter what the sport, student athletes are faced with playing at least one away game during their season.

Some venues are harsher than others, but what bothers most athletes is the feeling of being uncomfortable either on the field, the court, or even the locker rooms.

But does this feeling of awkwardness affect more than just a few people on a sports team?

**Tyler Wellmen (08)** has been a starting offensive lineman for the Scots since

his freshman year and next season he will be hitting the road for away games against Cornell College in Iowa and UW-Eau Claire, in Wisconsin.

"I personally prefer to play at home. Besides having a friendly crowd on your side, you can get into a pregame routine at home a lot easier. This is because you know what the facilities are like, and you know what to expect at your own venue," he said.

Wellmen stated that not knowing what other facilities are like also has an impact on student athletes.

"When you go on the road it is a crap shoot," he said. "There are so many unknown variables when you go on the road, like locker room size, temperature of showers, or even distance from field to locker room. It is just a lot easier and a lot less of a headache to play at home."



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

The Scots softball team stands in unison at their home field in order to cheer on fellow teammates.

Former volleyball standout **Jessie Hill (07)** believes that traveling to another team's venue is the worst part of an

away game.

"Home games are definitely better, besides the fact that you don't have to travel an hour to an hour and a half for our closest games and up to six hours for the far ones," she said.

Hill believes there is another positive aspect playing at home: more fan support and a home court advantage.

"We get to stay here, have a lot of fans and not get back at all hours of the night," she said. "Also, playing in our own gym gives us the advantage of home court, playing in our 'house' gives us that extra drive to win."

The feeling of defending your home turf has overflowed into other sports such as softball.

**Liana Easterby (08)** plays infield for the Scots and thinks the winning tradition of playing at Scot's Park gives the team that extra push of

confidence to win.

"The fan base is awesome from everyone on campus and there is a winning tradition on our field that makes everyone have the confidence to play well," she said.

Easterby also believes that knowing your own field also helps.

"You are used to your own dirt, fence and outfield grass, I know that sounds lame, but it is true," she said.

Playing a road game is one of the hardest obstacles to overcome as an athlete and it is safe to say that traveling to an opponent's venue can be quite frustrating.

No matter what the sport, it seems like student athletes at Alma College would rather play in the warm confines of Alma than anywhere else.

I guess the old saying is true, there is no place like home.



Photo courtesy of Anthony Rosenblum

The lacrosse team goes head to head with the Adrian Bulldogs on the big "A" of Alma's football field.