

The Almanian

Volume CI

Issue 4

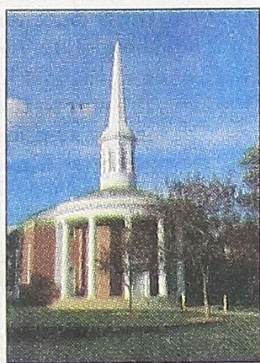
Friday, October 5, 2007

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

UNDER THE COVER

The ethanol plant being built in Ithaca has mixed reactions to its practicality in the long run

SEE NEWS PG. 2



New Chaplin seeks to gather all students together

SEE FEATURE PG. 3

Maturity needed in the exercise of freedom of speech

SEE OPINION PG. 5

Recap: the Scots football team won their first home game of the season.

SEE SPORTS PG. 8

BY THE NUMBERS

\$2.83

The average price for gas this week in Michigan according to michiganprices.com.

\$2.35

The average price for E-85 (the ethanol based fuel) this week in the nation according to e85prices.com.

INDEX

NEWS.....1-2
FEATURE.....3-4
OPINION.....5-6
SPORTS.....7-8

Online advising site is open to help students

SIMONE MISHLER
STAFF WRITER

A hybrid of an advising and an academic success site, the new advising link on the Alma College webpage offers students help in solving their academic problems.

The site was the sabbatical project of Karin Grimnes, professor of biology. "You don't have advisors 24-7," said Grimnes. The aim of the project was getting students to be proactive with their futures, not to replace faculty advisors. The tools offered address many of the problems students face and

"Students are usually transferring from a problem rather than to a solution."

Karin Grimnes
Professor

look at ways to resolve these issues.

The link can be found under

the academic section of the Alma College webpage. The advising section then leads the student to sections devoted to building majors and academic success.

The most unique part of this page is that it addresses student advising needs based on year. Each of the "Especially for..." links connects the searcher to tools with their school standing in mind.

First years have the most developed part of the site that is focused on the adjustment to college life.

SEE ADVISING PG. 2

John Putz receives high praise for article

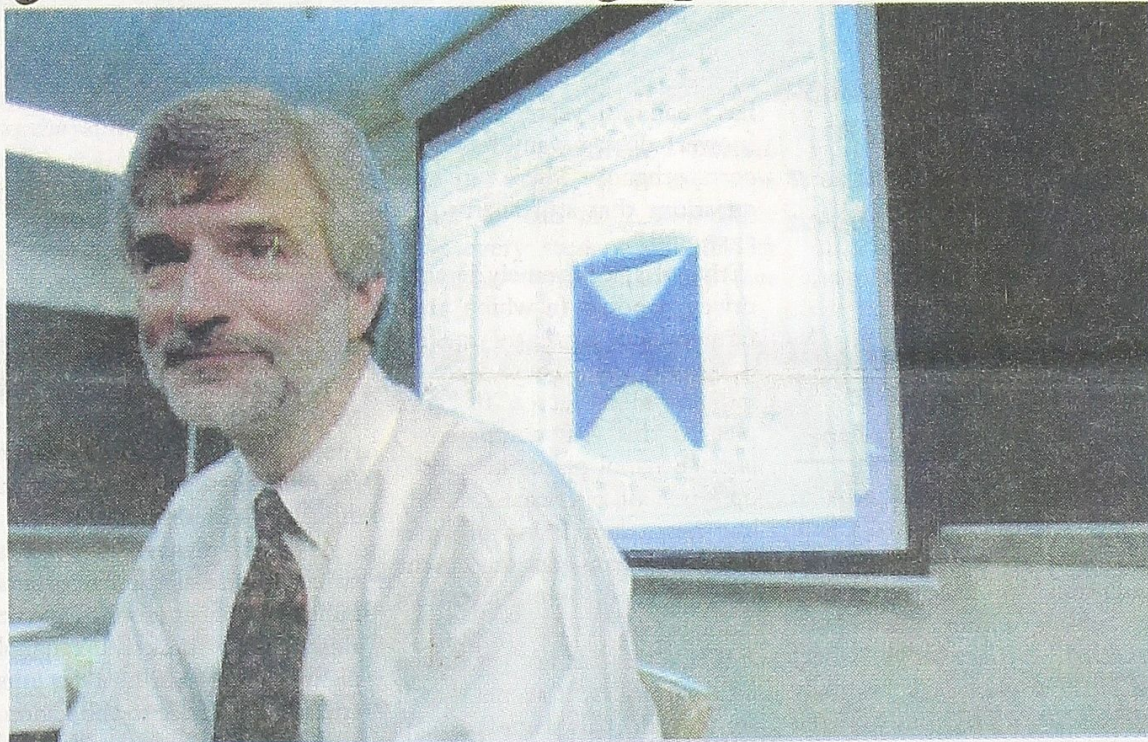


Photo courtesy of Skip Traynor

John Putz researched the differing tones that are pleasing to the ear and looked at how mathematics is related to these tones.

LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Although music and movies have been frequently combined throughout the years, mixing music and mathematics is not as much of a common occurrence.

In October, 1995, John F. Putz, professor of mathematics and computer science at Alma College, wrote a scholarly article for *Mathematics Magazine*. In 2002, all 75 years of the journal were put online through JSTOR, an online database.

Recently, an analysis was done to discover which article from *Mathematics Magazine* had the most hits. Among the top fifteen on the *Mathematics Magazine* were articles as old as "Humanizing Mathematics" by R.C. Archibald, November 1932 and as current as "The 2500-Year-Old Pythagorean Theorem" by Darko Veljan, October 2000. The results showed, however, that Putz's writing was the number one greatest hit.

"This has always been a general interest of mine: the border mathematics shares with other

disciplines, such as music and art," said Putz.

In his article, "The Golden Section and the Piano Sonatas of Mozart," Putz takes a look at what is called the golden section, which is thought to create the most aesthetically pleasing proportions.

"I was interested in the idea if people really prefer this proportion over others," said Putz.

Putz defines the golden section in his article as "that division of a line segment into two unequal segments such that the length (*a*) of the shorter segment is to the length (*b*) of the longer, as the length of the longer is to the whole."

Putz took this to music in interest, but also due to his son: a composer. Kevin Putz, his son, explained that Mozart's sonatas were divided into parts, and Putz wondered if they were divided according to the golden section.

"So there are these two distinct sections in the most of the Mozart sonatas," said Putz. According to the definition

of the golden section, if it is applied to music, *a* would be the exposition and *b* would be the development and recapitulation.

Putz discovered that, contrary to his first impression, the Mozart sonatas do not follow the golden section. Although at first Putz considered them to follow the rules of the golden section, he took his analysis

"This has always been a general interest of mine: the border mathematics shares with other disciplines, such as music and art."

John Putz
Professor

deeper to discover that they really don't.

"I realized if you look at it this way, it looks pretty good," said Putz. "But if you look at it the

Pine River development brings new opportunities

SIMONE MISHLER
STAFF WRITER

"I could talk about this project until I am blue in the face— and now it is finally happening!" said Aeric Ripley, Assistant City Manager of Alma. The Downtown Waterfront Redevelopment Plan has been in the works since 2001 and is now seeing progress with the completion of the demolition phase.

The Downtown Waterfront Redevelopment seeks to bring a mixed-use development to Alma. The city is hoping to expand the river front's potential by attracting retailers to the area while still maintaining public access to the water.

With two EPA grants of \$200,000 each, the city was able to begin phase one of the project. This past spring, demolition of the site along the north side of Pine River was completed.

A fence has been erected around the site because of soil contamination. "The fence has been the biggest hassle, but it was necessary to fulfill due care," Ripley said. Due care is the standard that the city must fulfill in order to protect the community.

SEE PINE RIVER PG. 2

other way, it doesn't work."

Besides his article on the golden section and music, Putz also collaborated with Alma student Carrie Morjan in December 2001 in attempt to discern the preference for a golden rectangle.

"There were experiments in the 1800s that said people preferred the golden rectangle over other forms of rectangles," said Putz. "To me, it looked like there was a bias in the way the rectangles were presented to people."

To perform his experiment, Putz and Morjan used a completely dark room and had other students form white rectangles on the wall using pads from their laps. This, said Putz, was a different and more effective method than those used before, mostly due to the fact that, in the light, other shapes affect the shape of the rectangle being made. For example, if asked to draw a rectangle on a piece of paper, people may be affected by the shape of the paper. The completely dark room extinguishes any outside factors and stimuli.

Ethanol plant adds controversy to area



Photo by Catherine Finley

Corn fields similar to this one are the source for ethanol based fuels in the United States.

ANNA ZICHI NEWS EDITOR

It is a well-debated topic in the United States currently: should we focus on gasoline production or ethanol production? In Michigan, the decision has been ethanol. Currently there are four plants running, two being built - one of which in Ithaca - and two more in the planning stages.

The basics of ethanol are rather simple. Ethanol is produced through a three-step process. Here in the United States we have focused on corn, however, in Brazil, they use sugar cane. This variable depends simply on the availability of a crop and its ability to be mass-produced.

"It is a simple break down of starch material into a simple monosaccharide, glucose," said Sean Mo, Assistant Professor of Chemistry. "Some solid waste will result, but a distillation process is used to get its pure form."

There is great debate as to whether or not it costs more to produce ethanol than what one receives from it. According to a study done at Berkley University, 0.774 Mega Joules of fossil fuel is needed for one Mega Joule of ethanol. However James

Hilker, Professor of Agricultural Economics at Michigan State University, said, "The USDA says that the efficiency for ethanol is 1.3 percent," stating that it is nowhere near as efficient as Berkley is claiming.

"As long as fossil fuel prices are really high in comparison to corn prices, there is a chance for the Ithaca plant."

**James Hilker
Michigan State
University Professor**

The biggest push for ethanol came from the 1990 Clean Air Act. "In order to combat pollution, we had the option of adding either ethanol or [methyl tertiary-butyl ether] MTBE," Hilker said. "Initially we chose MTBE but realized that it was seeping into our wells and polluting our water, giving ethanol an immediate big market."

Currently, three to four percent of our gasoline is laced with ethanol, but, like many other things, it is simple economics.

"It is an extremely inelastic market - very little changes in quantity cause massive changes in price," said Hilker.

This year has been a horrible year for Michigan farmers due to the draught in June and July. This leads to the question of security. Hilker said, "What happens if the entire country has a bad crop year? How much [power] do we want based on corn ethanol? These are the questions that still need to be answered."

Ethanol is an extremely demand driven product in which grain farmers are currently making out quite well. There were 14 million more acres of corn planted this year compared to last. "Ethanol plants have used up some of our excess supply, but has taken a lot of acres from soy beans, driving up the price of feed for our livestock animals," said Hilker.

While this has not yet driven up food prices, it seems that if we stay on this same path, it is inevitable that ethanol will. Hilker said, "It can not, not affect food prices."

If the price of corn continues to rise, other countries will be able to produce livestock more efficiently. This will lead to massive issues for livestock

in the project and have been integrated deeply into the redesign of the Pine River.

The community has been greatly involved in the planning process for this project. Public workshops were held to assess what the people of Alma wished to see done with the land. A visual preference survey was conducted during the initial planning to capture the wishes of community members when creating a site design.

The economic slow since 2001 has put a strain on the restoration project. Money earned from environmental and state grants have been a catalyst for the city's dream. Now, with the completion of the demolition and the soil clean-up planned for next year, the project is becoming a reality to the community.

Photo by Catherine Finley
Development is underway for the river property owned by the city.

Advising from pg. 1...

Second years will find their site to be focused more on building a four-year plan based on the student's interests and strengths.

The third and fourth year links are geared toward preparing students for graduate schools or careers beyond Alma.

Other questions the site examines are whether a student should drop a class, or transfer schools. Looking at the long-term effects of choices like these are what the site aims to get the student to consider. "Students are usually transferring from a problem rather than to a solution," said Grimnes.

If the student could diagnose what their particular problem is, then they could make changes in their habits that actually serve as a solution.

"It isn't one size fits all when solving problems," said Grimnes. And solving problems starts with getting the right advice. The success manual featured on the site offers students tips for being a better reader, as well techniques for studying smarter and not necessarily harder.

One tip the site gives is going through returned exams while studying. Utilizing this advice allows a student to see what type of mistakes they made in farmers in the United States.

Another problem that affects many Americans is the 25 percent decrease in fuel efficiency when using E-85. While the use of ethanol does help save our environment, there has to be more of a benefit for consumers in regards to the efficiency differential.

As for the plant in Ithaca, it is twice the size as the five others built in Michigan so far. "In the short run, I think the ethanol plant is going to bring a few jobs and some tax base to the region. Clearly the general ethanol boom is raising corn prices, which benefits corn growers," said Edward Lorenz, Chair and Reid-Knox Professor of History, Professor of Political Science and Public Affairs Director. "As with so many developments,

the past and avoid them in the future.

"I want students to enjoy what they do as much as I do," said Grimnes. The advising site is one of the latest tools in helping students get the most out of their time at the College. But, the site is far from being done in Grimnes's opinion.

In the future, the site will be similar to a network between the many departments of Alma College. Grimnes also wishes to add student profiles to the site.

As early as winter term the site could contain discussions with Alma students about particular

"It isn't one size fits all when solving problems."

**Karin Grimnes
Professor**

issues they have faced and the solutions they found.

With all the information necessary to answer student's questions in one place Grimnes wishes students generate more productive discussion with their advisors.

however, there are people who lose when others win."

"There are good jobs, but not a lot because they are pretty efficient plants," said Hilker. "Where more people are needed in the job market is in livestock."

Scientists are also researching other options similar to ethanol, even one that uses our garbage in place of corn. "It is an obvious positive step," said Mo. "It is great we are willing to invest in alternative fuel."

"I worry about some of the plants, since the South East is dependent on Michigan corn," said Hilker. "As long as fossil fuel prices are really high in comparison to corn prices, there is a chance for the Ithaca plant. But if we continue to build plants, there will be a problem."

Pine River from pg. 1...

The lead contaminants in the soil are not of major concern but must be taken into consideration. A soil clean-up has been planned for 2008. The

"I could talk about this project until I am blue in the face - and now it is finally happening."

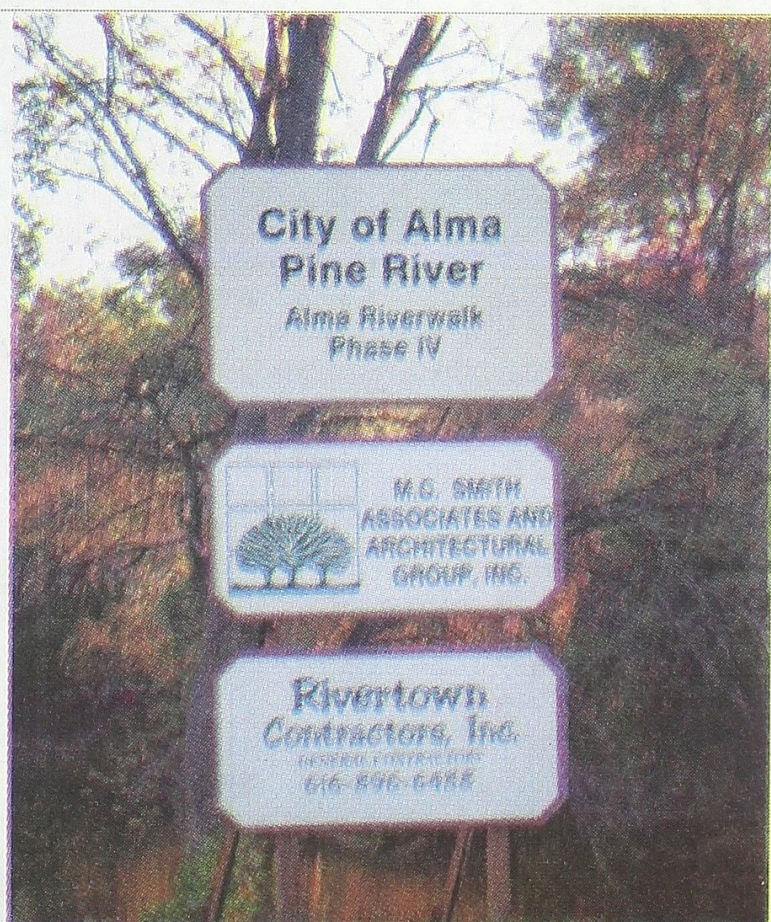
**Aeric Ripley
Assistant City Manager**

process will involve hauling out old soil and replacing it with clean fill. Once the baseline environmental standard has been met, the next phase of the project can begin.

The redevelopment seeks to bring diversity to the water front. The contract will include

residential buildings, offices, commercial areas, and possibly a restaurant. With the build, the city also aims to keep a sight line from the streets to the water and reserve a public access park on the river. Contractors signed to the job must be willing to mirror the very specific plans for the site, since the land is city owned.

There is a great amount of public investment in the restoration of the river front. The city has to match 20% of the EPA grants it received in order to pay for the construction. To raise this money locally, the city has recaptured money from taxes. This way money that is paid to the city of Alma benefits the citizens directly. "We won't jeopardize the general fund of the city," Ripley said. Alma citizens have a valuable stake



New chaplain invites students of all faiths to worship together

AARON POOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Chris Moody, reverend, interim chaplain, and minister of the Presbyterian Church, is seeking to provide opportunities for students of all faiths to gather.

The chapel service, for many years, has not been strictly a Presbyterian service. A nondenominational format has been used in its place. In terms of the administration, regarding how services are carried out, responsibility is given to a board of students who determine the format, music, and service theme. This Student Ministry Council consults the chaplain, if needed, for clarification or guidance regarding the chapel service.

Although he is a Presbyterian minister, Moody grew up in a Southern Baptist Church community. He said, "There really wasn't ... an order to our worship growing up. Whereas, in many liturgical services, you have a call to worship, a confession, prayer, and a sermon; however, the service was comprised [solely] of the sermon."

In contrast, Alma chapel services do not contain much spoken word but utilize music as the primary means of worship.

Starting in January a service will be offered that is inter-religious - not specific to one denomination. A prayer service will also be held once a week. Moody said, "As chaplain, I am in charge of the spiritual life of

the entire campus, not just a certain number of individuals. It may be possible even to invite professors who are atheists to

speak at these services, sharing what it is like to serve at a campus that is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church."

The current chapel service will not be altered. These new services will be in addition

an active place in the life of the chapel."

The chapel structure is central to the Alma College campus. Early in the College's history, the chapel was designed to prepare clergy for seminary once their

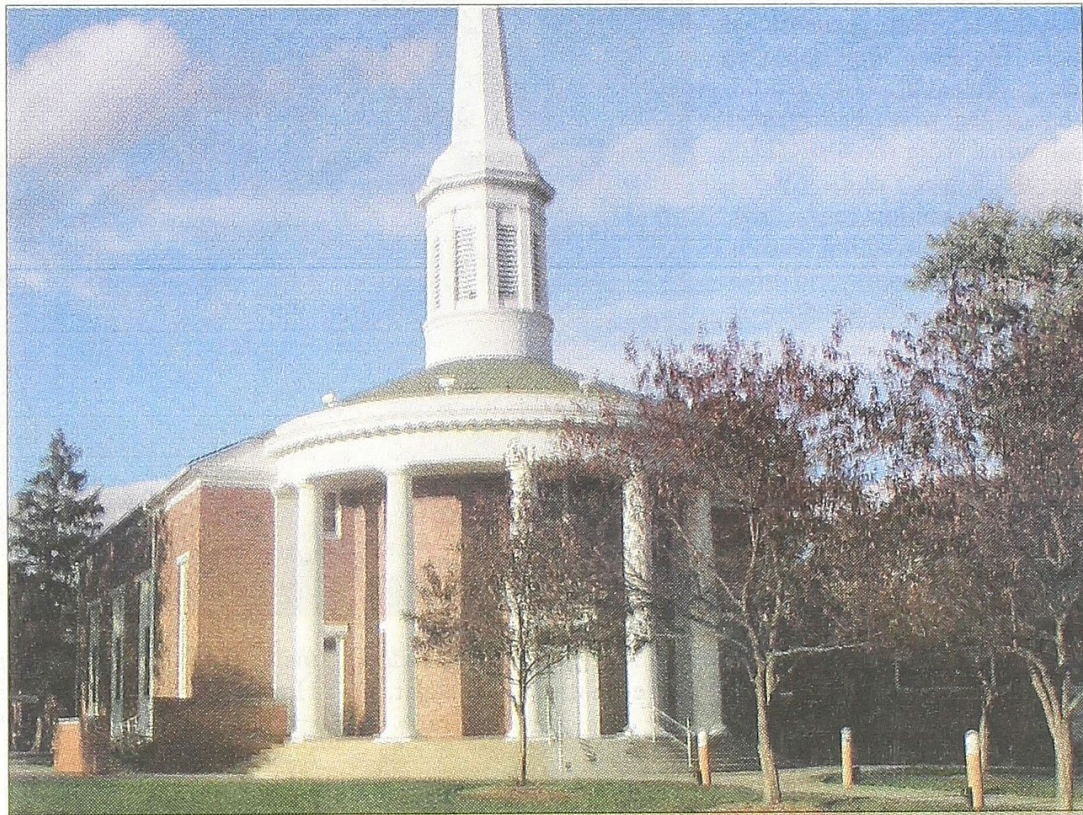
throughout the week and for special events. The Catholic Student Organization meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. for scripture reading and to study Papal documents. A book study and fellowship for women, called 'Naked Time', meets on Thursdays at 8 p.m.

New to the chapel, meeting in the Red Room, is the Bishop's Bible Study, meeting on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.

The Alma College Chapel will be hosting two headlining speakers in the fall and winter. On November 1, Dr. Gary Dorrien of Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University will give a lecture entitled 'Ending the War: Politics, Strategic Options, Ethics'.

Dr. Stanley Hauerwas of Duke Divinity School will be giving a lecture on February 4, entitled 'Christian Virtues in the Postmodern World'. Dr. Hauerwas was named 'America's Best Theologian' by Time Magazine in 2001 and has written a book, 'A Community of Character: Toward a Constructive Christian Social Ethic'.

For information on services, upcoming events, or speakers, contact Rev. Chris Moody by phone at (989) 463-7981 or by e-mail at moody@alma.edu.



to what is currently offered. Moody said, "It is my hope that we can make it possible for every student and faculty member to feel that they have

work at Alma was through. Being that the chapel is a central gathering place, many different student organizations, religious or not, use the chapel

work at Alma was through.

Being that the chapel is a central gathering place, many different student organizations, religious or not, use the chapel

Theater presents award-winning play, 'The Diviners'

PAULINE HAGEDORN
STAFF WRITER

Set in a mythical, southern Indiana town during the depression, the play "The Diviners" kicks off this season of Alma College Theatre.

"The Diviners" stars 11 Alma College Students with faculty director Joe Jezewski directing. It will run from Thursday October 11 through Sunday, October 14, with performances at 8 p.m. and on Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Strosacker Theatre of Remick Heritage Center.

Alma College staff, students, and youth 18 and under are free, and adults are \$10. Seating is reserved. Tickets can be picked up or reserved at the Heritage Center Box Office between the hours of 1 and 5 p.m. on weekdays, and the box office can be contacted at (989) 463-7304.

Justin Michael Dietzel (11) stars as Buddy Layman, a teenager who is haunted by a traumatic early-childhood incident: his mother died from drowning. After that, he received a heightened ability to tell when water was present, which developed into the amazing ability to divine water.

In order to overcome his fear of water, Buddy gets together with an old, unsuccessful ex-preacher who tries to get him [Buddy] through the trauma and heal him. In doing so, Buddy helps the preacher get through his period of "personal crisis of

faith." The play examines the interactions between Buddy and the preacher.

At the 1980 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival, "The Diviners," written by Jim Leonard Jr., won the National Student Playwriting Award. According to Jezewski, the play "The Diviners" is a very human drama, serious and humorous at the same time.

Other plays in store for the Alma College Theatre Department include the One Act Play Festival in December, featuring "The Last Night of the World," "Just One Night," "The Man Who Couldn't Dance," "Après Opéra," "Affair Play," and "A Gaggly of Saints." February 2008 sees the Theatre Department doing "A Midsummer Night's Dream" by William Shakespeare and in April, "The Dining Room" by A. R. Gurney.

Showings:

Thursday, October 11
8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 12
8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 13
8:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 14
3:00 p.m.

Professor Profile of the Week David M. Zerbe, Director of Bands and Percussion Studio

Who: David M. Zerbe
Director of Bands and
Percussion Studio
B.M.E., Central Michigan
University (1991)
M.M., Central Michigan
University (1994)

Favorite Movie: Too
many to choose from!

Favorite Food: "I
love food. Probably sea
scallops."

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite toy as a child:
Bike

Religious Affiliation:
United Methodist

Origins: Watervliet,
Michigan
Came to Alma: 2004

**Have you always
wanted to be a teacher:**
"No. I knew I wanted
to be in music and go to
college for music, but
not necessarily to teach;
I was more interested in
playing."

**What got you into
teaching:** "I visited

Central Michigan University and was amazed by the facility and the way the percussionists hands moved, as well as the background of the percussion director. I knew then that if I went there and worked hard, I could be good. So, Central Michigan University is where I ended up, participating in practically every ensemble, including private lessons and drum line work. I decided to get my education degree because people said it would be a good, smart idea, and I could still be a good player. I would get to take courses in other instruments, too. Also, the education degree would let me settle in one place and raise a family, where as working as a performer would have been extraordinarily difficult because you never know where your next job will be. Actually earning enough to support myself and a family would be hard."

Involvements around campus: Runs the Percussion Ensemble, Kiltie Marching Band, and Kiltie

Wind Ensemble. Also teaches drum lessons.

Interests besides teaching: 1) Mountain Biking

2) Spending time with the family—his wife, Christine, and their three kids: 15-year-old Cyrus, 8-year-old Gabe, and 6-year-old Abigail.

Likes Best About Working at Alma:
"I love the size. That, and the atmosphere, are nice because [they] encourage you to be creative. Everybody here is committed to excellence."

Next Performance: The Alma College Percussion Ensemble is giving a one hour performance Friday, October 12 at 8 p.m. for Homecoming, and it is the same show they performed when they were in Washington over the summer. Zerbe said, "The students really own the music. It should be a cool show. Come see it."

Compiled by Pauline Hagedorn, staff writer

"See Spot Run" provides regular outlet for creativity, quenches thirst for poetry

AARON POOLEY
STAFF WRITER

A white banner hangs outside the Creative Writing House that reads: SEE SPOT RUN. See Spot Run is a new literary publication created by the Creative Writing House and friends that will be published monthly, open to all wishing to share their creative talent with the campus community.

The mission of the Creative Writing House is to provide writing opportunities, develop and share student writing, and ensure a creative environment for campus writers.

In years past, the Creative Writing House has held Poetry Slams, which occurred a few times per year. **Krista Pennington (o8)**, editor of See Spot Run, said, "I thought it was important that a monthly publication be created." The goal of the publication is to create consistent and tangible means for Alma students to share their poetry, songs, plays, fiction, photography, and other artwork. Krista added, "[S]ubmissions are open to everyone. Acceptance in some publications can be so strict that, as a result, readers miss out on some great writing."

The (now retired) OffKILTer Review was originally designed as a rogue literary magazine for writers looking to submit their work to a less conventional outlet. See Spot Run hopes to pick up where OffKILTer left off. When asked what distinguishes this journal from the OffKILTer Review, Krista said, "We've included a section on music, quizzes, and upcoming events. Photographs, cartoons, and other student art have been added as well."

The length of the publication may vary, and Krista stated that the layout might periodically change from issue to issue. See Spot Run, in its initial release, begins with poetry and transitions from prose to music and the quiz of the month. Artwork is distributed throughout.

Writers and artists featured in the first issue include: Becky Miller, Eric Noceda, Colin Wasiloff, David Joyce, Megan Gallagher, Amanda Cruickshack, David Burwell, Megan Crawford, Sarah Grether, Hillary Sea Bard, Miriam Johnson, and Brad Potts.

Layout and design created a few obstacles for the publication, but with some advertising and help from the English Department, following issues of See Spot Run should run more smoothly. Krista said, "Right now we're



running without a budget, but, even without a budget, we have something to show the campus."

Alma downtown's Book Shoppe and Superior Perk, as well as Alma's Bob Moore Flowers, Inc. currently sponsor See Spot Run.

Many on this campus may have never heard of the Creative Writing House, nor know where it is located. This is, in part, because the house is not listed on the campus

map. The Creative Writing House, on West Center Street, sits between MacCurdy and the Model United Nations House.

The Creative Writing House is in its fourth year, and those who live in the house are working to build awareness of this young creative community.

All students with at least sophomore standing can apply to live in the Creative Writing House. Students with a dedication to the art of writing might consider applying next

year.

The premiere issue of See Spot Run has already been released. Students can obtain copies from Hamilton Commons, the Heritage Center Desk, and from the library. See Spot Run hopes to expand distribution in October to other parts of campus.

The second issue of See Spot Run will be released next month in full color. Send all submissions to Krista Pennington at o8klpenn@alma.edu.

PRIDE, Greek system align to make Safe-Zone for GLBT's

AARON POOLEY
STAFF WRITER

Returning to Alma College after five years, Safe Zone training is equipping students and faculty with the resources to provide support to those who may be coming out and those seeking to have a more open dialogue with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) friends or family.

Safe Zone is a program that

identifies safe places and safe people for GLBT students, faculty, and staff. Knowing where to go to find someone to talk with is not necessarily easy on a college campus. Safe Zone provides members of the Alma community people who are easily accessible and willing to talk with anyone who may not know where to turn. If someone needs to speak with the Counseling and Wellness Center, Safe Zone members can go with that person for needed support.

A list of Safe Zone members will be made available to the campus, an effort to make contact easier while the program continues to grow. Safe Zone signs are given to all members designating their living area or office as a Safe Zone.

Alisa Dean, co-advisor of PRIDE is working for the college through AmeriCorp. Dean is researching Safe Zone programs at other colleges in

order to bring the Alma Safe Zone training up to date. Dean serves as the volunteer coordinator. She said, "My work with PRIDE and the Safe Zone program is outside of my job description, but when I arrived at Alma, I was unsure of what the GLBT community was like here. After attending PRIDE meetings, I asked if there was interest in Safe Zone training on the Alma Campus."

Over the summer, 14 faculty members participated in the training - there are currently 37 trained Safe Zone members, comprised of eight resident assistants and 15 students. Dean said, "For a small campus, and a program that is just now getting up and running, I would say that the program

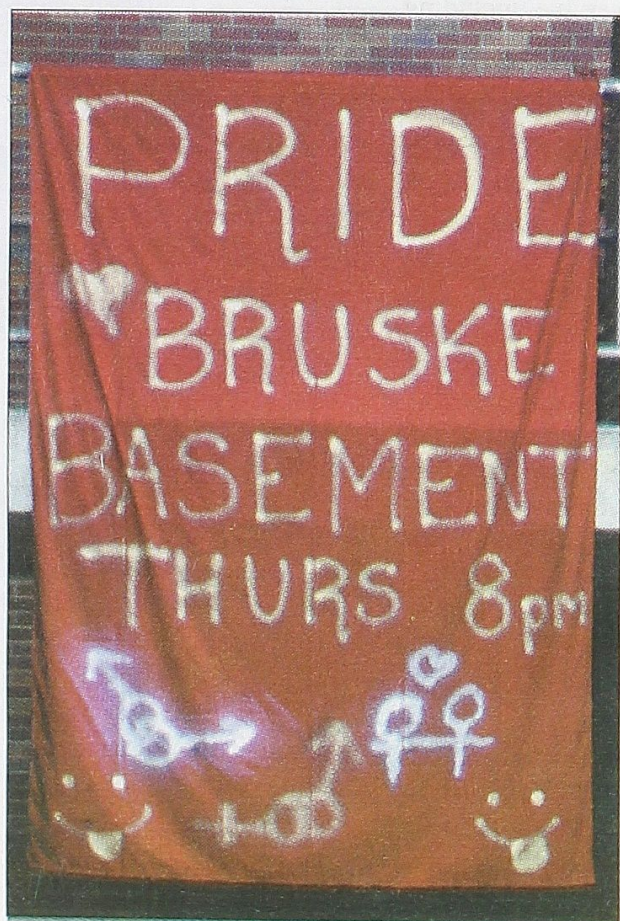
has been quite successful so far. I know very well that there are more students and faculty interested. It's hard, sometimes, to find a time where everyone can meet. In the future, we hope to have more student leadership of the training so that, if advisors change, it is not something that will disappear."

Dean has recently ordered a Safe Zone training manual that is specifically geared towards members of the Greek community. The organization, Lambda Ten, has written these materials providing two options for fraternity and sorority members. The first option is geared towards those who will enter full training, aimed specifically at Greek life. Option two allows those

who do not wish to participate in training to sign a contract of non-discrimination.

Combining these two options allows an entire house to be a Safe Zone. Dean said, "The Greek system would work on a four year cycle. Initially, the entire house is trained, and from there, trained members can train new members coming into their house." Theta Chi will be the first fraternity designated as a Safe Zone.

Training events will take place in the fall and winter. The next major training event will take place in January. If students wish to enter training before January, they can contact Alisa Dean at dean@alma.edu. PRIDE meetings are on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. in the basement of Bruske.



Feeling stressed?

Experience the tranquility of Swedish massage and end it with a dose of sun for the ultimate feeling of relaxation.

The Tanner

Superior Massage

Alma, Ohio

Downtown Alma - Appointments or walk-ins 466-9063

Hours: Mon-Fri. 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sat 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free speech needs to be used in mature manner

BILL McHENRY
STAFF WRITER

Censorship from every corner threatens American free speech. Both liberals and conservatives must support the First Amendment.

The Colorado State University newspaper, "The Rocky Mountain Collegian", agreed and tested its First Amendment rights.

Instead of writing a well-argued editorial, the "Collegian" decided to go another route. Under the leadership of editor-in-chief J. David McSwane, the paper published an editorial in its September 21 issue; in letters twice the size of a normal headline read the words "F*** BUSH." A smaller headline read

"Taser this" – referring to the incident in Florida where police tasered a student at forum where John Kerry spoke – included no explanation other than "This is the view of the 'Collegian' editorial board."

Controversy immediately ensued. Critics cried for McSwane's resignation concerning all sorts of inane reasons from defamation of the president to using such vulgarity. All of these complaints are invalid.

McSwane and the editorial board did wrong, however. The decision, boneheaded at best, hurt the "Collegian's" financial means and journalistic integrity.

CSU does not finance the "Collegian". All the funds come from outside businesses through advertising. Such provocative

language caused business to withdraw advertising.

The Fort Collins "Coloradoan" reported, two days after the publication of the article, the "Collegian" had lost \$30,000 in advertising, causing "10 percent cuts to student newsroom employee pay and other budgets."

McSwane and the editorial board's decision hurt the newspaper more than it helped the cause. McSwane called the editorial board "zealots for freedom of speech." McSwane actually hurt free speech rather than helped.

First off, the editorial did not back up its argument. It is the right and responsibility of any publication to criticize the government. But any argument needs support for its claims.

Anyone can say anything about any subject, but it needs validation before the argument becomes effective.

Secondly, profanity is the most juvenile means of gaining attention. It eerily brings back memories of middle school when the number of obscenities kids know measures how "cool" they are.

Daniel Gibson-Reinemer, a graduate student at CSU, wrote an editorial in the *Collegian* stating "profanity is not the only way to draw attention to free speech – it is the last refuge of inept minds."

McSwane should not consider himself a "zealot" for free speech; instead, he should be embarrassed at what he caused his newspaper. McSwane should resign – not because he swore

or defamed the president – but rather because of the devastation he caused to his own publication.

McSwane correctly identified the problems freedom of speech faced today. Instead of writing an editorial, or championing free speech rights through some other means, he used profanity, thus destroying his paper's credibility and damaging the cause of freedom of speech.

Freedom of speech needs preservation; it was not a coincidence the Founders put it at the top of the Bill of Rights. The problem cannot be solved, however, by dropping the F-bomb at the top of the opinion page of a college newspaper. Rather, people need stand up for their rights through means more mature than profanity.

Students should strive to achieve potential, not waste opportunity

LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

Every once in a while—a lot, actually—I sit down and think. Often my mind wanders in upon the question of strength, and when I say strength I mean potential, growth, and greatness. I wonder whatever happened to people striving to reach their potential.

Sometimes, when I walk down a hall or look into a classroom, I can see what people want to do and how well they strive. At other times there is only disappointment, fear, and indifference; I'm not sure how far they will allow life to take them. Many times, instead of searching for what they could be, they settle for what they are.

Other times, I sense greatness, and even though many of them may not be happy in the moment, life will take that unhappiness of the present and

use it to fulfill their dreams for the future.

Why is that though? What creates this divide? There is a lack in so many of

motivation—of ambition—to be great at something, even if that something is perhaps insignificant to some. I question and consider what makes some

individuals stand up and cry out against the way things are in an attempt to improve life, and then actually apply it and not simply state it.

True, I have only had a month to allow Alma to sink in, yet even in that brief time I have seen these differences in the students, created by their uncaring attitude and indifference to their own lives.

I observe students going out and getting wasted four days out of the week, and miss classes because of a hangover. People ignore homework and play video games or go to parties. Many of these students view their decisions as being ones of freedom; they think that is the point of college: freedom. Seldom do they consider they are throwing their education out the door because they are more interested in getting drunk and being "free."

At "Becoming a Scot Day" in June, I met a guy who inquired whether or not I partied and did drugs. Complaining at my

response, he went on to inform me that if Alma did not have enough of a party atmosphere for him, he was going elsewhere to school.

If the only reason students attend a private college is to get wasted, high, and refuse to attend classes, well then they definitely need to share a little bit of that money with me!

On a more serious note, however, do they have nothing better to do? What ever happened to students caring about their grades and about how they were going to change the world when they reached their potential?

I find it pitiable how many people, young and old alike, throw their lives away for petty reasons. They may have so much potential, yet they disregard all attempts to try for something greater. I believe at times this is caused by a lack of a goal, an ambition, or an aspiration. There are times that I wish I could give people a dream, just so that I could see them try.



Photo by Catherine Finley

Freshman Amanda Labby takes a break from achieving her potential to "study."

The Almanian

Rachel Dotson	Editor-In-Chief
Anna Zichi	News Editor
Miriam Johnson	Feature Editor
Kevin Bilbrey	Opinion Editor
Chelsea Clark	Sports Editor
Jonathan Morley	Copy Editor
Kaitlin Logan	Business Manager
Mackenzie Hunter	Circulation Editor
Tony Rosenblum	Photo Editor
Catherine Finley	Photographer
Brent Riley	Photographer
Ian Fowler	Staff Writer
Pauline Hagedorn	Staff Writer
Katie Livingston	Staff Writer
Erin McGuire	Staff Writer
Thomas McGuire	Staff Writer
Bill McHenry	Staff Writer
Simone Mishler	Staff Writer
Aaron Pooley	Staff Writer
Lauren Sypniewski	Staff Writer
Sean Webber	Staff Writer
Skip Traynor	Faculty Advisor
Ken Tabackso	Faculty Advisor

"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 Friday morning 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 o9kdbilb@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.

MIP's unconstitutional, civil liberties protected

On September 26, 2007, U. S. District Court Judge David M. Lawson issued a decision that struck down the state of Michigan's Minor in Possession Law, more commonly referred to as an MIP. This decision rules the law in violation of the 4th Amendment rights of minors and makes it unconstitutional for an officer to require a breathalyzer test without a warrant.

Let me say that again, just so that we're clear: it is against the law for a police officer to order a minor to be subject to a breathalyzer test unless he has a warrant on hand to do so. Now, does anybody else see what this means? That's right, if you are at a party and the cops show up without any documentation to back them up, they can't issue an MIP. If they do, well, they have just violated your 4th Amendment rights, and a lawsuit is possible. I can feel the joy welling up inside you from here.

Now, don't get me wrong about any of this. I don't drink and I don't really endorse under age drinking, but I think we all now that it happens (if you don't, you really need to crawl out of your hole and come join the rest of us). I also don't like to see people get ticketed and written up for just wanting to let off some steam. It just seems pretty stupid. I think that most of you would agree with that. Well, now the law supports this view. It is a beautiful day for partygoers everywhere.

It should be understood that an officer can still administer on-the-site breathalyzer tests in any case of drunk-driving and in the event of emergencies. Plus, as no new cases about this have gone to court since the ruling, it is unclear as to how judges will interpret the emergency clause (it is often the practice of judges to take a lenient stance on what constitutes probable cause), but I can almost guarantee that it won't include administering breathalyzers to everyone at a party as a follow-up to checking out a noise complaint.

So, what does this mean? It means that we as underage citizens have received a massive protection to our civil liberties that have long been taken advantage of. It is proof that the American legal system really can work to uphold the values that it stands for. It also means that if a cop ever harasses you about alcohol—especially if you haven't even been drinking—then you have the weight of constitutional law behind you when you tell him to back off. It is a great thing.

Oh, yeah. Before I close, I should remind you that even though the cops can't really do anything about MIP's in a private residence, Alma College still has its own policy about underage drinking that is not in any way affected by the ruling. So before you take this case as a sign that you can just go out and get hammered whenever feel like it, remember that it is much easier to get a career in this world if you actually get a college degree.

*Kevin Billbrey,
Opinion
Editor*



'Common Table' provides hope

SIMONE MISHLER
STAFF WRITER

American agriculture does not seem to have much in common with Mexican farming, but those who participated in the Common Table Project found that farmers in the United States share many of their concerns with southern neighbors. The project was formatted by Edward Lorenz, professor of History, Political Science, and Director of Public Affairs. Since receiving grant money from the Kellogg Foundation two delegations have been sent to Chihuahua, Mexico.

Pressures to expand have made many farmers adopt new practices. New technologies, pesticides, and animal treatments are among the modernizations that farmers face. The Common Table Project aimed to see whether these pressures were of global concern, with a concentration on Mexico.

The initial trip Lorenz organized involved four students, himself, and Janie Diels, assistant professor of

Communication and co-chair of Women's Studies. The first trip aimed to make contacts in Chihuahua within the agricultural community.

The group toured with an American agricultural activist who lived in Mexico and visited local farmers raising a variety of crops from apples to corn. One location the group visited was hailed as the "Apple Capital of the World." The apples in the local market were imported from the US.

It is a highly competitive market next to the United States that forces Mexicans to look for new ways to compete.

"It was amazing the ways people would think to reuse their resources," said Diels of meeting one farmer who had harvested fish for six months of the year, then used the fertilized water from the animals to water his ground crops.

After the first visit, another group was recruited to meet the contacts in Mexico and conduct meetings discussing new agriculture. In this second trip Lorenz brought along local dairy farmers, agriculture education

teachers, and the manager of El Vaquero restaurant.

"I was worried whether these people would be able to talk to each other. Amazingly enough, [many] of the issues were agreed," said Lorenz. At the workshops, Alma residents expressed the same concerns regarding expansion that the Chihuahua residents were feeling. It was a unanimous sentiment that the adoption of new practices was bad for the global market and the communities.

The project's second report will be completed soon, generalizing the findings of the second trip to Mexico. In June, Alma will be hosting a representative group from Mexico to round out the project. This will complete the two year effort to understand new agriculture across borders.

"I have never met a group of people so passionate about bettering their situation," said Diels.

The lasting effects of the project will long exceed its two years. By connecting impassioned people from the US and Mexico a better situation is sure to come.

Wrist-band I. D. changes nothing

KATIE LIVINGSTON
STAFF WRITER

As most students know by now, new rules were established this year for campus parties. Wristbands must be given by Greek security to every individual attending a party. Red wristbands represent a person under the legal drinking age of 21, and blue is given to those over 21. Students also need a state-issued ID as proof of being of age. Furthermore, any AOD (Administrator on Duty) has the power to shut down a party for a number of reasons: an individual not wearing a wristband, party security not checking ID's, or drinking games are in progress.

How effective are these new regulations? At this point, there haven't been many opportunities to judge the efficiency of the new rules. From the view of Administration, these rules will

hinder underage drinking at Greek housing. The wristbands make it easier for any AOD to see individuals who legally can or cannot be drinking alcohol. Although these rules mean more work for party security, they may prevent liability charges against the school.

I feel that these rules do not establish any new formalities—they're simply being more strongly enforced. Party security has always been expected to wear their appropriate shirts and remain sober, and AOD's were able to shut down parties for various reasons. Yet, these rules do not completely put an end to underage drinking—there's no one way of ensuring that. With these rules in effect, we're bound to see more underage drinking within the dorms. If someone under 21 is caught drinking in their dorm, they will serve a punishment, but don't

suffer the embarrassment of causing a party to be closed. Not to mention that being caught in the dorms is kept quieter from other students on campus compared to an open party.

From the point of view of someone involved in Greek life, I see that these rules could be stifling, but, these formalities were established to set a standard at Alma College. Moreover, these new regulations decrease the chances of liability charges—which is the main force behind these rules. As a Resident Assistant, I feel these rules benefit AOD's in the sense that their job is made—if not easier—more effective, because they can visibly see those of age and vice versa. As an average sophomore student, I don't see these rules as being different than before, except for the fact we have to wear wristbands—which is not a huge sacrifice.

A re-examination of study-abroad programs, students' need to travel away from Alma

MIRIAM JOHNSON
FEATURE EDITOR

Travel. This is a word that is widely used by students here at Alma. Everyone wants to go somewhere. The list of programs goes on forever, from P-Global and CRL to semester-abroad, to off-campus spring terms. We want to see the world, and this desire is really encouraged by the school system.

Teachers and advisors pester us to become bilingual, requiring most of us to have a certain number of language credits. We are even required to do off-campus study. "Get out and experience the world! Prepare for life!" We travel in the name of the

greatness of the future and the upcoming era of globalization. Interconnectedness. We want to feel total, universal awareness.

But I have recently been putting a lot of thought into this compulsion that I have to leave the country and study abroad. I have asked myself, "Why?" and found that I had no satisfactory answer. So this leads me to my current confusion.

My first question is this: Why would I intentionally place myself in another part of the world, where I am only able to communicate on a surface level?

The connection between language and identity is strong and the less we are able to say,

the less of ourselves we are able to share. We think in words, we speak in words. Our identity and perception of life is inseparably linked to words.

As college students, we have barely grazed the surface of creating an identity with the English language. I don't understand why I would want to give up all the progress that I have made in favor of starting completely over.

Over the years I have talked with many exchange students and admired their ability to remain optimistic in the face of so much misunderstanding. I know that I would feel desolate and alone. So many thoughts would be inexpressible. I

would be afraid to lose my personality altogether. So I leap to the conclusion that struggling to speak multiple languages decreases the depth of conversation but increases the number of people we can converse with. It takes a lifetime to truly understand in a single language. Should we ask for more?

I feel like reaching global, universal human awareness is something that is completely possible to do here and now. Henry David Thoreau says in *Walden*, "Be the Lewis and Clark and Frobisher of your own streams and oceans; explore your own higher latitudes. Be a Columbus to whole new

continents and worlds within you, opening new channels, not of trade, but of thought."

Douglas Adams laughs at this need to be constantly moving in *A Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. He points out that while some people to dash from point A to point B very fast, other people dash from point B to point A very fast. People living at point C, being a point directly in between, wonder what's so great about point A that so many people from point B are so keen to get there, and what's so great about point B that so many people from point A are so keen to get there.

So, I ask, "Why do we want, so badly, to get to point B?!"

It's 'a different kind of day' for cross country

CHELSEA CLARK
SPORTS EDITOR

"It's a different kind of day." This is the new motto for the Alma cross country team. A motto that says it all. This year, though it includes many runners from last year, the team is different.

They are under a new regime headed by Coach Gordon Aldrich, who, with the help of a new training program, has high hopes for the future of Alma running.

"The team has been making drastic improvements during training," said Aldrich. His program is called the PAAVO Running System and requires the runners to keep an extensive log of their daily miles, requiring them to accomplish a certain

"The team has been making drastic improvements during training,"

Head Coach Aldrich

stage before moving on to another.

The logs are to help show the runners' improvement throughout the season as motivation for themselves and future runners. "As we are always told, we are building the foundation for future teams," said **Wade Peacock (10)**.



Photo courtesy of Dirkus Callahan

Steve Rose leads the pack ahead of three of Calvin's runners. Rose finishes second for the Scots with a time of 29:44.

The PAAVO system is very mathematical in nature, focusing on finding individual splits and optimal pace per mile. The team is just starting a new portion of the system called slow interval training.

The team seems to be taking all changes in stride. "The team has been adapting and adjusting great. I have been on teams that did not handle the change well.

I had three different [head] coaches through out high school," said **Denise Elowsky (10)**.

Part of what might be helping the team adjust well is their motto, "a different kind of day." "It is for when you wake up after a difficult day. [It helps] you to go test your training and see how far you have come," said Coach Aldrich. For Elowsky, the saying

means be ready and excited to do your best everyday.

Helping Coach Aldrich this season are assistant coaches Chovanec, Whitman, and Woodman. Chovanec has been coaching at Alma since 2002, but Whitman and Woodman have not been associated with Scot cross country since they both ran here in the 90s.

The Scots have a race today

at Oakland where they will be led by their top runners, Steve Rose, Wade Peacock, Miriam Johnson, and Chelsea Leforce. This meet marks the half way point for the team and Elowsky said, "We are working towards regionals so that we can improve upon last year's performance. Our last race was really hilly and hot, so [today's] performance will be better."

Golf struggles following mid-season success

IAN FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

It has been an up and down year for the men's golf team. They had five top-five finishes during the fall this year and had only three matches outside of the top-five.

They began the season with an eleventh-place finish at the Olivet Classic. Day one of the tournament left the Scots sitting in sixth-place, but, on day two, the Scots fell back to eleventh place.

In the next match the Scots brought the team to fourth place. **Kyle Travis (09)** posted Alma's top finish of the day with a score of 39-37.

The next two matches brought the Scots their two third place finishes for the season. At the first of the two matches, **Evan Kay (08)** shot well enough to tie himself for fourth overall on the day. In the next match, at the Wuskowhan Player Club at Hope College, **Rob Ronk (10)** shot a 36-35, tying himself for first-place overall.

At The Prairies Golf Club at Kalamazoo College, Alma finished just out of the top-five with a very close sixth-place.

In the next two tournaments, Alma received their last two top-five finishes this year. The first match was at Bucks Run in Mt. Pleasant. Ronk, **Sean Kiddle (11)**, and **Kyle Travis (09)** all shot a final round score of 76. At the next match, Adrian College, **David Moilanen (11)** shot a round total of 77, while Ronk shot the team best score of 76.

Last Monday, Alma traveled to the Watermark Country Club in Grand Rapids to play in a tournament hosted by Calvin College. They placed eighth overall, with Travis shooting a par-72 final score.

"I was really happy with how the team had been performing this past year, but it was tough watching the team struggle yesterday," said Coach Starkweather on Tuesday. "Watermark was a tough course, and the boys had a tough time with it. Hopefully they'll be able to get their heads together for Tri-State [tomorrow]."

Alma's last tournament of the year is tomorrow at Tri-State University. The Scots will be traveling to Angola,

Mens soccer falls to Calvin, searches for offense

Our Scots fought tough against Calvin this past Saturday, but fell, 2-0. The Scots have had difficulty scoring lately, but they have hung tight with conference foes. The Scot's trouble finding the back of the net has left them right on the line between a victory and a defeat against most of their opponents this season.

Calvin's first goal came 26 minutes into the game, while their second came in the 57th. The first goal was scored by Calvin's Scott Hooker on the assist from AJ Dufendach, while their second goal

was unassisted by Michael Holwerda.

The game in itself was described in the stands as a "boxing match" and the intensity and physicality was high. The game was extremely competitive, with both teams putting themselves on the line.

The Scots have been spending a lot of time defending lately; shown by the number of saves they had on Saturday. While Calvin only had five total saves, our Scots recorded 13. The squad has been taking fewer shots than their opponents, as they only recorded 10 to Calvin's 27 total shots.

This has been a pattern all season. The Scots have averaged 8.4 shots per game to opponents' 15.1 shots. They also average 10 assists to opponents 12.

However, the team does offer great athletes looking to turn the recent slump around. Impressive play has been shown from Mark Daisy, who has recorded six goals this season and two assists. Dan Laatz has recorded two goals of his own, while Anthony Bergstrom has spent a lot of time in the net.

The Scots moved past this loss to face Olivet on Wednesday.



Los Tequilas

MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Serving great Mexican beer — Corona, Dos Equis, Tecate, & more

¡Enjoy \$1 off margaritas every Mon-Wed!

¡34-oz draft beer only \$4 every day!

¡Lunch specials every day!

¡Bring in your ACID for \$2 off dinner!

1596 Wright Ave, Alma

* (989) 463-1611

* Dine In/Carry Out

Mon-Thu: 11 am - 10 pm, Fri & Sat: 11 am - 10:30 pm, Sun: 12 - 9 pm

Located in N. Town Plaza next to Little Ceasars

Football gets first win at home, Coach Cole sets record for wins

IAN FOWLER
SPORTS WRITER

Coming off of an victory last Saturday, the Scots are looking forward to tomorrow's away game against Hope College.

Last Saturday's game was a well-fought victory over the Tri-State Thunder. The first quarter left the scoreboard empty with neither team taking the lead until the second quarter.

Tri-State scored first, with a touchdown two minutes into the second quarter of play. Alma was unscathed though, marching down the field in a 75 yard drive ending with in a touchdown run by **Mackenzie McGrady (10)**.

"Tyler Pettit and Mackenzie McGrady really stepped it up that game," said Jim Cole, head coach. "They always play pretty well, but they really showed what they are capable of against Tri-State."

Tri-State would answer by scoring another three points before half-time, and the teams would head to the locker-rooms with a 10-7 half-time score, Tri-State leading.

Once the Kiltie Band had cleared the field, the Scots came back out to show what they were really capable of.

Alma came back after half-time with a renewed energy about them, and the Thunder could



Photo by Brent Riley
Sophomore defensive back Mark Recker and senior defensive lineman Alex Catin celebrate after an important tackle.

not keep up with the pace set by the Scots. Alma went on to score 21 unanswered points and gather the win for the night.

Saturday's game gave Cole his 95th win, breaking the Alma College all-time career win record. **Joe Cline (08)**, wide receiver, also had a record-breaking game against the Thunder and now holds the record for the most career receiving yards.

"We played well," said Cole. "It's always nice to win and to also see some improvement over the previous weekend's game. I was really impressed by our special teams. We had some nice returns, and we really seemed to be on track with our kicks and punts."

The next game is tomorrow, against Hope College, at 1:30 pm. "Hope is always a tough game," said Cole. "It's going to be tough playing on the road against a team that's playing for a homecoming crowd, and we are going to need to make a couple changes in our playing style. Our run defense will need some aspects tweaked, but, as long as we can play smart, we should do well."

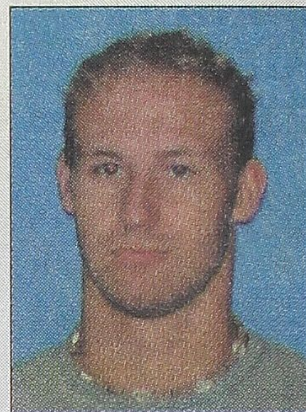
The Flying Dutchmen of Hope College are also 1-3, with an away win last Saturday over conference opponent Albion College, for the first time in 25 years. Both teams are looking to maintain their week four victory momentum, so watch for the Scots to fight to the very end.



Photo by Brent Riley
Junior Defensive Back, Kyle Percival, intercepts the pass intended for the Tri-State receiver.

Wolverines squeak out win over Northwestern

SEAN WEBBER
STAFF WRITER



I am a die hard Maize and Blue fan. To me, the Michigan Wolverines are part of every fall weekend. I remember countless windswept October Saturdays where the only objective for me and my father was to somehow scream at the television loud enough to will Michigan to another win.

Last weekend was more of the same, although I never got to hear my father and never got to see him grit his teeth when he saw a yellow flag fly through the air. Still, I did get an earful when I called to talk to him about the game Saturday after the Wolverines pulled out a 28-16 win over Big Ten foes Northwestern in classic comeback fashion.

It was clear to me going into Saturday's game that Michigan was going to try and take it easy on Chad Henne. That's what I would've done. That's what my best friend would've done.

But that wasn't exactly what happened. After leading the Wolverines 65 yards down the field the first series of the first half and snagging an early 7-3 lead, Henne made his way to the bench. He was replaced by freshman quarterback Ryan Mallett.

Michigan then proceeded to not score the rest of the half and allow the Northwestern offense to romp up and down the field. A touchdown and two field goals later, Northwestern had built a 16-7 lead heading into halftime.

You could imagine my concern at that point.

However, the Wolverines came out of the locker room in the second half with more intensity and with Chad Henne behind the reigns. Henne put together three drives resulting in touchdowns. He accumulated 193 yards passing and was giving the Wolverines a visible offensive spark.

"A lot of trainers felt I really couldn't play the whole game," said Henne. "I felt I could, but you get thrown in there and you never know what is going to happen. It was tough watching it. I knew that if I could get back in there and get it going in the second half, get the intensity and emotion back up in our players, that we could win."

Mike Hart was able to grind out a hundred yards and a touchdown on the stat sheet, but it was not the Mike Hart that I know and love to watch. His one real highlight was a 23 yard run, and we know Hart is a better player than 23 yards on paper, especially when he's only 33 yards away from being Michigan's all-time leading rusher.

However, Henne's performance was inspiring enough for me. But let's not give him all the credit here. Upon watching Northwestern quarterback C.J. Bacher get sacked four beautiful times and cough up four beautiful turnovers, I happily commend the Wolverine defense as well. Also, Mario Manningham reeled in 10 catches for 123 yards and a touchdown, making him my favorite receiver of the day. So, Henne's back and Michigan is now 2-0 in the Big Ten and 3-2 overall. They are rolling on a three game winning streak. But we have to look forward, because I know that's what Ohio State and Wisconsin fans are doing.

Ohio State and Wisconsin are both undefeated overall and have high hopes for the season. Ohio State walked all over Minnesota and Wisconsin to ground out a win over Michigan State on Saturday.

This weekend's upcoming game with Eastern Michigan is probably on the minds of just about every Wolverine fan, as is next weekend's game, against Purdue, which will be the moment where the Wolverine's will have to bring the whole offense, not just Chad Henne (yes, Mike Hart, this means you have to show up, too, and put a few more yards up on the record board for us).

We will have to see the entire Michigan offense click if it wants to succeed the rest of the season. "We can play a lot better," said receiver Adrian Arrington. "We get down towards the red zone a lot and don't capitalize."

Maybe that was true a couple of games ago, but after watching Henne in action on Saturday, I think the Wolverine offense is really coming together, one piece at a time. All I can say is, Chad, it's good to have you back.