

The Almanian

Volume CI

Issue I

Friday, September 14, 2007

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

UNDER THE COVER

Admissions pulls in largest freshman class in school history.



SEE NEWS PG. 3

Volunteering meets experience in growing national trend; Alma students jump at bountiful opportunities.

SEE FEATURE PG. 5

New wave of comedy shines through in blockbuster hits Superbad, Knocked Up, 40-Year-Old Virgin.

SEE OPINION PG. 7

Promise abounds with expansion of mens soccer program.



SEE SPORTS PG. 8

BY THE NUMBERS

457

The number of freshmen joining Alma College for the 2007-2008 school year.

86

The team-leading score shot Wednesday by junior Beth Hubbard at the second MIAA Jamboree golf tournament.

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Pine River contamination still problematic

LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

There have been many troubles for the Pine River and residents living around it. Residents cannot eat fish from the river, drinking water may be contaminated, and are at the risk of contracting varied types of cancer. The reason behind this may very well be Velsicol Chemical.

Velsicol Chemical opened in 1935 with the name Michigan Chemical Company. In 1973, a food contamination caused

great suspicion and the company was closed in 1978. During their operation, however, they consistently dumped great quantities of chemicals into the river and soil. The contamination has gone as far as polluting the drinking water in Mount Pleasant and contaminating the Saginaw Bay, too. Velsicol is one of the few places in the world to work with PBB (polybrominated biphenyls). The fish in the Saginaw Bay have been tested and found to contain PBB, confirming the suspicion that the plant site has

polluted the river all the way up

"Not much happened [this summer] because the EPA is coming out with a plan,"

Murray Borrello,
Professor

to, and including, the Saginaw Bay. As well as PBB, carcinogens

SEE PINE RIVER PG. 3

Wilcox Center revamped

ANNA ZICHI
NEWS EDITOR

Returning students have noticed many changes to Alma College's campus since moving in two weeks ago. One such change is the new set up of the Wilcox Medical Center. Not only does it include the Medical Center but it also houses the Wellness Center, previously located in the basement of Hamilton Commons.

According to Patricia Chase, Director of Student Development and Counseling, this change has been talked about for quite some time. "During this time in a person's life, many make risky health choices," she said. "For instance, not getting enough sleep, not eating well, and drinking too much alcohol."

Since these issues (and many more) do not just concern the body or mind, the move to have both of these services under one roof made sense. "Sometimes a student will come in, and I will think that this has more to deal with the body or vice versa," said Chase. "Now I can send them through one door, not across campus, and they will be where I feel is the right place to be treated."

"We are a safe place to come and talk. We have never been here to judge; we are here to help,"

Patricia Chase,
Director

With this move, the Wellness Center hopes to also be more proactive with their treatments. Chase said, "We hope to take more preventative action instead of reactive measures when dealing with many of these issues."

The other noticeable change is that the Medical Center has teamed up with the Gratiot County Health System to offer better health care to the students. There will now be a full time Physicians Assistant (PA) and Registered Nurse (RN) on campus throughout the entire day. However instead of being employed through the College, they are employed through the hospital. "This allows for more resources to be available for the

Madeline Albright on campus



Photo courtesy of Brent Riley

Madeline Albright came to Alma College September 12, 2007. She addressed several different student groups, the press, and the community while on campus.

ANNA ZICHI
NEWS EDITOR

The Center for Responsible Leadership (CRL) hosted the Honorable Madeleine Albright on September 12, 2007. Albright, the first female United States Secretary of State, spoke to a full house as part of the Center's Responsible Leadership Speaker Series.

Guest speakers are brought to Alma College to not only broaden a person's point of view, but also to charge individuals to enter the world and make a difference. "It inspires us to make our own choices," said John Leipzig, Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation Leadership Chair Director, Center for Responsible Leadership Alma College. "It can only enrich our experiences."

The decision to bring in Albright was made by Leipzig, students, faculty, and a key Alumna, who has provided funding for the Robert D. Swanson Responsible Leadership Speaker Series.

Women are in the majority at the CRL, adding a special interest to bringing an influential woman to campus. "We were looking for someone with a

"We were looking for someone with a strong track record in leadership positions who is recognized as having made a difference in this world,"

John Leipzig,
CRL Director

strong track record in leadership positions who is recognized as having made a difference in this world," said Leipzig.

"We have attempted to bring a different world experience to the campus to make the students go

out and explore for themselves," said Leipzig. "If we have done this then we have succeeded in our mission."

Albright's intelligence, ability to speak, and her wit made for a memorable evening for all that attended. She spoke on many topics ranging from her time as a child to her years after serving as the United States Secretary of State. "As far as I am concerned I held the best job in the world," said Albright.

She spoke highly of Alma College by saying, "Alma College is renowned locally and globally for cultivating leaders. It is clear that the teachings honor tradition, but at the same time focus on the future." It was with this idea that Albright continued her speech.

As the evening progressed she addressed many issues that face this nation. When asked what her first priority would be if she were acting Secretary of State currently she said, "My

SEE ALBRIGHT PG. 2

SEE WILCOX PG. 3

Pine River from pg. I...

are found throughout the water, causing not just one type of cancer, but many various types. The maximum safe level of DDT is five ppm (parts per million); the samples from the river sediment have been as high as 44,000 ppm.

From 1999 through 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has cleaned out river sediment, which has cost one hundred million dollars. Even though that project is finished, the EPA has more to do.

Murray Borrello, instructor of geology and director of the Environmental Studies Program, helped start the Pine River Superfund Citizens Task Force and said, "Not much happened [this summer] because the EPA is coming out with a plan this fall that is going to tell the

community what options there are to clean up the former plant site". Borrello continues by saying that there are ideas that the EPA may suggest. The EPA may concentrate on finding methods that are cheap and not best for a long term safe environment, but what the EPA cannot come up with a long term plan? Borrello believes that the remedy proposed to the community by the EPA will not be best for either. "I worry about that," he said.

The EPA is working on remedies to the Velsicol Chemical disaster. Borrello's 480 class, Environmental Studies Seminar, is researching various alternative methods for the cleansing of the Pine River. If the EPA will not come up with a solution, perhaps the Alma students will.



A pictureque scene of the banks of the Pine River here in Alma. While it does not look extremely polluted use caution before entering.

Photo courtesy of Catherine Finley

Albright from pg. I...



Albright discusses several relevant issues and answers audience questions during her speech.

Photo courtesy of Brent Riley

first priority would be to restore the American image, power in the world, and try to undo the problems that exist now."

There were many issues that she addressed such as removing the troops out of Iraq, major international partnerships, global warming, and the gap between the rich and the poor. However, the hardest part she said would be figuring out which is priority because so many things have undermined America's reputation.

The main problem that she saw facing the United States in the Iraqi War was that there was a lack of clarity in the mission that faced the American troops. Albright said, "The missions that the troops were sent to deal with in the first place have basically not been commissioned with what they were sent to do." Instead she feels they are dealing with the problems that they have caused by being there.

She also addressed the issue with our

foreign policies. "One important thing for the United States to do is to forge an international system of rights." The thing that we must remember however is that we cannot do it alone; we need the help of other countries.

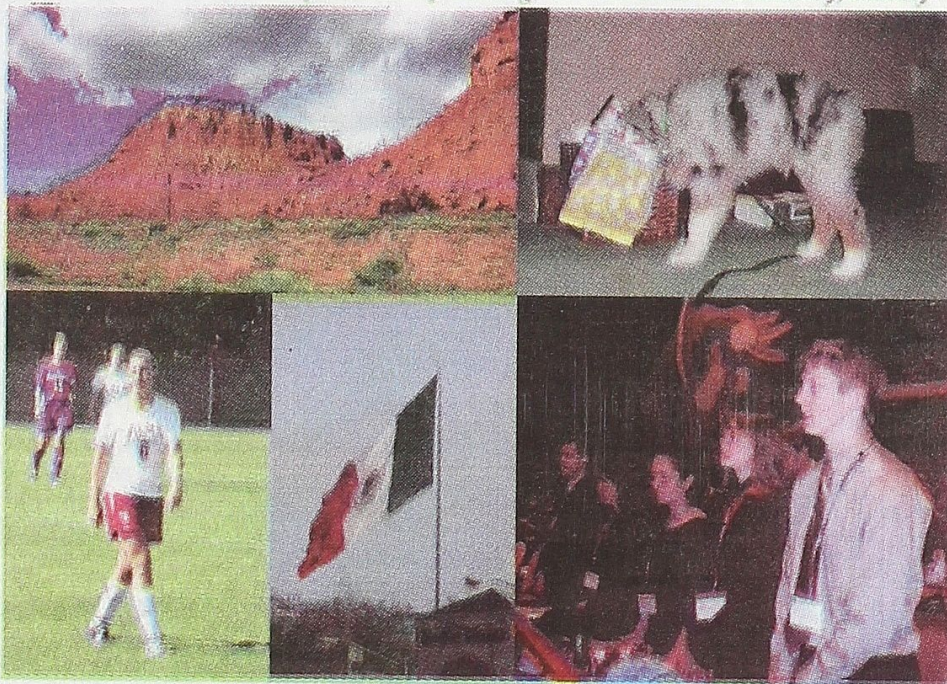
Albright stressed that the United States needs to abide by the rules of the law, as such an exceptional country cannot expect or request exceptions to be made for it. Establishing relationships is essential in all foreign policies, and because of what has happened over the last few years the next president has a very difficult job. She said, "Americans are not the only ones here, we need to operate together."

The one thing Albright wished for the students to get from her speech was, "The importance of operating within functioning communities," she said. "We are the authors of history ... but it requires education and individual action."

NOW HIRING * NOW HIRING * NOW HIRING

The Almanian is currently looking to fill positions for the 2007-2008 academic school year. All positions are paid and training is available.

"CRL ventures to New Mexico for leadership training" ... "Pets in dorms unsanitary, unlikely"



"Women's soccer welcomes new coach" ... "P-Global sends students abroad" ... "MUN returns victorious"

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Record-breaking freshman class kicks off Alma career

THOMAS MCGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

This article is the first in a two part series focusing on the freshman class of 2007. The first part, published here, will discuss how Alma attracted such a large class of students. Part two, available next week, will discuss specific changes made academically and within student life to accommodate the new class.

Among the many changes on campus this fall, upperclassmen returning to Alma were sure to notice one in particular: the abundance of young new students throughout the campus. The college set a new record this year with the enrollment of 457 first-year students. This is the fifth time in the history of the college in which enrollment has passed the 400 level, easily passing the previous record of 442, set in 1992, and representing an increase of 109 students from 2006.

Ideally, the college aims to enroll 400 to 425 incoming freshmen. According to Karen Klumpp, Vice President of Enrollment, this is the ideal number for a campus of Alma's size, adding that classes of around 400 contribute to a busy and vibrant campus.

Initial indicators began to show in the spring of 2007 that Alma would not only reach its freshman enrollment goal, but also would be entering record-breaking territory. According

to Evan Montague, Director of Admissions, the college received a total just above 1800 completed applications - an increase of nearly 20 percent from 2006. Campus visits by

including athletics, faculty, and students. This collective effort concentrated on highlighting the unique opportunities that Alma has to offer, such as study abroad programs,

try to get admissions out of the way and get students connected with faculty members and with students, so they can see and feel themselves here."

Furthermore, the admissions

out the importance of Sandra Tracy, President, to the recruitment effort. Tracy came through with the leadership and the initiative necessary to begin campus wide improvements and aggressive college marketing.

Finally, Klumpp emphasized that the college did not sacrifice academic quality to bring in the new class. She stated, "What is incredible is that their academic standards are right at the same level. We did not compromise on quality."

Looking ahead, the college is aiming to attract a class of between 400 and 425 by utilizing the same strategies that were effective this year. There is also an addition of a new regional recruiter based in Chicago,



Photo courtesy of Skip Traynor

The new freshman class—457 students in total—pose for the traditional Alma College freshman photograph during pre-term.

had risen 39 percent.

Both Klumpp and Montague attribute the increase in these statistics to fundamental changes made to the recruitment process. These changes involved larger collaboration between many sectors on campus,

internship opportunities, and the ability to work closely with faculty. Focusing on developing connections between the prospective students and the campus was also important, as Montague said, "We retooled a lot of our programs to really

staff worked harder to keep families from being scared away by tuition costs. "One of the things we've tried to do is help people. [L]et us get our financial aid in front of you, because we really want to be competitive," says Klumpp. She also pointed

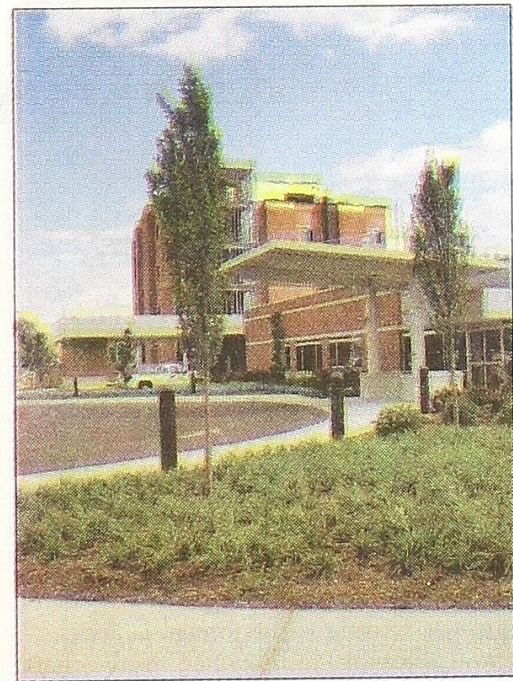
Illinois.

Despite the great success of the past year, it is back to business for the admissions staff, with Montague adding, with a smile, "We're at zero. The class is here, but in admissions we're starting at zero again."

Wilcox from pg. I...

students," said Chase.

Improved women's health care has been a priority for the college. Special interest was given to this because so many of the students are women. Both the PA and the RN are specialists in this area and are here to help not only men but also women in any and all medical needs.



or "wellness". Over 2000 appointments were made last year alone at the Wellness Center. Chase said, "You cannot be the student you wish to be if there is something else wrong." "I think in some cases it will be less convenient, and for others it will be more convenient for students," said Rachel Naiukow, Alma College Senior. "It is good, though, to get a fresh perspective with different services than we previously had."

The Medical Center has also partnered with the Recreation Center and will be offering many programs throughout the year to better the Body, Mind and Spirit. One such program is the WellFest, which will take place sometime in October. The Exercise and Health Science Department,

teamed with local businesses, will also be participating to help raise awareness of different issues that affect each student.

Officials hope that students will take advantage of the improved facilities despite the fact that it may mean a slightly longer walk. "We are a safe place to come and talk," said Chase. "We have never been here to judge we are here to help."

New campus layout streamlines services

PAULINE HAGEDORN
STAFF WRITER

It is a new school year and changes are everywhere! Some of the biggest changes to campus are the combination and separation of offices and the relocation of Scotty's Convenience Store.

Let us start with the offices. The new Student Services Center consists of the Registrars' Office, the Financial Aid Office, and the Business Office, which been moved in their entirety to the lower level of Hamilton Commons. For all of the new students who may not know where that is, these offices are underneath Hamilton and are used mainly for scheduling, paying the bill, getting housing cards, and picking up paychecks.

The Center for Student Development (CSD), which used to be under Hamilton, has split in half. All of the counseling services are now coupled with medical services in the Wilcox Building on the East end of campus. The academic portions the CSD were placed in a new office under the library: the Academic and Career Planning Office.

The Academic and Career Planning Office offer Academic Support Services, Disability

Services, and the Off Campus Studies Program. Academic support services include the Kurzweil Reading Software, tutoring services, workshops, and it helps to connect students with internships, jobs, and career work with other students and alums, according to Lou Ecken, Career Planning Coordinator.

"We also help people with whatever academic problems they have. For example, if



someone needs a resume and does not know how to make one, or forgot how, or has just a question, they can come here and we will help them," said Ecken.

The Disabilities Services offers test proctoring and test reading, note taking services, and Reading Pen, which allows students to highlight passages and have them translated into a verbal format.

Sheila Boyer, the office clerk in the Academic and Career Planning Office, always has a

smile on her face and is very excited about the new changes.

"I feel the total office is a good move for the students. Students may have been scared to come to the CSD because they might have been afraid that people would think they were going in for counseling; now we don't have to worry about that because it is in a whole other building," said Boyer. "We can all—staff, advisors, professors, and students—now work together in the same place to help create the best opportunities for our students."

Scotty's, as the convenience store is called by the students, has moved into half of Joe's Place.

Katie Ballard, an Alma College junior, is not so

fond of any of the changes. "I don't like the new layout. Scotty's being with Joe's just makes it harder for people to eat meal advantage; I know I liked to sit in there at times and it just doesn't feel comfortable anymore because it is so crowded together with fewer seats."

On the topic of the new offices: "I don't like [them] either," said Ballard. "It's confusing how they moved them around, and now I am not sure what office is where. I can't distinguish between some of the offices sometimes."

SUN creates environmental awareness around campus

ERIN MCGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

Are you environmentally friendly?

When asked, many people are unsure of how to answer this question. On the one hand, people do not want to sound like polluters; yet on the other, they may do little to nothing to lessen their daily impact on the environment.

There are many ways to be environmentally friendly without exerting much effort. Some carpool whenever possible and turn off lights when leaving a room. Simple things like this are what will help the environment in the long run.

Megan Thompson (o8), a representative for the group Students United for Nature (SUN), provided some insight into common environmental issues.

Thompson said that she thinks Alma College is

environmentally aware. The campus is near the forth-largest Superfund site in the United States, making it possible for professors

Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), students became highly involved in the debate.

Thompson also noted that,

boasted the second most diverse collection of trees in the country, but has lost track of dead and torn down trees. SUN plans to remedy

local riverbanks September 22.

"It's the only earth we have," said Thompson. "Seriously though, at the heart of environmental conservation is public health. If water is polluted or the air is poisoned we suffer for it, not just animals and plants."

"It could take years to remedy what [we] could have prevented if we had sought alternative practices or enforced laws and regulations concerning the environment."

So what can students do?

Simple things go a long way to help the environment. For instance, doing a full load of laundry and using cold water saves energy. Using public transportation, carpooling, or riding a bike also helps to lesson a person's carbon footprint, as does avoiding the use of aerosols.

Simple habits such as these can and do have a tremendous impact on the environment.



Riding a bike on short trips is one environmentally friendly alternative to unnecessary driving. Other simple habits to pick up on campus include recycling and limiting the use of electricity.

Photo courtesy of Brent Riley

and community members to spread information to students.

Moreover, during last year's consideration of the proposed Concentrated

this past summer, Alma has planted four trees, including a Michigan Banana Tree. SUN has plans for Alma's future in this area.

This college formerly

this with a Tree-Hug-A-Thon on Halloween to help raise money for the Reoper Tree Fund.

SUN also has an upcoming project to clean up garbage on

Alma College security takes necessary steps toward safety

BILL MCHENRY
STAFF WRITER

Security is always a concern for people who work or live on a college campus, especially after an incident as traumatic as the

Campus Life. Woodman also said the Alma Police held drills to practice reacting to an event similar to Virginia Tech. The main goal for students, Bill Searle, security officer, said, is to protect themselves and get word around if possible. Searle said students should not try to be a hero; that is the job of campus security and the Alma Police.

To go along with protocols protecting students in such a situation, the college has proactive security measures in place. The new card scanners on the dorms are one example. Another suggestion is to expand by adding scanners to academic centers and other campus buildings. Yet another

Patricia Chase, the Director of the Center, said the two departments act cooperatively in order to address the student as a whole: both mentally and physically. The Center addresses any short-term needs of students and recommends help for any long-term issues. In another pragmatic step, Chase said the resident hall staff received training helping a student in distress. A document describing the levels of distress and how to deal with each level was also included in the instruction.

According to Searle, campus security is very effective but can use improvements. Searle suggested one huge way to improve safety would be for the security staff to get to know the faculty and students on campus, enabling the security staff to better identify any situations that may hamper the safety of the campus. Searle recommended students accompany a buddy when walking at night. He also said propping external doors open causes a breach in security - the security staff knows when a door is being propped open too long. However, it is still possible for someone to intrude between the time the door is noticed and when security arrives.

To ensure the safety of students, Alma College has taken practical steps in creating a better security system. As with anything, there is always room for improvement, but students need to remember that they are also responsible for security. Keeping the doors locked, not propping open external doors, and walking with a buddy at night ways students can ensure campus safety.

buildings. Yet another

implementation is a map of the campus recording where and what incidents occur. This map would make it easier to identify which areas are the biggest concerns with regards to safety. The security officers also check each dorm nightly. "Overall security is pretty substantial," said Searle.

The Counseling and Wellness Center is also taking proactive steps identifying threats.



Virginia Tech massacre. Alma College is no exception.

The staff at Alma College is very confident in their ability to manage any situation involving a security breach. Security officers and hall directors are trained in dealing with any scenario concerning an intruder or unruly student. Hall directors keep their knowledge current by meeting annually with the Alma Police Department, said Grant Woodman, Director of

Alma welcomes new professors

CHELSEA CLARK
SPORTS EDITOR

Allow me to introduce Doctors Joel and Nancy Dopke, professors of chemistry, Dr. Smith, professor of history, Dr. Diels, professor of communications, and Dr. Liu, professor of German. These professors were hired for the tenure track this year.

Some of the faces may not look so new, as Doctors Smith, Diels, and Liu were here last year as visiting professors. You may also have seen them around campus working on various other projects. Dr. Smith is working with the Martin Luther King Jr. Task Force and also with the Women's Studies program accompanying Dr. Diels. Dr. Diels also is a member of The Woman's Studies Program and is heading up the New Media minor and advising the radio station, "The Duck". "It's great to work with students on such a close basis you really get to see them grow. I especially liked going to the Ghost Ranch with the Center for Responsible Leadership this summer. I got to know the kids really well," said Diels. Liu has also been advising the German club, organizing the German table twice a week in Hamilton Commons and working on various ways to introduce bits of German culture around campus.

Other faces may not be so familiar though. Joel Dopke and Nancy Dopke came up to Alma from Mercer University in Georgia to share a chemistry position here. "We're both from the Midwest and were looking for an opportunity to

move closer to home. Plus, with this arrangement we'll be able to put a greater emphasis on research," said Joel Dopke. Both have hopes of developing a strong active research program involving students to help their development as true scientists.

"The upper level students,



Photo courtesy of Brent Riley

Jamie Smith, professor of history, is just one of the great new additions to the Alma College faculty.

especially, are so enthusiastic, and, with the changing times, I have the opportunity to develop some new and interesting courses to intrigue new students towards the foreign languages," said Liu. Like her, many others choose this reason to come to Alma. Agreeing Smith said, "The faculty is caring, dedicated and smart, so smart. Plus, I love the mission statement. I want to help Alma take an even larger role in leading wisely in the environment." They are here. They are here to help Alma prepare students to think critically, serve generously, and lead purposeful, responsible lives.

Volunteerism: Escaping the 'Alma bubble' to reach out

AARON POOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Most of us on campus have experienced, at some time, a feeling of disconnection from major events which are an assumed part of larger colleges and universities. It may even be felt at times that, because our campus is smaller than most, any outside work we do has an equally small impact on the world; however, Alma College has, time and time again, shown that this is simply not the case. More, now than ever, our students, faculty, and alumni are working to create and support volunteer opportunities for our community, our country, and our world.

The Forgotten Children of Eastern Europe (FCEE) is just one example. Six years ago, Alma College students formed this campus organization to raise money for the Veselka Orphanage in Ukraine. **Emelia Shroyer (08)**, a member of FCEE, said that the fundraising money this year would be allocated to replacing the windows at Veselka.

"Through a private donation we have had the ability to send two Alma students to Ukraine to spend time directly with the children, assess the needs of the orphanage, and get to know the situation of the area," she said.

The fundraiser, Walk for

Orphans, will be held at 1 p.m. on tomorrow. The walk begins

to New Mexico, Philadelphia, and Louisiana for construction

across the United States has enabled our students to gain a

Thanks to a generous endowment by Lee and Sally Posey, Alma Alumnus, students now have the opportunity to partner with non-governmental organizations and create independent projects of their own, allowing them to travel abroad through a program called P-GLOBAL.

Professor Derick Hulme, a member of the P-GLOBAL Steering Committee, said, "The P-GLOBAL program provides cross cultural opportunities for students to develop an appreciation of the challenges confronting the global community and to begin to develop the skills and perspective necessary to effect meaningful change."

"The program enables students with an interest in volunteerism to embark on a lifelong path of making a meaningful difference about those issues of most importance to them."

The countries our students have visited include: Peru, Tanzania, South Africa, Australia, Costa Rica, The Netherlands, Thailand, The Philippines, and Ghana—but this list is only the beginning.

Alma College provides volunteer options for those who want to work close to home and for those who wish to travel to a country of their choice. Each program is accessible to the students on campus.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Dotson

The nationwide trend of volentourism has been fully embraced at Alma College. Such experiences allow students to not only help those in need, but to have some fun along the way as well.

at MacIntyre Mall, travels downtown, and then heads back to campus. A benefit cookout will also be held with t-shirts and raffle tickets on sale to further benefit the orphanage.

Also, the Alternative Break program recently sent students

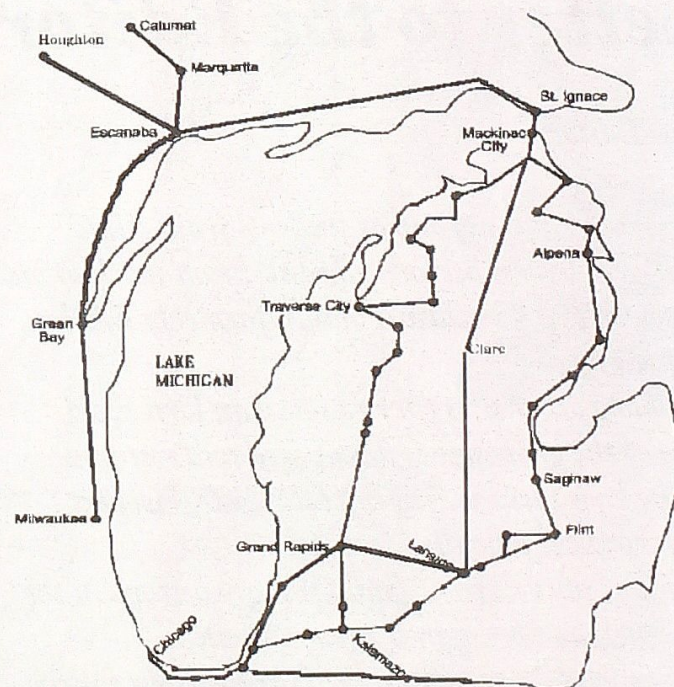
and repair work which would otherwise be too overwhelming for the residents to complete on their own. Sallie Scheide, Assistant Director of the Center for Responsible Leadership, said, "Partnering with non-profit agencies to provide service

new perspective on the world around them. It is our hope that our students will not only volunteer during their spring break, but will become active citizens in the Alma community as well as in the places they will call home after graduation."

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Albright sends powerful message, exceeds expectations

BILL MCHENRY
STAFF WRITER

Watching and/or
reading the news is always

second term. Albright spoke to Alma College students on Wednesday, September 12. Her speech contained an abundance of insightful observations

catastrophe." One of the best ways to tilt the race in education favor, Albright explained, is the foreign exchange student program. This not only enables

problems of one culture on another.

The U.S. until recently was respected (for the most part) in their role in accepting all cultures. Albright talked about how it is the role of the U.S. to protect the rights of people worldwide and punish any government that suppresses those rights. This cannot be accomplished unilaterally, however.

The destruction of America's reputation compromised the global role it plays. Albright mentioned favorability ratings are startlingly low all across the international board. Albright said America's intentions are well meant but recently the U.S. has taken the world's respect for granted. Albright acknowledged that in some areas, especially the Middle East, it is common practice to teach youths that America is evil. Albright rightfully observed that America is an exceptional country but no country can have supreme global power. America needs to keep a presence in the global scene, but it needs global support. The U.S. cannot expect every country to jump on board because they told them too.

The biggest stain on America's reputation is the War in Iraq. Albright calls it the "greatest disaster in America's foreign policy." Albright did mention the war was not about oil. America's intentions were pure but the plan was bungled from the start. The biggest problem was lack of

international support; spending a little more time persuading countries to come on board would have prevented this stain on America's reputation.

To prevent a situation like Iraq from ever rising again there needs to be global cooperation. This does not mean America needs to abandon its values in favor of another culture, but they do need to work together. Albright said the U.S. has a responsibility to intervene when freedom is being suppressed, but it is not a responsibility solely theirs. No country can act unilaterally, no matter who they are or what their intentions may be. Cooperation can only occur once an understanding between cultures becomes evident.

Albright said that the "fundamental principals that guide human relations do not change" between cultures. The 21st century requires cooperation, she said, to defeat global poverty, pandemics, drugs, and nuclear proliferation.

Albright's speech was incredibly insightful and thought-provoking. Her points were clear and concise and presented in an enthusiastic and often humorous manner. Sitting through her speech did not feel like a lecture but more so listening to a mentor talk about their field of expertise. Albright's address was not negative but did express concern. In addition, she accomplished her major goal in laying out what the next generation needs to prepare itself for.

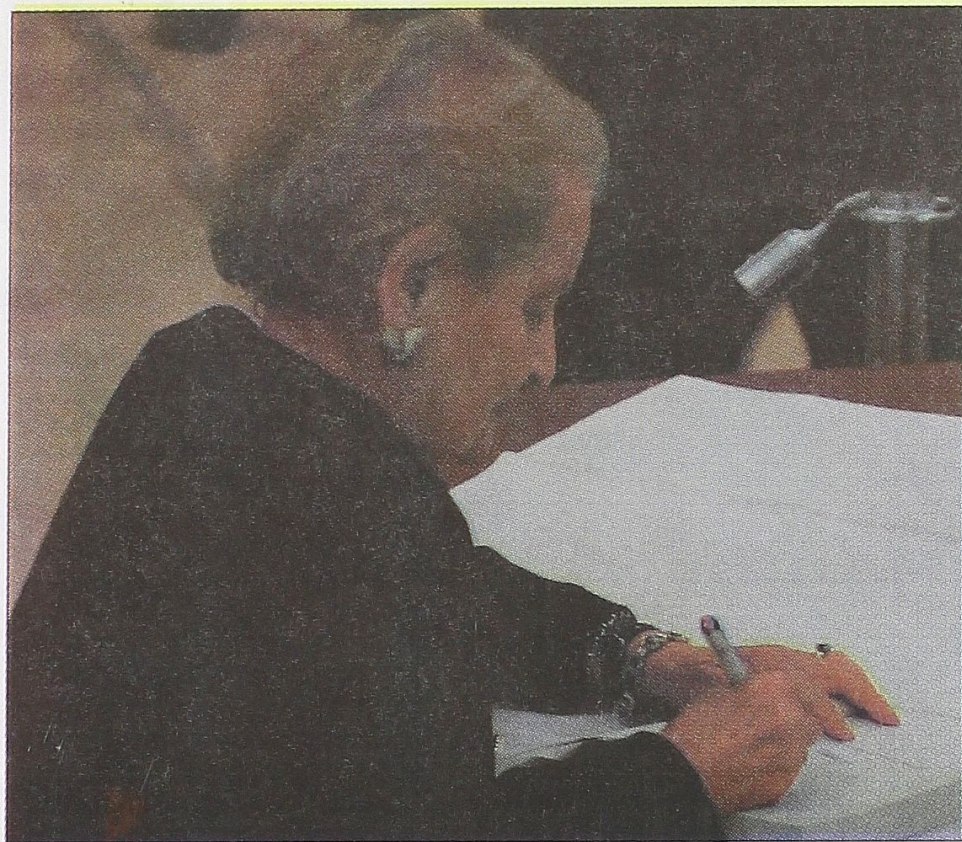


Photo courtesy of Brent Riley

Secretary Albright signs books and meets with the public following her inspirational and informative address to the community Wednesday evening.

a good way to be informed. Every news outlet gives second-hand information causing complications to arise. Therefore people should jump at the opportunity to hear it from "the horse's mouth."

The horse's mouth, in this instance, is Madeleine Albright, secretary of state during President Clinton's

and colorful anecdotes. Her speech delved into several areas including leadership and America's presence globally.

One of the major topics of Albright's speech was leadership. She talked about how education is vital for leadership. Albright quoted H. G. Wells as having said history is "a race between education and

of their differences. Albright said the foreign exchanged programs will allow students to find "shared interests" between cultures. Once people can accept the similarities between cultures they can begin accepting the differences. Albright mentioned how great leaders of the century embraced broadly by not leaving any group out nor blaming the

Letter to the Editor

The Editor,

In May 2007 a group of students from Alma College, Detroit performed restoration work at old cemeteries in Wroclaw, Poland (formerly Breslau, Germany).

Among other sites they restored an Urn Field. One of the gravestones discovered and restored in the Urn Field was of my late uncle, Herbert Markowicz, who died in 1927.

One of my relatives found this gravestone in the Internet, and brought it to my attention.

I was very excited to see this gravestone, for the first time in my life, and I wish to thank from the bottom of my heart to all the students who took part in this expedition for their altruistic work. God bless you.

Please convey my appreciation and gratitude also to the President of Alma College.

Yours cordially,

Menachem Merhav (Formerly Markowicz)

Ramat Hasharon, Israel

Students should take time getting to lunch

WILL LAMBERT
GUESTWRITER

The Sodexo staff at Hamilton Commons does their best to give us the best possible dining experience they know how. But this isn't an easy task—especially when it comes to when students decide at what time they want to eat. Everyone comes straight out of class at the same time and goes straight to either Van Dusen or Hamilton to get something to eat. They then create an enormous line that usually goes all the way back to the main door of Newberry.

Sodexo tried to get rid of this problem by keeping the dining room open between breakfast and lunch so that people can have a late breakfast or an early lunch. Currently, however, there are only about 10 people who use the dining room in that time frame.

Instead, people decide to come in right at the time when Hamilton used to open for lunch. Right at 11:30 Hamilton gets bombed with hungry, tired, and frantic students right out of class who just want to get in, eat, and go. And all of them get annoyed by the slow lines, but continually come in right when the traffic is at its worst.

According to the 15 minute reports from the card scanner, the largest numbers of people coming in are within the first half hour after classes get out. But it always dwindles 20-30 minutes after the last class get out.

So here's a suggestion for all of the college students who are sick and tired of waiting in line for their food: do something

have something immediately following lunch go eat first.

Oh, and for all the people who have at least an hour of no class time in the late morning, use that time to get your breakfast or lunch rather than coming in when everyone else gets out of class. Often, the time that it takes people to eat is identical to that spent just waiting in line.

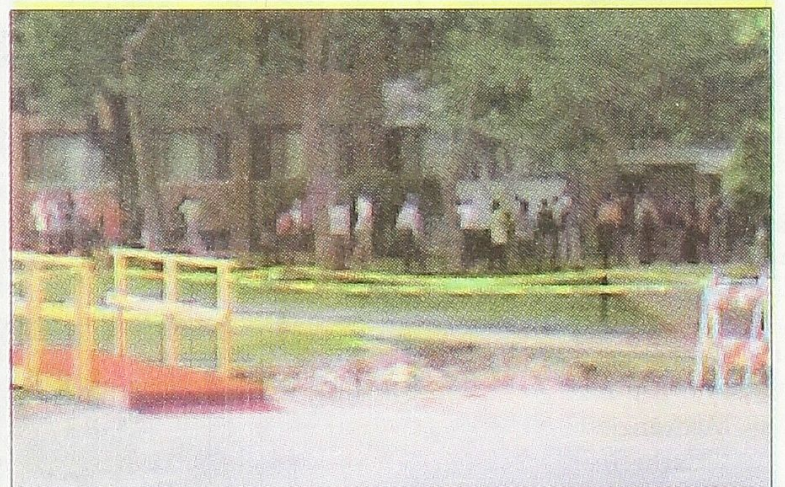


Photo courtesy of Will Lambert

Students stand outside Hamilton Commons waiting to eat lunch. This is a common occurrence that has led to much ill-will and annoyance in students' daily lives.

else first. Go back to your room, drop off that heavy book bag, check your mail, relax for a bit—just avoid going to Hamilton for about fifteen to twenty minutes. Let all of the other folks who

Life is too short to stand in line all the time. So help yourself and everyone else to get on with the days by going to eat when there aren't hordes of people trying to all eat at the same time.

Raunchy comedies lose band camp humor, gain intelligence

MIRIAM JOHNSON
FEATURE EDITOR

Degrading, offensive, and, of course, as raunchy as it gets, lowbrow comedies (or what I like to call 15-year-old-boy-humor-movies) are making a comeback. The sad part of all this is that they have sucked me in. In the past, I scoffed in the faces of people who quoted sex comedies like *American Pie* or *Road Trip*. However, those days are now over, and I submit to the power of Judd Apatow, Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg. If these directors keep making movies as good as *Knocked Up*, *40-Year-Old Virgin*, and of course, *Superbad*, they will soon rule the world...

Just three weeks ago, I happened to be at Alma for sports practices with a lot of free time on my hands. Starved for social activity, I allowed some teammates to drag me to the local theater for *Superbad*. Because I generally have a hard time watching any movie at all, I tend to experience intense inner agony when I have to sit through

one that is particularly mindless or commercial. Knowing the audience *Superbad* is directed towards, I sat down ready for pain. But, as you already know, I was humbled. The movie was fantastic. One of the first scenes shows Michael Cerra, as Evan, giving his crush a pen in a desperate and phenomenally terrible attempt to make conversation. From that scene on, I was in. This is not a fake high school movie. It actually makes fun of the real thing.

I feel like this shift in comedic approach is a good thing. Reviewers have noted that these three comedies are smart and insightful. I personally noticed that they are moving away from the superficial. The characters in *Knocked Up*, *40-Year-Old Virgin*, and *Superbad* are not plastic Hollywood stars. In other comedies, directors tend to cast a couple of characters strictly for eye candy. Tara Reid is front and center on the cover of *American Pie*, along with the rest of the very appealing cast. In contrast, the covers of *Knocked Up* and *Superbad* show a

couple of dorky guys in awkward poses.

Why do teenagers go to these movies?! Is the humor so good that it doesn't require the backup attraction of hot stars? Maybe we are actually trying to put substance into our films now. Maybe Hollywood is getting smarter. After all, the top-rated T.V. shows are pretty sophisticated compared to what they were in the past. In my high school days, the best shows were considered to be *Dawson's Creek* and *The O.C.* From what I observe, they now include *Lost* or even *Grey's Anatomy*.

These movies give me new hope for the future of comedy. *Superbad* even managed to get me emotionally involved with the characters. I laughed, was sad, and was embarrassed for Evan every time he attempted social interaction. I had never before felt literally embarrassed for a movie character. So, I am willing to say that if comedies continue to be this good, I might manipulate myself into actually watching movies. Maybe I'll give Hollywood another chance.

Welcome to the AC: first week brings stress, shows reality

ERIN MCGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

Move-in day at Alma College was rainy, and incoming freshman not only had to carry in everything they had acquired over the past 18 years of their lives, but they had to do so wet.

In order to make the move-in less stressful for the freshman, some parents decided it was their job to set up their son or daughter's room perfect. Unfortunately, this led to chaos. Marking up my first day at college were the sounds of furniture being pushed and shoved and the groans of adults trying to defy the laws of gravity by flipping a bed.

I believe that it is supposed to be very stressful on freshman move-in day because it makes saying goodbye easier. Parents leave still thinking about how well they set up the furniture, and students are left thinking about how they are going to move the furniture as soon as they get a chance.

During Pre-term, lots of activities were offered to anyone who was interested. Freshman were able to see their peers make fools of themselves in the first week at the hypnotist, show their talents at Open Mic Night, and be awkwardly shoved together at Playfair. We all took a preterm class, though some were more difficult than others. While my friends studied *Jihad*

Vs. MacWorld, I studied birds. We all got our first taste of what a college class would be like. The first week of college for freshman is one full of things to do and friends to make. Things were very laid back and hopefully a good preview of the years to come.

All things considered, the first week of college for a freshman was exciting. After that first week, I think we all felt more "at home". We have checked out the town of Alma and walked all over the campus. Then just as we are getting used to the idea that we'll be spending four years of our lives here, the first semester begins, classes start, and we suddenly realize, college is hard work.

Random Thoughts

Start of new school year, Alma bubble back

Here we are again. Back in the Alma bubble, cut off from the rest of the world in some strange display of the space-time continuum bending to accommodate the Scots need to be different. Already, I feel as though everything outside of our little slice of real estate is nothing but a distant haze that has no bearing on our lives.

After all, with the average Scot belonging to at least six different organizations and clubs on top of a 16 to 20 credit class load (plus labs, for all you happy science majors), it is understandable that we need to ignore certain aspects of the rest of the world.

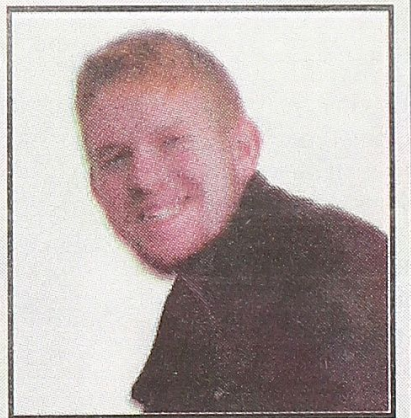
For those who are freshmen, you may be starting to have withdrawals resulting from the lack of exposure to the outside world—don't worry, this will pass. If you find it too hard to cope, it's ok to make some quick runs home on the weekend (like a Nicorette patch to help ease off of reality) and eventually that need to be connected to the outside will go away completely.

Don't go home too much, though, or you may find it impossible to break the habit, finding yourself transferring to Central Michigan University to dwell with those who still watch Letterman and have time to know what's going on in Big Brother. For those upperclassmen who don't remember what these things are, they can be seen on T.V., which is a magic box that receives pictures sent through the air and allows us to see them in the privacy of our own rooms.

It is a terrible thing to see a promising young freshman lose themselves in matters of the world and forget to go out and party every weekend after spending endless hours debating the best way to accomplish the goals of the 40 or so organizations they belong to. It's just sad. I mean, really, is there anything more pathetic than a student who suddenly realizes that they have a desire to have a social life that supercedes their drive to live up to the noble name of the Fighting Presbyterians (for those of you freshmen who don't know what that is, ask an upper classman, then laugh)? I really don't think so.

Now, if you will excuse me, I have a few more meetings to get to before going to play some soccer with my friends. Later, you'll find me doing my homework and wondering what life would be like at a nice little state college where all I had to worry about was being a number on a database. Oh well, that's life in the bubble.

Kevin Bilbrey,
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.

Influx of new talent brings remarkable changes to mens soccer program

THOMAS MCGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

Many would say that a college level coach is only as good as his or her ability to recruit large numbers of quality players for his or her team. If the results from the past recruiting season are any indication, the Alma College mens soccer team is in very capable hands.

Following his return to Alma in 2006, Nathan Kronewetter, head coach, worked diligently during his first full recruiting year. Kronewetter's work paid off, resulting in the arrival of over 20 new freshmen this fall and doubling the size of the previous year.

Kronewetter said, "You cannot rebuild

a program if you don't recruit large numbers of good players."

Having an overall roster of over 40 players has not caused Kronewetter any major

challenges in practice. The newcomers have made training sessions much more intense.

"Practices are more competitive," he said. "Fighting

"Players are fighting for every ball and playing hard because the varsity roster changes for every game. No matter your year on the team, everyone has

reserve squad helps. This team will play between six and seven matches throughout the year against neighboring institutions, and gives Kronewetter another

success, and the school wants larger classes. The program will be better off with this situation."

Despite a disappointing start to the 2007 campaign, Kronewetter's success in recruiting has brought another important change to the long-term success of the program: attitude.

"The incoming freshman class has created the most excitement on the men's soccer team in a long time. This is going to be a completely different soccer team than we have seen in past years," said Henson.

Kronewetter, agrees, having said, "It's just a matter of time before we see the results on the scoreboard. I have confidence in what we are

doing, in our coaching staff, and in our players."

Scots soccer fans can see the team in action at 3 p.m. on Sunday.



Photo courtesy of Brent Riley

Jeff Laatz (10) serves the ball in to the reserve team during an 11 v. 11 self-scrimmage. The reserve team, which is new this year and made up largely of freshmen, is just one of many steps being taken to improve the mens soccer program.

to secure a roster spot is competitive and we as a team are more competitive."

Defender **Dave Henson** (08) echoes these sentiments.

a chance to get a starting spot."

Even if some younger players miss out on the opportunity for extensive varsity game experience, the addition of a

valuable tool with which to improve the program. In regard to this change, Kronewetter said, "I wanted this option. The athletic department wants more

Changes to the athletic department

CHELSEA CLARK
SPORTS EDITOR

"This year we're moving away from our rent-a-coach system to full time positions for our coaching staff. It's what our athletes deserve," said Judd Folske, baseball coach and newly appointed social athletic director. In previous seasons, coaches have come from nearby high schools and coach part time. "It's only fair to our athletes who work so hard, and [new coaching is] the only way to grow our programs," Folske added.

"There's a positive energy surrounding the office right now. Everyone is excited for the new possibilities and are feeding off each other," said Phil Andre, a new athletic trainer from Dewitt. So far there are four new coaches: Gordie Aldrich (cross country and track), Channing Kimball (diving), Cheyene Luzynski (volleyball), and Terry Smith (men's basketball). Staff also includes two new athletic trainers: Phil

Andre and Beth Dodson. The athletic department is also interviewing a swim coach for the upcoming season. The massive change to full time positions has been in the works for the past three years. Now

that it has finally taken place, the new coaches, most who are new to college level coaching, are able to help each other with the process. "It's great how the coaches work together. One coach lets others know that they're missing someone in



Photo courtesy of Brent Riley

Phil Andre, director of clinical instruction and assistant athletic trainer, is just one of several new additions to Alma athletics.

this position and a different coach responds with 'I have this kid who could really work for you.; That's the way we work: we're one team,' said Aldrich.

It's not just the new coaches that are different this year.

Senior coaches, like Judd Folske and John Liester, are stepping up to take on the challenges of Social Athletic Director and Athletic director, respectively, along with their original coaching positions. "Everyone is doubling up on duties, nobody can be just a baseball coach," said Folske, "It's the way we make Alma stronger." Luzynski has accepted the positions of Assistant Athletic Director and Senior Women's Administrator, along with her title as head volleyball coach. Some coaches take on administrative duties while others take on two teams. Some, like Phil Andre, also help out with the education of our students. "I came to Alma to be apart of the clinical program so I could help train the athletic training students. They didn't have that kind of program in Olivet," said Andrew. Other coaches are getting involved with the community. "If the pool hours permit, I

really want to start an age group program. There hasn't been a specialized diving coach in the area for a long time, and I think it would be great to get kids involved at an early age," said Kimball.

CONGRATULATIONS, SCOTS!



Sophomore Mackenzie McGrady earned MIAA football offensive player of the week with his performance against Cornell.

Freshman Jessica Swan led the soccer team to victory, also claiming MIAA offensive player of the week.



Junior outside hitter Rebecca Bruning put up at least ten kills per game on her way to being named to the Wooster All-Tournament Team.



Photos courtesy of Skip Traynor