

# The Almanian

Volume CI

Issue 6

Friday, October 26, 2007

*"Serving Alma College Since 1907"*

## UNDER THE COVER

**The German Club prepares to bring a popular beer festival to Alma College on November 2.**

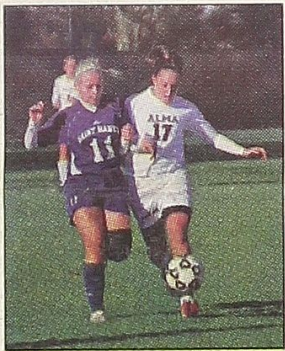
SEE FEATURE PG. 3

**C.S. Lewis' Till We Have Faces holds an important position in author's life works.**

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**Alcohol Awareness Week provides insightful stats and real life stories.**

SEE OPINION PG. 5



**Women's soccer finishes regular season with a victory after putting together an offense.**

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## BY THE NUMBERS

# 5

The number of days until children and adults dress up in their costumes and celebrate Halloween.

# \$35,000

The amount of money Relay for Life hopes Alma College students and faculty can raise to benefit the American Cancer Society.

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## Leipzig travels to Turkey to improve foreign relations

**TOM MCGUIRE**  
STAFF WRITER

While most students and faculty were preparing for mid-term exams and fall break, one member of the Alma College community was spreading the footprint of the college and one of its unique programs into the splendors of the Northeastern Mediterranean.

John Leipzig, director of the Center for Responsible Leadership (CRL), left for the Republic of Turkey on Thursday, October 11 for a nine day stay at Ondokuz Mayıs University, an advanced academic institution of over 30,000 students located on the coast of the Black Sea in the city of Samsun.

***"When the world says, 'Bad America, you're not doing what we want,' we close in. We can't afford to do that anymore."***

**John Leipzig**  
CRL Director

Ferit Bernay, rector of the university, wrote to Leipzig in early August, inviting him to come to Turkey to give a presentation concerning Alma's leadership program and develop the cooperative relationship between Alma and the Turkish



John Leipzig traveled to Turkey over Fall Break and worked with Ondokuz Mayıs University to facilitate a connection between the two institutions leadership programs.

institution.

This relationship began during the 2006-07 school year when Alma hosted Yavuz Demir, the college's first in-residence Fulbright Scholar. "[Alma and Ondokuz Mayıs] established a letter of general cooperation, saying that they wanted to

see whether or not they could continue a relationship between the two institutions."

Upon returning to Turkey and hearing that his university was interested in developing a leadership program for its

SEE LEIPZIG PG. 2

## Education department receives 'A'

**ANNA ZICHI**  
NEWS EDITOR

It is no secret that Alma College was rated as one of the best schools in the Midwest by the *Princeton Review*, but now the college has one more title to boast about: an "exemplary" rating from the Michigan Department of Education.

"We are very excited, of course," said Peggy Thelen, Assistant Professor of Education. "This rating assures us that our school is doing a good job of educating our students, not only in pedagogy, but also in their majors and minors."

Every institution's program is rated on several factors, including: the school's rates on the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification exam, the majors and minors offered by the school and racial diversity within the program. Each school gets points depending on these factors and then is rated as 'exemplary,' 'satisfactory,' or

'low performing.'

Alma received 63 points, out of 70, which ranked it among the top 13 of the Michigan's 31

***"This rating assures us that our school is doing a good job of educating our students,"***

**Peggy Thelen,**  
Professor

teacher education programs.

"We always have a strong group of students," said Thelen. "We also receive a lot of support for our program which helped us get this rating."

Unlike many other institutions teacher education programs, Alma College gets the students into classrooms early and often.

This allows students a lot more time in their field that many other programs do not offer. Smaller class sizes at the college impact the students learning abilities as well.

"With smaller class sizes our students receive more attention and know each other well," said Thelen. "The students are comfortable with each other which allows for lively and honest discussions."

Similar to other majors here at Alma College each student is paired with a faculty member from the education department. With such a rigorous program it is important for students to talk with their advisors and make sure that they are on track with the program.

By going to a liberal arts college it helps students widen their views of teaching that much more. "Each student is well grounded in the liberal arts, which tremendously supports

SEE EDUCATION PG. 2

## Heartland Trail benefits surrounding communities

**SIMONE MISHLER**  
STAFF WRITER

The Fred Meijer Heartland Trail project will be paving another nine and half miles of pathway from Alma to Riverdale. Next summer the funding will be available for the project to advance.

"This development is especially exciting for the campus community because the trail swings north along Grant street, near and parallel to the live rail, and then west back by the campus practice fields and further west past the baseball and soccer stadiums," said Robyn Anderson, chair and professor of exercise and health sciences.

This past August, paving, done by Youngstrom Contracting Inc., was completed on a section of the trail from McBride to Edmore. The paving has been made possible through a combination of grants provided by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency

***"By meeting public demand for more recreational trail way, [we expand] Michigan's beautiful natural environment for all of our citizens to enjoy,"***

**Jennifer Granholm**  
Governor

Act and private donations. "Even though we have secured large dollars to continue trail development, those dollars are just that - for development," said Anderson. There are now over 17 miles of paved pathway.

The Frey Foundation has also donated \$4500 to the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition. This grant could lead to the connection of the Heartland Trail with the greater West Michigan Trail Network. The trails could connect through the city of Lowell.

Governor Jennifer Granholm announced another way of possibly connecting the Heartland Trail with others in Michigan. There are 41.3 miles of abandoned railway in the Ionia, Clinton, and Shiawassee counties that will be preserved

SEE TRAIL PG. 2



## Virginia death prompts hygiene scrutiny

**BRITTANY LEWIS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Athletes in Michigan and all over the United States are giving their locker rooms and gear thorough cleanings after reports of methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus – MRSA – or staph infection.

After a high school student in Virginia died Monday, October 15, school districts started cautioning and reassuring parents and informing students about the importance of maintaining proper hygiene.

What is MRSA? MRSA is a type of staph (bacteria on the skin and in the nose of healthy people) that is resistant to antibiotics. Community-associated MRSA (CA-MRSA) is an MRSA infection that a person contracts when they have not been hospitalized or had a medical procedure in the last year.

The infection itself may show as a pimple, boil, or spider bite. If the infection is more serious, it may cause fever, chills, and shortness of breath, and can also cause pneumonia, bloodstream infections, or surgical

wound infections – rare among otherwise healthy people.

Some places are more likely than others to transmit MRSA. These places have factors that are referred to as the five Cs. These are: crowding, contact, compromised skin (cuts), contaminated items, and cleanliness or lack thereof.

The places in which these are most common are schools, dormitories, lockers, military barracks, households, correctional facilities, and daycare centers.

How do you protect yourself? Good hygiene. By washing your hands, cleaning and covering wounds, avoiding sharing personal objects – towels, razors, wash clothes, and soap – and having general cleanliness.

Another way to protect yourself is to clean things that are frequently touched by several people. Some disinfectant products that can be used are: Clorox, Lysol, Odo-Ban, or an S.C. Johnson brand disinfectant.

MRSA is treatable. Even though it is resistant to beta-lactam antibiotics (methicillin, oxacillin, penicillin, and amoxicillin) there are antibiotics that can cure the infection.

If you think you might have MRSA, tell your doctor, and take all doses prescribed to you.

Do not share your antibiotics – it is illegal and may cause more harm than good. Do not save antibiotics for later use.

Some infections may be treated by draining the boil and may not require any antibiotics.

“People should be concerned. They should not be fearful,” said Christopher Novak, a medical epidemiologist with the Virginia Department of Health.

Dr. Peter Gulick, a professor at Michigan State University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine and also works at Ingham Regional Medical Center and Ingham County Health Department, agrees, stating, “There will be times when I see four or five new cases a week, then there will be times when there will be none for a long time. There are little clusters that come and go.”

MRSA is an infection that can be spread easily through contact, so it is important to take good care of yourself and your belongings.

Keep yourself clean and be aware of the things you come in contact with.

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and search for MRSA.

## Trail from pg. 1...

for non-motorized trail use. “By meeting public demand for more recreational trail way, [we expand] Michigan’s beautiful natural environment for all of our citizens to enjoy,” said Granholm about the project.

Over 40 miles of trail stretch across Montcalm and Gratiot counties, ending in downtown Alma. The pathway begins in Greenville and winds through both farmland and state game areas. The path visits ten towns

in the Gratiot/Montcalm area.

The project was conceptualized in 1994 when 29 miles of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad were for sale crossing both counties. With the help of Fred Meijer, the tracks were purchased and the Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail were organized.

Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail aims to promote the benefits of having such a recreational trail. The group wishes the trail to be a safe place for everyone – from walkers and joggers, to those riding bikes

or using roller blades. There is handicap access to the trail in the towns of Edmore, McBride, and Stanton. No motorized vehicles are allowed on the trail, which is open from sunrise to sunset year round.

The trail is entirely maintained by volunteers. In order to keep the pathways clear, time and equipment are donated through the “Adopt a Trail” program. Volunteers of the “Adopt a Trail” crew have the task of clearing their trail section, reporting any vandalism, and cutting back growth around the trail.

## Education from pg. 1...

the education of teachers,” said Thelen.

Like most other departments the education department is continuing to make improvements to educate students in the best way. “We are working on being able to offer more majors and minors in both elementary and secondary educations, along with working on state mandated changes,” said Thelen.

These state mandated changes include: a three credit corrective reading course in elementary education and changing majors and minors available to both elementary and secondary teachers. Students may no longer major or minor in sociology or psychology. “The state is trying to emphasize being more prepared in math, science, social studies, reading and writing,” said Thelen. “We are focusing on the three R’s again.”

Teachers are always needed no matter what state one is living in. While current availability of teaching jobs is a concern in Michigan it won’t always be. “I do not think it is going to last long,” said Thelen. “Many teachers in the near future will be retiring, and the schools will once again be hiring.”

Of course people who are looking for teaching jobs right now may have to look outside of the state. Thelen said, “There are lots of other states begging for teachers, students can go out and teach and then always come back if that is what they want.”

“It gets students in the classroom freshman year meaning a student does not have to wait until their third year to find out if this is the right fit for them,” said **Christina Brown (09)**. “We receive a lot of experience that makes us more than just adequately prepared for the future.”

Education is the second largest department on campus at 20-25% of the student body.

## Leipzig from pg. 1...

students, Demir recommended that Leipzig be invited to speak about the activities of Alma’s Center for Responsible Leadership, how it was implemented, and, finally, what leadership means in today’s global context.

Speaking of his specific activities in Turkey, Leipzig said, “I give a major address on Monday in the afternoon [to] probably four to five hundred faculty, staff, and students for about an hour. Then I’ll start working with smaller groups, the faculty of Agriculture and of Arts and Sciences about leadership programming, what we might do together, and what we’ve [already] done.”

Preparing for this opportunity has presented some unique challenges for Leipzig, as recent studies have shown that Turkish and American attitudes concerning leadership are quite different.

“If I was to go in saying ‘Oh, you want a US model [for leadership],’ I’d really be walking into a powder keg,” said Leipzig.

Leipzig hopes that his trip will facilitate the strengthening of the relationship between the CRL and the Turkish program. He looks to accelerate this upon his return by inviting six to twelve Turkish students and several faculty members to join the CRL at its annual Ghost Ranch summer retreat in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Furthermore, Leipzig will also invite these students to the program’s overseas seminar, which took Alma leadership fellows to England this past summer.

According to Leipzig, creating this type of international cooperation regarding leadership development is of the utmost importance, not only to the CRL, but also to the future of the United States. “This is not a world that allows you to exist independently, even though we’ve got oceans. When the world says, ‘Bad America, you’re not doing what we want,’ we close in. We can’t afford to do that anymore.”

## Outside the ‘Bubble’

**SIMONE MISHLER**  
**STAFF WRITER**

### Public Hearings

The city will be vacating an alley in the Fairview Subdivision.

The Commission heard the vacation request on behalf of the Olive Ridge Development.

The city will still have access to all of the utilities that are maintained in the alleyway. The alley runs for 400 feet north of Chatterton street and is not actively being used by the city of Alma.

A petition to have the city vacate the alley was signed by all but one owner of the adjacent property lots.

The 15 feet width of the

alley will be divided between the adjacent property owners.

### Resolutions

The Commission will be awarding JLC Inc with an Alma Downtown Development Authority Facade Grant.

Facade work on the front and rear of the building, costing \$12,544.50, was recently finished. The work on the building included removal and replacement of deteriorating brick as well as the replacement of the south side roof.

The Alma Downtown Development Authority appreciates efforts to preserve buildings in downtown

The grant will be used to supplement the company in

paying for the overall cost of the renovations.

### Ordinances

The zoning of the map of the City of Alma is going to be amended as a result of the unanimous approval of Ordinance No. 705. This rezoning will affect the way the city appears in the Section 60-52. This area of the map is the waterfront of Alma. This ordinance is a measure to prepare for the mixed-use development along the river front.

### Finance in the first quarter

The general city fund is on budget for the first quarter according to Paul Borle, Finance Director. At this point in the year 91% of the budget has been collected through taxes.

The only fund over budget is Economic Development. Assistance will come when the SEP reimburses the Waterfront Project. The Police Department also received three patrol cars through a grant aiding the budget.

### Commissioner’s Comments

“Your vote will count!” said commissioner Michael Legene of the upcoming November 6 election. There are four city commission seats open and six candidates vying for election. Polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. on election day. Absentee ballots are also available for those going out of town.

The Alma High School football team has a perfect record of 9-0 this season. Vice Mayor Scott Moes offered the team his congratulations and wishes the team the best of luck

continuing on in finals. The team is “exciting to watch” according to Moes and with five more wins could be on the way to the Silverdome competing for the state title.

Other community related events happening soon include a Halloween Family Night at the Alma Public Library and a Chamber of Commerce sponsored Night on the River Walk. The Halloween Family Night is completely free and will be happening at 7 p.m. on October 30. The Chamber event will be happening at 5 p.m. on November 1.

### Next Meeting

The next scheduled City Commissions meeting is at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, November 13, at City Hall

For more information please visit: [www.ci.alma.mi.us](http://www.ci.alma.mi.us).



# Visiting poet shares truth, beauty with campus community

**AARON POOLEY**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Honored United States Poet Laureate, Ted Kooser, addressed the Alma community on October 10, sharing decades of observation and wisdom through his poetic craft.

Introducing Kooser, Robert Vivian said, "Without fanfare or self-aggrandizement, Ted Kooser gives the world cultural acceptance — he has never sold out — he is one of us. I cannot think of a better Poet Laureate."

Kooser is a professor of English at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. In addition, Kooser travels across the United States for readings at academic institutions and writing workshops. Kooser said, "I'm really an introvert, and getting in front of people to speak hasn't been easy."

While a poet serves as the United States Poet Laureate, they are commissioned to stir up national awareness of all poetry

and renew the spirit of the art as its official representative. As a way of describing the goal of a poet and their effect on a potential reader, Kooser said, "The poet fits the reader into a little box and, once they have the reader, they squeeze them [and] then lets them go. The reader should feel that little lift at the end, if it works." Among those bestowed Poet Laureate include Elizabeth Bishop, William Carlos Williams, W. S. Merwin, and Robert Frost.

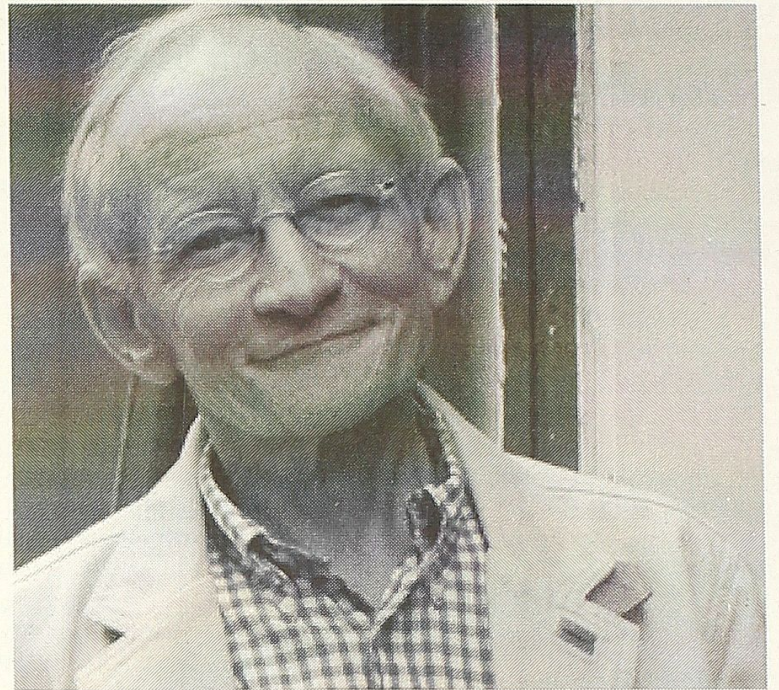
Every morning at 4:30 a.m., Ted Kooser wakes and sits at his desk, ready to write. Kooser said, "I write even if I have nothing to write. I fail — I fail almost every day. But if I'm not sitting at that desk when a good poem comes by, I miss my chance, and I won't get that chance back again."

Kooser has been awarded throughout the years with the Prairie Schooner Prize in Poetry in 1976 and 1978, the Stanley Kunitz Poetry Prize in 1984, the Best American Poetry Award

in 2003, the Pushcart Prize for Poetry in 2005, and the Best American Essays in 2005, to name a few. His writing has been featured in publications including The Atlantic Monthly, The New Yorker, The Hudson Review, The Nation, The Kenyon Review, and the Antioch Review. Kooser has written ten books of poetry and works of both fiction and nonfiction.

In his address, Kooser explained that it has been his tradition for 22 years to write an annual Valentine's Day poem. At first, he jovially made it a point to send these poems to his best friend's wives. After a while, Kooser decided to expand his mailing list. Visiting place to place he would invite women in his audience to sign their name on a list to receive these poems. Last year, however, Kooser had to give up his tradition. His list had reached 2600 women, costing him most than \$1,000 in postage.

Addressing how his poetry has changed over the years, Kooser



said, "You begin by writing homage to those you were brought up with but, over time, influences braid together. Today I have more confidence in writing personal poetry." Kooser provided the Alma community with an example of his personal poetry reading a poem about his

mother. He said, "Write about your family. I always encourage this. Write it down and put it away. 75 years will pass and someone will read it. And when they read that poem, the person for which the poem was written comes and is in the world again for awhile, then subsides."

## German club brings 'Oktoberfest' beer festival to Alma campus

**MIRIAM JOHNSON**  
**FEATURE EDITOR**

One week from today, on November 2, the all-campus open party that the German Club has been meticulously planning since the beginning of the semester will finally premier. They are bringing right here to Alma "Oktoberfest," the world's largest beer-drinking festival, which fittingly takes place in Germany each year in September.

"The Oktoberfest originated as a celebration of a king's wedding 200 years ago and has become one of Germany's best-loved ways to commemorate their heritage — while cradling overflowing one-liter 'steins' of beer," explains **Nina Beckmann (10)**, co-president of the German Club. "The festival lasts 16 days in autumn and attracts annually over 6 million people from around the world. Approximately 6.7 million liters of beer were consumed this year."

Alma's Oktoberfest is a

project for the students, by the students, like a fraternity event, but with a cultural twist. The German and International clubs have taken care of food, drink, atmosphere, decorations, and culture. Now the people simply have to come. "This is one party that I couldn't wait to make reality — 6 million people can't be wrong about having a good time! We've really enjoyed planning this, and it is going to be a great night," says Beckmann.

With the arrival of a new teaching assistant from Austria, Alice Becker, and steadily increasing membership, the new German club is starting making a name for itself on campus. Becker is very enthusiastic about having the chance to share the spirit of her own culture with the campus community. "Our favorite thing to do is to get together and enjoy a cool beer. Austria is just like Germany in that it is a drinking culture," says Becker. "Yes! That means that Germans do NOT drink warm beer all the time!" added Beckmann. The German

and International clubs hope that the Oktoberfest will be an opportunity for students to enjoy one of the highlights of the European festivities, and the famous party that is one of Germany's most celebrated traditions.

A couple of the Alma faculty are interested in this event, and a couple may even attend at the beginning of the evening. "How could I not know of the Oktoberfest?" asked Ute Stargardt, Professor of English, when the topic was mentioned. "I grew up in Germany where beer drinking was almost a religious part of culture!" She laughed and said that it will be a great way for students to rid themselves of worry and (for those old enough), to drink the night away. She then proceeded to share a German drinking song that she knows by heart.

The event will take place off-campus at Club Rox (behind Big Boy) and will be a closed party for Alma College in the back room until midnight, so students should bring their Alma College

ID cards. Then it will open up into the whole building for combined music and dancing. The club will be providing their usual free shuttle to and from campus, making it convenient for students to get there. At 9:30, the party will open for adults/faculty to attend, as many have expressed an interest. They will be welcome to stay for the first couple hours and if they choose, can even remain when students start arriving later in the night.

The German and International clubs are planning on, well, Germanizing the bar. They are decking the hall to look like a beer tent, which includes blue and white streamers and a 6-foot wreath to imitate the authentic Oktoberfest atmosphere. "The music is going to be German beer-drinking songs in the beginning, scattered with modern music, and as the night continues, increasingly more rap/dance music will be played with an occasional European techno song," says Beckmann. "Two authentic, imported German beers will be

available for purchase: Beck's Gold and Hofbräu, the latter of which is the famous Oktoberfest beer which they drink in the big beer tents. In addition, we'll have Leinenkugel's official "Oktoberfest" brew and of course, Jägermeister! There will also be a non-alcoholic beer, for those Germans-at-heart who are underage."

Aside from all the alcohol, there will be pretzels, "Brezeln" for \$1.50 and homemade gingerbread greeting hearts, saying things like, "Ich liebe Dich" (I love you), "Lecker, Baby" (Tasty, Baby), "Drück Mich" (Hug me), or simply "Gruss vom Oktoberfest" (Greetings from Oktoberfest). These "Lebkuchenherze" for \$3 are similar to large cookie valentines. There will also be tables of German cultural paraphernalia, flags, and perhaps even a black and white movie playing silently on the wall. Raffle tickets will be handed out at the entrance for Alma College IDs, and there will be a drawing for Oktoberfest prizes.



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# *Till We Have Faces* brings new meaning to ancient myth

**LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI**  
**STAFF WRITER**

The author of the classic children's novels, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and the common sense philosophy, *Mere Christianity*, comes forth in a novel less known. *Till We Have Faces* (1956) holds an important position in C.S. Lewis' repertoire, as the skilled writer retells the Greek myth of Cupid and Psyche.

"In Mr. Lewis's sensitive hands, the ancient myth retains its fascination while being endowed with new meanings, new depths, new terrors," says

the *Saturday Review*.

According to the *New York Herald Tribune*, *Till We Have Faces* is "[t]he most significant and triumphant work that Lewis has yet produced."

The novel is told from the view point of Orual, who sets up the story in two parts. The first addresses the first 250 of the 300 pages. Psyche is introduced to the story in the second chapter, and was born years after Orual to another mother. Orual is completely hideous in appearance, which contrasts Psyche, who grows up to own a pure beauty.

Orual becomes attached

to Psyche in an obsessive, possessive love. When Psyche is sacrificed to the gods, Orual becomes enraged at the gods for taking away who she considers to be her daughter.

Orual attempts to retrieve Psyche from their hands, climbing the mountain of the gods to reach her. While there, Orual finds Psyche to be in perfect health and well taken care of. She appeals to her sister to disobey her husband,

although Orual does not know that Psyche's husband is a god.

Psyche speaks to Orual of the love she is showing Psyche, saying it is nothing she has ever seen. "It is like looking into a deep pit. I am not sure whether I like your kind better than hatred." Yet, in the end, Psyche listens to Orual which forces Psyche into exile.

The novel moves on and Orual, now queen of Glome, grows weaker and sicker. She looks at what she has written in the first section, and realizes her love of Psyche was possessive and wrong.

Orual's sickness leads her into hallucinatory dreams, some she mistakes for reality. There she meets the gods and argues, questions, and listens. The gods give her much to think about regarding herself her love for Psyche.

*Till We Have Faces* addresses love, both in its sacred and possessive forms, and also the issues of acceptance, change, and genuineness.

C.S. Lewis explains this acceptance the gods speak of to Orual in a letter to Dorothea Conybeare. "How can [the gods] meet us face to face till we have faces? The idea was that a human being must become real before it can expect to receive any message from the superhuman; that is, it must be speaking with

its own voice (not one of its borrowed voices), expressing its actual desires (not what it imagines that it desires), being for good or ill itself, not any mask, veil, or persona."

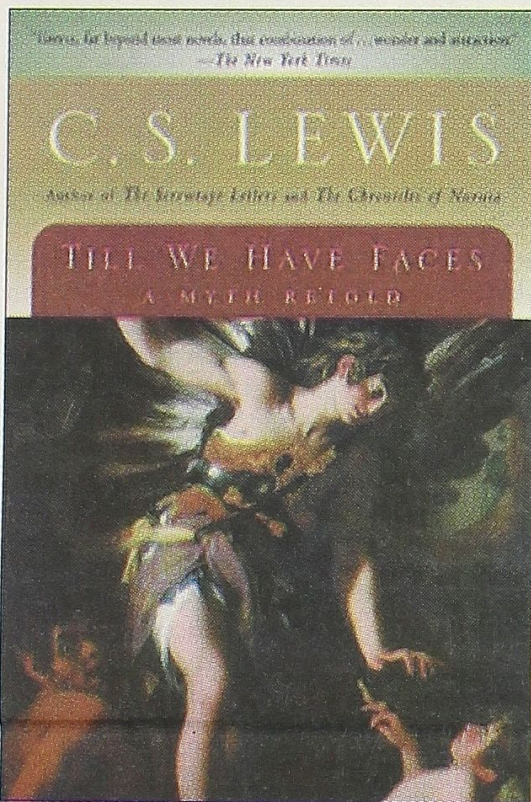
Charles J. Rolo of the *Atlantic Monthly* calls it "[a] brilliant reworking of the legend of Cupid and Psyche. From the standpoint of interpretation, it is a difficult book. But on the narrative level, its eloquence, vividness, and intensity weave a seductive spell."

"By successfully bringing diverse elements into imaginative

unity, *Till We Have Faces* exerts, far beyond most novels, that combination of awfulness, wonder and attraction which is what the word 'fascination', in its Latin form, really meant," wrote the *New York Times*.

C.S. Lewis was a master of genres, spanning fantasy books such as *The Chronicles of Narnia* and the *Space Trilogy* to apologetic works such as *The Screwtape Letters* and *The Problem of Pain*.

Born in 1898, Clive Staples "Jack" Lewis died in 1963 after a long and celebrated career.



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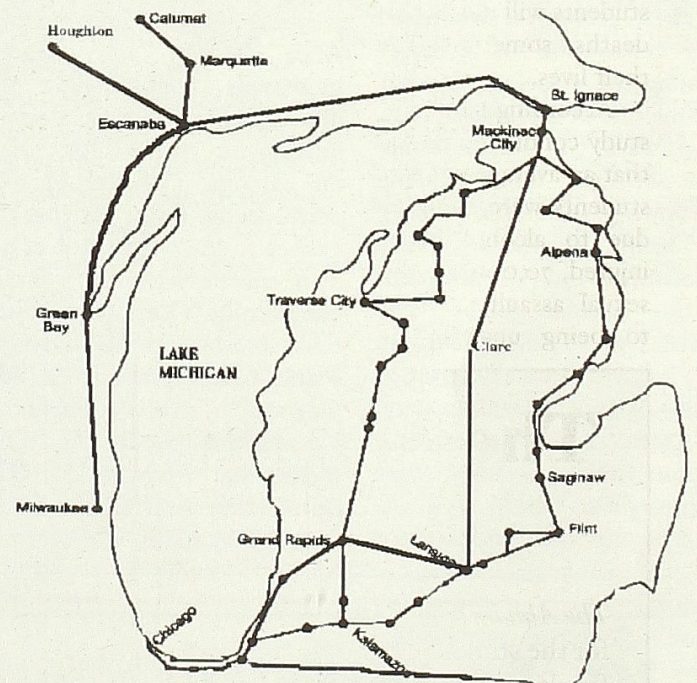
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# Alcohol awareness proves enlightening

**KATIE LIVINGSTON**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Has Alcohol Awareness Week opened students' eyes to the terrible accidents that can be caused due to alcohol? It should have. This week that is coming to an end has been full of alcohol awareness programming.

Sunday was the "Ad Campaign" sponsored by the South RA (Resident Assistant) staff, Monday was Power Hour & Alcohol 101 (IFC and Greek Life), Tuesday was a MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) Presentation, Wednesday was a survey on alcohol use (Student Life Office), and Thursday was mock tails at the Scrubs premiere.

The final program is on Saturday in Jones Auditorium at 9:00 pm, there will be Thinkfast Trivia. There have also been some passive programs throughout the week by the various RA staffs on campus. For instance, Bruske Hall RA's made a collage of college students killed or injured due to alcohol. The Newberry Staff placed a car demolished by a drunk driver on campus as an example of what can happen when one drinks and drives.

Alcohol Awareness Week is vital because being involved in accident due to alcohol—whether it be a drunk driving incident or alcohol poisoning—is something we, as individuals, never expect to happen to us. According to the Core Institute, 300,000 of today's college students will die alcohol related deaths sometime throughout their lives.

According to CNN News, a study conducted in 2002 found that an average of 1,400 college students were dying every year due to alcohol, 500,000 are injured, 70,000 are involved in sexual assault, 100,000 admit to being unaware of having

unprotected sex, and 2 million admitted to have driven a car in the year 2001 under the influence of alcohol.

These numbers are incredible. There are ways of being smart when drinking, and ways of being ignorant; individuals should know their limit. Most cases of alcohol abuse or binge drinking occur because an individual goes way beyond their personal limit of alcohol consumption. This can occur on accident, by dare, by peer pressure, and various other reasons. If one exceeds his or her limit by peer pressure or hazing, there's a good chance he or she will be on the way to alcohol poisoning or death.

When I first learned that October 21 through October 27 was Alcohol Awareness Week, the first thought I had was of an accident that occurred this past April. A girl I attended high school with was in a drunk driving accident that took her life. I know that all of my friends that knew her were completely astounded by this tragedy, and although I was not an acquaintance of hers, I still cannot comprehend how this accident has struck so close to home.

Alcohol related accidents and deaths are the kinds that make you think, "if only he didn't have that last drink" or "if only she didn't get in that car". There are ways of preventing alcohol related tragedies. For instance, lookout for a friend or peer if you see them heading into trouble; lookout for yourself if you are drinking or around people who are heavily drinking. Most importantly, know your limits—for yourself and others protection. Keep in mind someone you know or a story you have heard involving alcohol-related accidents, this may help hinder alcohol related tragedies not only among college students, but all people.

## Random Thoughts

So far this year I have found myself pulling all-nighters on a regular basis, and yet I get nothing accomplished. I don't do work, I am not reading my books, I mean, I'm not even accomplishing anything in a video game. I am just hanging out with people, getting nowhere, and finding that I am having the time of my life. Finally, after more than two years at Alma, I have figured out what college is really all about.

Now, I guess I should clarify that by "regular basis" I mean at least once a week, more often twice a week. It sounds crazy, I know, but you get used to it as time goes on. Sleep is over-rated, anyway.

Seriously, if you want to really appreciate your college years, I suggest that you just stop sleeping now. You will find that the best times you will have in college are those

## Sleep hampers collegiate experience

ones where you and your friends decide to go to the International House of Pancakes at four in the morning on a Tuesday and follow that up with a quick trip to the Mackinac Bridge. There is really nothing like it,

It is far better than making lists and schedules of what you have to do when, or setting a routine for when you sleep and wake up. Taking the time to just go out and have fun with no plan in mind is what living is really all about.

Of course, I am not saying that you have to go to the extremes that I have in this regard (I mean, I don't really think it's all that healthy to never sleep, and making some sort of plan as to when I will do homework or get tasks accomplished would

b good...I should check on that).

That is the real point I am trying to make here, I guess: the best way to enjoy college is to live spontaneously, and the best way to accomplish this is to always be awake so that no opportunity ever passes you by. So please, stop going to bed. Whenever you feel the urge to close your eyes and drift off into oblivion, grab a two-liter of Mountain Dew and a friend who's willing to slap you around a little so that you stay awake. You will really appreciate it...until you pass out and miss all of your classes for a few days while you lay comatose on a couch somewhere. But trust me, it is totally worth it.

*Kevin Bilbrey,*  
*Opinion*  
*Editor*



## CRL trip a compassionate endeavor

**BILL McHENRY**  
**STAFF WRITER**

A handful of Alma College students served homeless people during the fall break.

Students served lunch from 8 to 11 in the morning at the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Lunch included fruit and salad, assorted drinks such as fruit punch, tea, and coffee, and several different types of desserts. Hygiene kits and showers were also available.

The Center for Responsible Leadership sponsored the trip. The trip leader was **Antuan Davis-Featherstone (09)**. Jen Starkey, librarian, participated in the trip along with six other

students.

"The Open Door program at Fort Street seeks to address the issues of homelessness and poverty in the city of Detroit. This program is a beacon of light in the lives of many needy people," said Davis-Featherstone. "People who go unrecognized and uncared for, but need the basics of life, like a shower, clothing, a haircut, and a hot meal."

Such experience provides students with a different outlook on life. Helping out needy people gives a sense of compassion and makes people grateful for everything they have in their life.

The trip also provides students

with leadership experience. Davis-Featherstone guided the trip, allowing him to supervise over all the trips details.

"Good leaders give back, not just in money, but time. Often we think service requires donating and nothing else. There's nothing wrong with giving money," said Davis-Featherstone. "However, it is my belief that leaders can be most impactful with the time they spend helping someone. Giving from the heart requires an earnestness and being able to forget how great you think you are because the level of greatness should never be measured in a title, but in a towel."

## The Almanian

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

### Statement of Purpose

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

### Publication

*The Almanian* is distributed to Alma College's campus 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

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### Staff Editorial Policy

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

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Alma College Community,

As this exciting Disability Awareness Week and all its activities come to a close, we would like to extend yet a final piece of learning material. In traversing the internet, we have come across a helpful umbrella website (tolerance.org) that discusses how to build understanding with our fellow disabled citizens. The site discusses nine attitudinal barriers that disabled persons of all kinds encounter on a regular basis. We would like to lay out these nine for your gain with the hope that together we can reduce intolerance.

**Inferiority:** Some people believe that a disabled individual is a “second-class citizen;” however, most people with disabilities have skills that make the impairment moot in the workplace.

**Pity:** Feeling sorry towards a person with a disability tends to lead to patronizing attitudes. People with disabilities generally don’t want pity and charity, just equal opportunity to earn their own way and live independently.

**Hero worship:** People consider someone with a disability to be brave or “special” for overcoming a disability. Most people with disabilities do not want accolades for performing day-to-day tasks. The individual has simply learned to adapt by using his or her skills and knowledge.

**Ignorance:** People with disabilities are often dismissed as incapable of accomplishing a task without the opportunity to display their skills. In fact, people with disabilities can often perform tasks that may outwardly appear impossible.

**The Spread Effect:** People assume that an individual’s disability negatively affects other senses, abilities or personality traits, or that the total person is impaired. Focusing on the person’s abilities rather than his or her disability counters this type of prejudice.

**Stereotypes:** The other side of the spread effect is the positive and negative generalizations people form about disabilities. Aside from diminishing the individual and his or her abilities, such prejudice can set too high or too low a standard for individuals who are merely human.

**Backlash:** Many people believe individuals with disabilities are given unfair advantages, such as easier work requirements. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not require special privileges for people with disabilities, just equal opportunities.

**Denial:** Many disabilities are “hidden,” such as arthritis and heart conditions. People tend to believe these are not bona fide disabilities needing accommodation. The ADA defines “disability” as an impairment that “substantially limits one or more of the major life activities.”

**Fear:** Many people are afraid that they will “do or say the wrong thing” around someone with a disability. They therefore avert their own discomfort by avoiding the individual with a disability. Frequent encounters can raise the comfort level.

Essentially the basic idea here is that folks who struggle with a disability of any kind are alert, heartfelt, and knowledgeable about their individual case. While many outsiders are intimidated to discuss issues that may be sensitive with the “afflicted,”—such as how the blind or little people view the world—most are eager to share personal stories. For it is in learning of each others’ pasts that we discover how alike we all can be.

*Label jars—not people!*

Will Allen (09) & Monica Rentfrow (08)

## Russian government works to instill fear, deny people’s freedom

**BILL McHENRY**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Today’s Russia eerily resembles Soviet-era Russia. The upcoming presidential election does not seem to be an exercise in democracy, rather an extension of President Vladimir Putin’s power.

**“It is clear that the Russian government is installing fear to prevent criticism. Free speech makes a democracy; without free speech democracy cannot exist.”**

Polls project Sergei Ivanov and Dmitry Medvedev as the current leaders for the election to be held in March. Both Ivanov and Medvedev are Deputy Prime Ministers to Putin. Putin announced he would back a candidate once the election progresses; it is expected that candidate to be either Medvedev or Ivanov.

The election of either man raises concerns of whether they will be puppets under Putin, thus continuing his rule. Putin is barred from seeking a second term due to term limits. The election hardly seems to be a fair contest. Potential competitor Garry Kasparov, best known as the former World Chess Champion, participated in a protest against Putin and the Governor of Saint Petersburg and was arrested and fined.

These steps away from democracy pale in comparison to several suspicious deaths of

journalists. Over 15 journalists have been killed since Putin came to power, and they are likely to be related. Paul Klebnikov, Anna Politkovskaya and Ivan Safronov are some of the most recent examples.

Klebnikov published a book communicating his views on the Chechnya conflict. In July 2004 he was shot and killed in Moscow by unknown assailants.

Politkovskaya also published books on Chechnya plus “Putin’s Russia.” This book accuses Putin’s administration of removing judges for not following instructions, an army where the enlisted are tortured and treated as slaves, and the barbarity of the Russian military towards Chechnya. She was found shot dead in October 2006.

Alexander Litvinenko accused Putin of carrying out her murder. Litvinenko himself died from polonium-210 radiation poisoning a little over a month later. His death can also be attributed to the Putin government.

Ivan Safronov was flung from the fifth floor of his apartment building in March 2007. He lived on the third floor, making it an unlikely suicide. Safronov’s last works consisted of charges that problems in military training led to deaths of soldiers. This angered many in the government.

Whether or not Putin himself carried out these murders is irrelevant. It is clear that the Russian government is installing fear to prevent criticism. Free speech makes a democracy; without free speech democracy cannot exist. The current trend in Russia forecasts a repressive dictatorship forming. Repressing free speech brings back memories of the days of “Pravda.”

## Students should take time to consider college choice

**LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI**  
**STAFF WRITER**

With an incoming class size of near 450, the largest Alma College has ever seen, I wonder if next year the class size will be the same? Throughout the last two months, I have heard many complaints made by freshman about Alma College. These remarks vary from completely hating the school to wanting to leave just because. Some students despise their roommates, others dislike their classes, and still more the homework.

These three concerns will always be faced at college, no matter where that may be. True, the expectations for quality work may be lower at a public school. But these 450 students chose to go to Alma, and if they

did not have full knowledge of the situation, well then, frankly, they are stupid. Choosing where to go to college is a life changing experience, and if a large group of 450 incoming freshman decided they had no clue what they were getting into when coming to Alma, then I have a right in challenging their mentality.

If, however, they knew full well what is being handed to them in choosing Alma, then let them not be discouraged. The other factors can be altered. Roommates can be swapped, classes change in a mere three to four months and, well, homework was addressed. Just get used to it.

Other students complain about issues not so easily resolved, such as the financial factor and

not having enough to do.

The financial situation is something, like homework, that should have been thoroughly thought out before applying and coming to Alma.

**“Choosing where to go to college is a life changing experience.”**

With the acceptance that Alma is not the most exciting town, it also is not void of things to do, and this should have been put into consideration and should have been seen when a probable visit to Alma was made.

And yet another question needs to be considered: is it

actually true, as students claim, that there is nothing to do at and around Alma, or does it come down to the fact that there is nothing that the students want to do? A small difference in wording that makes a large difference in meaning. What is it that Alma is lacking, and if it is something to do, then what is that “something” specifically. Mount Pleasant, not far away, is an excellent place to seek refuge from the small town feeling.

So faced with various situations, some that could have been avoided and others that can still be resolved, why did these students choose Alma? Perhaps it is a question I will not know the answer to. I accept those who came to Alma and are now disheartened by the chose of difficult or boring classes,

or perhaps an incompatible roommate.

However, those other students who chose to go to Alma without giving it the proper consideration, those students I find to be incapable of making decisions. These particular students should have given deliberate thought to the matter before making a hasty decision to come to college. They should have contemplated the matter, and simple factors such as having to accomplish a liberal arts school’s load of work and paying the fee to go there, should have been thought out long ago. If they did not have the capacity to think of those things before they came to college then I am glad to have my class size diminished for their sake.



# One on one with Coach Hamstra

IAN FOWLEWER  
STAFF WRITER

Alma has just recently received a new head swimming and diving team coach. Chris Hamstra was chosen to lead the Scots' swimming and diving team this year. The Almanian sat down with Coach Hamstra to ask about his new position, and here's what he had to say:

**The Almanian:** So, Coach, tell me a little about yourself, your past positions, and your experience as a swimmer.

**Coach Hamstra:** Well, before coming to Alma, I was the assistant coach for the swimming and diving team at Hope College. Before that, I swam for Hope for four years. It was fun and really learned a lot about competitive swimming.

**Alm.:** What do you think of Alma so far?

**CH:** I really like it. Everyone is real nice, and the town is really neat. It's different than Hope, for sure, but not in a bad way. Alma definitely has a smaller swim and dive team, but the [members] we do have really work hard to do well, and that's something that I look for in a good swim team.

**Alm.:** What are some of the things you are looking forward to accomplishing this year at

Alma?

**CH:** I'd like everyone on the team to get at least one best time in their event. Basically, I want everyone on the team to win

*"I want everyone on the team to win at least once. We have a lot of potential and everyone work really hard. We should do fine,"*

**Chris Hamstra,  
Swimming Head**

at least once. It would also be cool to do better at the MIAA Championships in February. We have a lot of potential and, like I said, everyone works really hard to do well - so we should do fine.

**Alm.:** How many swimmers and divers are there this season, and is there any of them we should watch for to stand out?

**CH:** On the swim team we have six men and eight women. On the diving team we have only two men and seven women. As for the stand-outs, it's really still kind of vague as to who, if anyone, will stand out, but I

think maybe **Spencer Johnson (10)**, or **Andrew Brunner (11)** have a good chance of becoming our top guys. **Sarah Anderson (10)** will do pretty well, also, for the women's team.

**Alm.:** What about the seniors of the team? Is this the last year for any of them?

**CH:** Yeah, we have a handful of seniors leaving next year, but I'm not too worried. We have even more freshman and sophomores staying next year, and many of them have some outstanding talent.

**Alm.:** Are there any events that the team is real strong at?

**CH:** I think the 200 [meter] medley relay will be one of our strong events, as well as the four [hundred meter] free relay and the eight [hundred meter] free relay. We have some real strong men swimmers, and the women are looking pretty good too, so we should do OK in most of our events.

**Alm.:** Most importantly, are you having fun?

**CH:** Yeah I am. I really love it here, and I'm looking forward to a fun competitive season ahead of us.

The team's first meet is on October 27 at the Holland Aquatic Center. The team's first home relay is on November 3.

## Fast cars, competition are more than hobby

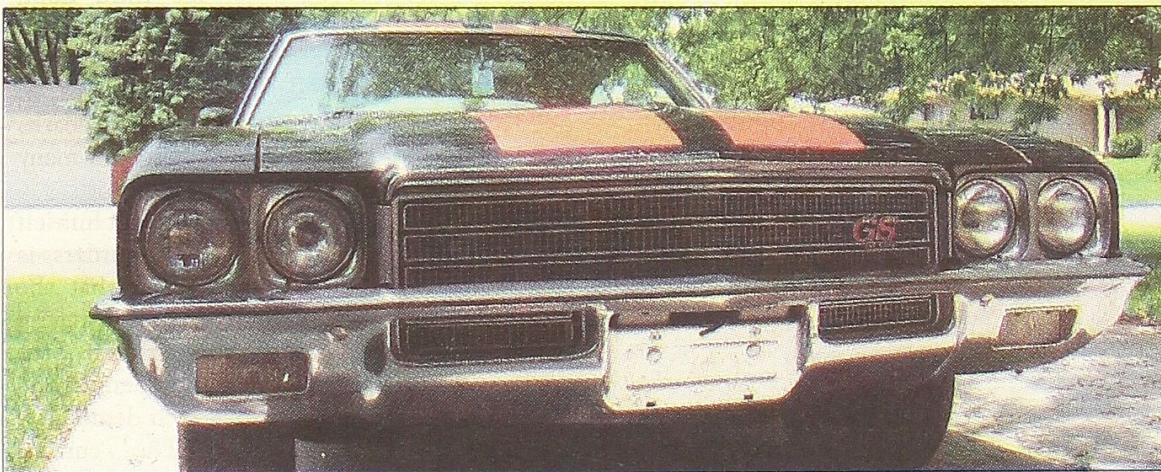


Photo courtesy of John Mathieson

John Mathieson use his 1971 Buick Skylark GS. to race with and to drive around town.

IAN FOWLER  
STAFF WRITER

**John Mathieson (11)** is a pre-med student from Rochester Hills, MI. He participates in the fencing club and is also a trumpet player in the Kiltie Marching Band. He also partakes in one of the fastest sports around: competitive drag racing.

This isn't the racing that you would find on the Need For Speed video games with all the Japanese import tuners and the underground drift races. Mathieson competes with American muscle cars: Chevy, Ford, Buick, and Dodge.

Mathieson began racing about two years ago, when he suggested to his uncle that they try racing his 1969 Chevrolet Camaro. His uncle liked the idea and decided to try it.

Mathieson has since competed in five events - two of which he was the champion.

The events are tournament-style elimination events. Each

elimination round consists of three races, called "runs". The best two out of three runs determines the winner, and that person moves on to the next elimination round.

"It's interesting because the rules are different for each event," said Mathieson. "You don't know what you will be able to do, and not do, until you get to the track. It all depends on which class you are racing in and what the track rules are. Each track is different."

One aspect of racing that could not change, however, is the car. Mathieson's Uncle's car was a Chevrolet Camaro, year 1969, with the L72 427 engine in it. "It would run about a mid to low ten second quarter-mile, on average," said Mathieson. "The fastest I ever got it to go was around the low nines, and it had about 750 to 800 horsepower."

"There was one run that I remember quite clearly," said Mathieson. "It was my second elimination round of the event, and I was racing against a 1972

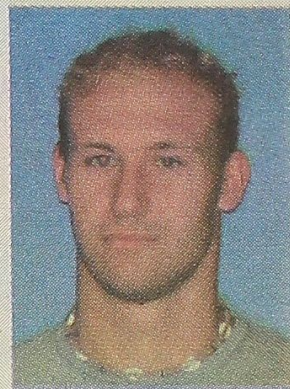
Dodge Challenger. That car was sweet! I ended up losing the first run, but won the second two runs to gather the elimination win. I managed to get a better jump off the line and got through the gears quicker than he did. We were within one one-hundredth of a second of each other in each of the second two races, but I somehow pulled off the win."

Mathieson's Uncle has since sold the Camaro, and Mathieson's current car is a 1971 Buick Skylark. "[The Buick] is a little more tame than the Camaro," said Mathieson. "The Skylark was my everyday streetcar back at home, so it had to be street legal. The Camaro was definitely not street legal."

College has slowed down Mathieson's racing, though. "This time of year is prime-time for racing," said Mathieson. "A lot of records are set and broken during the fall, and I desperately want to go home and get a few runs in before the snow comes."

## Pistons look to rookies for championship run

SEAN WEBBER  
STAFF WRITER



I am excited about Detroit Piston basketball. I am excited about their first round draft-pick Rodney Stuckey, who averaged nearly 25 points per game in his last year with Eastern Washington. I am excited that rookie Aaron Affalo scored 20 and Jason Maxiell tallied up a double-double for Detroit against the Spurs on Saturday. I am even excited about the rumors flying around about Chris Webber finally calling it a career (sorry Chris).

Going 3-4 so far in the preseason, I am not the only one excited about the Pistons' upcoming season. Coach Phil Saunders voiced his opinions following Detroit's impressive (albeit losing) effort against western conference juggernaut San Antonio.

"You have to understand, these are learning experiences," said Saunders. "I don't look at the score; I look at how a guy is playing in situations."

"We're basically playing four rookies. Four rookies that are playing a lot for me and they're in a back to back situation, so it's an adjustment."

Saunders' faith in his team is much like my faith in his team. However, I believe that there are a few key factors that will allow Detroit to be a better team than last year, one that will be able to push past LeBron James in the post-season.

The Pistons need a powerful center. Chris Webber has announced again and again that the only place he wants to play is in Detroit, or he may retire. Am I disappointed? No, Chris Webber proved to be a valuable asset throughout last season. Webber is an excellent passer from the post, and brings veteran wisdom to the Pistons' lineup.

However, he is not the same explosive Chris Webber that he used to be. The Pistons need Jason Maxiell and Azir Johnson to step up where Webber falls short, like in the paint. Take for instance the combination in Miami last season where Shaquille O'Neal provided a powerful offense, while Alonzo Mourning was one of the most (if not the most) intimidating defensive force in the NBA. Where Chris Webber can score 11 points a game, Maxiell or Johnson may need to provide two or three blocks and ten or twelve rebounds apiece.

Some argue that the Chris Webber experiment failed because the regular Pistons lineup tried too hard to integrate him into the offense. Even Saunders has stated that his offense needs to be more assertive. However, I think that using Webber (as opposed to overusing him) will be very beneficial to Detroit, especially with the super-active Richard "Rip" Hamilton on the floor. Assertion is definitely a problem with Detroit, but one that is easily remedied with the basketball knowledge of point guard Chauncey Billups, as well as Webber's veteran knowledge. With Hamilton healthy (he is currently convalescing from an ankle sprain) I think the Pistons will have a balanced and aggressive offense, especially with a healthy Antonio McDyess coming off the bench (and providing more basketball IQ) and Teyshaun Prince being utilized instead of forgotten with Webber on the floor.

Most importantly, I think Chauncey Billups needs to be both aggressive and assertive as a leader on the floor, and as a scorer. Billups ended up having more turnovers than assists in the series against Cleveland during last year's playoffs. That is partly due to the Cavaliers' excessive trapping, but mostly to the lack of depth and support he had at the point guard position. This season, he has Rodney Stuckey to turn to for support. Stuckey has the size (being 6'5) to play both guard positions and be aggressive off the dribble. He finishes well with both hands and he shoots well. Billups may finally be able to come out fresh in the fourth quarter, which he hasn't really been able to do since his 2005-06 season. He'll be able to come out in the fourth quarter and be Mr. Big Shot again. Who wouldn't be excited about that?

With the preseason winding to a close, we will be able to see just how the Pistons click as they face Miami next Thursday. My only hope is to see two things: One; a healthy Rip Hamilton, and two; someone playing center with authority. If I watch that, I'm confident that Detroit will be successful this season, success hopefully leaning towards another shiny championship trophy.



# Women's soccer closes regular season with 'W' at home

**RACHEL DOTSON**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The women's soccer team concluded its regular season at home on Wednesday with a 3-2 victory over the Bells of St. Mary's College.

Following three games without finding the back of the net, the Scots were more than prepared to dominate their competition in the final third.

"We have been working really hard on being less direct with our play and making more creative runs in the offensive end of the field," said midfielder **Angie Szatkowski (08)**.

The first goal of the game came in the thirty-second minute on a corner kick from center midfielder **Kelly Walsh (10)**, and was just following a huge penalty kick save by goalkeeper **Katie Weicksel (10)**.

The Maroon and Cream went into halftime leading 1-0, but St. Mary's was quick to come out and tie up the game in the second half.

Forward **Jessica Swan (11)** was the first Scot to respond, beating the Bells defense and their keeper from the top of the 18.

Just eight minutes later Swan connected with outside midfielder **Katie Boss (10)** to increase the team's lead to 3-1. St. Mary's answered back one last time, but Alma was able to hold them off and claim the 'W.'

Swan's efforts in the match were not only key in attaining a Scots victory, but also earned her a place in the record books as Alma's leading single season goal scorer at 16.

Ending this portion of the MIAA season with a record of 3-4-1 (8-7-2 overall), the Scots are currently standing in sixth

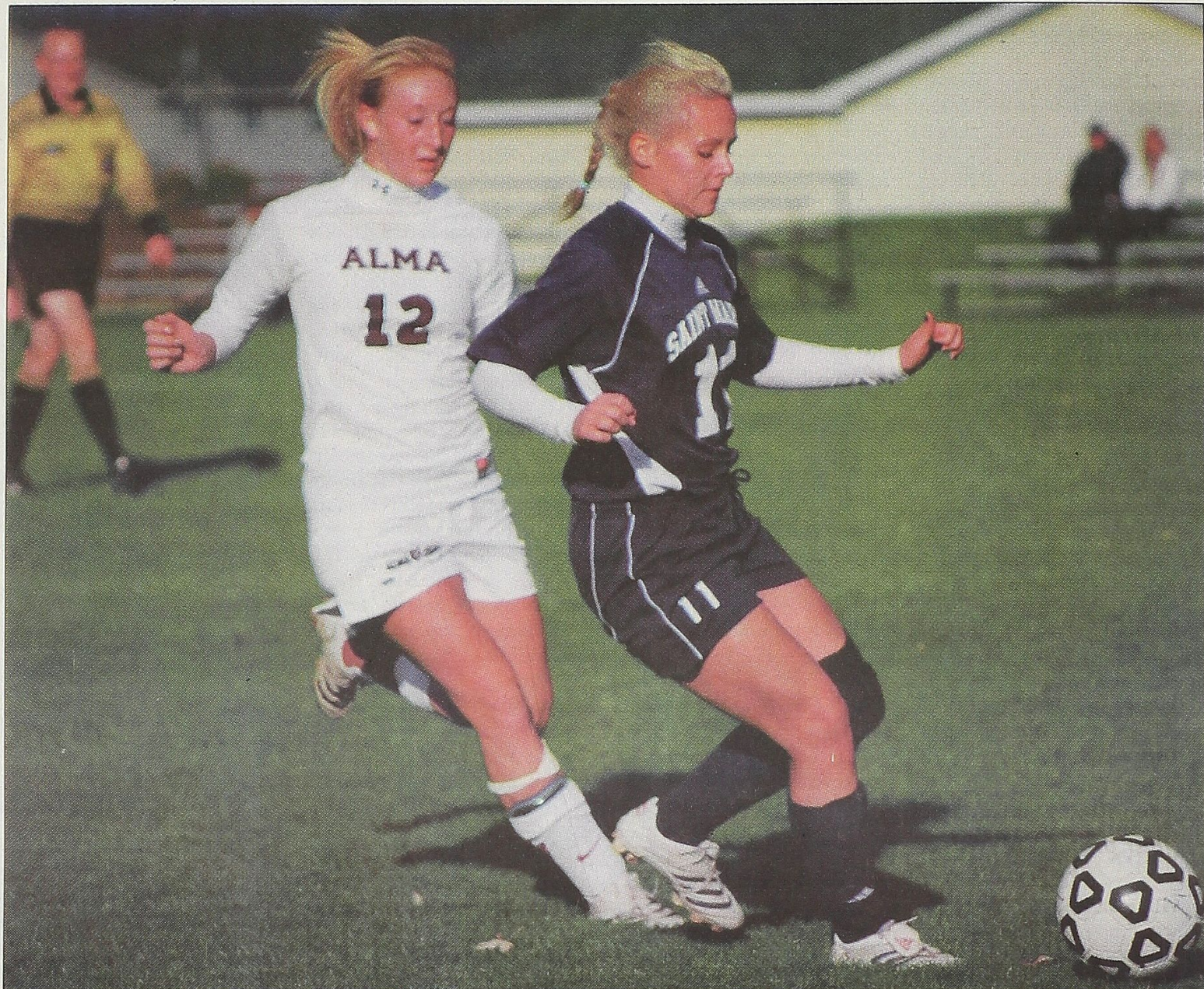


Photo by Brent Riley

Freshman Veronica Femminineo works hard to steal the ball away from a St. Mary's player during the women's final home game.

place out of nine and are set to begin MIAA tournament play tomorrow against third-place Albion (5-2-1 MIAA, 11-3-2 overall). Boasting the better record, Albion claims home field advantage for the game's noon kickoff.

"It's always nice to finish your career with a win, and we hope to take Wednesday's

momentum into the conference tournament," said center midfielder **Kim Hoeltzel (08)**.

Alma fell to the Brits of Albion College on Saturday, September 29, in a 2-3 overtime heartbreaker.

"We're ready to show Albion how we can really play," said Szatkowski. "We didn't prove

ourselves to them during the regular season."

Should the Scots come out on top tomorrow they will earn three points and a place in the MIAA semi-finals on Wednesday, where a win is worth six points.

Last Saturday the women hosted Olivet College in a game that marked the culmination

of five seniors' careers. As is the tradition on senior day, each player was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the program and to Alma College.

Head coach Jeff Hosler honored the hard work and four-year dedication of these seniors by giving each one a starting position on the field that day.

## Volleyball senior honored after loss to St. Mary's

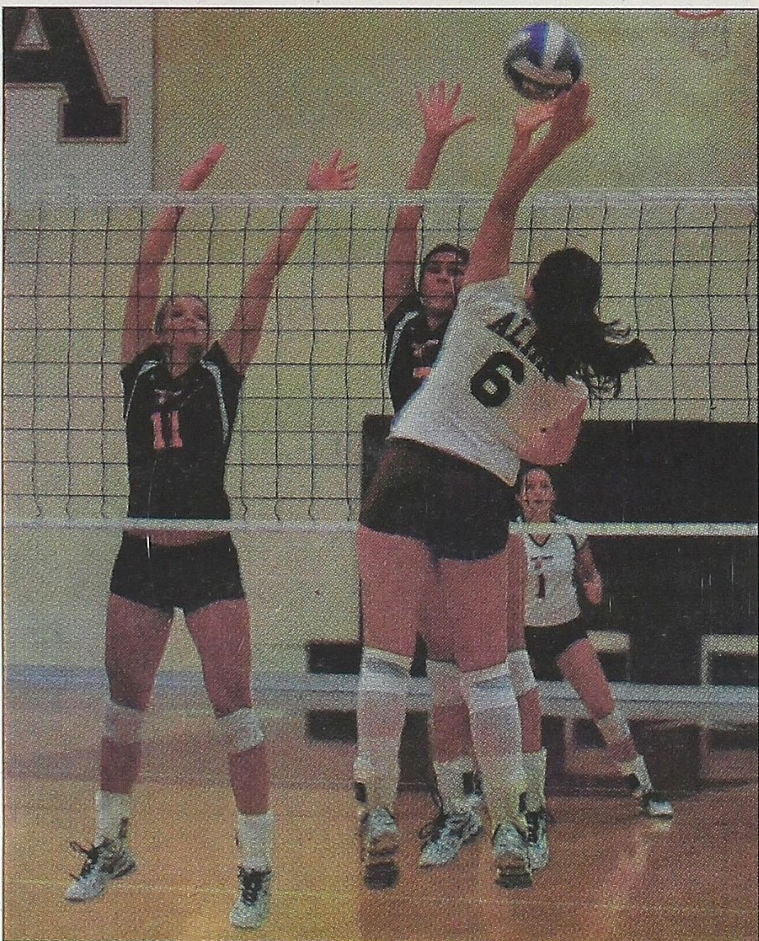


Photo by Brent Riley

Sarah Scow (10) jumps to spike the ball past the other team.

**CHELSEA CLARK**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Scots started the night with high intensity, looking to better their game from their last match up with St. Mary's College on September 13. Alma did just that in the first game, winning 30-21. They then took the lead early in the second game, but could not keep it up in the third and fourth games, falling to St. Mary's 1-3. Their season record becomes 6 - 21.

"I had high hopes at the beginning of the match," said Coach Luzynski, "We were not prepared for them to step up their game after our initial success. It has been a long season and it has started to wear on the girls."

The Scots have completed their final home match for this season and, in doing so, celebrated senior night. This year's team had one senior, **Amanda Risch (08)**. Risch is the 2007 team captain and, for the past two years, has been awarded the

"Ultimate Teammate" award. "She has always set a standard for the rest of the team," said Luzynski.

**"Mandy, thank you  
for being you,"**

**Cheyenne Luzynski,  
Volleyball Head Coach**

At the conclusion of the match, Luzynski said a few words about her senior. "Mandy is defined by her arduous work ethic, intense passion, and inspirational positive energy. She exhibits unconditional commitment, kindness, and love for her teammates and school."

"After high school I was not going to play in college. It is hard being short and playing volleyball," said Risch. After Risch's decision to give college volleyball a try, she spent three years on varsity. She leads the team in digs - with 428 - and leading her nearest teammate by nearly 200 digs.

Some of Risch's favorite memories this season are "training with her teammates to run a mile in under six minutes and camping out the weekend before school, with the entire team canoeing and playing survivor. Last night one of my teammates and I camped out in the gym. I had to the night before my last game here, but now I feel really numb. I do not know what to think," said Risch.

"The impact Mandy has had on this program - and everyone involved - is infinite and powerful," said Luzynski, "It will be immensely difficult to replace [the] energy and intensity that she played with. We will miss her competitive fire, her will to fight, her unmatched leadership and overcoming the odds by following her dream to play at college. Mandy, thank you for being you!" Risch is majoring in elementary education and has plans on teaching either second or third grade following graduation.