

The Almanian

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Friday, November 2, 2007

"Serving Alma College Since 1907"

UNDER THE COVER

Just one week after severe weather hit the Mid-Michigan area Physical Plant is releasing a revised emergency manual

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The dance concert exhibits great diversity throughout each of its four pieces

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Saw IV offers decent plot, plentiful gore, and great entertainment

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Alma's Lacrosse team pulls together for continued improvement

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BY THE NUMBERS

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The number of days until Americans across the nation eat Turkey and celebrate Thanksgiving.

8

The number of alternative breaks being offered by Alma College during this year's spring break.

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Wellness is key to WELLebration success

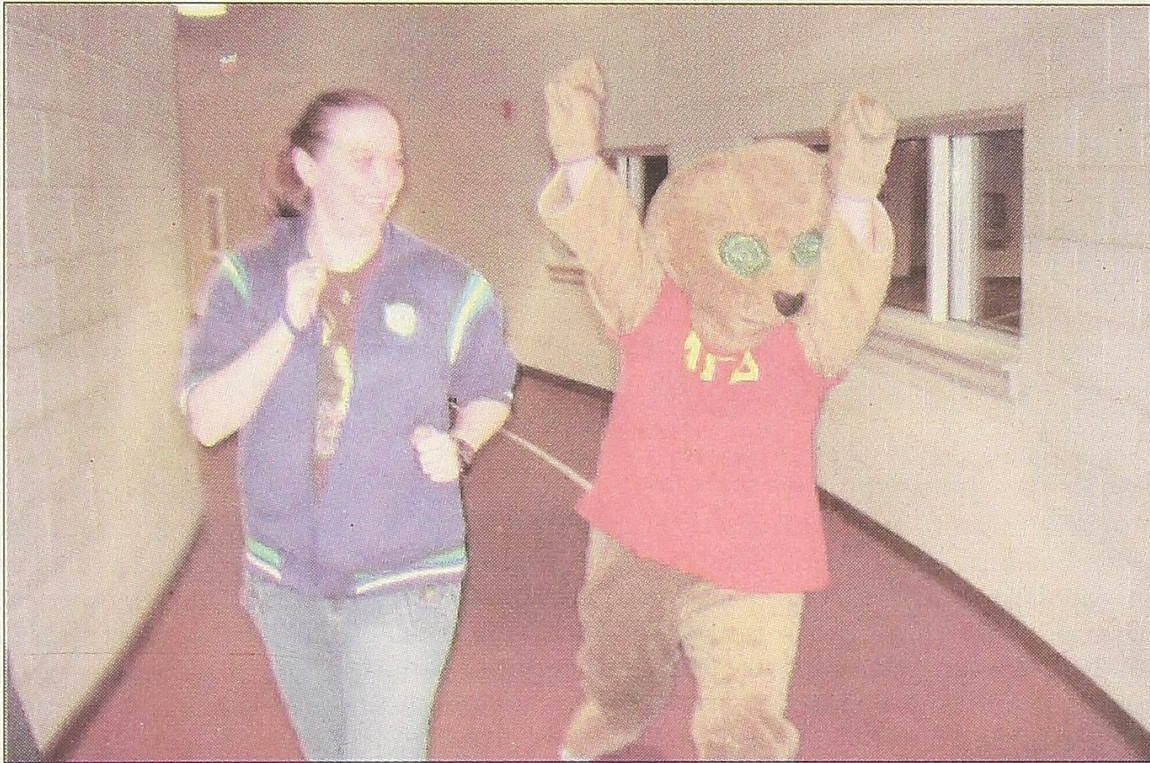


Photo courtesy of Anne Willenborg

Paula Colburn (09) and the Alpha Gamma Delta squirrel take a lap around the track showing how exercise can promote wellness throughout a person's entire self.

HADLEY BOEHM
STAFF WRITER

Friday, November 9 at 1 p.m. marks "WELLebration" at Alma College.

"This is the first of what we are hoping will become an annualevent here on campus," said event planner Cori Wagner of the Counseling and Wellness Center.

WELLebration is designed to promote awareness of wellness and is sponsored by the Alma College Counseling and Wellness Center. It is a free event open to students,

staff, faculty, parents, and community members.

"I think it's important that we know about wellness, but it has to be delivered in a way in which students will want to learn about it," said **Sarah Long (08)**.

WELLebration is designed to be both fun and educational in raising awareness about wellness and promoting healthy lifestyles.

One of the goals of WELLebration is to raise awareness of the seven dimensions of wellness: physical, emotional, intellectual,

social, spiritual, occupational and environmental.

Many campus offices and organizations will be in attendance to represent each of these dimensions.

These participants include representatives from the Counseling and Wellness Center, Health Services, Academic and Career Planning, the chaplain, Exercise and Health Science, Carol Fike, Colleges Against Cancer, and Sodexho.

Community organizations

SEE WELLNESS PG. 2

Project: Able! promotes awareness

AARON POOLEY
STAFF WRITER

A collaborative effort of Alma students and faculty, Disabilities Week addresses the need for more education toward disability awareness.

Disabilities Week consisted of three major events: speaker Johnnie Tuitel, the David Garcia Project, and the Special Olympics Poly-hockey Tournament.

Disabilities Week originated after Service Learning students attended a keynote address of Johnnie Tuitel. Tuitel has cerebral palsy and, through his writing and public speaking, provides his audience with a blend of humor and life stories. Tuitel's brain was not affected by the cerebral palsy and, while growing up, he became the first Michigan student integrated into a mainstream public school classroom.

Americorp Vista Volunteer Coordinator Alisa Dean, who helped organize Disabilities Week with students and faculty, said, "All of us time and time again need to remember that able-bodied people are inconvenienced everywhere they go. Ask yourself how you might get to class if you were in a wheelchair. Would you be able to use the same path as other students? Would it take

SEE PROJECT PG. 2

Alcohol Awareness Week draws to successful close

KATIE LIVINGSTON
STAFF WRITER

Alma College planned and coordinated a number of programs in support of alcohol awareness. This past week, October 21 through October 27, Alcohol Awareness Week took place.

According to www.alcoholawarenessweek.com, Alcohol Awareness Week was established for various members of the community to advertise a "message about responsible consumption of alcohol".

Monday night was Power Hour, where a selection of students and faculty performed a shot of beer every minute for an hour during a presentation by Greek Life.

This was by far the most popular program, said David

Blandford, Bruske hall director, director of student activities, and Orientation Committee advisor. It had 60 student attendees.

Tuesday was the MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) presentation. The presentation included true stories of outcomes caused by drunk driving accidents.

The Student Survey on Alcohol Use was laid out in the Student Life Office on Wednesday. This survey was anonymous and had a prize of \$100 to a randomly drawn participant.

Thursday was the season premiere of the television series Scrubs. ACUB served "Mocktails" in Jones Auditorium.

Friday's activity was Thinkfast Trivia.

Photographs of people killed/injured in alcohol

related accidents were hung by the Bruske Hall staff next to the Kiltie Korner bookstore. Also, a white van destroyed by a drunk driver

"Campuses need to educate students on excessive drinking and consequences that can occur on both a personal and academic level,"

Edward Hammond,
NCAAW Chairman

was parked on campus by Newberry Hall.

Blandford states that awareness is important and vital on Alma's campus for a few reasons. First of all, awareness promotes

a problem in this society involving alcohol, but notes there are resources available to those in need.

Also, Blandford feels that this week is necessary because it may move binge drinkers and make them want to cut back.

Finally, Blandford shares that Alcohol Awareness Week really allows people to belong in groups that do not include alcohol.

According to Edward Hammond, National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week's (NCAAW) chairman, "... campuses need to educate students on excessive drinking and consequences that can occur on both a personal and academic level."

Hammond said, "We have to engage and empower students to take care of themselves and each other."

Severe Weather Manual protects students

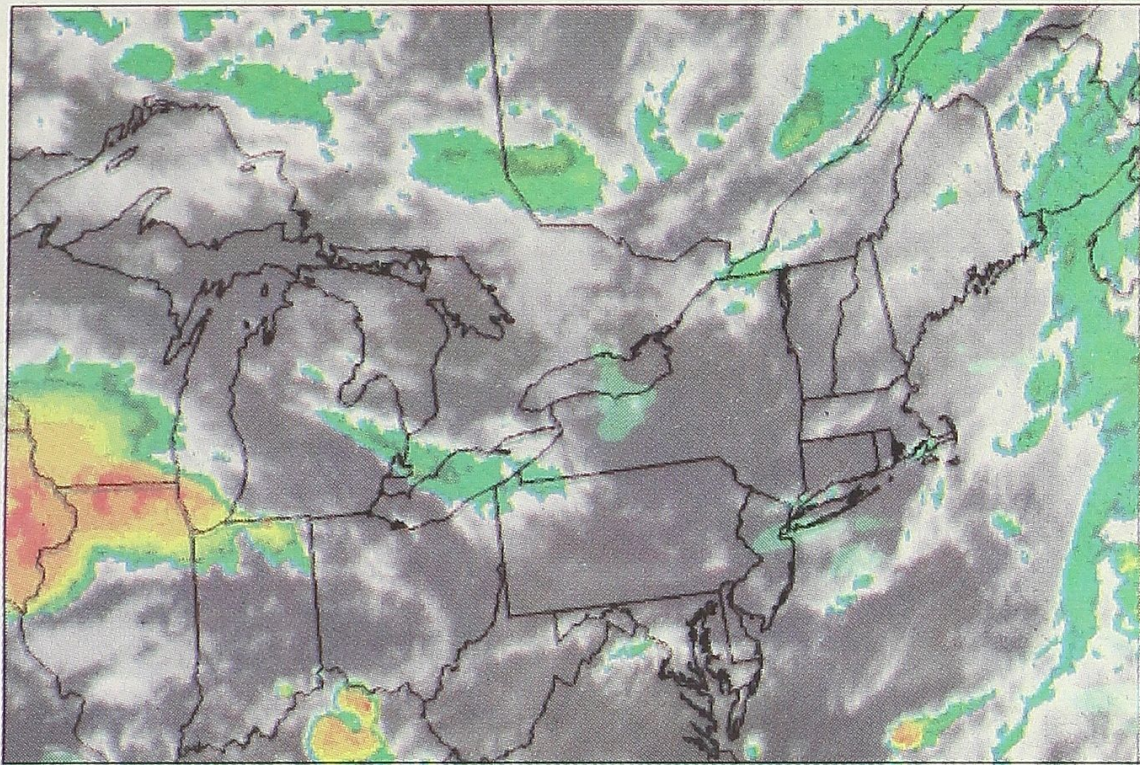


Photo courtesy of wktv.linkjam.com

Several tornados touched down around the Lansing area over Fall Break. Now, after two years of revision, the Alma College Severe Weather Manual is ready to be put to the test.

ANNA ZICHI NEWS EDITOR

As severe weather ripped through Mid-Michigan over Fall Break, Physical Plant ensured that everyone still on campus was safe. It has been a long process, and has been put to the test, but the Severe Weather Manual has been revised and is ready to be put into action.

"I have had this job for two years and, when I came in, the Severe Weather Manual was really thin and vague," said Robert Boyce, director of Physical Plant. "Since May of 2005 we have revised the manual. Right now it is 98% complete and much more precise."

In each residence hall there is now a building coordinator and a back-up coordinator. These people are usually the Hall Director and the Administrator on Duty (A.O.D.). If severe weather strikes, they are to make sure everyone in the building is safe and knows where to go.

"The reason why we have building and back-up coordinators is because Physical Plant just does not have enough people to canvass all of campus in an emergency," said Boyce.

"Every time something is wrong, needs to be added, or is missing, there will be a revision to the manual,"

**Robert Boyce
Physical Plant Director**

Each maintenance and security person carries a two-way radio with them at all times, which allows them to assist coordinators in keeping everyone safe in times of trouble. Every Resident Assistant (R.A.) has also been trained in this area.

One of the improvements made to the emergency plan collaboration with the Alma fire and police departments,

as well as the local Red Cross group to assist the college if need be. "These different groups will work with us in case of an emergency," said Boyce. "The fire and police departments have recently been on campus to make sure they are familiar with the layout."

Also in conjunction with the city, the college is working on setting up the sound system in the Chapel to have its own alert when the tornado siren in town goes off. The current problem is the questionable volume of the town siren on campus if severe weather is imminent, giving need to an alert right on campus.

In Boyce's office is a television tuned to the weather channel and a First Alert weather radio on at all times to alert campus if severe weather hits. A second weather radio is being added to the security office to help ensure students safety.

In one week Boyce will introduce the revised manual to the administrative council

Wellness from pg. 1...

and participants include Red Cross, Curves, Big Brothers Big Sisters, pregnancy services, and massage therapists. In addition, invitations have been sent out to local schools, businesses, and the hospital.

"The goal is to help people understand wellness and [understand that wellness] is multi-faceted," said Wagner. "Just because someone is physically healthy does not mean that they are 'well,' as there are other dimensions to consider. We are also hoping to make students, faculty, and staff more aware of local resources - both on campus and in the community - that promote these different dimensions of wellness."

There will be many chances to participate in activities and to win prizes throughout the day. In addition to representatives from wellness-related organizations, there will be a Nintendo Wii Tournament from 2 to 3 p.m., euchre from 2 to 5 p.m., dodge ball from 3 to 4 p.m., and a partner activity called the Alma "Triathlon" from 4 to 5 p.m.

Dale Nester, doctor of dental services, will also be present to give a presentation titled "Dental Health and its Relationship to Overall Systemic Health" at 1:30 p.m. Nester is an Alma alumnus and is very active in both the campus and the community.

Wagner hopes "that each person who attends WELLebration can take away at least one new piece of information, meet one new person, and improve their overall wellness based on something they experienced during the event."

Those who cannot attend the event but are interested in learning more about wellness can stop by the Counseling and Wellness Center or visit http://www.alma.edu/student_life/cwc for links to many wellness related websites. A more detailed schedule of events is also available at www.alma.edu/student_life/cwc/events.

on campus. After that meeting it will be posted on the Alma portal for all students, faculty, and staff to view. "Through the meeting and by posting it on the portal we are able to properly show campus how to use the manual," said Boyce.

The manual shows designated safe zones in all the buildings and lays out procedures if severe weather hits. Essentially, these zones are in the basement, when possible - away from windows and doors - and always inside.

Upon the introduction of the manual to campus, Physical Plant will begin conducting drills. Boyce said, "Not only will this educate

the students, but it will help us learn what needs to be done to refine the plan."

After this major revision, small adjustments will be made every time the current plan is deemed deficient. "Every time something is wrong, needs to be added, or is missing, there will be a revision to the manual," said Boyce.

"I do not think that we need to be treated like high schoolers and have drills, but I do feel that plans should be posted as a common sense tool," said **Margaret Hewitt (09)**.

If students notice a problem, they are asked to report it to Physical Plant. The goal is to simply keep everyone safe.

Project from pg. 1...

longer to go another way? These are only some of the questions that are important to remember - some are faced with asking themselves everyday." Before coming to Alma College, Dean worked with special needs students. She said, "I went with a group that brought special needs students to the Mall of America, and the number of people who either stared at these students or pretended that they weren't even there was tremendous. It was experiences like that which allowed me a glimpse into the invisibility that is a daily occurrence for some."

The David Garcia Project is designed to give students an experience of the senses to have some understanding

of what it might be like to lose vision or hearing, or not have use of arms or legs. This simulation has students paint without using their hands, placing the brush in their mouth. To enable students to become aware of those with learning disabilities, students are given tests written as some with learning disabilities might see them, then given the same amount of time those without a learning disability have to complete it.

The Special Olympics Tournament was held to coincide with National Make a Difference Day and is sponsored by the Non-Traditional Student Organization. Emily Neil, the student assistant to Alisa Dean, said, "The goal of the Special Olympics Tournament is for everyone to see the abilities

rather than disabilities. That is why we have the 'Disable the Label' buttons and posters - to focus on the abilities." The Venture Grant, which provided funding for Disabilities Week, assisted covering some of the expenses of the equipment for the Tournament.

As a continuation of the goals of Disabilities Week, copies of Johnnie Tuitel's books have been purchased for Alma Middle School to begin an after-school book club. The film documentary *Murderball* will be offered to those interested on the Alma campus. *Murderball* is similar to rugby, but the players are in wheelchairs. The film follows the USA *Murderball* team in their competitions with teams throughout the world.



Photo by Catherine Finley

Fiona MacAlpine (10) passes out candy while Big Brothers/Big Sisters trick-or-treated through North Campus on Monday.

Alma College Dancers present community with music, movement, and grace

BRITTANY LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

The curtains part and the house lights go down. A spotlight hits the stage. A single dancer stands and starts her dance. Grace, beauty, elegance, and splendor - all portrayed in movements - flowing across the theater, entangling the audience in emotion dripping from the music. Dance - bodies moving together to create something so beautiful that everything is entwined within it.

The first dance is an emotional resurrection of a decree that was put out in Germany by Hitler to explain where all the people were going. He claimed that they disappeared into the night and fog, which is where we get the title "Nacht Und Nebel", or Night and Fog. Carol Fike, associate professor of dance and the director of Alma College Dance Company (ACDC), is dedicating this piece to all who were lost during the time period.

It is a solo for **Tara Roberts (09)** who also helped choreograph it. Roberts has been very involved in ACDC since she was in high school taking college classes during regular studies.

Quartet Conspirato, a group of four string musicians, will be playing live music in this piece. The music, composed by Samuel Barber, was picked piece because it's based upon the book, "Night", about a man who was in a concentration camp. The author refers to a violin that kept him going while in the concentration camp.

The second piece choreographed by Fike is called



Photo Courtesy of Carol Fike

(L-R) Laura Engebretson, Kayla Pesko, Crystal Lukowski, Jacquelyn Olson, Johanna Thompson, Sara Miller, Joree Abbey-Stone, Lindsay Copeland, Allison Barnhart, Heather Evans, Anna Dysinger, Gabriella Abrego

"Moments Ago". This piece was originally done in the 2000. Fike states, "This piece first premiered in the winter of 2000. Sadly enough, seven years later, we are still facing similar issues. I wonder when we will be free of it all!"

The music, a Kenny G. creation, is the song "Auld Lang Syne", the New Years song, with important moments in history dubbed over the top. These moments are not just presidents and influential people, but include comedians like Abbot and Costello and Cheech and Chong. The dubbing includes important sports moments and

a quote from the "War of the Worlds" broadcast.

Other things covered in the song are: government scandals, kids killing kids, war, and assassinations. All of these were big problems the United States was facing at the time.

The dance was not only choreographed by Fike, but also by the 21 current Dance Company members themselves. The company works from September 4th, when school starts, every night until midnight rehearsing for their one credit of dance. "They're not doing it for credit. They're doing it because they love dance, they're doing

it because they're dedicated to dance, and they're doing it because it's a part of who they are," Fike said.

Thomas Morris, associate professor of theatre and dance, is also choreographing two ballet pieces for the concert. One is a piece by Maurice Ravel, and the other, which he closes the concert with, is by John Philip Sousa. It is a tribute to the American parade and is choreographed in the style of George Balanchine.

Tina Vivian, costume designer, made the costumes and Mike Sheldon and John Dalziel created the sets and lighting

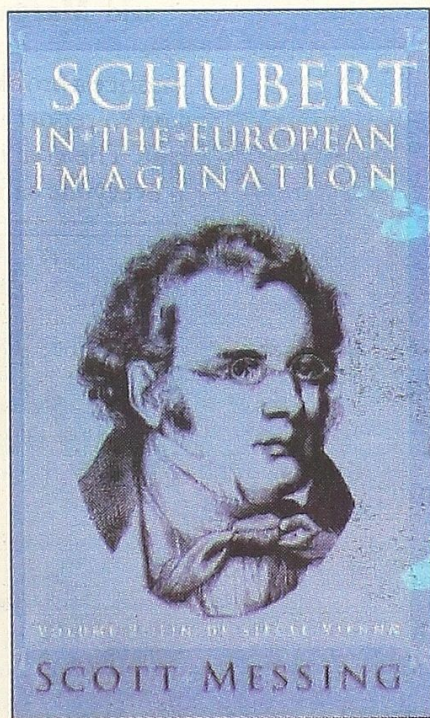
designs. "It promises to be a great show!" said Fike. "We're very appreciative of all the hard work of the students. We could not have done this concert without the students and their commitment."

The Alma College Dance Company performances will be held in the Remick Heritage Center November 9, 10, and 11 at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The cost is \$10 for adults and free for Alma College staff, students and youth 18 and under. Seating is reserved.

For ticket information call (989) 463-7304.

Scott Messing Ph.D. shares newest volume of research, gives insight into musical history



AARON POOLEY
STAFF WRITER

The Alma community commemorates the release of Dana Professor of Music Scott Messing's second volume on Franz Schubert, entitled "Schubert in the European Imagination: Fin-de-Siècle Vienna", which examines interpretations of Schubert's

music in art, literature, and music composition at the time of the centennial celebration of his birth.

Fin-de-Siècle translates from French as "Turn of the Century". The cultural context of this second volume refers to the period just before - and after - the year 1900. This is the time in Vienna when Sigmund Freud published his work on dream interpretation and, as a center of modernism, Vienna hosted artists such as Gustav Klimt. Messing said, "I am interested in how each of these Viennese modernists incorporated Schubert into their art, although Schubert had passed away decades before their popularity."

Schubert was born in 1797 and, for his centennial, Vienna had an exhibition of his work to celebrate Schubert's life and career. Schubert was the only composer at the time that had been born, lived, and died in Vienna.

Politically, this period in Vienna's history was a crucial

election, both locally and nationally. Messing said, "These elections brought the right wing of Viennese politics into power and forever doomed liberalism as it was known in Austria. Like today, politicians and the media who were particular to either the left or the right were all too eager to exploit the image of Schubert for their own political purposes."

The end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century was a period when the study of sex and sexuality came under intense scrutiny in German-speaking Europe. Freud and his colleagues began writing about the sexual histories of famous individuals of the past based on the documents that survived.

Messing said, "As one part of Sigmund Freud's vast writings were his works on sexual behavior. But, prior to Freud, there were several volumes published by individuals who were working in Vienna who had a sensational impact on Europe and eventually the United States. No one, until this time, had written about the topic of sex before."

Volume two dedicates certain chapters to specific people who included their inspiration from Schubert as a primary medium for their work. These artists include painter Gustav Klimt, writer Peter Altenberg, and composer Arnold Schoenberg.

These men were all famous during their lifetime; however, not all have retained this popularity. Messing said, "Arnold Schoenberg, arguably, was the signature modern composer of his day. He wrote the first compositions we now call atonal, and he was one of the first composers that wrote serial compositions." Both Schoenberg and Schubert were native to Vienna; however, Schoenberg was forced to leave after the Nazis invaded Vienna.

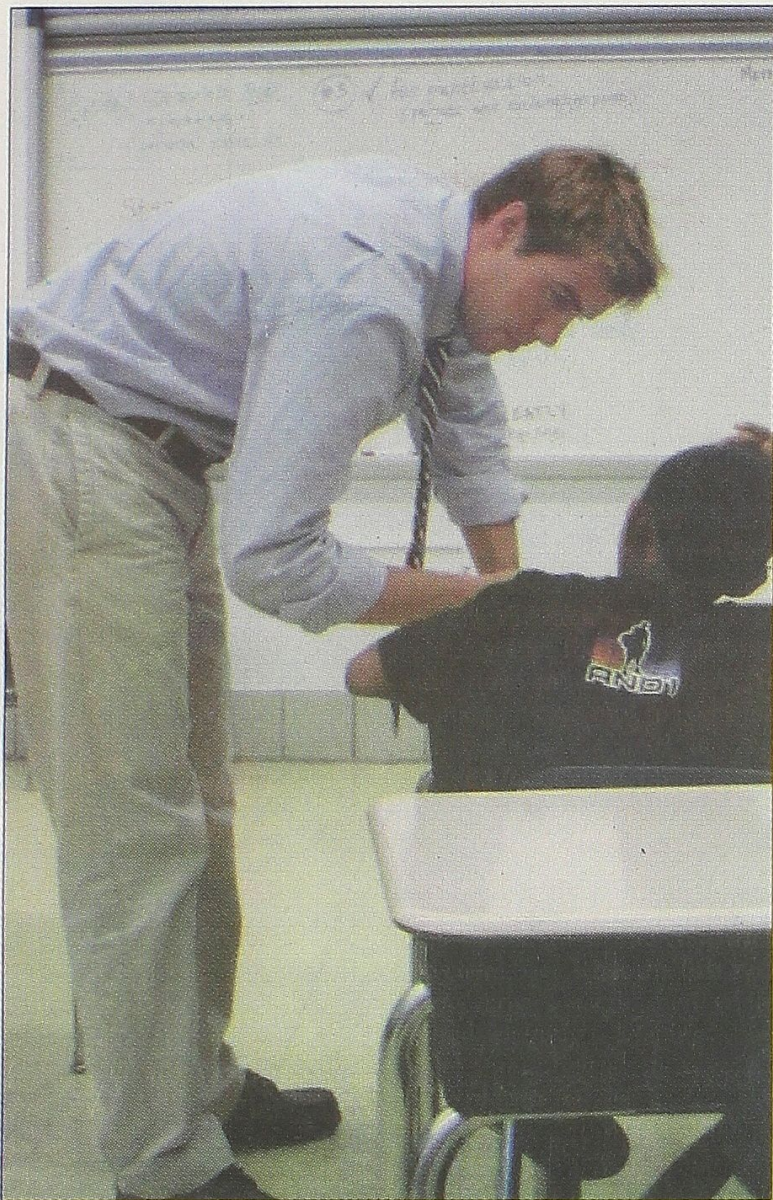
Gustav Klimt, whose artwork still retains its popularity, has pieces that are currently on display in New York City. Messing said, "If you go to Vienna today, you will see advertisements that incorporate Klimt's paintings for perfumes and labels on other products. Like Monet, who represents impressionism for Paris, Klimt is that signature painter for

the turn of the century Vienna. Klimt had a very famous painting of Schubert playing the piano, which unfortunately was destroyed in 1945. Fortunately enough, the painting existed at a time of good color reproduction, so today we have images of the painting that have survived."

Messing is currently working on a chapter - not to be included in the second volume - on a piano composition of Schubert's called "Military March in English". In this chapter, Messing traces the story of how the song became so famous.

Critic and Professor of Art History at Southern Methodist University, Alessandra Comini said, of Dr. Messing's new volume, "[Messing's book] is a graceful, far-ranging, [and] important study of fin-de-siècle perceptions of the Viennese composer as they affected national politics and cultural self-definition in the early twentieth century. The conceptual legacy of a feminine Schubert is scrutinized through the lens of political history, art, literature, music, and the inquisitive, but choosy, new science of sexuality."

Teach For America offer unique, rewarding post-graduate opportunity



KATIE LIVINGSTON
STAFF WRITER

Teach For America (TFA) is a national program that allows college graduates—and professionals—to dedicate themselves to teaching for two years. TFA members work in classrooms of low-income, rural and urban cities where help is much needed.

According to the Teach For America national website, www.teachforamerica.org, its mission “is to enlist our nation’s most promising future leaders in the movement to eliminate educational inequality.”

There are currently about 5000 TFA members; these members cover 26 regions all over the United States.

TFA recruits all majors and backgrounds, and even those who have no previous knowledge of teaching or prior experience with children.

This year there were just over 18,000 applicants for TFA, and approximately 2900 were accepted into the program.

The application process

for Teach For America begins with the online application. The second deadline for the first step is today; the next deadline will be January 4.

If selected based on step one, applicants move on to step two, which is a 30-minute phone interview.

Finally, the selected individuals partake in a day-long interview with a TFA representative. All TFA members attend summer training before teaching in the fall.

Two 2007 Alma alumni are working for Teach For America: Luke Livingston and Mollie Smith. Livingston is teaching at Catalyst Howland Elementary School in Chicago, and Smith is teaching at Maritime Academy Charter High School in Philadelphia.

According to the pair, there is another “extensive” interview process after an individual becomes a member of TFA.

Smith says that new members are required to take subject-area tests—these vary depending on what region an individual is placed. Then, depending on the test score,

TFA places the individual at a school with open positions.

Smith also said, “For those who don’t get placed during the interview weekend, the school district has a hiring process...and that process varies depending upon the district.”

Livingston’s third grade classroom is full of low-income children with various issues. He teaches kids with authority disorders, home-life problems, and more.

Although Livingston found the application process for TFA to be harder than law school applications, he finds the work very rewarding.

Matt Kramer, Teach For America’s chief program officer and president, states, “Educational inequity is a large and complex problem that demands the talent of a diverse group of our nation’s most promising future leaders.”

“Enlisting the largest Teach For America corps ever is an exciting and historic step in our plan to ensure that one day all children in this nation have the opportunity to attain an excellent education,” Kramer said.

Photo courtesy of Luke Livingston
Luke Livingston became part of Teach For America after graduating from Alma in 2007. The second application deadline is today.

Alma students with undecided majors share thoughts, reasoning

LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

“About 75% [of students] are somewhat uncertain of their direction. Almost 50% will change their direction at least once. Many students didn’t know their career choice even existed when they entered college,” quotes the Alma College website.

Although choosing a major plays a vital role in college decisions, some students - freshmen especially - remain

undecided in what field they wish to pursue.

“The reason that I haven’t chosen a major yet is because there are so many exciting fields to go into, and I just can’t make the decision with it only being the first semester,” said **Danielle Peabody (11)**. “[I] also do not know what job opportunities are out there, so I don’t want to waste my time taking classes that won’t benefit me. I have interests in psychology and radiography, but I am unsure if either is the right choice.”

Having to cope with useless classes pose a problem for many students. Of course there are the classes that must be taken - whether enjoyed or not - but many students share Peabody’s fear of wasting valuable time in the classroom.

“I am worried about taking classes that won’t help - such as poetry,” said **Emily Zilke (11)**. “Because I don’t know what I want to do with my life, I have not chosen a major. Right now, I’m interested in media and advertising, but

I am hoping that, as I take different types of classes, I’ll figure it out.”

Many students believe they have chosen what they want to major in years ago and are spot on.

“If you had asked me two years ago what I wanted to do, I would have definitely said secondary education, but as I looked into the field I couldn’t decide what I actually wanted to teach,” said **Jennifer Nigro (11)**.

“So, as I began to explore, I realized that I like a little bit

of everything, but I don’t like getting in too deep, because then I realize how freaky human nature is,” Nigro said. “I haven’t declared a major yet ... I can’t pick one thing that I want to do for the rest of my life.”

There are also students who know - immediately in entering college - what their major should be.

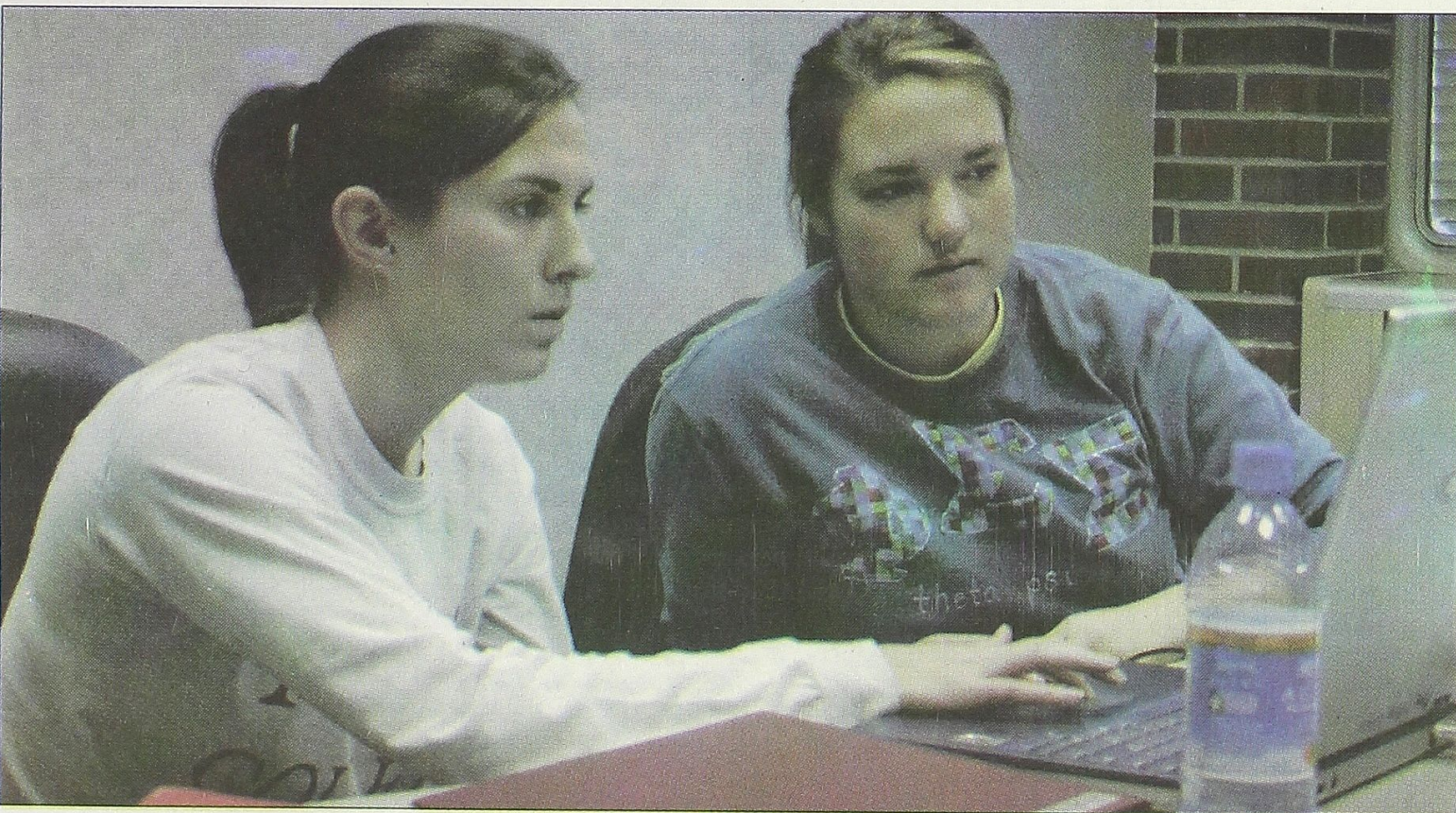
“I knew what I wanted to do, but there really wasn’t a need to declare my major - as long as you’re taking the classes,” said **Lindsey Siebert (09)**, a business major with focus in accounting. Siebert ended up declaring her major at the end of her sophomore year.

According to the Alma College Handbook, the end of the sophomore year is the required time to declare a major. Alma College students have had, at that point, two full years for a decision. Some, however, bypass this handbook rule.

According to Sue Deel, the registrar at Alma College, “there are a handful of seniors who have still not declared their major, which poses a problem as they can’t graduate without declaring [one].”

Although Alma freshman should feel no pressure to choose a major, Deel says it is best that they stick with the handbook and declare it at the end of their sophomore year.

“It is advantageous to declare a major by that time, and it is really helpful for them - and us,” said Deel.



Kristin Collins and Shannah Ford spend some time studying while contemplating possible majors to pursue at Alma College.

Photo by Brent Riley

Saw IV offers thrills, gore

LAUREN SYPNIEWSKI
STAFF WRITER

After *Saw III* left fans disappointed and angry, they could not expect a good sequel to follow, especially after the death of Jigsaw and his accomplice.

But the games have just begun, and Jigsaw vows his work will continue.

The *Saw* movies redefined the horror genre, leaving a vivid path in their wake of films trying to copy the psychological type of horror that at least the first *Saw* movie succeeds at attaining. While the money continued in the favor of the *Saw* franchise, the third movie was made. It failed in its attempt to continue what the first started and the second continued on a lesser level.

The fourth *Saw* movie is debatable. While very good for being a fourth sequel, it goes a bit overboard as the film tries to claim back what the first two *Saw* movies established while simultaneously keeping the gore intensified as in *Saw III*. The plot tries to get back at the psychological thriller, which it accomplishes in a different way as it continues the gore as seen in the third movie.

The way that *Saw IV* achieves that psychological thriller sense is by (as the messages written on the walls throughout the movie suggest) trying to make the audience feel as Jigsaw feels. Rigg, one of the FBI agents on the Jigsaw case, is driven to obsession to find the murderer before all of his friends and co-workers are slaughtered around him. Jigsaw (or whoever takes Jigsaw's place) takes advantage of Rigg's weakness, forcing him on a trail where he may be able to save those very lives.

On the way, Rigg is forced into thinking how Jigsaw does, as he meets people that his FBI mind tells him should die. In a way, he assists Jigsaw as he tries to get beyond these people to reach

those that "matter."

Saw IV also introduces new characters and focuses a lot on Jigsaw's past: why he is the way he chose to become. It coerces the audience into rooting for and against those struggling to survive; it gives a hint of what Jigsaw felt when he decided to create the game. This in itself is very interesting because it brings the audience down to a lower level, because what sort of person would want another to die? And are the crimes of those in question so heinous that they should die? It tends to stray a bit from the original theme or message, so that instead of watching a human being struggle with saving their own lives, they actively take part in what Jigsaw feels – as the movie obviously intends it.

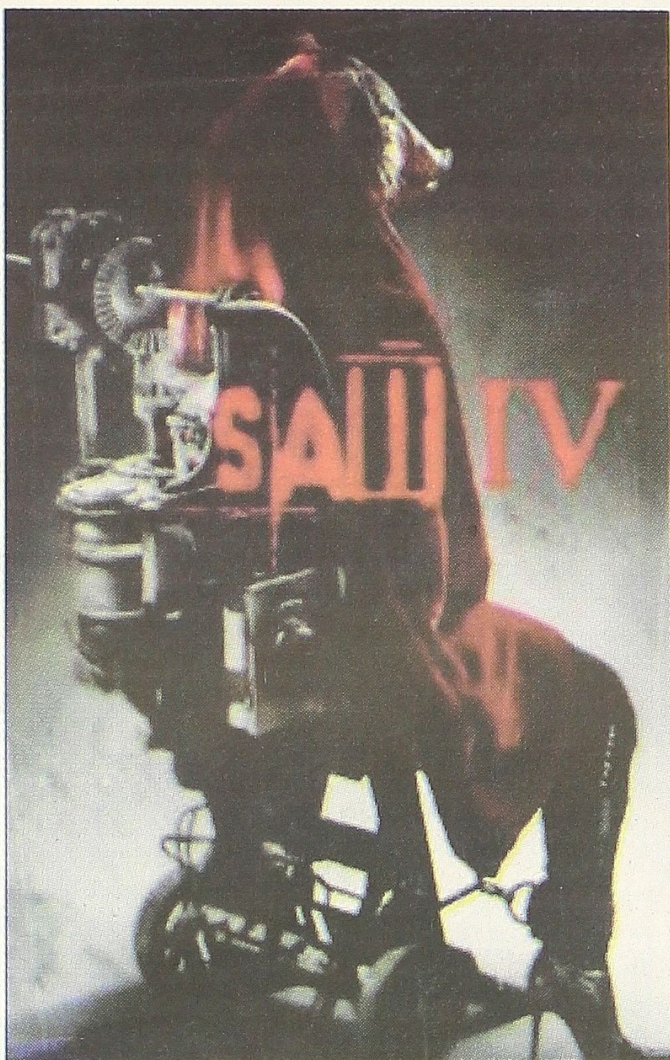
While some said that the gore

did not affect them as much as the first two films, for me, *Saw IV* made me cringe inside at every one of the traps. Of all of the four movies, it definitely hosted the bloodiest of the traps.

One of the other things that *Saw IV* held much more than the other three was confusion. I walked out of the theatre with a bewildered mind. Within a while, I figured out what was taking place, but it took me some time to get there.

Overall, the fourth installment of the riveting tale holds a decent position along with the rest. However, the film's brutality and its overload of plot bring the film down a few notches on the scale.

Hopefully *Saw V* will be even better when it comes out.



Graphic courtesy of filmpeek.net

Random Thoughts

College robs pleasure, joy from Halloween

Another Halloween has come and gone, and I find that this great day of tricks and treats, goblins and ghouls, nightmares and terror—well, it's just not the same as it used to be.

I remember when I was young and I would spend weeks building up my excitement at the prospect of dressing up so that no one knew who I was and going out around the neighborhood to collect candy. I always wanted to go to the houses that had decorated the most and could give me a good scare. It was by far my favorite time of the year, when I could let my imagination run unchecked and get candy at the same time. It was a beautiful thing.

As I got older, Halloween took on different connotations. No longer was I the one who went around collecting candy. It was my turn to scare the little kids in order for them to earn their treats. I have to admit that I enjoyed scaring them a little more than is probably healthy, but it was all in good fun, and I really had a good time. After all, tell me any other time in your life when you can scare the...excrement? Yeah, I can say excrement in the paper...out of little kids and everyone thinks that it is just a good joke.

Now, though. Now I find myself being unable to get too excited for the Halloween festivities. Between papers, meetings, organizational events, classes, and preparing for my final projects, I just don't have the energy left over to really enjoy Halloween. Even scary movies aren't doing it for me (probably because I can't find one that will scare me, but my desensitization to horror is a whole other topic that will take far too long to discuss here). It is as though college has robbed me of my ability to take pleasure out of something that was once my greatest joy.

I really thought that coming to college would mean that I would have even more freedom in finding scares to amuse myself with on Halloween, but it just seems that the further into the world of responsible adulthood I go, the less there is for me to enjoy. That just plain sucks.

Oh well, at least I still have Christmas to look forward to—the lack of school just makes getting my presents all that much sweeter since I can still open them without any of that annoying responsibility.

Kevin Bilbrey,
Opinion
Editor



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

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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.

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Newberry shines with most spirited decorations

BILL McHENRY
STAFF WRITER

Newberry Hall wins the Best Halloween Decorations award.

This year's prize for the first annual McHenry Decoration Award is a pat on the back. Not by me, but I am sure someone will do it for you.

It was a close call between Bruske and Newberry, but Newberry just edged Bruske out. The best decorated floors had black paper on the walls and ceiling.

There were actually many

floors of this sort; every one of those floors gave me the creepy feeling I might run into a ghost. Such a feeling is the key for Halloween decorating.

Mitchell Hall also had well decorated floors. Gelston, on the other hand, barely posed any competition. Don't feel bad, my own quad at Bruske did not bother to decorate this year.

The South Complex also needs some holiday spirit. Only one floor out of the five dorms had any decorations, and that consisted merely of pumpkins. Halloween still exists even in

the South Complex.

On a more serious note, trick-or-treaters did stop by the halls on Monday. It was nice being able to give candy to little kids. I just wish certain floors would have decorated to bring about more holiday spirit (hey, I decorated my door).

Good job to all the floors that did take time to decorate. Congratulations to Newberry Hall for winning the first annual McHenry Decoration Award, which is about as prestigious as winning a free Coke from the bottle top.



Photo by Kevin Bilbrey

The girls of the west basement in Newberry showed a lot of spirit in their Haunted Hallway decorations, but lost out to the residents of third north this year.

Alma College choirs perform amazing Halloween concert

IAN FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

Halloween is arguably one of the most interesting holidays of the year. Similarly, the Alma College choir Halloween concerts were some of the most interesting concerts of the year.

I had been hearing rumors all week of the choirs singing songs such as "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Harry Potter", and I was very intrigued. When I saw the show, the choirs did not disappoint.

One of my favorite performances was the Alma College Chorale, singing "Spider-Pig", and "In Bright Mansions". "Spider-Pig" is a character from the Simpson's

Movie, in which Homer saves a pig from being killed and keeps it as a pet. He makes a song for his pet pig that goes (*to the tune of the Spider-Man theme song) "Spider Pig, Spider-Pig, does whatever a Spider-Pig does. Can he swing from a web, no he can't, he's a pig. Look out he's a Spider-Pig". This was definitely a very funny performance, and a great mid-week stress-reliever.

Some of the other Choirs sang songs such as "Double Trouble" and "Ghost Rider in the Sky". These were very well performed as well. The choirs really showed what they are capable of doing on Wednesday.

Other performances were by the a cappella group, Pretty in

Plaid, and also Scots on the Rocks, both of which were very impressive. There was also a group of men dressed up as Robin Hood's Men in Tights singing that song from the movie where Robin Hood's men sing "We're men, We're men in tights. We roam around the forest looking for fights..."

The choirs' next performances will be the Festival of Carols, on Friday the 7th, Saturday the 8th, and Sunday the 9th of December. Expect great thing to come from the Alma College Choirs, and definitely check them out at their concerts in December. We've seen what they can do with only a couple of weeks of practice, so just imagine what they will be like in the next month.

Family planning needs support, financial aid for future operations

KATIE LIVINGSTON
STAFF WRITER

Family planning, according to the Michigan's Choice newsletter, is described as "preventative health care and gynecological medical services."

These services include pelvic exams, physical exams, STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) screenings, contraception and abstinence counseling, pre-pregnancy counseling, and education on sexual violence in relationships.

According to www.ppaction.org (a planned parent website campaigning to protect family planning funding), Michigan's Healthy Michigan Fund "has already been cut by 25% for the current fiscal year."

The site also states that "every dollar spent on family planning saves an estimated three dollars in Medicaid costs for pregnancy and newborn care."

The most efficient way to prevent unintentional or unwanted pregnancies is to provide family planning services. This offers useful information on general health exams, STI's, pre-pregnancy dangers, etc.

Decreased funding for family planning will lead to higher Medicaid costs leading to fewer services and fewer options and paths for patients. According to Planned Parenthood, there is a large number of men and women in Michigan who depend of family planning, and the senate is debating whether or not to cut the budget of family planning even more.

This current fiscal year, the government granted 435.6 million dollars for family planning and reproductive health, according to www.

pathfind.org. Although this amount is fairly even with last year's funding, the number is approximately a mere .02% of the federal budget.

The US has also been encouraging other countries to gather more support of their family planning. Meanwhile, this 435.6 million dollars is about 10% of USAID's, the government program "charged" to carry out foreign assistance (according to pathfind.org). US Congress began to establish reductions in funding for family planning in 1996, and funding actually reached \$372.5 million in the year 2000. Despite the fact that federal funding has increased since the initial slash in 1996, the number is still about 20% below where it was in 1995.

The Pathfinder International website states that the amount of funding depends upon the votes within Congress and the decision of the President involving federal budget.

On top of the decrease in federal funding of family planning, the Helms Amendment is still effect. This act does not allow US funds to be used in other countries for abortion services—even if abortions are legal in that country. Bill Clinton repealed this act in 1993, but it was placed back in effect by George Bush on his first day in office.

Planned Parent (Advocates of Michigan) has the hope that the US government will notice the importance family planning plays in Michigan, and the rest of country. It is possible that if the government receives persistent arguments and support of family planning then the services will have a chance to be sufficiently funded in the—hopefully—near future.



Photo courtesy of Lydia Duddles

Members of the Alma College Chorale performed "Men in Tights" from the movie Robin Hood: Men in Tights at the concert. The performance was greeted by cheers and catcalls from the women (and many of the men) in attendance.

Men's soccer fights hard at home

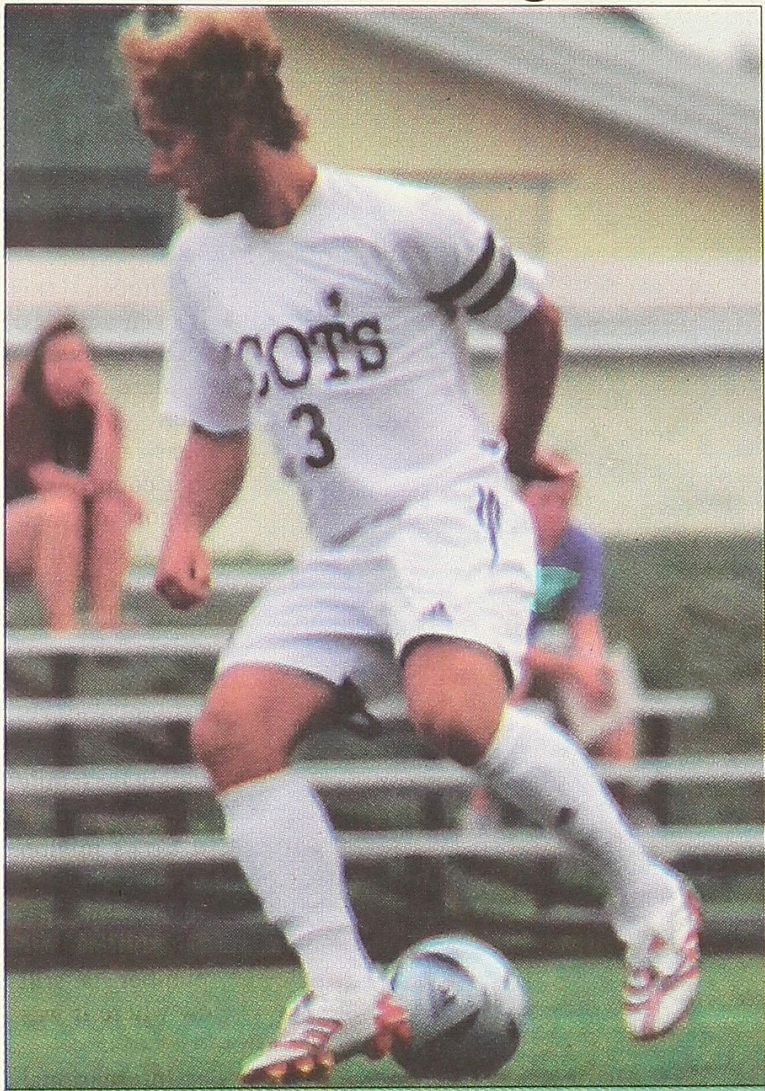


Photo by Brent Riley

Mark Daisy (09) dribbles with the ball against Hope Wednesday.

CHELSEA CLARK SPORTS EDITOR

Tough play and bad bounces led to a 0-1 loss against Olivet, Saturday. The score was tied after the first half, but the second proved to be a different story. Halfway through the second half a shot from outside the 18 yard box deflected off

an Olivet player and just past the freshmen goalie, **Anthony Bergstrom**.

"It was extremely disappointing. I really think we should have beaten them especially since we were playing at home. We played hard; we just did not capitalize when we had the ball," said Head Coach Nathan Kronewetter. Earlier in the

season the Scots had lost in the last seconds at Olivet.

With the loss the Scots move to sixth in the league. "We have been competitive with every team, but we have had a lot of unlucky goals and bounces this season. It is heart breaking," said Coach Kronewetter.

Wednesday the Scots were back at the Scotland Yard this time against Hope. The entire game was windy and cold. Alma kept pressing Hope's defense, but they took a loss, 2-5.

"(Saturday's) game will be hard, but there is no reason why we can't win," said Coach Kronewetter. The last time the Scots took Albion in early October they won 1-0. There are twenty four new faces to this years men's soccer program. The large group has created a competitive atmosphere. "Every week we look at each player's attitude and work ethic, not just their ability to determine who will be the starters for each game. Everyone has played a different role at different times through out the season. We have a lot of leaders," said Coach Kronewetter.

Saturday's game saw the return of Junior forward, Mark Daisy, after an ankle injury against Calvin College the game before. Daisy has been the high scorer on the team with a 78% shot on goal average along with his teammate Junior Dan Laatz who averages 70%. "Daisy barely misses from a close range," said Assistant Coach Jason Stanley.

Tomorrow's game versus Calvin is at 4p.m. at the Scotland Yard.

Swimming invitational successfully starts season

IAN FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College Swimming and Diving teams had their first meet of the season last Saturday at Hope College. It was an Invitational Relay, which means that all races were in relay-style format. The teams were not scored against each other, but each of the relay teams was racing independently from the rest of their team.

"I thought we did real well," said **Sara Swanton (09)**. "It was tough because we've only had our coach for three weeks, but for what little practice we had, we really seemed to do well."

There were also some surprising swims by this year's freshman swimmers. "The freshman on the team really held their own on Saturday," said Swanton. "The ones that practiced hard did well, and it was nice to see some new talent shine."

The Alma Diving team also showed some of its talent on Saturday. **Spencer Johnson (10)** competed for both the swimming and the diving teams. "[Johnson] did really well," said Swanton. "I think one of his diving rounds he scored a six and a half, which was really good. It's always nice to see our teams put in a good day."

"It was nice to see some new talent shine,"

Sara Swanton (09)

It was also a new experience for head coach Chris Hamstra. Hamstra was previously the assistant coach at Hope College, so he returned to the Holland Aquatic Center last Saturday, only as one of the away teams, instead of the home team.

"Coach seemed like he was happy with how we swam on Saturday," said Swanton. "I know it was a different experience for him, because of his relationship with Hope College, but I think he was pleased with how we performed."

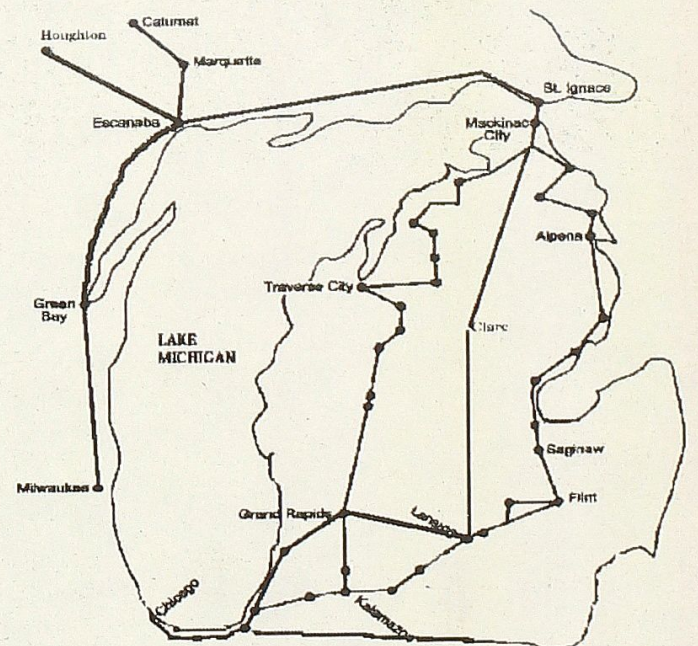
"We do have to change some things for next week though," said Swanton. "We will be increasing the number of yards we swim during practice this week, as well as the weights that we lift. We also have one more lady swimmer joining the team this week, so it will be interesting to see how she does."

The next meet for the Scots is tomorrow at Alma. They will be taking on Hope College once again, so come out and watch the Swimming and Diving team, as the Coach Hamstra faces his old team for the second week in a row.

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Volleyball finishes season on a high note

IAN FOWLER
STAFF WRITER

The women of the Alma College volleyball team are finally finished with the 2007 season. The Scots won two of their last three games to finish 8-22 for the year.

The last two wins came last week Wednesday and this week Monday, both against Olivet College. The first of the two games was played at Olivet.

Alma won the game 30-25, 30-13, and 30-28, giving them their seventh win of the season.

"We had our best game of the season on Wednesday," said Head Coach Cheyenne Luzynski. "We were really confident, had lots of energy, and did well under pressure."

"**Kim Gillhespy (09)** did really well in both games," said Luzynski. "She had a double-double in the first game, with 14 kills and 10 blocks, and 17 kills and 8 blocks in the second game."

The eighth win of the year also came from Olivet, only this time the game was played at Alma. The Scots used their momentum from their previous week's victory against Olivet to propel them through another victory over the Comets of Olivet College. Alma won with a very close score of 31-29, 30-28, and 30-28.

"One thing that helped us win the second game was our ability to pull ahead when the game was close, something that we've struggled with previously in the season," said Luzynski. "In the second game, Olivet kept us on our toes,

and we really had to work to counter-balance the pressure they were putting on us."

Stephanie Bradshaw (11) and **Hannah Hewitt (11)** also showed the team what they are capable of doing.

"Those two did really good as well," said Luzynski. "Stephanie always does pretty well on defense, and Hannah is one of our go-to setters. They will really do well in the next couple seasons."

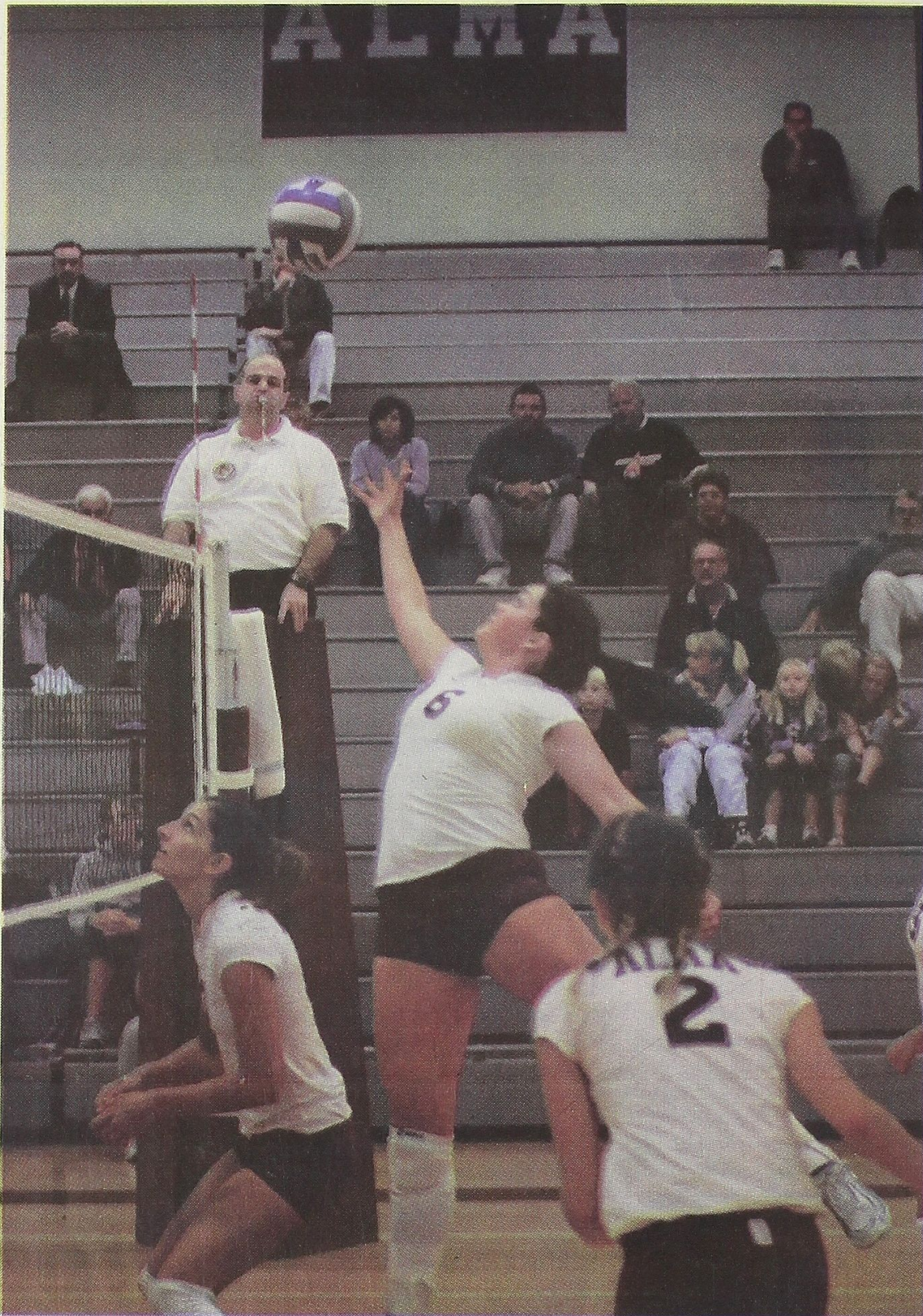
The team's last game of the season was against Calvin College and produced a result opposite of that against Olivet College.

The game was the last round of the MIAA Tournament for Alma, and the Scots ended up losing to Calvin 16-30, 11-30, and 24-30.

"We struggled at Calvin more than we did at Olivet," said Luzynski. "Calvin has a better team than Olivet does, but if we would have played like we did against Olivet, we would have had a different outcome. We seemed to have a lack of communication and intensity against Calvin, combined with too many mental mistakes, and we suffered for it."

Coach Luzynski is already looking to recruit for next year's team.

"We had a surprisingly young team this year," said Luzynski. "I had only one senior on the team, so the younger players really got quite a bit of playing time. I do have some girls I'm trying to recruit that would be a nice addition to Alma College, and would work well as the go-to players on our team. I am definitely looking forward to next season."



Sophomore Sarah Scow reaches to save the ball as juniors Rebecca Bruning and Kim Gillhespy get into a supportive position.

Photo by Brent Riley

Lacrosse team organizes, makes changes to training program

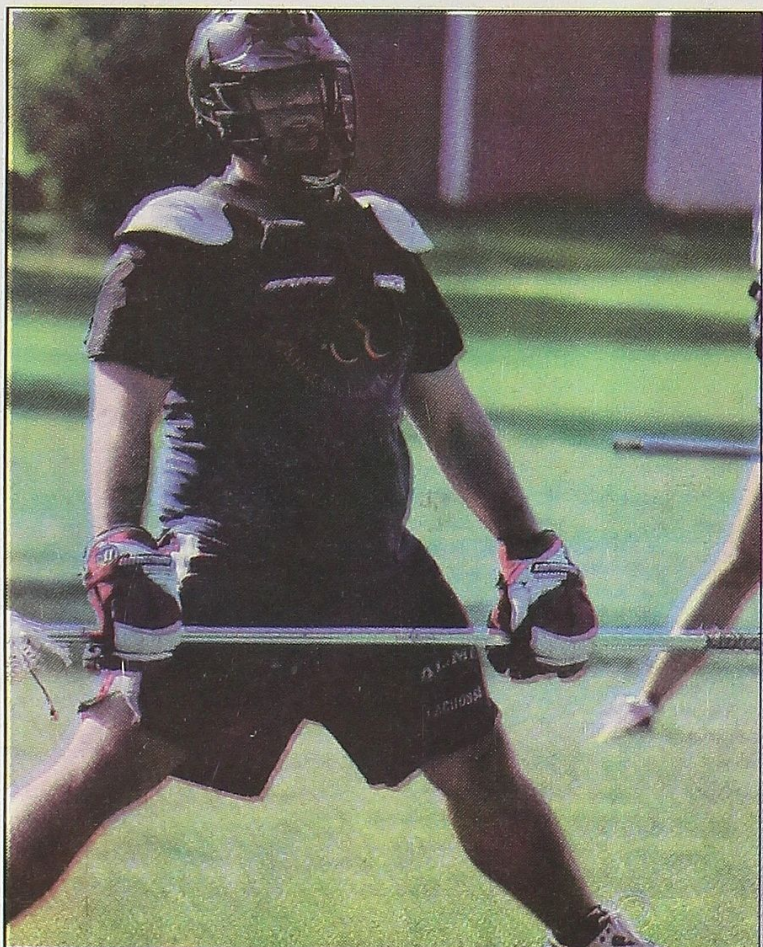


Photo by Brent Riley

Aaron Wiesberger (08) leads fellow lacrosse players in stretches.

CHELSEA CLARK
SPORTS EDITOR

Fall is a time for practice and getting to know the lacrosse team. The Scots have used this time to take on the varsity program of Ferris State. "We did remarkably well being that Ferris has such a strong program."

"The second half we did well and took them off guard," said **Brent Riley (09)**. "It was a learning experience. The defense did really well and, in the second half, we put together our offense. They obliterated us in the first half - that was our problem."

The Ferris State game was the first for the team - made up of almost all new faces. Many are freshmen, but there are even a few sophomores who decided to try Lacrosse for the first time.

"**Bobby Chasnis (11)** just started, and he's really looking great. I'm genuinely happy with how we are playing," said co-captain **Aaron Wiesberger (08)**.

Weisberger and **Tony Romano (10)** are taking on the double duty of captains and coaches. "It is tough trying to coach the team and be a starting defenseman during the games, but it is hard to find a lacrosse coach around Alma," said Wiesberger.

The captains are working to take advantage of the fresh interest and talent on this year's team and step up training.

"We are starting to get some order and some knowledge. For the Ferris game, we set up some plays. It's probably the first time in Alma Lacrosse history that we actually set up plays and didn't go out there and just play. What's funny is the first time we tried one of our plays against them, we scored," said Wiesberger.

Also new to the program is having the flexibility of having two goalies.

"The goalies have been doing a stellar job and are always improving. In past years, we have had to put pads on guys who had never played lacrosse

before, let a lone goalie. Now we have two, and they both know what they are doing," said Wiesberger.

The team is also working on their comradery. "The team is closer than it has been in the past. Most nights after practice we eat together. In the past, I would only see most the team at practice," said Riley.

The Scots continue their plea for more funding by showing that they are an asset to the Alma campus. The lacrosse team worked to get the word out about their Ferris State game through Facebook.

"We are finally getting a core group of guys out here every night. Now we need people to notice us. We need people to give us funding, a better practice field, and a coach. That is what we need to keep improving," said Wiesberger. "Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in Michigan right now, and we are bringing it to Alma."

The team has another game at Hope Saturday, November 10.