

Inside the new Wright hall

Page 3

photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Relay for Life plans all campus event

Page 4

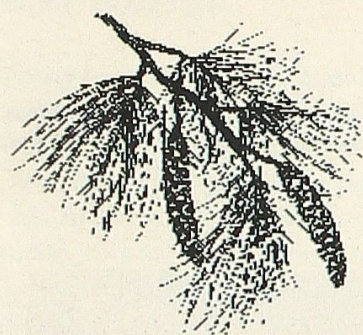
photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Scots basketball a contender in MIAA

Page 12

photo by Kate Voskeritchian



The Almanian

serving Alma College since 1907

The story behind Greek Recruitment

**KATE VOSKERITCHIAN
PHOTOGRAPHER**

Every year, the Greek Community of Alma College sponsors a week of recruitment for their organizations. Each of the fraternity and sorority chapters has their own opportunity to persuade interested students to join their particular group.

Throughout formal recruitment week, both the men and women host different events at their respective houses. These events consist of smokers for the men and teas, spreads, and desserts for the women.

Each of the sororities have different spreads and dessert courses at

the houses so that potential recruits have the opportunity to check out the house and meet some of the sisters. They also learn about the history and beliefs of each group, which ultimately helps the potential new members with their decision.

Likewise, the male Greek Community holds smokers throughout the week,

with each individual house hosting one evening during the week. During the smokers, the brothers of each fraternity provide food for potential new members as well as information regarding their group.

Formal recruitment began on Sunday January 16, 2005 with the start of list signing, where

potential new members could sign up and express their interest in finding out more about the different Greek organizations. The Winter Recruitment period will conclude on Friday for the women and on Saturday night for the men. On

Friday night, the women will have walkouts where each of the women will announce which chapter they wish to join. On Saturday night the men participate in run outs where they announce the chapter that they would like to join.

"I think that Panhel [Pan-Hellenic council] and IFC [Interfraternity Council] did a great job advertising and getting information out around campus," said **Emily Dolan (06)**.

To advertise, the Pan-Hellenic council distributed pamphlets in prospective member's mailboxes, and hung flyers all over campus to spread the word about formal recruitment. The reported responses have been high.

"A large number of women have signed up and seem eager to learn more about and become part of Greek life on campus," Dolan said.

Deadly Tsunami strikes Pacific ring over Christmas holiday

**JULIE BOLITHO
STAFF WRITER**

Over 225,000 have been killed by the most devastating natural disaster in the last century.

Death tolls for Indonesia have surpassed 72,000; Sri Lanka: 32,000; India: 12,000; Thailand: 6,000. Other countries have lost numerous citizens touring the region; 1,500 Swedes, 200 Finns, 200 Danes, and at least 100 Norwegians were killed by the waves.

The numbers have not finished rising and tens of thousands are still missing, but several questions about the situation may remain.

What is a tsunami? A tsunami is a series of powerful waves that can reach speeds surpassing 600 miles per hour. Near coastlines, tsunamis can exceed 100 feet in height, often carrying with them broken rocks of sea wall weighing more than 40,000 pounds.

A tsunami varies from tidal waves, which are caused by lunar forces that change the tides.

Tsunamis are generated after a

sudden trauma occurs in the ocean. Volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and meteorites can create tsunamis.

Where are tsunamis? Tsunamis usually occur on the edges of the Pacific Ocean: more than 50% of the world's volcanoes are on this rim. Tsunamis such as the one witnessed in December 2004 are rare, as "Pacific-wide" tsunamis only average an occurrence ever 10-12 years.

An earthquake off the coast of Indonesia caused the devastating tsunami that occurred over the holidays. It only took the tsunami 7 hours to travel 2,800 miles to Somalia to kill at least 150 people. That's 400 mph. If an oceanic disaster occurred in Los Angeles, a tsunami could reach Tokyo quicker than you could by plane.

The tsunami not only devastated families, but it devastated industry. India has so far incurred over \$1 billion in damage. As a large section of the nation is built on the fishing industry, with over 15,000 boats destroyed, re-stabilizing could take over 10 years. Overall, the damage caused by the tsunami could cost more than \$14 billion.

See Tsunami page 3



Representatives from Panhellenic Council sign up potential new members at Saga.

Photo by Kate Bruder

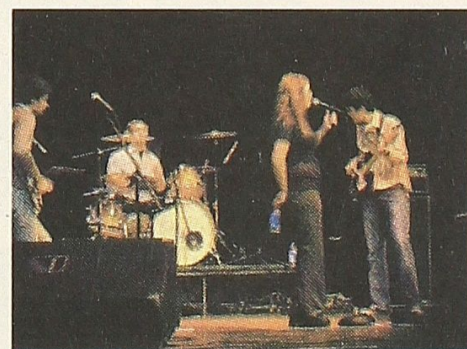
WQAC concert and Pie the President



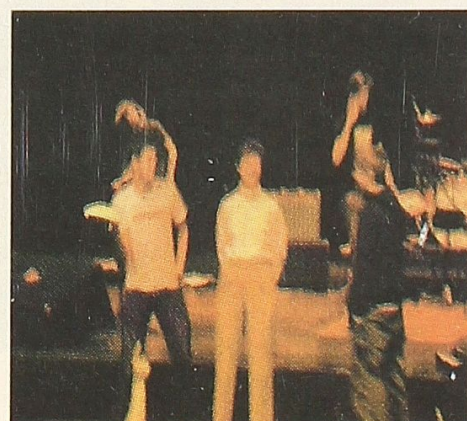
Above: Your Best Friend opens the show for the 100 plus students in attendance.

Top Right: Those Transatlantics headlined the show.

Right: Student Alec Weir (08) and Shawn Grustch (06) got to pie President Tracy during intermission as part of a fundraiser sponsored by the different classes.



Photos by Kate Voskeritchian



News

Apartment style living become a reality



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

"It (Wright Hall) is like a hotel."

Kevin Beggs (06)



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

Left: The Wright Hall lobby houses a big screen television, plenty of overstuffed chairs, conference rooms, and an air hockey table to give residents a break from their studies.



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

"It (Wright Hall) is really nice. I especially like the amenities it has to offer."

Cailin Wilson (06)



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

Above: One of the suties that houses four students in single rooms. Wright Hall has fifteen suites with some having two double rooms and others having four single rooms.



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

Above: A typical Wright Hall kitchen, which comes complete with a microwave for a meal on-the-go or a stove top for a full dinner. Also included is the refridgerator and cabinets for food storage. Because of these amenities, residents have the option of a reduceded meal plan, allowing them freedom to cook more meals.

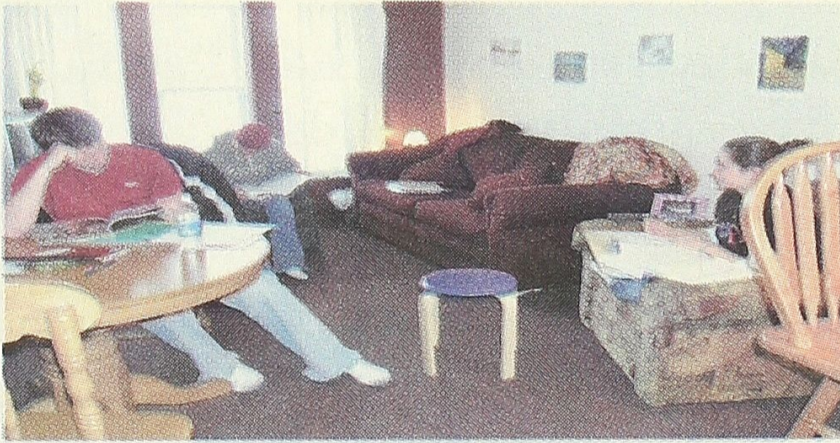


Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

Above: Students utilize the common area to get some studying done. All of the suites in Wright Hall come with a common area furnished with a overstuffed couch, kitchen table and chairs, and two bar stools.



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

"It (Wright Hall) is a good mix of independence and community."

Chris Weiland (05)



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

Top: Student's in Wright Hall have a comfortable place to sit and relax while they wait for their laundry to get done.

Left: In addition to comfortable chairs and a nice floor to ceiling window view, the laundry room also offers change for student convienience.

Right: Wright Hall has four front loading washers and dryers located on the second floor laundry room.



Photo by Katie Voskeritchian

News

News Briefs

RACHEL DOTSON
STAFF WRITER

Sunday morning brought grief to the entertainment world as news of the passing of long-time TV star Johnny Carson spread.

Carson's passing, which was reported to CNN by his nephew, Jeffrey Sotzing, was of little surprise to those who knew him. Attributed to emphysema, the end had been somewhat expected since 2002 when Carson revealed his condition.

Born on October 23, 1925, Carson spent over a third of his life hosting "The Tonight Show." In his 30 years he picked up such a vast following that on the night of his final show an estimated 50 million people tuned in.

"The Carson show changed your life," said comedian Joan Rivers. "He got the bright comics. He picked the ones who were different, who were smart."

The first snowstorm of 2005 and the largest of this winter season made its way from the Midwest to the Northeast over the weekend, leaving between six to thirty inches wherever it traveled.

The storm, which was elevated to a blizzard classification in eastern New York and southern New England, is thought to have hit Massachusetts the hardest.

"We're looking at potentially 20 to 30 inches here in eastern Massachusetts," meteorologist Bill Giles of the New England Weather Service told the Los Angeles Times. "This is one of the big ones, one of the blockbuster types in terms of the intensity with which the snow is expected to come down."

Repercussions of the storm have resulted in many airport delays and closings, immense snowdrifts, and the canceling of many local events. In addition, Sunday's NFL championship playoff games were both held in cities affected by the storm, with Philadelphia Eagles fans hoping the conditions would result in their favor.

"The Falcons are a dome team," said Philadelphiaian Maurice Jackson. "They don't know what they are getting into."

MSNBC reported Sunday that a stomach virus infected over 250 people aboard a cruise ship after its departure from Port Canaveral on January 16.

Approximately 233 of the ship's 3,465 passengers and 20 of the 1,190 crew members were said to have been affected during the seven-day Caribbean cruise. The Mariner of the Seas is currently being checked for bacteria, although Michael Sheehan, a spokesman for Royal Caribbean International, attributed the sickness to a passenger who brought aboard "your typical 24-hour stomach virus and nothing more."

Some passengers were not satisfied by this conclusion and the treatment they received from the cruise line. Crystal Wiles, a passenger from Maryland, said that she and her husband were actually quarantined for three days, criticizing the company's reaction to the situation. In addition to claims that Royal Caribbean International was undercounting the number who fell ill, Wiles said, "The treatment has been horrible."

Campus Updates

RACHEL CASTLE
STAFF WRITER

UPS has moved its location back to the mail room after little success in the Kiltie Korner. Students will now be able to pick up all packages in the mail room from 8-5 Monday through Friday. Previously, students had been forced to travel for two different locations in order to pick up their packages. Hopefully, the new process will eliminate hassle and confusion.

2003 Yearbooks are now in! Many students will be waiting eagerly for the long-in-arrival books. Dates for the release of the yearbooks have not been released, but students will be able to pick the books in the UPS mailroom next to SAGA. (Editors Note: The *Almanian* incorrectly reported last week that there will be a charge for the 2003 yearbook and we apologize for any problems this may have caused.)

Martin Luther King week has wrapped up...the theme of the celebration this year was "Choosing Diversity". Events included an address from Justice Alan Page -- National Football Hall of Famer and justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, as well as specialized poetry readings, and an International Food and Cultural Fest.

Student Congress just passed an election ammendment to place restrictions and guidelines on how candidates are allowed to campaign.

In response to student concern, Alma College has discussed the idea of replacing student social security numbers on identification cards, with a possible combination of a graduation year and the last four digits of your social security number.

Tsunami from page 1

The damage to marine life was also devastating, and it will too affect the fishing industry. According to marine specialists, the impact of the tsunami on the ecosystems in the region is irreversible. It will take a minimum of 11 years for coral reefs to begin recovery, and as corals draw in other marine species for feeding and breeding, the waters known to fishermen will be void of life.

Currently, tsunami benefits have raised over \$18 million to help families that have not only lost family members and homes, but for people who have lost their entire community. The world will be seeing the repercussions of this natural disaster for decades to come.

Tuition increases raise salaries and skepticism

DEREK HARRISON
COPY EDITOR

For the Preliminary Budget Assumptions Report for the fiscal year of 2006, the Alma College financing department has drafted increases in many costs of attending and rooming on campus.

"Cost increases in tuition are counteracting the pay freeze from the previous years," Student Congress Treasurer **Kelli Bissett (05)** said in a report.

Tuition is scheduled to increase by 5.8 percent, raising the total rate to \$20,934.

"If you look at other colleges Alma compares itself to, the increase is quite similar," Student Congress President **Shabnam Mirsaedi (05)** said.

Many students expressed their dissent after the news was delivered.

Micheal Buggia (07), representative for the class of 2007, said that he understands that the faculty members have previously taken a voluntary pay freeze and that it would be necessary to give them a raise.

"I don't understand though, where all this money goes that the school can't come up with more before raising my costs," Buggia said.

Rising costs spanning past tuition include boarding rates with an increase of 5.9 percent, rooming fees at 4.8 percent, the pre-term fee at 5.9 percent, percent, Pre-Term boarding at 8.1 percent, and Spring Term Boarding at 6.4 percent. Tuition alone is expected to net the college \$24,514,165. The total revenue is expected to be \$39,461,928.

Salaries on campus will increase 3 percent; health insurance coverage will increase by 13 percent, expected utilities costs by 10 percent, and food service by 1 percent. Many representatives in student congress said these costs were understandable to keep employees interested in working at the college.

"These increases keep faculty here by providing competitive pay," Mirsaedi said.

Related aspects affecting school revenue include decreases in total full time enrollment, students housed on campus, and students in Greek housing.

Representatives in student congress said they were dissatisfied with the possibility of disproportionate scholarships to schooling costs, campus maintenance, heating and cooling in Bruske, and better salting and snow removal.

Attention Seniors:

Student Barlow trophy Award invitation letters were sent out to qualifying students on January 18, 2005. Faculty received information on January 19, 2005. If you did not receive a letter and believe you should have, please notify the Provost's Office (x7176). The nomination deadline is January 28, 2005.

FEATURE

Must-see movies: 2004

BRENDAN GUILFORD DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

This week the Demanding Viewers will be taking a look back at the previous year to help enlighten students to some films that they may have missed in 2004 that were actually good. 2004 was not a banner year for the creativity department in Hollywood, but several gems managed to escape from Los Angeles before profit-conscious movie executives could destroy the films.

Movies you should see (In No Particular Order)

1. *Sideways* - A writer turned amateur wine critic who goes with his friend on a California wine tasting tour to discover himself, but ends up finding love and understanding. It seems corny but Paul Giamatti deserves every ounce of hype he has received for this film.

2. *The Incredibles* - What happens when superheroes are forced by society to retire into anonymous public life? The Pixar film, which has revitalized a company many thought were struggling creatively, is a very fun ride

and will amuse almost anyone who goes to see it. The pop culture references are occasionally too obscure but this film's message about family, dependence, and belonging are universal.

3. *Goodbye, Lenin!* - A young man living in the new democracy of 1989/1990 East Germany must convince his ailing mother that communism is alive and kicking after she awakes from a coma. The entire community pitches in and gives an enlightening look at the East German opinion of the switch to democracy fifteen years later. This movie is in subtitles.

4. *Eternal Sunshine of The Spotless Mind* - After meeting, living with, and breaking up with the love of his life, Jim Carrey's character finds out that his ex (Kate Winslet) has erased all memories of him from her mind. He goes about wiping out his own memories of her, and in the process discovers he still loves her. ...*Spotless Mind* is a treatise on our society's inability to learn until it is too late. The film material is good, but the directing and film editing are superb.

5. *Shaun of the Dead* - This quirky English film will surprise you. In some parts horror, comedy, romance, suspense, "Shaun of the Dead" will keep you guessing about what is going on even though it is obvious that flesh eating zombies are in town for the weekend. The ending leaves something to be desired, but the film challenges what it means to be a horror film.

6. *Kill Bill (vol. 2)* - The second half of Quentin Tarantino's magnum opus. The violence of the first movie is toned down slightly, and the directorial roots of Tarantino really shine through. The director doesn't act, he flawlessly emulates. No one should accuse Tarantino of unoriginality however - watch *Pulp Fiction* or any of his other works and you'll see why *Kill Bill* is his most mature work to date.

7. *Shrek 2* - The funnier sequel to the original story about an antisocial ogre thrust into fantasy human politics. All the big names are back along with the humor of the first, but this time the writers dug a little deeper and made a great film. Animation isn't for

everyone but *Shrek 2* is a great place to start if you've never seen a computer animated film (which at this point must be 8 people nationwide)

8. *Saved!* - A biting look at what religion in America can be versus what it purports to be. The film was controversial when it came out and will still offend people who watch it at home, but "Saved!" subtly (and sometimes not so subtly) asks a lot of the right questions about religious tolerance, freedom, and pressures to conform in our modern society.

9. *Ray* - An honest biopic about the talented and troubled Ray Charles. A life of drug abuse, alcoholism, talent, and triumph is told about the man who many college students would only remember as the "Pepsi piano guy who always looked happy." Jamie Foxx, who played Ray Charles almost frighteningly well, is looking very good for an Oscar nomination and possible win.

10. *Napoleon Dynamite* - Everyone has seen this film. If you haven't, you should watch it just so you can keep up with what seemingly everyone is constantly quoting.

"Tina, eat your ham."

Students combating cancer one step at a time with Relay for Life

MEGAN JARCZYNSKI STAFF WRITER

"My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer nine years ago. After a year, she went into remission. However, in December 2003, she found out the cancer had metastasized into her lungs, and after five different chemo treatments she is still battling it," said **Lauren Dart (05)**, Relay for Life Committee Member and four year participant.

Dart's story is only one of many in which cancer has touched the heart of the Alma College community and the world alike. Cancer is a widespread disease, affecting one in three women and one in two men. Alma is taking it upon itself to make a difference on March 11 and 12, hosting its first *Relay for Life* in the Stone Recreation Center.

Relay for Life was founded twenty

years ago in Tacoma, Washington by a colorectal surgeon, Dr. Gordy Klatt. He walked and ran the local track for twenty-four hours and raised a total of \$27,000 for the American Cancer Society. The tradition has continued ever since with relays taking place all over the country.

Students are encouraged to participate in the relay by forming teams of ten to fifteen people. Each

team will collectively walk for a total of twenty-four hours, with at least one member walking at all times. Teams raise

money by taking donations and selling luminary bags, which can be purchased in honor of those who have lost their lives to cancer or in celebration of those who have beat the disease.

According to **Julie Bolitho (06)**, Relay for Life Committee Vice Chair, the target amount to be raised is \$25,000. But in the words of Dart, "The more we raise, the sooner we

can stop fighting it and just beat this disease."

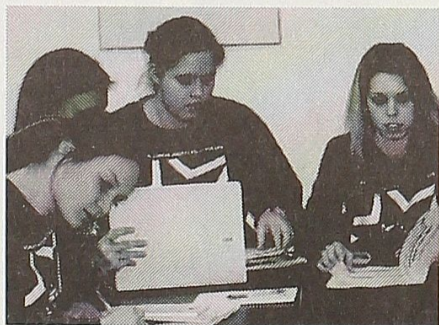
Participants can expect to have a good time in addition to raising money. "Inspiring and fun" is how

Bolitho was involved with Relay for Life in high school but became personally affected by the disease herself when she was diagnosed with thyroid cancer last February. So

when the American Cancer Society approached Alma College about hosting a relay and the service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega, started organizing a committee, Bolitho said she "jumped right on board."

Bolitho will be one of many cancer survivors taking part in the Relay for Life and walking the first lap of the relay dedicated to those who have survived cancer or are still fighting their battle.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved. If students are interested in forming a team for the Relay for the Life, they can contact Bolitho, **Nicole Lowis (05)**, or Juliann Schaffer, or they may attend a meeting on January 26th at 8:30 pm in SAC 109.



Relay for life members plan the various activities that will be held at the event on March 11 and 12.



The Relay for Life Committee

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

Dart describes the event. "It's such an amazing experience to see how many people come out to work towards this cause," she continued.

There will be various activities to keep participants entertained as well as educated. Each hour will have a different theme and will have fun activities and games depending on the theme. Bolitho mentioned there would also be a cigarette piñata as well as face painting and games for children that might be at the event.

FEATURE

Student choreographers take center stage for concert



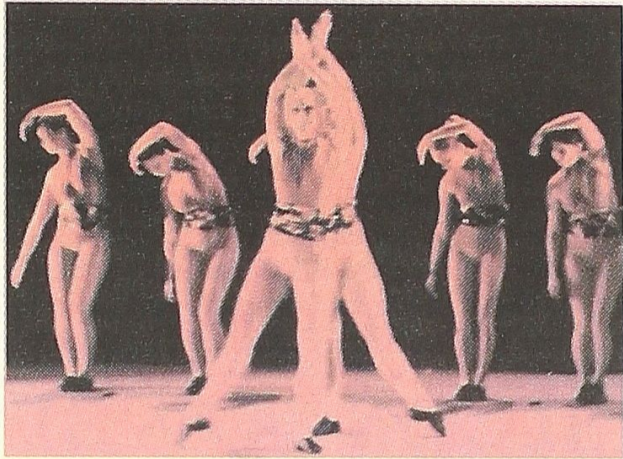
The dance "Feel the Rain" was choreographed by Jennifer Conkey, and set to the music of "Desert Rose" by Sting.

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Jennifer Conkey is featured in the dance "Schlinders List." Elizabeth Shehan was the student choreographer.

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



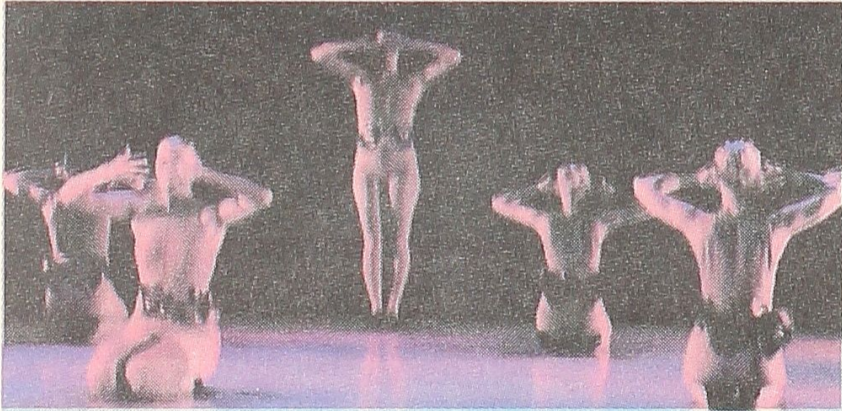
"One Night in Bangkok" performed by Alma College dancers is from the musical "Chess."

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



The song and dance "Wherever You Are" was written and choreographed by Shannon Nystrom.

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian



Adrian Rowe (the dancer in the middle) performs in the dance "One night in Bangkok."

Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

Claire Hammer performs in the dance "Wherever You Are."

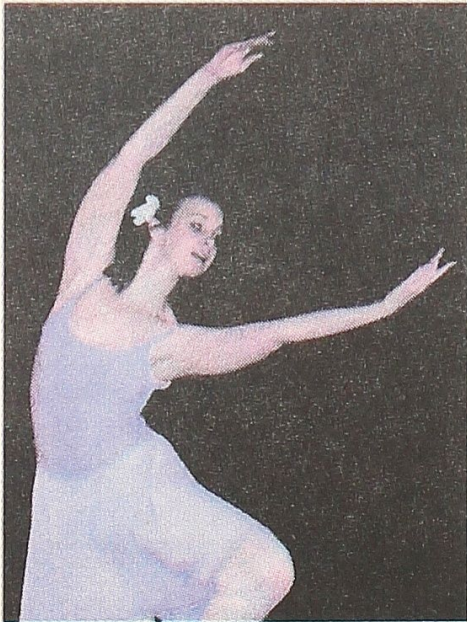


Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

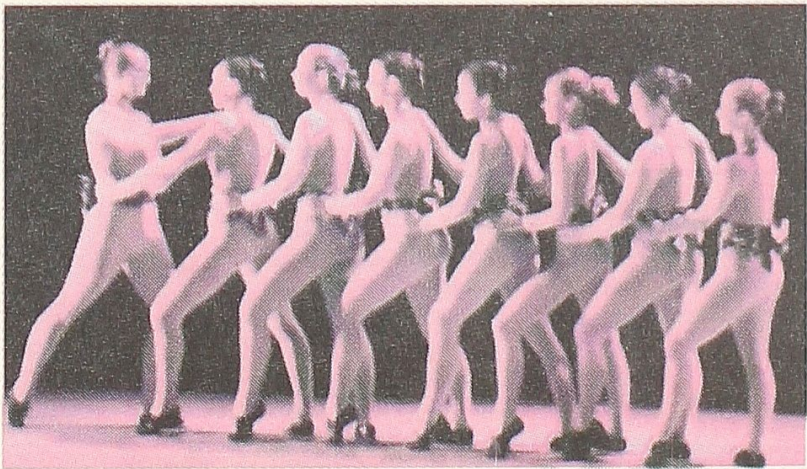


Photo by Kate Voskeritchian

"One Night in Bangkok" was choreographed by Micela church.

FEATURE

The works and experience of Thomas Lynch come to Alma College

AMY TOPHAM
STAFF WRITER

"In the dream you are dead again in Florida. The long-anticipated phone call comes: minced fact - he's gone - and reverent detail: something acute and myocardial and after a good day combing the beach collecting seashells for the grandchildren. Walking, I trade panic for odd relief: dead now a month, you cannot die again." - from *Still Life in Milford* by Thomas Lynch.

Thomas Lynch, resides in Milford, Michigan where he lives as a poet and funeral director. As the author of three collections of poetry and a collection of short essays, Lynch won of the American Book Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award. Lynch is also a regular presenter to professional conferences of funeral

directors, hospice and medical ethics professionals, clergy, educators and business leaders.

Fellow Milford resident Rev. John Harris recommended Thomas Lynch to Carol Gregg, director of the *Discovering Vocation* project at Alma College to speak on campus.

"Rev. Harris knows Lynch personally and thinks very highly of him," Gregg said.

Gregg also commended Lynch's work and his unique perspective.

"Lynch's work is good because it makes us remember we are mortal yet in a funny and creative way," Gregg said.

A presidential forum was set up before winter break to read Lynch's book *The Undertaking: Life Studies from the Dismal Trade*. Forums run by three different leadership groups include 29 Alma College students who are

participating.

Several Alma College staff members are participating in the event as well. President Sandra Tracy and Chaplain Christine Vogel are running one session; Dr. Robert Vivian and Mrs. Tina Vivian, nee Hartley, are running another and Dr. Gwyneth Beagley and Dr. John Davis are running the third.

"I have really enjoyed the discussions [in her group] even if it is on such a leery topic," Chair and Professor of Psychology Dr. Gwyneth Beagley said.

Beagley also said that the book discussions have been going very well because Lynch makes the subject friendly, amusing, and easy to read about.

"I believe the subject Lynch writes about is important in two ways; how to deal with death and grief and how

death impacts life," Vogel said.

Vogel said she believes that Lynch's lecture will be an opportunity for not just professionals but for Alma College students to find inspiration in their own life experiences with death.

Lynch will be making an appearance at Alma College Wednesday, January 26 and will be holding a workshop from 1:00-4:00 pm at Jones Auditorium in the Tyler-Van Dusen Campus Center. The workshop is open to clergy, funeral directors, health care and hospice workers, and the general public with no ticket required to attend.

After the workshop, Lynch will also hold a public lecture in the Presbyterian Hall at the Heritage Center on his vocation and the writing he has done in his life.

Eight steps toward beating the bulge

MEGAN JARCZYNSKI
STAFF WRITER

The pizza, the pop, the chips.... junk food seems to be a way of life for the average Alma College student. Unfortunately, these wonderfully tasty, yet unhealthy foods, can take a toll on the body after a while. So here are a few tips on how to beat the bulge.

Don't keep junk food in your room: If it's not there then you can't eat it; it's as simple as that. As an alternative to late night junk food binges, keep some fresh fruit or vegetables around. It may sound less enticing, but it is necessary to make some sacrifices in order to get results. Drink plenty of water: Water has the ability to speed up your metabolism. Also, by choosing to drink water as an alternative to pop or other sugary beverages, you cut down on your calorie intake drastically. Drinking enough water can also actually improve your skin and increase your energy as well.

Don't eat out: It really is tempting and convenient to just order a delivery pizza or go out and grab a Big Mac from McDonalds, but don't be fooled by McDonalds new ploy to lure you in with their new "healthier" French

fry oil. Fast food is still extremely unhealthy. When you eat it, it almost screams, "Eat me. I'll make you fat."

Develop a routine: Make exercise a part of your life by scheduling a workout into your day. If you plan a workout at the same time everyday, you'll be less likely to skip out on it.

Find a workout buddy: This can help prevent boredom with exercising. It also serves as a great way to keep each other on track and to give one another support and encouragement when needed.

Avoid excess alcohol: beer belly...enough said.

Set small, attainable goals: Saying, "I'm going to lose five pounds" is a lot more realistic than saying, "I'm going to lose fifty." Stick with the small goals and you're much more likely to achieve it. Once you've reached one goal you can then set a new one. So when you've lost those first five pounds say to yourself, "Okay, now five more."

Make your everyday activities a part of your workout: It doesn't take an hour or even a half an hour block of physical activity to make a difference in your health. Even

the little things can make a difference. Taking the stairs instead of the elevator is just one simple example. The way you stand and walk can also improve your appearance. Posture is key here. In order to ensure you are standing and walking with the proper posture, stand straight with your arms at your sides. Now, roll your shoulders back and press your shoulder blades down. Doing this should make your

thumbs face forward. The position of your thumbs is a visual clue that you are standing with proper posture. Standing correctly can instantly take five pounds off your appearance. Another little way to use everyday activities to improve your physical appearance is by squeezing your gluts when you walk. This will help give you that nice firm behind which everybody dreams of.

Sorority Walk-Outs

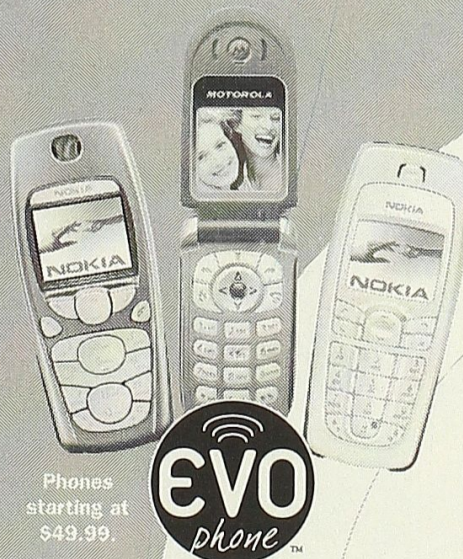
Friday at 8:30

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OPINION



Social Security reform a much needed change

Privatization not the answer for Social Security

JOEL RENDER
OPINION EDITOR

Social Security has been a controversial issue since its original establishment in 1935, but today it has moved back into the forefront as our newly inaugurated President has announced his plans to reform the system including a small measure of privatization for young workers. This important plan is a sound one with several important rationales behind it.

Before any of sections of the plan are discussed, the problems with the current system need to be reviewed. Despite the fact that mathematical projections are somewhat weak in this complex field, it is usually assumed and was determined by the Social Security Trustees that by 2018 the system will begin to pay out more in benefits than they will be receiving in taxes.

The deficit between these two will continue to grow until the surplus that the system currently maintains runs out around the year of 2042 depending on several factors. Regardless of the relative inexactness of these statistics, something definitely needs to be done to reform the system.

President Bush's plan is simply the best solution that we have as an option for that necessary reform. According to a recent speech by Vice President Cheney, the first important provision of this reform plan involves the protection of benefits for those who have already retired or will be retiring soon. Benefits for these groups will not be subject to reform or removal under this plan.

The second provision prevents any increase in the payroll taxes that are the lifeblood of the Social Security system. Any increase in these taxes would be a short-term solution that would ultimately fail. Raising these taxes would require a substantial increase that the American workers would not be able to handle.

The third and final provision involves a small measure of privatization, which is what makes it the most controversial. This provision allows for young workers that are not protected under the first provision to voluntarily save a portion of their payroll taxes for the express purpose of investment in a personally managed account.

This account can then be used for whatever purpose the individual wishes after retirement. The most important reason for the establishment of these voluntary accounts is further movement into a democratic society where we have more control over our own destiny especially where our money is being spent.

Opponents to this privatization strategy claim that it is too dangerous a means for retirement for many Americans. They argue that many Americans will squander their payroll savings and then have very little available for retirement.

The simple solution to this problem is to have the government oversee the administration of these personal accounts and maintain some guidelines that only allow for investment in relatively low risk avenues. Not surprisingly, this provision is already in the reform plan.

Other than the risk, opponents argue that the President's plan is to eventually push everyone into this voluntary option of personal and somewhat privatized accounts. As it stands, these accounts will be entirely voluntarily and will stay that way indefinitely unless more reforms become necessary.

The bottom line is that Social Security reforms are a necessity and this plan is the best solution that we have to save the program for all of our futures.

BRENDAN GUILFORD
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

"Fixing" the Social Security system for our country has been touted by the Bush administration as one of the major policy goals of the next four years for our country's domestic agenda.

I would applaud the administration if they sought to fix Medicare, Medicaid, our country's rapidly dying healthcare system, No Child Left Behind, or countless other programs that the Bush administration has allowed to fall to the wayside. However, Social Security in our country is alive, well, and in no need of repair, restructuring, or realigning.

President Bush and his aides have suggested privatization of Social Security as a means of fixing this "broken system." Social Security, which was created in the New Deal era to provide a state-sponsored system of basic support for the nation's elderly.

It was never meant to be a launching ground for private portfolios or a pool of funds that could be taken out by individuals. Only the system itself was to dole out the funds to its citizens.

I have strong reservations about private citizens in our country drawing out even a portion of the Social Security "share" to privately invest. Even with stringent controls regarding who receives the money and how they receive it,

I am unsure of the average American's ability to make wise investments that will support them later in life. If these individuals who invest privately and do not fully use the Social Security system end up losing their shirts, we will still have to support them.

I cringe at the thought of allowing people a "free" chance to make it rich, knowing that if they mess up, I will still be paying taxes to support them.

I think I would much rather pay into a fund that protects everyone, but does not let them waste their money until they get a check with their monthly share.

President Bush and his administration argue that the system will run out of money someday and it is better for individual citizens to start private, individual investment portfolios with which to someday retire.

With the amount of money currently held by the Social Security fund, the fund will be empty around approximately 2060. These predictions were also made in 1960, 1980, and 2000.

None of the previous predictions were anywhere approaching accurate. Why?

Maybe it is because our country's economic policies change, the economic climate changes (daily), the federal budget deficit fluctuates, and a million other factors make it impossible to give accurate predictions about when and if the Social Security fund will disappear.

After the baby boomer generation passes through the Social Security system, the huge strain felt by them will dissipate. This "passing through" will end well before 2060.

It is my belief that our presidential administration is using Social Security reform as a means of getting people behind a common desire: to protect Social Security, as a means of generating support for the administration's leaders. President Bush's team should instead focus on fixing something that is broken.

The Almanian

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Statement of Purpose

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

Publication

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College's campus Tuesday evenings and is sent to subscribers the following day. The paper is published weekly, excepting College breaks.

Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in the bylined editorials reflect the views of certain Alma students or staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

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 Friday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at almanian@hotmail.com or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

OPINION

Not for the weak of stomach or heart

DEREK HARRISON
COPY EDITOR

Of any of the departments within the administration of Alma College, the Student Life office, and in particular the Housing office, should be the most in touch with the student body. It should operate in an organized and clearly responsible manner. It should represent the faculty connection to student involvements and common sentiments toward campus happenings.

As of late, it seems the faculty of the college has not undertaken these ideals. College staff members often boast of Alma's wonderful atmosphere and the positives of going to a small liberal arts college, however, liberal arts carries a larger connotation that many views will be experienced and represented. And if that is not practical, at the very least they will appear to be considered, especially when they reflect important aspects of each student's life.

Every impersonal action taken is one less vote of confidence in those that are paid to show the road to success in exchange with the high cost of this college.

Consider a possibly hypothetical and timely situation. A student who

resides in the dorms holds a job within the community so they can pay for their bills, books, and eventually college costs. On-campus jobs simply do not pay enough, do not seem to provide enough real experience, and the flexible hours are too limited or not flexible enough. They know that they will have to stay on campus over the three-week winter break to keep working between 2004 and 2005, so they call the Housing office in accordance with the flyer sent regarding the end of the fall term.

Their call is supposedly noted and they are told that since it is not a common situation, special accommodations would have to be made for them and the decision could not be made immediately. Fair enough, special accommodations sound appropriate in a small college setting.

After over a week, exams go by and it is hard enough to retain all the information that is necessary to pass them and keep up with every other activity. The Alma College student is very involved and busy just like many other students on campus. The fact is, the Housing office never calls and the student has to take the initiative to call them to find out the verdict.

The Housing office drops the ball

in a camouflage of disorganization, skewed reasoning, and impersonal justification against the student's request. The student tries to remain poised, reasonable but argumentative, and all that is racing through their mind is how they will maintain their job. When home is a good distance away, especially in winter weather, what can the student do to try keeping hours at work?

No matter what, the answer is no. Despite athletes on campus, despite workers within the college, and possibly a few other exceptions, there are no accommodations to be made. The student cannot lose their job, so they drive to work in Alma through snow advisories, ice warnings, high gas prices, and plain inconvenience. The student even gets into an accident because of poor conditions the day before Christmas Eve.

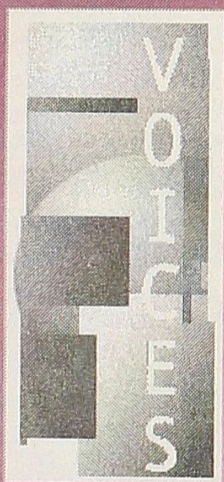
The student is definitely not a hero; the student is just trying to overcome adversity. The student hears of others' experiences with Housing, such as poor correspondence, results that only come when parents call, and ridiculous fees to change rooms.

The college President is kind enough to call back when she returns from vacation, however, there is not much reconciliation to be done now. Wages

were lost, time was wasted, damage was done to the student's car, and a negative image of bureaucracy developed.

The point is that a college cannot thrive with these sorts of situations. Who advertises their own college when it seems some within the college just do not care? If one student was granted permission for something that may be of interest to many others, should not it be accommodated instead of feared? How many loans does the average student have to attend Alma just to be dissatisfied? Does not that say something about their desire to be here and an obligation to make it as great of an experience holistically as is possible?

Furthermore, a student should not have to go to their parents to resolve an issue. That is a dangerous example to set, just because the parents are painted green with dead presidents. Some students are going it on their own and the lack of accessibility turns them away from colleges. It is not the lack of million dollar facilities, it is not the desperate attempt to bring speakers representing all walks of life that teachers bribe students with extra credit to go see, and it is certainly not increases in tuition.



How do you feel about this being your last semester?



Andrew McCracken (05)
I'm gonna (verb) the (noun) out of life.



Jon Cornacchione (05)
More prepared to face life after Alma. I'm also ready to get out of Michigan.



Angela Locklear (05)
I'm very very happy. I am ready to see and enjoy the sun again.



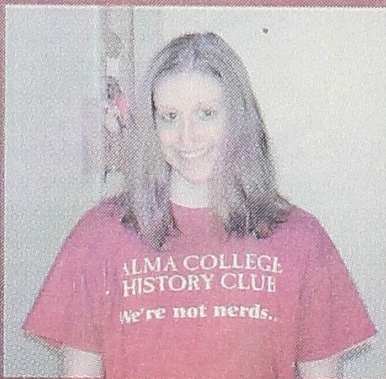
Liz Reeves (05)
I am anxious to graduate, get married, and start my career outside Alma, but I will miss the friends and cherish the memories I leave behind.



Cassie Culver (05)
I am excited about entering the "real world" and to start working, but I will be sad to leave my friends.



Kate Williams (05)
Fabulous!



Elizabeth Colechio (05)
It's really busy and stressful, but I'm having lots of fun.



Dan Rito (05)
I am ready to move on with my life and go to medical school and get married next year.

Photos by Kate Bruder

OPINION

The Almanian Poll

Please rate the class scheduling process at Alma from 1 (worst) to 10 (best).

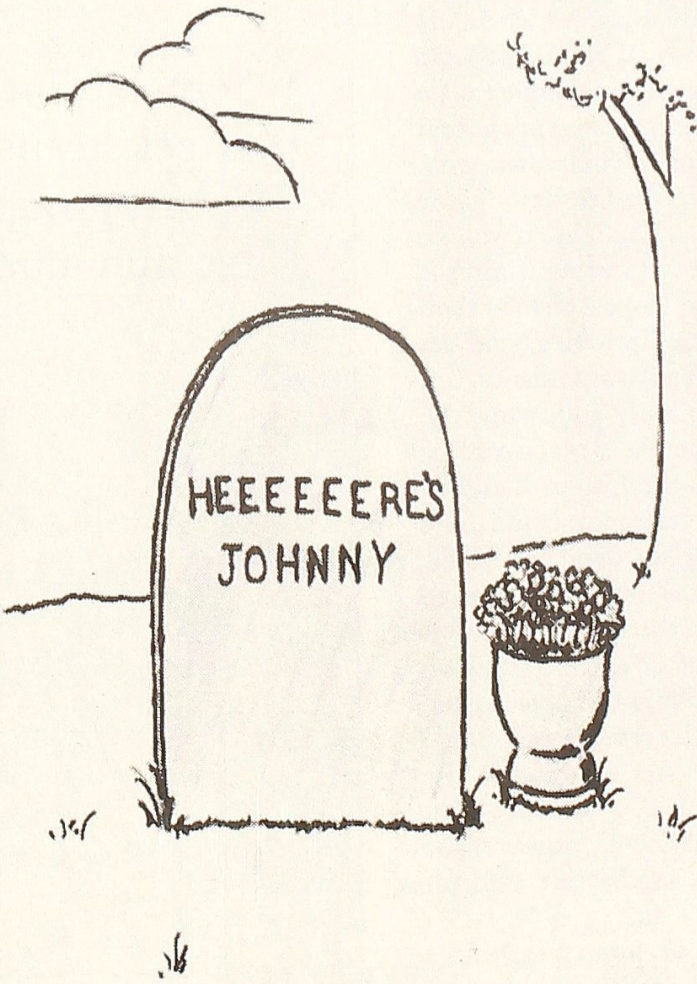
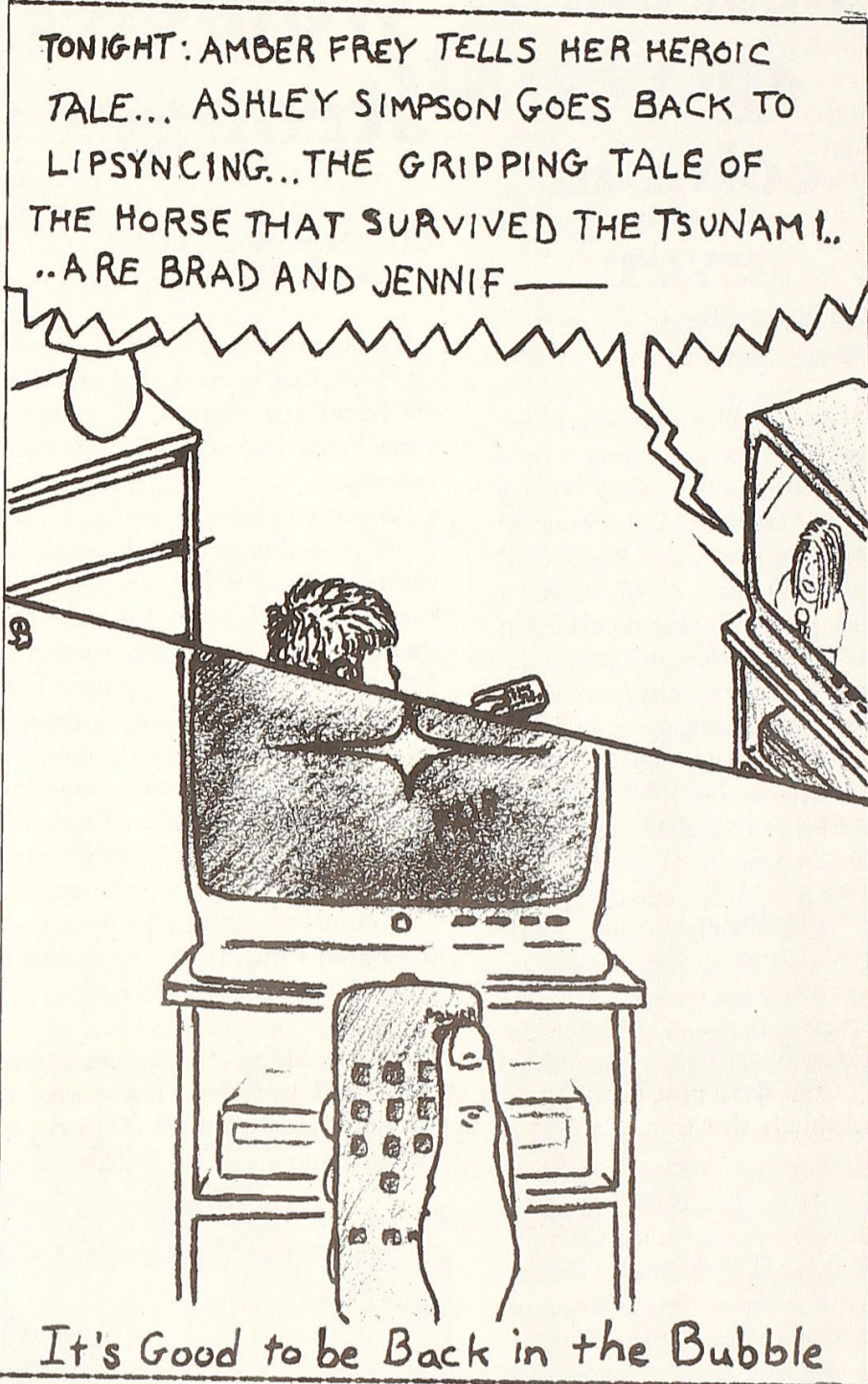
1	10 votes
2	3 votes
3	10 votes
4	3 votes
5	4 votes
6	13 votes
7	30 votes
8	20 votes
9	1 vote
10	6 votes

2. Of the classes you signed up for this term, about what percentage did you receive?

Less than 25%	3 votes
25%	7 votes
50%	10 votes
75%	44 votes
100%	36 votes

Sample size was 100 Alma College students

Pass/Fail by Steve Bailey



SPORTS

Best darn sports column ever

MATT HELMUS
SPORTS EDITOR

Back, refreshed and better than ever. This may describe the feeling of many after a long holiday break, but it may more accurately describe the men's basketball team. The Scots have enjoyed a resurgence this year, especially in the MIAA. Before this season the team had won exactly one conference basketball game since I first walked onto our Jungle, Grove and Campus fair. This year they have broken out of their slump to hold a 3-3 record in the MIAA.

What is truly amazing is that the team is only 3 points away from a 5-1 record after losing to Calvin by 2 points and Albion by 1. The Scots have not only been beating up on Adrian and Olivet this year, they have been competing with the big boys of the MIAA. Albion was ranked #2 in the nation when the Scots came close to stunning their archrivals. Calvin is one of the traditional favorites and only a few mistakes in the final minutes let the Knights slip out of Cappaert Gym with a victory.

If I were Hope coach Glenn van Wieren I would be very worried about bringing my limping team into a game against a very potent Alma team in their own gym. That said, Wednesday's game should be a dogfight. It will be even more interesting if Alma is able to give Hope a taste of their own medicine by having hundreds of rowdy fans in attendance.

Immediately following the men's game the women will be taking on the Calvin Knights. The doubleheader could be a great night for Scot basketball. The womens' team is looking to get back in the MIAA race after starting out slow. A new weapon in Darcie Philp (a transfer from Division II Ferris State) should help the Scots rebound in the second half of conference play. The Knights will, however, be dangerous, as they are tied for the MIAA lead.

Fans should show up early for a good seat if they want to see their Scots wipe the floor with the Flying Dutchmen and Knights.

Women's basketball growing stronger as season continues

COLIN M. WASILOFF
STAFF WRITER

During the winter break, the women's basketball team proved that they will be solid contenders in the MIAA come February 22 at the MIAA tournament.

While you were sleeping in, the Scots took the court and came out victorious against the University of Windsor and Mt. St. Joseph. Although the international match up did not matter in the long run of the Scot's season, it was a great time for the Scots to work on their game.

Katey Peacock (06), who bears title of MIAA Player of the Week for week 5, scored 15 of the Scots' 56 total points, and accounted for 4 rebounds. Also contributing against Windsor was **Erica Philp (08)** who doubled Peacock's rebounds and scored 13 points.

Against Mount St. Joseph, Philp had a break out performance with 9 rebounds and 19 points. Of her 19 points, Philp racked in 7 from free

throws, out of 7 attempts. Not only was Philp sinking shots left and right, **Rondi Lounds (05)** also had an excellent game. Lounds had 15 points, including a three pointer, and pulled down 6 rebounds. The Scots undoubtedly went on to win the contest by a final score of 78-65.

On January 15, hosted the St. Mary's team. Down by five at the half, Peacock and the Scots mounted an incredible rally that tied the game late in the second half. Peacock and gang outscored St. Mary's by six points in overtime and were hailed victors by a final score of 77-71.

Freshman Philp had an outstanding performance with a double-double. Peacock once again led the team in scoring, with 25 total points.

"Basically the team worked well together," said Philp. "Everyone on the team is very good, and I love playing on the team."

After spending all of break together, the team had an opportunity to bond. Moreover, the team's Philp count doubled when they added Erica's

older sister, **Darcie Philp (06)**, to the squad, making the team a family affair.

"I love playing with Darcie, she has a lot of confidence and makes everyone around her better," said the younger Philp.

This past Wednesday the Scots took on arch-rival Adrian College. The Bulldogs came into the match up a meager 4-10 overall but only 1 win behind the Scots in the MIAA.

Erica Philp and **Ashley Borcherd-ing (06)** led the Scots with 18 points each. Philp shot 70 percent from the field and sunk four out of six free throw attempts.

The Scots are on a break for now, but will play again on Wednesday at 8p.m. They will be hosting the Calvin College Knights here in Alma. The Knights are coming to town tied for first in the log-jammed MIAA.

"I think they (Calvin) should be afraid," warns Philp. "We are ready to go and we're not afraid of playing anyone!"

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SPORTS

Great Scot: Jim Northrup

MATTHELMUS
SPORTS EDITOR

Not many Alma College student-athletes can dream of making the major leagues. One Scot, however, was able to rise up to the challenge and become a star in Major League Baseball after graduating from Alma.

Jim Northrup was born in 1939 and grew up in the town of Breckenridge, not far from Alma. He was a four sport star (baseball, basketball, football and track) for the Scots before graduating in 1962. In 1959 Northrup was named the MIAA's Most Valuable Player in football. He was also named to the All-MIAA team in baseball.

Northrup could have turned pro in two sports if he chose to. He declined offers from the Chicago Bears and New York Titans to play quarterback.

Below: Northrup (third from left) enjoys a dinner with other returning lettermen at Alma College including University of Wyoming Head Coach Lloyd Eaton (second from left).



photos courtesy of Alma College Archives Online

Instead he signed a free agent contract with the hometown Detroit Tigers in 1960.

It was in Detroit that Northrup earned the nickname "The Gray Fox." He played outfield for the Tigers, with his major league debut in 1964. He is most remembered for his play in the 1968 World Series. In Game 6 he hit a memorable grand slam. In Game 7 he hit a two-run triple which turned the game in favor of the Tigers who went on to win the Series.

Northrup played in the big leagues until 1975 with Detroit, Montreal and Baltimore. He ended his career with a .267 batting average, 153 home runs and 610 RBIs in 1,392 games. In spite of his long career he is mostly remembered for the '68 season when he had 153 hits, 90 RBIs and helped the Tigers win the World Championship.

Below: Jim Northrup (far left in the back row) poses with the rest of the 1957-58 Alma basketball team. Northrup earned letters in four sports during his career as a Scot.



MIAA Standings

MEN'S BASKETBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Adrian	5-1	11-5
Albion	5-1	15-1
Calvin	4-1	12-4
Hope	3-2	7-9
ALMA	3-3	8-8
K'zoo	2-4	6-10
Olivet	0-5	6-13
Tri-State	0-5	3-13

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

	MIAA	Overall
Albion	8-1	16-2
Calvin	7-1	13-2
Hope	7-1	14-2
K'zoo	3-5	8-9
St. Mary's	3-5	8-9
Tri-State	3-5	5-11
ALMA	2-6	7-7
Olivet	2-6	7-9
Adrian	2-7	5-11

MEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING


	MIAA
Hope	3-0
Albion	2-1
Olivet	2-1
Calvin	1-2
K'zoo	1-2
ALMA	0-3

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

	MIAA
Calvin	3-0
Hope	3-1
K'zoo	3-1
Olivet	2-2
Albion	1-2
St. Mary's	1-3
ALMA	0-4

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SPORTS

Vastly improved Scots making noise in MIAA play

COLIN WASILOFF
STAFF WRITER

While the students of Alma College took a much awaited December break, the men's basketball team continued to work hard on the court. Over the break, the Scots played six games and came back into the second semester with a season-high four game winning streak.

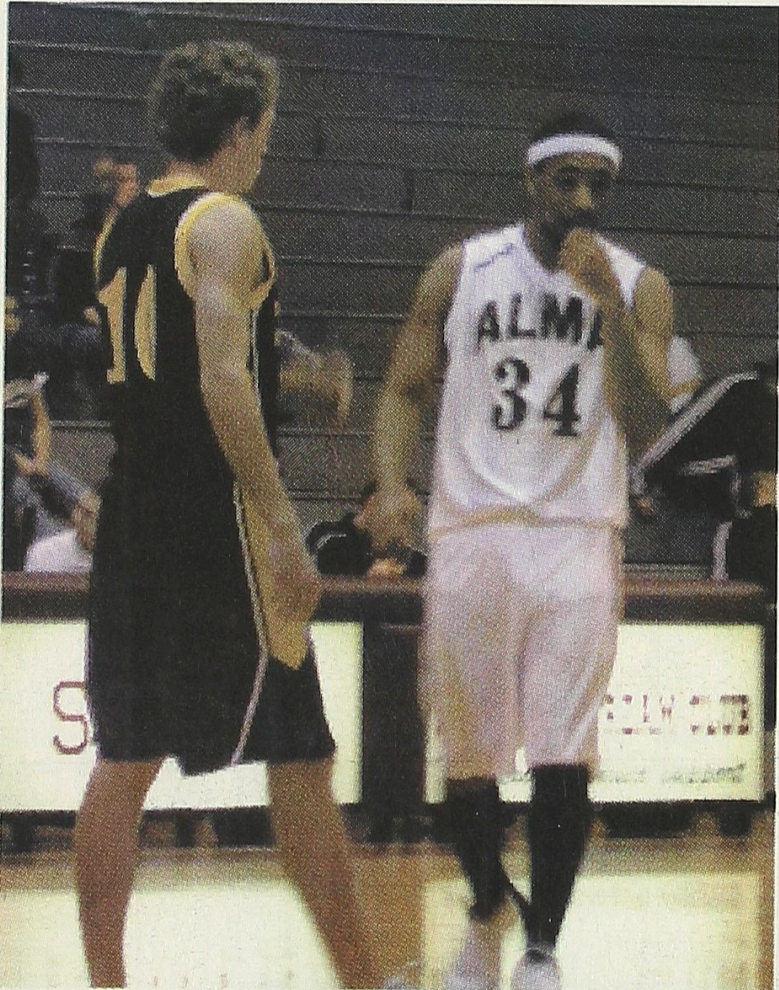
However, the Scots started out rocky with an overtime loss to Finlandia and an ugly 84-56 loss to Division II Ferris State University. The Scots then started the winning streak that would propel them into the second semester with wins over Spring Arbor, Kalamazoo, Tri-State University, and Olivet College.

On the January 15, the team traveled to Adrian to take on conference rivals the Bulldogs from Adrian College. Alma's **Anthony Jones (07)** logged the most time on the roster, and managed 14 total points, followed by **Mark Barnes (08)** with only three minutes less time on the court but with 15 points.

Although the team had some excellent individual efforts, the second half stats were less than desirable. As a team, the Scots suffered a 14 percent drop in team shooting percentage, down from 50 percent in the first half. Needless to say, the team unfortunately ended its winning streak, losing to Adrian by a final score of 52-64.

"It's been a great season so far," said **Jamie Diener (07)**, center. "We have come a long way from where we were last year. We went from only having three wins to where we are today. We are starting to reach our potential."

Diener, a second year player, is more confident this year than last. "The major difference from last season is that we are much more sound. We are



Above: In his freshman year Mark Barnes has become a key player for the Scots, helping them to a much improved 8-8 record on the year. Barnes has started in 13 of the Scots' 16 games. He is averaging 14.9 points per game and 7.3 rebounds per game and has led the team in points on three occasions. The 6'4" forward from Saginaw has teamed with sophomore Anthony "AJ" Jones to average nearly 40 points per game. Jones currently leads the MIAA in scoring, continuing his success from his freshman year.

a sound team. Last season we were pretty young and didn't have a lot of college ball under our belts."

Diener added that if the team was to continue in their success that they would have to put in some extra time working on rebounds.

"If we want to be competitive in this league we will have to get better at rebounding."

This past Tuesday the Calvin College Knights came to town and stole a win from the hosting Scots by a final of 55-52. The game was a close, hard fought dunk-fest with only meager offensive production by either team.

Anthony Jones raked in 11 rebounds and 16 points, registering a double-double. Mark Barnes accounted for 16 of the Scot's points by sinking three three-point shots from beyond the arc. After the disappointing loss the Scots sank to just over .500 with an overall record of 8-7, and 3-2 in the MIAA.

Taking the court again on Saturday, the Scots lined up against conference foe Albion College who held an unblemished conference record and number two ranking in the nation. Before the game center Diener was apprehensive and looking forward to the big game.

"We're psyched! Coming off two disappointing losses and going into their house we think that we have an opportunity for an upset. If we do (win), not only will we shake things up in the MIAA, but also in the Midwest."

The team came close, but could not shut the door on Albion. The Scots fell by one point to the Britons on Saturday. Although the Scots led at half time, and had an all-league night from Anthony Jones (30 points and 8 rebounds), it was not enough. The Scots lost the battle of the boards as well as the game with 29 rebounds compared to Albion's 45.

The Scots, 8-8 (3-3), will face off against Hope College, 7-9 (3-2), on Wednesday night at 5:45 here in Alma. They will then take on Kalamazoo on Saturday at 3:30 in Cappaert Gymnasium.

8-8- OVERALL



3-3 MIAA

CAMPUS CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 26

- 1 - 4 p.m. - Thomas Lynch "The Good Death, Good Grief, and Good Funerals" - VanDusen Commons
- 3:30 - 5 p.m. - MSU College of Law Representative Pam Shaw (SAC 104)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Basketball Home v. Hope

8p.m. - Women's Basketball Home v. Calvin

FRIDAY, JAN. 28

8:30 p.m. - Sorority Walkouts (VanDusen)

SATURDAY, JAN. 29

1 p.m. - Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving Home v. Hope - Senior Day

3 p.m. - Men's Basketball Home v. K'zoo

3 p.m. - Women's Basketball @ Albion

9 p.m. - Fraternity Runouts (SAC to fraternity houses)

SUNDAY, JAN. 30

9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Service