

The Almanian

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Serving Alma College Since 1907

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Hurricane Katrina debate fills auditorium, discusses role of racism

BRIANNA SCHUBERT
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Black Student Union filled Jones Auditorium Tuesday Night, presenting an open panel discussion titled "Secrets of Hurricane Katrina."

The purpose of the discussion was to bring political and social problems of the disaster to light.

The featured speakers were Greg Bottner, Alma College Chaplain, Dr. Borrello, Dr. Fobes, Mr Britt Cartrite, local democrat L.D. Hollenbeck, local businessman Ted Groves, and **Ms Crystal Cumbus (09)**.

The discussion opened with a question concerning the levees and the possibility of engineering working levees. Dr. Borrello said,

"The question is why the engineers didn't build the levees up enough, and there is talk of corruption, but the problem is not only are the water levels rising but this area is sinking - you are fighting a losing battle. They are trying to build these levees over an old swamp."

He continued saying that it came down to a matter of money.

Mr. Cartrite said that there are always risk analysis tests taken and 25 years ago the likelihood of a level five hurricane was almost none.

There was audience participation. **Erik Johnson (06)** asked, "Do you think it is feasible to rebuild the city?"

Borrello answered that he thinks it would be possible but it would be expensive. He mentioned that the



Photo By Derek Harrison

Organized by the Black Student Union, the Hurricane Katrina panel consisted of seven panelists of varying disciplines.

culture of New Orleans is really what would be lost.

The next question was "Would it be fair to ask the

tax payers to pay for New Orleans to be rebuilt?"

Bottner mentioned that New Orleans was a valuable

shipping port. Groves said, "Some of these people do not

Story Continued under SECRETS on page 3

Students in Free Enterprise promote café

SAM STONEBURG
STAFF WRITER

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) have taken many steps toward making a library café a reality.

Earlier this fall the library posted a survey on their websites and asked students to fill it out. The goal of the survey was to give the library staff an idea of what to do with grant money that recently received for renovations. In October the library held an open forum which allowed attending members from the campus community to express ideas and opinions.

Amanda Zielinski (07), who is in charge of entrepreneurship in SIFE said "SIFE has key principals that we go off of for all of our projects and one of them is

entrepreneurship. When we were talking about what we were going to do along the lines of entrepreneurship we thought of starting a coffee shop downtown. Because we had no capital we realized that wasn't going to be feasible. Then one of our members went to the open forum [in the library] and heard that there is grant money available. What we would like to do is work with the library to create a project which could involve marketing students, accounting students, management students and maybe even communications students who could use the experience to learn how to run a small business."

According to Zielinski, other benefits of this café would be that "it would be open at hours that Joe's is

not and would keep some of the funds in the library."

Director of the library, Carol Zeile mentioned that these renovations will not involve adding any additions to the current library, rather modifying the current space. When asked about the location of the proposed café Zielinski said "the library is talking about taking all of the books from the downstairs study area and putting them upstairs and expanding the casual seating area. The nook near the study room [past the periodicals] is a possible location. I work at the library and I see students leaving all the time to get food from Joe's and coming back, if we have a café in the library students can get

Story Continued under CAFE on page 3



Photo By Kate Bruder

After growing up in Michigan, author and traveler, Bonnie Jo Campbell speaks in the Library about her essays and writing advice to a captivated audience.

This Week In Alma

-Friday, November 18 - SIFE Presents to the Planning Committee at 3:30 p.m in the Library

-Friday, November 18 - Mission Imrovable performs in the Chapel at 8 p.m.

-Saturday & Sunday, November 19-20 - Pianist Christopher Falzone performs at 3 p.m. in Presbyterian Hall

-Tuesday, November 22 - Alma Percussion Ensemble held at 8 p.m. in Presbyterian Hall

-Wednesday, November 23 - Thanksgiving recess begins, no classes after 5 p.m.

-Friday, November 25 - Men's basketball takes on Concordia College at 7:30 pm in Cappaert Gymnasium

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Trail development plans continue to move forward

NICOLE STACHURA
FREELANCE WRITER

When the last 5 miles of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail are completed, the Alma community, including local businesses and the college, are expected to benefit from the exposure the recreational feature will bring.

"Coming to Alma, we don't have a lot, entertainment wise," said Robyn L. Anderson, professor of exercise and health science. "We're the only county in the entire state without a lake," Anderson said. In a community that no longer has funding for a recreation department, a 40-mile paved path for biking and Rollerblading may be the remedy for the lack of "things to do."

Anderson, a member of the Friends of the Fred Meijer Heartland Trail of Gratiot County, said the process of purchasing the final part of the trail that stretches along abandoned railroad from Greenville to downtown Alma hasn't been a smooth ride.

Over the last two years, the Friends have ardently pursued obtaining the last 5 miles of the trail that traverses from Elwell to Alma. The land, owned by international railroad company CSX Corporation, was originally saddled with a price tag totaling over half a million dollars, she said.

However, a survey of the potential pathway appraised the land only above \$341,000. Through private pledges and contributions from area businesses, including a matching donation of \$20,000 from Frederick Meijer of the Meijer Corporation, the necessary funds to purchase the remaining stretch of land were raised.

Anderson, who used to lead an adult bicycling club around Alma, anticipates the peace of mind that the trail will bring to the city.

"There just aren't any safe places to ride," she said.

The faculty member also sees the positive aspects that the bike path will have for Alma College. Though the school has its "reputation and academics," the opportunities for students

to entertain themselves don't stack up against a place like Hope College with such close proximity to the beaches of Lake Michigan, she said.

Mayor Melvin A. Nyman acknowledges the attention the leisure trail might fetch from a student perspective as well as a point of interest for potential faculty and staff.

"You want community assets that make it an attractive place to live," he said. "You just don't take a job. You get the town, too."

With the hospital about to undergo a major building project, there could be a growth in the number of health care professionals in the area. A rail trail would be one of the benefits of living in Alma, the city official said.

After the purchase on the last portion of the pathway is complete, the city of Alma will own the section passing from Luce Road to Prospect Avenue as "part of the city parks system," the mayor continued.

Nyman said that the task of paving the trail within the city limits will be pursued "aggressively" once the essential funds and paperwork are secured, and construction on this portion could begin as soon as the summer of 2006.

Aeric G. Ripley, liaison between the city of Alma and the Friends group, said it will cost \$1.3 million to pave the stretch from downtown Alma to the county line.

Once Alma owns the property, city officials will begin the grant-writing process to apply for a Transportation Enhancement Grant to fund the project.

As soon as the endeavor is completed, however, Ripley anticipates advantages for community businesses.

"You'll probably get some people in town who otherwise wouldn't be here," he said.

The city official says he anticipates somewhat of a "trickle-down" effect from the businesses in the downtown area where the trail ends.

"The rail trail will be bigger than the River Walk," he said. "It's cheap and easy for the city to use."

"This is the first time we're really working closely with our neighboring townships," Ripley emphasized. "It's good to see everyone on board."

Business fraternity approved in Student Congress, increase individual competition

LAUREN RUHLAND
FREELANCE WRITER

A new business group encouraging individual achievement and competition was authorized as an official campus organization by Student Congress last week.

Phi Beta Lambda was unanimously approved at the November 7 meeting and joins the Business Club and Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) in providing an outlet for students interested in commerce and economics.

Though this is Alma's third business organization, Phi Beta Lambda Vice-President **Terra Teague (08)** says the new group fills a previously unoccupied niche. Unlike SIFE, which emphasizes cooperative projects and teambuilding, PBL allows students to demonstrate their strengths in single-person competition.

"It's different, because it's more individual," she said.

PBL offers competition at the state, regional, and national level in various areas ranging from accounting principles and economic concepts to business ethics

and technology. Winners at the state and regional stages have the opportunity to advance, and scholarship prizes are offered at all levels.

Currently, there are no Michigan chapters of PBL sanctioned by the national organization, but Teague said that several other colleges and universities are at about the same stage as Alma in seeking approval. She expects about four other schools to attend the first state competition.

"This is a great way for business majors to be recognized."

-Terra Teague,
PBL Vice President

"Obviously, having a small number of state chapters is an advantage, because more participants will have a chance to move on and possibly win prizes," Teague added. While the chance to compete for scholarships is likely to appeal to many students, it's only one aspect of Phi Beta Lambda's goals. According to Teague, the group hopes to sponsor campus

speakers, offer leadership workshops, and provide job shadowing opportunities to interested members. Teague said that participation in the organization will help participants to find careers in the highly competitive business field after graduation.

"It's something you can put on your résumé to show that you've had real experience in business."

Teague and PBL President **Jesse Russell (08)** began discussing the formation of an Alma chapter since this summer. Now that the group has been recognized, the next step is to find a faculty advisor and plan an agenda and regular meetings.

Phi Beta Lambda and its high school affiliate, Future Business Leaders of America, have over 13,000 chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada, with 240,000 active students participating, according to their web site at www.fbla-pbl.org.

"I think that this is a great way for business majors to be recognized not only as group members, but on an individual level," Teague said.

Spring Term addition would aid Katrina efforts

JEN ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Professor **Mark Cubberley** is organizing a Spring Term to help Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

The course is not finalized, but if there is enough interest, 33 students, Cubberley, and another faculty member will receive Red Cross training and certification the week prior to the official spring term. The group will then spend three weeks in the Gulf Coast area, where they will provide assistance to individuals and families affected by the hurricane. Students will receive "S" course credit, pending faculty approval. The tentative dates for this Spring Term are April 24 to May 25, 2006.

Part of the task force led by **Sallie Scheide**, Cubberley is presenting the relief Spring Term as an addition to the alternative break relief opportunity. Both efforts will be done through the National Relief Network of Grand Rapids, "an organization committed to bringing large numbers of volunteers to state and federally declared disaster areas for the purpose

of helping families in their efforts to rebuild their homes, their communities, and their lives" (www.nrn.org). During this Spring Term, students will most likely assist in rebuilding by tearing down houses, cleaning up, and doing other volunteer work. "This way, families will not have to spend their insurance

National Relief Network will also accompany the group, providing resources to help meet their needs.

"I crafted this course in response to **President Tracy's** Call to Action after Hurricane Katrina," said Cubberley. "My job gives me the ability to make courses that give students an opportunity to serve. Spring Term gives students an opportunity to take advantage of those courses—during a typical academic year, students would not be able to take three weeks away from the classroom to help others."

In 1999 Professor **Deborah Dougherty** took a group to Honduras to help with hurricane relief efforts, but students have not before had the opportunity to participate in a Spring Term based solely on volunteerism within the United States. "Throughout the course, we will talk about volunteerism as a way to help discover one's own vocation," said Cubberley. Students interested in this Spring Term should contact Mark Cubberley by Friday, November 18 or as soon as possible at cubberley@alma.edu or x7362.

CONTACT:

Mark Cubberley,
Assistant Professor of
Chemistry, at x7362 or
cubberley@alma.edu

money to tear down the houses they have yet to rebuild," said Cubberley.

The course is estimated at \$1,200 plus the \$280 Alma College Spring Term tuition fee. The costs include meals and accommodations once in the Gulf Coast area. The prices are reduced substantially because of the National Relief Network's goal to give as many people as possible the chance to volunteer. Along with the students and faculty, a member of the

Alma celebrates diversity during International Week

TIFFANY BALDUCCI
FREELANCE WRITER

International Week is working hard to burst the Alma Bubble.

Taking place all week, Monday, November 14th through Friday, November 18th, International Week is opening eyes of college students to new and diverse perspectives.

Students are invited to come and celebrate the diversity of cultural experiences by attending presentations on other countries and societies throughout the world and enjoying different ethnic meals throughout the week.

On Tuesday, **Chelsey Thurston (o6)** spoke of her travels though Ecuador

and Peru which were spent during her semester abroad. Thurston concentrated mostly on differences in education and culture and how it influenced her as a college student and a person as a whole. Thurston explained that classes in South America

cultures go through." On Wednesday **Elizabeth Larive (o6)** educated her peers on her studies in Italy, entitled "Living a Dream: An Italian Escape I Got Credit For." Bringing a worldly perspective, **Ekaterina**

"International Students need support and advice and are experiencing culture shock."

-Anna Zayats (o8)

met only for half a day, but they met every day. She was also given opportunities to travel throughout Ecuador and Peru on the weekends.

Thurston said, "I feel that International Week is a great thing to have at Alma College because it is opening the eyes of students to what other people in different

Kozovaya (o8) and **Anna Zayats (o8)**, two Alma College International Students, spoke of their home country Belarus. The presentation was entitled "Belarus: A Culture You Probably Heard Little About."

To illustrate this point, Kozovaya said, "Sometimes

it is fun to look at people's reaction when I say that I'm from Belarus. Very often they try to pretend that they know my country, and when I ask, 'Do you know where it is?', they say 'Isn't it somewhere in South America?'"

Belarus is actually located in Europe, near Russia and has its own unique history, culture, and politics. "Our President is called the last dictator of Europe," Zayats said, "Many students are unaware of that."

This is the first time that Alma College has formally held an International Week. A goal for the week is to make International students feel more welcome.

Zayats said, "There are not a lot of International students at Alma College

and you can feel it. International Students need support and advice and are experiencing culture shock."

Another goal Zayats and Kozovaya share are that students other than International club will be interested in International Week, and possibly join International Club.

"You do not have to be an International Student to be in International Club," said Zayats. "I am from Belarus, you are from America, we are international."

Hamilton Commons is offering ethnic food all week, promoting foods from Spain, Korea, Kenya, France and Turkey, so even if you can not make it to a presentation, you can celebrate International Week and diversity at meals.

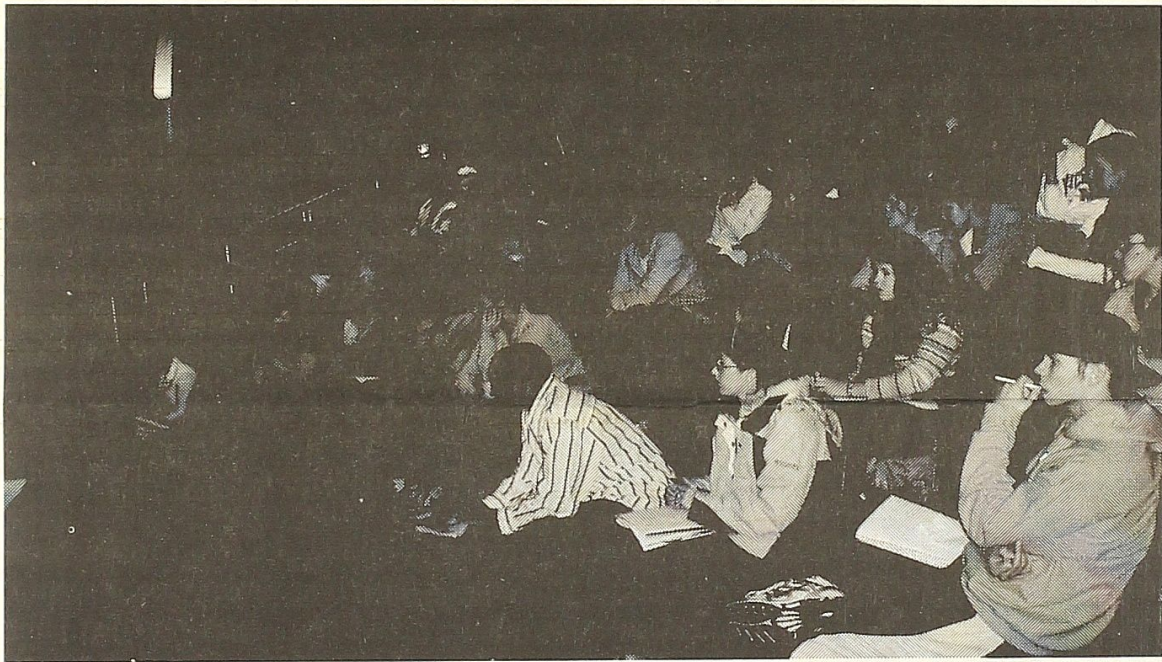


Photo By Derek Harrison

Students that filled Jones Auditorium listen as panelists debate about the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

IMPROVable to perform Friday

The highly energized improvisational group Mission IMPROVable will make its return to Alma College this evening at 8 p.m.

Coordinated by ACUB, the five-man comedy show out of Chicago is making its second appearance on campus and is free to all students.

"We brought them in two years ago and they went over really well, so we wanted to bring them back," said ACUB **Megan Gillespie (o7)**. "It's an opportunity for students to do something

fun on a Friday night."

Mission IMPROVable describes itself as a cross between "Whose Line Is It Anyway" and "Mission Impossible"—with dynamite. During a typical evening, members will not only use the audience for themes, but also for physical participation in skits. These skits, which the group refers to as "missions," are fast-paced and guaranteed to never be duplicated.

Mission IMPROVable began at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1997, and relocated to Chicago after finding such great amounts of local success. There, the members studied at some of today's top comedy institutions, including The Second City, ImprovOlympic, and Annoyance theaters.

Today, the group's typical schedule consists of performances at the most popular improv comedy festivals and theaters across the country, as well as at over 200 college campuses. In 2003, Mission IMPROVable was nominated in the Reader's Choice Awards of "Campus Activities Magazine" for best comedy performance.

Some in ACUB are worried tonight's Greek formals may interfere with attendance, although a 9 p.m. finish could allow sufficient time. "Hopefully the turnout is good," said ACUB member **Sam Lyttle (o8)**. "It's going to be a really great show."

Those who are interested about Mission IMPROVable or for samples of their humor, may visit www.missionIMPROVable.com.

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even want to go back there."

Cartrite said, "I don't think people want some Epcot Center, Disney World version of New Orleans. Some of the culture was lost."

"There is a broader discussion about whether we want to allow people to live in these risky areas. The monetary burden is on the tax payers."

Tiffany Balducci (o6) asked who would benefit if New Orleans was rebuilt. Borrello said, "There is a correlation between the lowest ground and the population with the lowest socio-economic level."

"We are [the government] awarding no-bid contracts at this point," said Borrello. This proved to be a hot topic and went back and forth several times. Halliburton was mentioned and party ties among the speakers came out strongly.

Dr Fobes said, "Tonight we're hearing different perspectives. This issues people address are up to

grabs. I don't know if we can reconcile those facts. One of those things I want to comment on is that race and racism are at the core of the response to the hurricane.

In my view, one of the reasons that the response to Hurricane Katrina was so slow was because the primary victims were black.

The present administration has shown time and time again that it does show cronyism, does show racism. Some people have likened Katrina with the Titanic disaster."

"Institutionalized racialism is built into the political system," said Dr. Fobes.

"Most of the evacuees that did not evacuate were unable to do so. I would have to assume that those who did not did not have a vehicle," said **Calvin Hilson (o6)**.

There were many heated debates within this discussion due to differences in opinion and background, stemming from both political and socio-economic variables.

CAFE continued from page 1

their food right there and take it into the casual seating area. The expansion of the casual seating area could be used for many things such as a place for members of the writing center to meet."

Zeile explained that other ideas for how to use the grant money include highlighting or expanding the writing center, interrogating different campus-wide services such as an IT help desk.

"It is not all or nothing, there is space for collaborating and learning," she said.

When asked if she could see this actually happening in the future she said "I think that it could happen, I had some concerns, but they're going to be addressed in the next meeting."

Zielinski said "Part of the concern [of the campus-wide group, which includes faculty, support staff, students and librarians] was the sustainability for the program. We as a SIFE team are working on sustainability,

not only for this project, but for the whole team. Now that it is offered as a class it is stronger as a program. We're trying to prove that SIFE isn't going anywhere."

We need to guarantee that the café will be profitable, in order to do so we have applied for student congress contingency to put up part of the money necessary to get this project off of the ground. As of right now it will be strictly run by SIFE volunteers in order to make more profits, but possibly could be a student job opportunity in the future. Everything would go through sodexo because the school has a contract with them, so some of the products will be similar, but not limited, to those of Joe's and Scotties."

For students who are interested in learning more of this project, or getting involved there will be a meeting on Friday, November, 18, 2005 in the library at 3:00 pm.

Campus strives to be accessible to all students

JEN CORNACCHIONE
STAFF WRITER

When **Monica Rentfrow (08)** leaves her dorm to go to class every morning, she cannot take the frequently traveled shortcut down the library stairs.

This challenge Rentfrow faces is one that the campus is currently battling. Although Alma College has legally met all guidelines regarding campus handicap accessibility, administration is still working to make improvements. "Code-wise, we're at the letter of the law, but we need go a ways," said Grant Woodman, Director of Campus Life.

Trish Chase, Director of the Center for Student Development, agreed saying that Alma was not a very easy campus for someone

"Administrators are looking to create a universal design on campus where everybody can use everything . . . both academically and physically"

- Trish Chase

with a mobile impairment to navigate. The Center for Student Development has played a role as a provider of disability services.

"Little things you and I might not think about are

huge to someone who has an impairment," Chase said.

Rentfrow said her biggest challenge is getting into buildings because she has to maneuver and battle her way around the outward-opening doors.

Despite these challenges, Rentfrow is very positive about the accommodations the school has made for her and others with impairments.

"Everybody is so willing to make sure I can do what I want," said Rentfrow, whose door has a lower peephole for her to look out. If she has a class in a new building, all she has to do is let someone know and they will install a door opener for her.

Chase agrees the college has been very responsive to the needs of students.

"Administrators are looking to create a universal design on campus where everybody can use everything," said Chase. This design includes both physical and academic needs.

Buildings on campus are being examined and needed changes are being made, she continued.

External routes are the main focus of the redesign. Law requires that at least one accessible route shall connect accessible buildings, facilities, elements, and spaces that are on the same site. According to Chase, it is hard to navigate from place to place on campus even with the required routes.

Dave Henson (08) was



Monica Rentfrow (08), one of Alma's students hoping for greater accessibility because of her first-hand experience.

on crutches after tearing his ACL and meniscus this summer and was forced to use the inconvenient paths.

"I sometimes took longer routes; I'd avoid the stairs," he said.

Rentfrow added that it is not very welcoming to a person with a mobile impairment, especially prospective students, to have to take long routes everywhere.

Although the codes

for the campus are met, administration agrees that more improvements are needed. To plan for these adaptations, an architect has been hired to look at the best external routes for those with a mobile impairment to get around campus, said Chase.

The 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 states that "No otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his/

her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of a public entity."

People with any disabilities who attend Alma College automatically fall into "otherwise qualified" because they met the academic and technical standards that were necessary for admission. As a result, different sectors of the college are working to improve the experience of those students who attend Alma.

To accommodate for the increasing number of impaired students enrolling at Alma, Woodman said the housing selection process is changing. All single rooms are being reserved for those who have some type of disability. In addition to the single rooms, Wright Hall, first floor Gelston and one suite in Nisbet are all handicap accessible, he maintained.

The Center for Student Development offers programs and tools for those who need academic assistance, said Chase. For example, textbooks can be sent out and be transferred into MP3s and tests can be taken in quiet rooms.

External modifications are planned to begin in January, and each new building erected on campus will be internally accessible. Chase said she expects campus renovations to be completed within a few years.

Something to learn about love

JEN ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Someone suggested the *Almanian* should write an article about love—about relationships on campus. When I think of either, my heart sort of paralyzes. The following is not an attack on our generation, but my continuation to always seek the fairy tale. Not with princes or white horses, but with sincerity, trust, and love...real love.

People are getting older and older before getting into long-term relationships, and I feel like I am among a mere few who are concerned about why this is happening—or that it is happening. I think back a few generations, when it wasn't uncommon for people to meet their loves at a mere fourteen years of age and have to get their parents' permission to get legally married before age eighteen.

We often just accept that people were much more mature 'back then' and go on with our lifestyles where it is glorified to be a bachelor or bachelorette basking in the freedom of self-sufficiency

guy, get with another girl—where did the purity go? People seem to be seeking, but all the wrong things.

I do not think it is bad for people to wait and make sure they are ready for commitment, but at the same time, we can selfishly be waiting forever. Love used to be something wanted, and something wholesome. I don't

"... seek the fairy tale. Not with the princes or white horses, but with sincerity, trust, and love . . . real love."

feel like a hypocrite, writing this with little relationship experience, because I think my soul is trying to adjust into a generation where it feels misplaced. I guess I am just old-fashioned at heart and wish so much I could be back in my grandparents' day.

I know, though, that there are people who still know the meaning of love; my grandpa is one of them. I just hope this concept is not lost in those who want but do not speak

and indulgence. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy my alone time and definitely have not increased the percentage of early-age relationship seekers, but it is so discouraging to see how a majority of people act in terms of relationships even at our college.

I think sometimes I idealize the 'olden days.' It is easy to pick out the positive in times of the past and wish it were here in the present, ignoring or leaving behind the negative. Some of our grandparents (and their parents), I am sure, had their share of fun and flirting around. I just can't see such instances happening night after night, woman after woman, man after man.

Maybe it is just that my grandpa never talks about how he flirted with another woman other than my grandma. However, he and my grandma were married when she was only sixteen or seventeen, and I think that speaks volumes. It breaks my heart every time I hear someone staking out their goals for the night—just to look good for another

Student creates new club, Colleges Against Cancer

LAURA SACHJEN
STAFF WRITER

To raise awareness about cancer and cancer-related issues, a new group has been started on campus aimed at student involvement.

Alma is now part of a network of colleges that make up the American Cancer Society's Colleges Against Cancer (CAC) program.

The group was started by **Danielle Creguer (07)**, who is Alma's Co-Chair for Relay for Life. Last year, a Relay for Life staff member approached Creguer and gave her an opportunity to start a group on Alma's campus.

"Relay for Life is something I'm very passionate about," said Creguer.

CAC recently had its constitution approved by Student Congress and is in the beginning stages of planning

events. The group has held one meeting so far and already has about 15 members.

The group is required by the larger CAC program to do at least three cancer education programs, one of which can count as Relay for Life. Alma's CAC is still in the process of planning events as of yet, but hopes to do one program every month to raise awareness about cancer.

Alma's group plans to increase the number of members and plan more events next semester.

"We're trying to get people aware about how important an issue cancer is," said Creguer.

Colleges Against Cancer is a nationwide collaboration of college students, faculty and staff. CAC works to promote programs set up by the American Cancer Society.

Advertise your event!

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Technology department performs continuously

Student resources may require more work than meets the eye

ANDREA MILLER
FREELANCE WRITER

It's an all too common occurrence. The night before the big research paper is due, you sit down to type and your computer goes haywire. Those occurrences are exactly where the Information Technology (IT) department comes into play.

The IT staff exist to make the lives of Alma College's faculty, students, and administration a little easier. They deal with the campus' computer questions, troubles, and operations, while providing instructional technology, lab help, and media services. With society becoming more reliant on computers and technology frequently changing, the IT department finds itself constantly busy coordinating every type of technological effort on-campus.

"Our biggest challenge is that we have such a huge variety of applications that we must deal with," IT Director, David Reed said.

Although handling the wide range of technology found on campus proves to

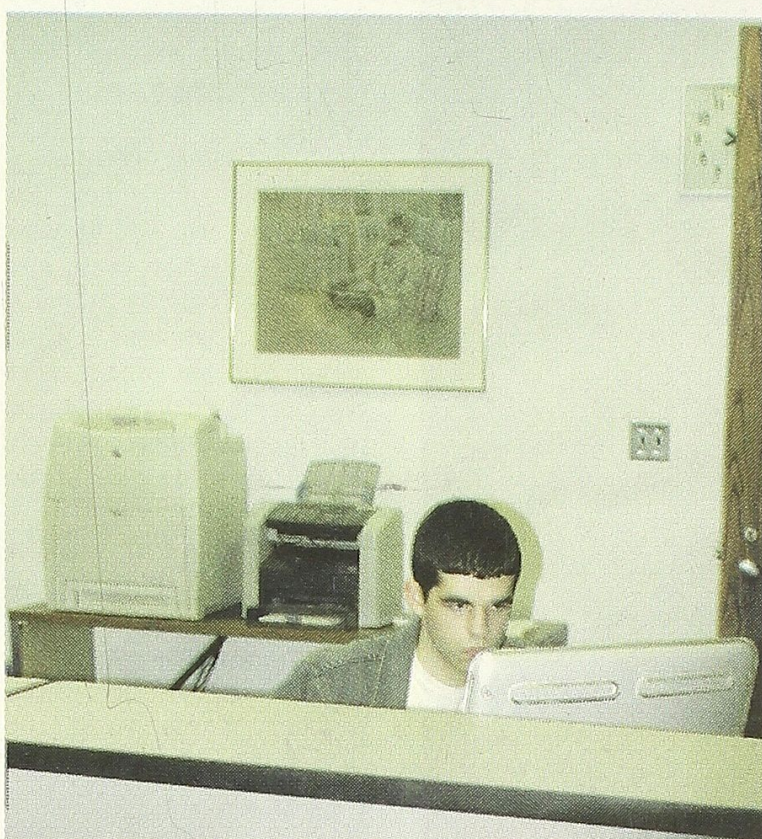


Photo by Christina Harig
Brandon Langford, Alma Student and Information Technology assistant, fields office calls and fills work tickets for computer problems.

be demanding. Email is the key application provided by the department, therefore receives the most attention. In addition, IT focuses much

of its work around Othello, the campus storage server. Othello provides space that allows individuals to hold files, make personal folders,

and even build a website.

Earlier this year, there were many complaints about the server. According to Reed, the IT department installation of upgrades was the root cause of this frustration.

The department installed a new version of Apple client software in the campus computer labs but was unable to put them on Othello. This caused two systems to be running simultaneously. Although this is not usually a problem, the software wasn't functioning correctly. This problem wasn't recognized until all the students tried to connect to the server earlier this term. At that point, it was too late to avoid causing frustration amongst the students.

Reed explained that there were two choices in how the department could handle the problem; IT could have either denied students and staff complete access to the system while dealing with the situation, or delayed the campus from logging onto the server. The department chose the latter. IT was able to use fall break to update the server and cure the problem.

Although frustration

with technology on campus does occur, students and faculty must be aware of the complexity of the IT department's job.

"We are on the cutting edge in a lot of areas," said Reed, who got his start by training and working at Honeywell Information Systems. "Students often don't see that because of their frustrations."

Reed added that being on the verge of technology is not always aggravating; this new technology provides the campus with new opportunities. Recently, Wright Hall received internet equipment with the ability to stream high speed video and audio that connects Alma to other colleges using the same equipment.

In addition, staying up to date with technology provides a change of pace for the IT staff. The department is able to work with new equipment and devices to accommodate all students.

"Although there is a lot of stress, what makes the IT department a great place to be is our ability to work closely with students and faculty with a variety of applications," Reed said.

Percussion Ensemble prepares for fall concert

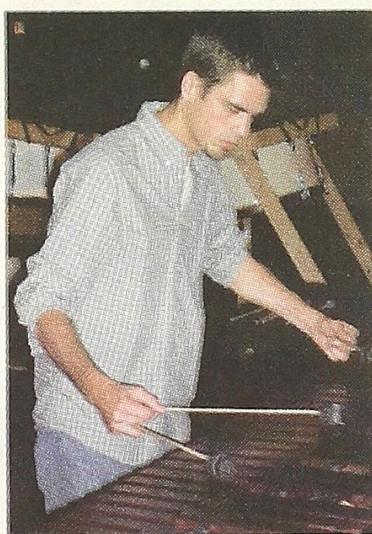
LOREN HUGGETT
FREELANCE WRITER

The Alma College Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of Dave Zerbe, has recently risen to new levels of achievement to perform the first fall concert since 1996.

Made up of students ranging in musical skill levels, the group performs everything from traditional percussion melodies to jazz to world music.

On November 22 at 8 p.m., the percussion students will once again take the stage and said that they hope to fill the house at Remick Heritage Center.

"When I first started, we couldn't even fill the bottom of the Heritage Center," said **Reese Gall (08)**, a senior member of the Alma College



Jake Finkbeiner (06)
Photo Kate Bruder

Percussion Ensemble. "Now there are people standing in the back because they want to see the show so badly."

Zerbe said that the concert will be a collection of a wide variety of music. The first half contains several traditionally composed arrangements, whereas the second half makes for a change in pace with various jazz and steel drum pieces.

"The performance contains a little bit of something for everybody," Zerbe said. "The way the show is programmed, it allows people to develop an appreciation for music they might not be familiar with."

Upon attending the concert, audience members can expect to hear music from several composers, such as David Maslanka and Christopher Rouse. Specifically, "Marimba

Spiritual" by Minoru Miki and "Highland Aire" by Lyle Mays, two of the pieces that feature soloists, will be performed along with many other rhythmically entertaining arrangements.

"As a result of the percussive composition of 'Marimba Spiritual,' Jake Finkbeiner has taken marimba playing to a caliber that this college has never seen before," said Gall. "The piece is very physically, technically, and musically challenging for the marimba player. As for Highland Aire, the piece is probably one of the most beautiful melodies that I have ever heard, ever."

"Those that come to watch can expect a few surprises to be thrown into the show," Zerbe said.

Known on Alma's campus for their utility percussion, the group may pull out the packing crates, barrels, and buckets for a stomping good time.

"Every piece in the concert is important," said Zerbe. "We don't really do two pieces that are the same. Every piece is different. I'm hoping they are all the highlight."

The percussion ensemble has been rehearsing day in and day out for this performance. Aside from individual practice and sectionals, the entire group rehearses every Tuesday and Thursday



Charlie Rockwell (08)
Photo Kate Bruder

evening from 8 to 11 p.m.

Described as the "father of the group," Zerbe works to combine each of the individual parts into a cohesive array of musical perfection.

"There is definitely a broad mix of personalities in the room, but that's half the beauty of it," said Zerbe. "It is a group of students with a wide variety of interests, yet they each lose a part of their individual identities when they become a part of the larger ensemble."

Following the fall concert, the group will begin preparing for their next mission, jump starting a steel drum band at an inner-city school in Chicago. Scheduled to take place during spring break, the project will add an element of service learning to the percussion ensemble.

"It allows the students of the group to take what they know and put it back into the greater community," said Zerbe. "With their concert next week and several performances to come, the Alma College Percussion Ensemble will continue to strive for excellence. The students involved will find new things to beat on and continue to entertain audiences with their seemingly random yet artistically enlightening musical flair."

"The people in the percussion ensemble are in the group because they love music," said Gall. "Nobody gets paid for it. Everybody does it because they have a deep passion for music. It is for the love of music. If that weren't the case, we wouldn't be musicians."

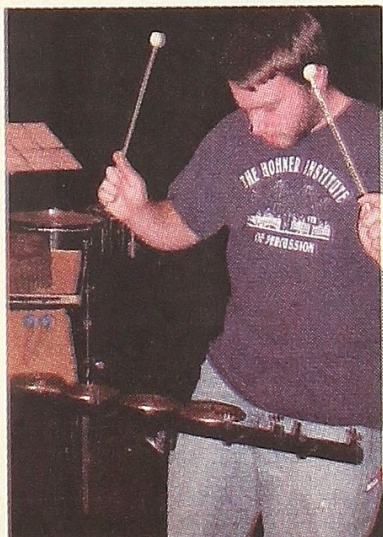


Photo Kate Bruder

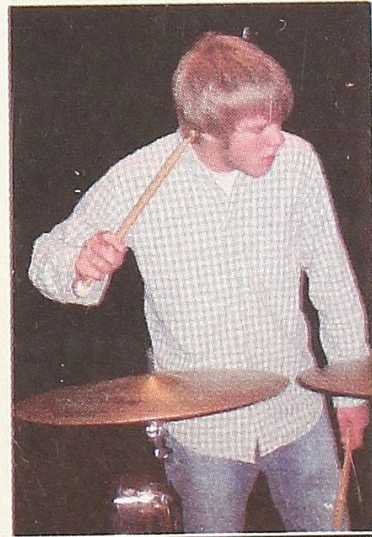


Photo Kate Bruder

Gilmore artist to perform with Alma Symphony Orchestra

LAURA SACHJEN
STAFF WRITER

The Alma Symphony Orchestra will present its second concert of the season with a special guest performance by pianist Christopher Falzone.

Falzone is a Gilmore Keyboard Festival Young Concert Artist and one of the best young musicians in the country.

"It's a terrific opportunity to have someone like that here," said Murray Gross, Alma Symphony Orchestra Director. "We're really looking forward to working with him."

Falzone will play a solo during Franz Liszt's *Totentanz*; a piece that Gross said, is very difficult to play. Falzone will also work with students during a master class session.

"Everyone should come to see Falzone," said Gross.

The orchestra will also perform Jacques Offenbach's *Overture to Orpheus in the Underworld*, Joseph Haydn's *The Bear* and Aaron Copland's *Our Town*.

"I try to pick music that is both enjoyable to play and enjoyable to listen to," said Gross. "It's challenging, fun and rewarding to play."



Photo by Kate Bruder
Alma Symphony Orchestra's horn section at a weekday rehearsal.

Haydn's *The Bear*, said Gross, has "a lot of fun nuances that the audience will appreciate." Some of the music will be very recognizable to audience members.

Offenbach's *Overture* contains the famous "Can-Can." Copland's *Our Town* is the music from the movie based on Thornton Wilder's play of the same name.

"Some of the music is

very familiar," said Emily Wieland (08), who plays French horn. "I enjoy playing in the orchestra."

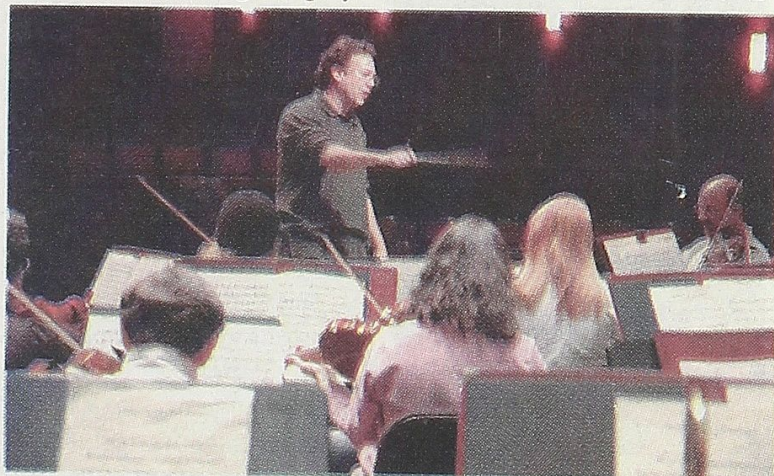
Some of the orchestra's new members are excited about the variety of music played at the college-level.

"We have the chance here to play pieces that a regular high school band can't play," said Pauline Hagedorn (09), who plays flute with the orchestra.

Times for the performance are Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Heritage Center and those involved urge students to attend.

Orchestra Director, Murray Gross conducts the Alma Symphony Orchestra in preparation for the upcoming performances.

Photo Kate Bruder



Biology "nerds" going Greek

JOEY ZEHNER
STAFF WRITER

If you are able to identify a black-capped chickadee call from 500 feet away, chances are you might belong to one of student congress' newest organizations. Beta Beta Beta was recently voted in to become a part of the student government, obtaining voting rights and a potential for budget.

Tri Beta is the honorary society for the Biology majors and minors on campus. To become a part of this group, a student must have a 3.5 GPA in biology, a 3.0 GPA in the rest of his or her classes and also must

have completed at least 12 biology credits.

"It's great that our organization has been voted on to student congress," said Michael Buggia (07). "Hopefully now that we have acceptance we can receive some funding to help put on more fundraisers."

The club currently has 15 members. There is also an Alma Biology Club which is hoping to provide additional students for Beta Beta Beta. Although the society does not put out any scholarships, they are able to put on a few fundraisers and community events throughout the school year.

One event that the

organization put on last year, and will look to do so this year as well, was having a graduate school panel. This panel consisted of medical doctors and dentists describing the steps that they took to get where they are. This panel was put on in DOW and according to Tri Beta's members, produced a significant turn out among students interested in careers in biology and other related fields.

"We had such a good turn out for the event last year that we are hoping to put it on again," Buggia said. "The responses we received were really positive."

Tri Beta is also putting

on an event this Friday in the Dow Science Center called Science Blowout. The program is geared toward children and will provide opportunities for spectators to see many animals up close.

Turtles, alligators, and other reptiles will be on display for everyone to see. The members of the honorary society will be on hand to offer explanations of the animals including such things as where they live and what they eat.

The advisor for the group is Mr. Michael Bishop and the cost to join the organization is forty dollars. Along with it's potential for building a resumé, people joining also

get life long membership cards. Interested students are encouraged to join the society and applications can be found in Dow.

The club will also be selling T-shirts to all of campus. To purchase a "Top Ten reasons to be a Biology member" shirt, contact any of the organizations members.

As Tri Beta increases its activity on campus, the next time some one spouts numerous facts about any animal they see, it may not be only because they are biology nerds, it may be that the students are passionate about a subject they can get involved with outside of the classroom.

Philosophical Fancy

JEN ANDERSON
STAFF WRITER



Sometimes technology just blows my mind. The other day, my dad showed me his watch that is also an MP3 player with other various capabilities. What astonishes me even more than these devices that can pick up radio signals, though, are the ones that can pick up weather patterns.

Have you ever taken a moment to think about forecasts? Every day, my grandpa sends me an E-mail, giving me the predicted weather along with the current world happenings. I gladly use the forecast to dress appropriately for the expected weather conditions. Until recently, I had participated in this routine with little thought regarding that I was taking advice from man-made machine psychics.

Although the weather is never 100% predictable, forecasters do a pretty good job of announcing probabilities of likely conditions. When it rains on a day when chances of showers were predicted as only "slight," we often deem the forecasters "useless." Most of us rarely think about the idea behind this practice—these people are predicting the future.

I realize that forecasts aren't just spontaneous predictions that most often happen to be true; there is a methodological approach to studying the weather patterns just like scientists use to make other predictions. However, what astonishes me is that we are even able to recognize

patterns in the weather at all. After all, nature is literally unpredictable. Just like our lives, you never know when something might go awry.

When I really think about it, being able to predict the weather reminds me of a Television show where a guy gets the newspaper early, before the "news" actually happens. He is able to prevent disasters from occurring based on this "outsiders" knowledge.

To an extent, we have this "outsiders" knowledge from our technologies. I don't like the thought of playing God, but it is pretty incredible when I hear of a hurricane forming that is predicted to hit the Gulf five days into the future. The hurricane may or may not hit, but just like the guy on the Television show, knowing the future may save a lot of lives by encouraging them to evacuate. I bet few people would think of forecasters as "useless" then.

Having the ability to measure climate-related tensions in the air makes me wonder where our technologies could go in the future. Maybe one day devices will be used to measure other forms of tension in the air, detecting patterns of our everyday lifestyles in order to take preventative measures. I certainly hope we never become that controlling, but you just never know.

Tobacco battles: here, there, or nowhere to be found?

TIFFANY BALDUCCI
FREELANCE WRITER

Have you ever experienced blatant looks of disgust while merely standing outside minding your own business, enjoying your free-time between classes?

If you have not, then you are probably a non-smoker. Cigarette smokers on Alma College's campus, and many places throughout present-day America are being treated as second class citizens.

Smoking is a decision one consciously makes as an adult: we are all adults here at Alma College and the decision to smoke is no different than the autonomous decision one makes to consume alcohol, or to not wear a seatbelt while riding as a backseat passenger in a vehicle.

According to the Student Life Handbook, Alma College "discourages the use of tobacco products on campus by providing as close to a tobacco-free work environment as possible." The rationale backing up this statement is the same that is printed on every pack of cigarettes - the Surgeon General warning. If you ask a smoker if they are aware of such repercussions you will more than likely get an eye-roll. Some people smoke cigarettes to relax, some to socialize, others to rebel, others to

fit in, and most because they are just plain addicted.

Looking past the reasons why people smoke, one can address why smokers choose to puff so close to campus buildings. There is a lot of animosity when it comes to where one can actually enjoy a cigarette on campus without being bombarded by RA's, faculty members, and general passerby's. A college smoker has heard everything from, "Smoke thirty feet away from the building, fifteen feet away, twenty-five feet away. . ." After some research, the Student Life Handbook specifies, "No smoking should occur within twenty feet of public entrances."

But the Student Life Handbook contradicts itself. Earlier in the Tobacco Policy, the handbook states "Designated smoking area signs are posted where smoking is permitted. Ash trays and other receptacles for smoking materials are provided in this area."

Have you ever noticed a sign on campus that says, "Go ahead and smoke here" or "Feel free to get your nicotine on in this location"? There are Smoker's Outposts and ashtrays, but these are located right next to the buildings, and according to the handbook - where these receptacles are is where smoking is permitted. As

a side-note, the handbook also states that smoking is permitted on top floors of residence halls, which is no longer implemented.

There is virtually nowhere on campus, except a few of the small housing residences, where one can treasure a cigarette in the warm indoors. So if you witness a smoker standing within twenty feet of an entrance to a building, their goal is not to annoy or slowly kill you; the cigarette smoker is merely standing close to the ashtray in order to prevent the invasion of cigarette butts on Alma College's campus. Odds are, if there were a place where all cigarette smokers could unite in warmth during the blistery winter months away from entrances and cranky non-smokers, they would be there appreciating their cancer sticks.

So before you judge another cigarette smoker and condemn them for smoking so close to your beloved campus entrances, stop and realize that they do not want to be there either and also try to realize what it is like to truly be addicted to something. Cigarette smokers have more important things to worry about than where they are allowed to smoke, such as the possibility of quitting or getting better health insurance.

Burger's beef

SAM STONEBURG
STAFF WRITER

This week, burger's beef has nothing to do with beef at all; my beef is with an overload of turkey. Last week my Resident Assistant stopped by my room asking us if we would like to go to the all-hall Thanksgiving dinner.

My roommates and I told her that we'd go and gave her our saga numbers. Then I go to a meeting for my sorority where a list was being passed around asking what I'd like to contribute to the sorority's Thanksgiving dinner. Just today I'm looking at the campus dining menu online and I see that Saga is offering a Thanksgiving dinner as well. All of these turkey dinners crammed in the two weeks before the actual turkey day is well, kind of turking me off.

For years I have considered Thanksgiving to be one of my favorite holidays. Because there is not the exchange of gifts, there is no stress building up to this holiday and that in itself makes me a very thankful gal. It also falls in the week after my birthday, thus making it harder for my family to "forget" me.

As much as I am thankful for my dorm and the resident assistants and all of that, I do not want to share what tastes like a giant TV dinner with them, if I wanted I



when I pick on my boyfriend when we're getting ice cream on the way out and I'm thankful that I've never found a body part in my sometimes questionable food, but until they can tell me what is actually in the chicken nuggets I'd rather have dinner with my sometimes questionable Aunt Marsha.

The way I see it, Thanksgiving Day is called that for a reason. If we were meant to eat multiple turkey dinners it would be called Thanksgiving month and our bodies would be built like a camel. And if I were Thanksgiving I'd be rather ticked off right now. Nobody pays any attention to it; except for my roommate who helps teach pre-school three times a week, but even she created turkey songs to the tunes of Christmas carols.

Even my hall director has Christmas lights hung in his window already, but I'm sure

"And if I were Thanksgiving I'd be rather ticked off right now."

could eat dinner with them every night and part of what makes Thanksgiving my favorite holiday is that it is all about home-cooked food.

Every day I wake up and thank the Supreme Being that made my life possible for my sorority sisters, because without them I probably would be corresponding with campus from a loony bin (and by loony bin I am not referring to a Canadian bank). What makes Thanksgiving dinner with my sisters a step up from the all-hall dinner is that we prepare all of our food, but there is still an element missing from it—my real family, including my sisters that I've been stuck with my whole life.

As far as the Saga dinner is concerned, I'm thankful for them I suppose. I'm thankful for Mary who laughs at me

he'll be there gobbling down a serving of a generic pre-packaged turkey dinner at the all-hall. Thanksgiving is being treated like a child in a custody battle if you ask me.

Stop making it on days when it isn't and don't overlook it either. We have a long weekend for a reason, so save all your festiveness until then, I'm sure you're family will appreciate it.

I've found that no matter how far away from home I am, I will never be too far to replace Thanksgiving dinner with any other group of people. Even if my uncles always try to out-fart each other and my crazy aunt believes that certain male body parts actually come equipped with a bone and we discuss things like that while we're eating, I will have it no other way.

Zero-sum

RYAN J. PETE
CARTOONIST

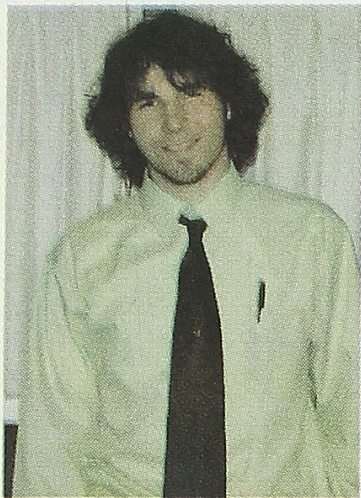


If you have ideas for any section of the Almanian, please email us at 07dtharr@alma.edu or call extension 7161.

Following Movie Cliches and Finding Proverbs

DEREK HARRISON
EDITOR IN CHIEF

"You are not a beautiful and unique snowflake."



That line may be a quote from *Fight Club*, but despite the unlikely application of context, it really seems to have some meaning when you look at the grand scheme of methods people use to characterize themselves.

Moving further down the tracks of life, individuality is a quality that is spoken of constantly but the average student has to wonder just how much of an individual they can be in a world of so many people.

There have been plenty of students who have gone to college long before each who are here at Alma. Those students sought an education, probably complained about many of the same topics, and probably enjoyed many similar pass-times as those current.

Students belong to clubs and organizations that have at least a few years of history, and many have differing objectives, however, there is an increasing crossover between members of groups. It seems as though the students that want to be involved demand as much

"Maybe another improbable movie could provide a quote to portray what may truly be individuality."

involvement as possible. The groups may differ, but from the beginning, joining a group compromises some form of individuality. On the other hand, those that do not join groups have inadvertently joined a group: one of inactivity.

This is not necessarily a negative aspect in the social realm, however, if a group compromises individuality, how can it be effectively used to characterize its component members? With each member of a group bringing their own perspective and back ground, perhaps it is something anchored more to the individual. As a perspective is difficult

to express in a plenary manner and much too deep for society as a whole, trends indicate that more face-value individuality attempts are occurring. Names are gaining many more possible spellings and secretarial duties must be increasingly complex. Just jotting a name down after a phone call becomes a spelling bee for those so luckily named.

Once again though, this cannot be the secret to individuality because there are only so many ways you can spell a name like "Derek" before a couple hundred people also pick the same combination. From brief online research with the Social Security Administration however, I must boast that I am one of less than 200 D-E-R-E-Ks born in 1983. The fact is though, with over 27 "John"s, over 28 "Sara"s, over 32 "Michael"s, and over 23 "Emily"s (or some small variation of those) on this small campus, a name is surely cannot remain unique.

In conclusion, individuality must be something more complex than a name, more personal than an affiliation, and something more universally controllable than the bounds of group or singular affinity to ideas. It must be something more that relates to choices made when facing something everyone has to deal with; life's adversity.

Maybe another improbable movie could provide a quote to portray what may truly be individuality. Maybe it is something that can actually be used to paint the picture of a person based on every interaction and every life they touch. Maybe.

"But it's not who you are underneath, it's what you do that defines you."

—Batman Begins

Alma College cheerleading squad needs campus support

TIFFANY BALDUCCI
FREELANCE WRITER

The Alma College Cheer Team is currently in a state of purgatory. Not fully recognized as a sport by the athletic department, the Cheerleading Squad is working to receive funding from Student Congress.

To really be considered a sport, the squad feels that they should be allowed to compete against other schools at formal and informal Cheerleading Competitions. In order to do this, funding is needed, and lots of. After revising the constitution the squad has originally submitted, Alma College Cheerleaders may be recognized as a campus organization and receive the money they so desperately need.

Why is money an issue? Their current status offers not even enough money for the squad to travel with the football team to in-conference away games. This past week, the cheerleaders decided to drive themselves to the Albion game. This raises insurance and liability issues, but the squad feels it is important to support the football team.

Alma College Cheer Team presently boasts twelve girls, but is looking to expand. Try-Outs will be held soon for a winter squad that will possibly and hopefully compete. The school really does not understand all the hard work cheerleaders do to constantly improve the current program, and the lack of funding is very detrimental.

When asked about the future of the cheerleading team,

senior member, **Chelsey Thurston (06)** said, "We need to be more selective and maybe that would make more people want to cheer. We need more motivation, but the school support would help motivate us, whether it be that athletic department or Student Congress."

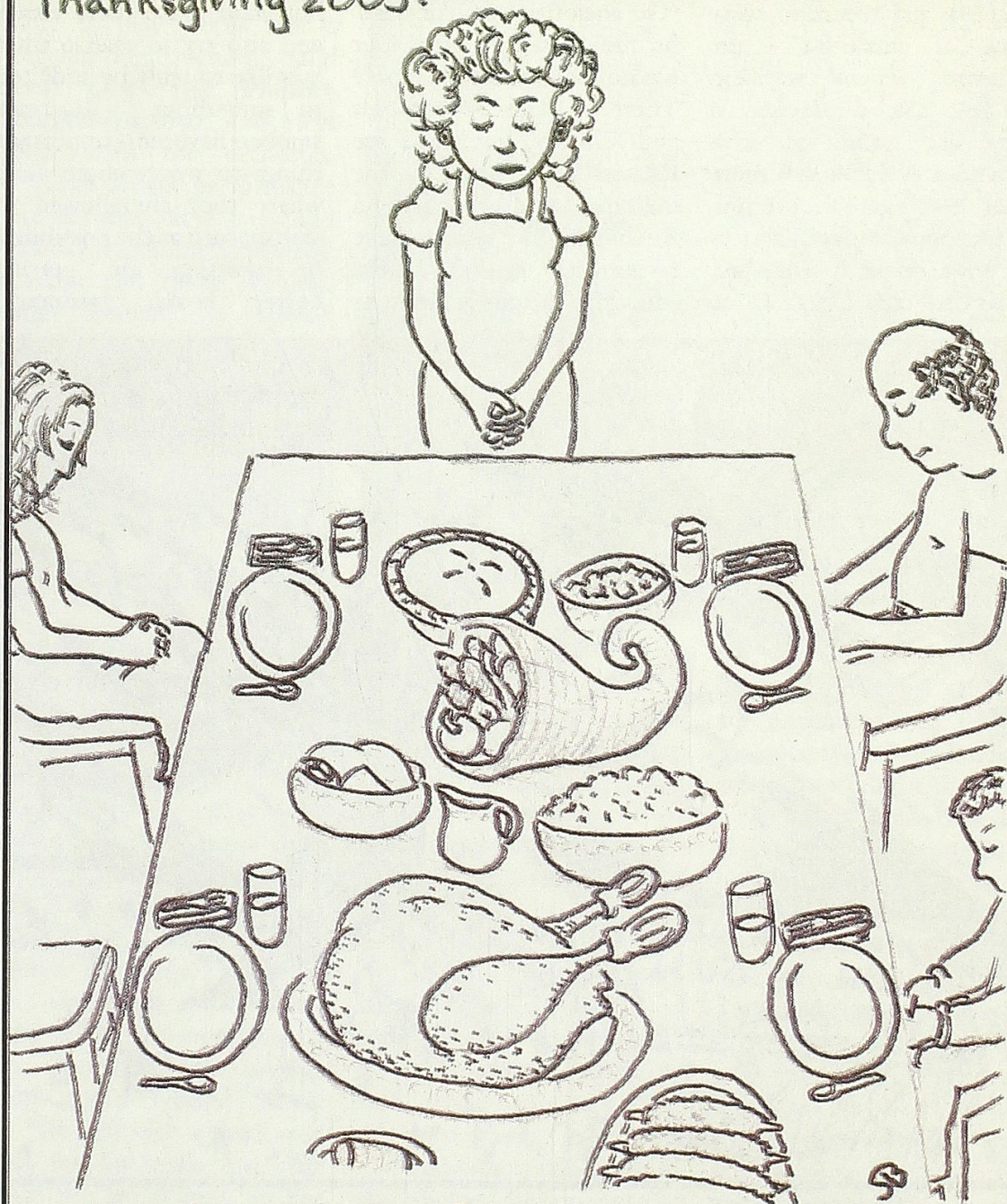
The cheerleaders are working hard to receive recognition and find their place at Alma College. Coach Amy Beth Klopf said, "I would like to see us recognized as a sport but we must compete."

The cheerleaders are also participating in various fundraisers to receive additional funding. If you are interested in information about trying-out for the winter season of cheerleading, please email Coach Amy Beth Klopfatalklopf@yahoo.com.

Pass/Fail

STEVE BAILEY
CARTOONIST

Thanksgiving 2005:



...and thanks for not giving our turkey the bird-flu...

Please email all comments to 07dtharr@alma.edu

Response to "Derby Days" article:

Dear Editor,

Frankly, I find the article in its entirety to be appalling. Not only was it written by a Greek (which would deem some sort of conflict of interest) but also that she is a staff writer. I would argue that this article not only offends the Brothers of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, but also any of the other participants in this year's nineteenth annual Derby Days—namely the Sisters of Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Xi Delta, Gamma Phi Beta, and Phi Sigma Sigma. Allowing an opinion article with this much negativity toward a philanthropic event to be put to press speaks not so highly of the editorial staff of the Almanian.

Firstly, how can one state that the "infrastructure and overall set-up" are lacking when this event does more to raise money on this campus than nearly any other student-organized philanthropic event. And by infrastructural lacking, does that not also point fingers directly at the Sigma Chi Fraternity as a whole.

Is this what the Almanian would like to state? I do not believe that Ms. Balducci did any research into the work that is involved in putting together such an expansive week long charity drive.

Secondly, in her suggestion that Derby Days is "an exact replica of Greek Week," I again will disagree wholeheartedly. To support this argument, I would state that Derby Days has been on this campus for the past nineteen consecutive years. The key here is consecutively we have held this event—the same cannot be said of Greek Week. Along these lines, we do not have a "date auction" as Ms. Balducci states. We have a Brother Auction in which the different sororities in essence 'hire' our Brothers to do chores or services for their respective houses. If the infrastructure of this event is so poorly maintained and set-up, then I again wonder how it is that we are able to—year after year—raise numerous times more money than that of Greek Week. This year, we raised over \$6000 which will be divided amongst many

charity organizations. I am positive that Greek Week did not come near to this amount.

To clarify yet another falsity, Derby Days is not closed to sororities. I can attest that one sorority went to many fraternities both on and off of this campus collecting cans and monetary donations to help in their fundraising efforts. Also, the Sigma Chi's and the sororities alike consider Derby Days as a great show of what they can do as organizations on this campus and thus a great recruitment tool to attract the types of individuals that would like to make a difference in a big way.

Perhaps it is not Derby Days that is in need of revamping. I would argue that Greek Week is the struggling event. Perhaps Derby Days is just that much more successful because we do not have as many 'players' in the mix. I can attest that it is hard to organize a schedule around five organizations let alone trying to get ten to participate. That in its self would make Derby Days much less structurally sound.

I do agree with one aspect of this poorly written article by Ms. Balducci: many non-Greeks (especially first year students) do ask "what on earth a Derby is, why it is called Derby Days, what is Derby Days, and why are these sororities going crazy?" And that in itself is a great thing for Greek Life. If we can interest a new student in a Greek Letter organization by them saying "what is going on?" and us replying with "raising money for charity!" then we are starting to break that stereotype that is so engrained in young peoples' heads of college kids drinking and not giving back to the community. In that way, Derby Days in a giant recruitment tool for not only the Sigma Chi Fraternity, but also those girls who are seen for an entire week with all of their sisters all over campus chanting their cheers and supporting each other in their own way. This is just a suggestion, but perhaps Ms. Balducci should find the opinions of those involved and those who see the events on campus

before writing an article that states just what her article is—"flawed and lacking."

In closing, I would like to state that I am not expressly irate at Mr. Balducci. I also find it very inappropriate that this article was put to press, and along those lines I blame Mr. Derek Harrison—Editor-in-Chief. I have found the Almanian while under his watch to be much less than tactful. It is as though he does not attempt to cover any of the happenings on campus that are for the betterment of the College and community as a whole, but instead would rather place a spin on every article to reveal something negative that is happening—even if the facts are not present. If the Almanian were to cover the news and actually print the happenings of Alma College and the surrounding community, then perhaps The Almanian would once again be a timely periodical that actually comes out each week—a service that I pay for; along with every Alma College Student.

Drew Coleman (07)
Derby Days Chairman

Editor's Response

First and foremost, *The Almanian* would like to apologize for the inaccuracy portrayed in the Opinion piece about Sigma Chi Derby Days, run in the November 3 issue. It is highly important for a media organization to be accurate and fair while running any story, however, it is the nature of opinion articles to have *spin*.

The ultimate responsibility for accuracy does lie with the individual section editors and the Editor in Chief, however it is arguable that the inaccuracy could have been caught because of its nature. It is unlikely that

any majority of persons outside of the Sigma Chi brotherhood would have known that Greek Week was created after Derby Days. This hardly constitutes any affiliation with ill will toward the brothers of Sigma Chi, yet it is a reflection of how the facts were presented.

At *The Almanian*, we pride ourselves in our hard work to cover any story relevant to the campus, and would wholeheartedly disagree that there is any intent to put negative spin in our coverage. The news is distinct and well separated from the opinion section and the subject

matter and views expressed are those of individuals. Admittedly, negative opinion pieces are more evident, however it is arguable that the negative occurrences are those that writers feel most strongly inclined to address.

Looking back at all seven issues of *The Almanian* thus far, 39 news stories have run with 27 of them covering positive occurrences on campus, like fundraising efforts and student organizations' events. In contrast, only 12 news stories have covered negative happenings, like the art that was stolen from Hamilton Commons or flyers targeting

PRIDE. With coverage that numerates as stated, *The Almanian* obviously has no negative bias.

Despite this, in journalism it is simply a goal to accurately report, not to appear positive or negative. All relevant news will be printed, and evaluating the spirit of the subject matter will be a rare occurrence, if it happens at all.

Furthermore, opinion pieces are responsible for their factuality, though they are not intended to be news stories. Opinions are written without consideration of which persons they may offend and will subsist so

long as they are written professionally. If the suggested environment of censorship were created, it would not only compromise the First Amendment but would deem Letters to the Editor that blatantly attack *Almanian* staff inappropriate for print.

The Almanian will continue to improve in all ways possible and welcomes all criticisms. However, *Almanian* staff members have worked much too hard to entertain any notions that the newspaper has not already taken large strides this year.

Derek Harrison
Editor in Chief

The Almanian

Derek Harrison	Editor-In-Chief
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Hillary Bard	Staff Writer
Robert Vivian	Faculty Advisor
Ken Tabacsko	Faculty Advisor

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

Statement of Purpose

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

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 Monday before requested publication. E-mail letters to the editors at o7sdweir@alma.edu or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

Advertising Policy

Advertisements can be submitted to o7sdweir@alma.edu. The Ad Manager reserves the right to restrict advertisements for content.

Publication

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

Staff Editorial Policy

Opinions expressed in the unby-lined editorials reflect the views of The Almanian editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

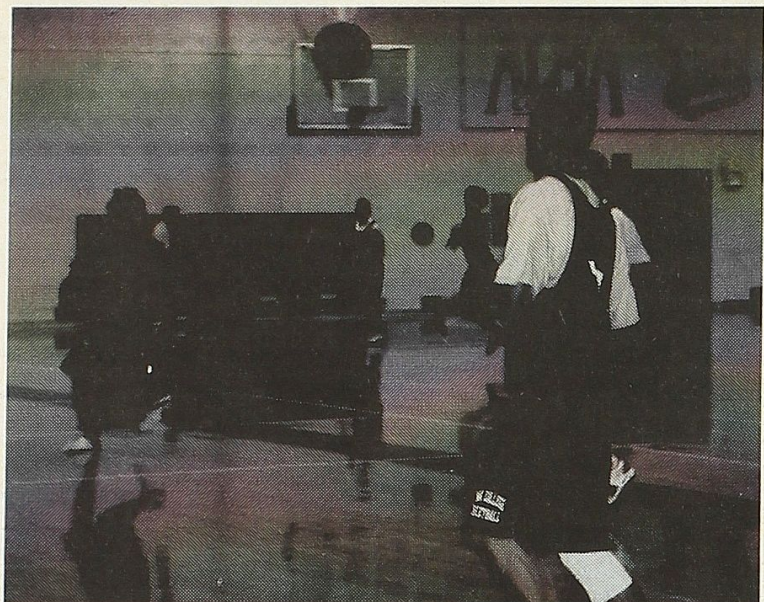


Photo by Christina Harig

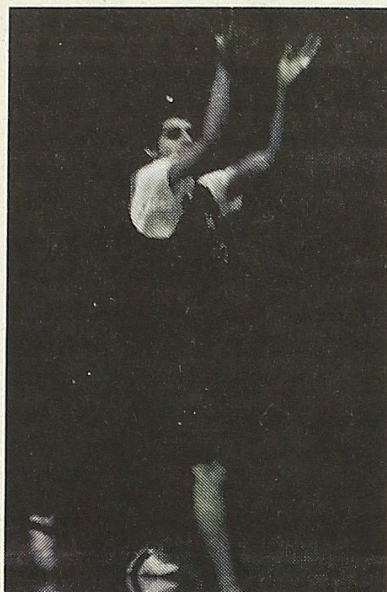


Photo by Kate Bruder

The Better Darn Sports Column

COLIN WASILOFF SPORTS EDITOR

With the football team falling to Hope in their last game and resulting to fourth place in the MIAA, and the swim team successfully being drowned by Albion, Scots fans bubble-wide had little to cheer about this weekend.

However, the Scots were represented well in the Ferris State University tennis tournament by freshman phenomenon Ahmet Demir(09) who played an astonishing seven matches. Demir fell short in his first matches

to superior DII opponents but managed to tear up the rest of the tournament and emerged victorious in the consolation draw match. The tennis team, led by captain Tristan Wilson(06) will continue to use Demir as their number one singles prospect in their season this spring.

The Lacrosse team also faired decently well. Taking on the Wolves of the University of Michigan-Dearborn, the Scots finished out the winter season on a high note by tying the Wolves 2-2. John Gibbs(09) scored the tying goal and first year

goalie Drew Coleman(07) and the rest of the Scots defense were successful in stopping UM-D. Look for the lacrosse team to begin talks with Ellen Curtis, Athletic Director, soon on the possibilities of becoming a varsity sport!

The swim team fell short in the search for their first victory of the year at Albion. Well, it has been awhile since the Scots have won any meet. However, with young but strong swimmers like James Abrams(08) and Nate McDonald(08) the men's team, and Emily Smith(08) and Audrey Sloan(09)

that elusive victory will come into focus soon enough. The Scots will face off against Kalamazoo College this Saturday at 1:00pm here in Alma.

Perhaps the highlight of Scots sports this weekend was the men's cross country team's performance at the NCAA Great Lakes Invitation held in Mason, OH. The maroon and cream had excellent times recorded by both Joe Whitman(06) and Dirk Callahan(06) and with the help of the rest of their teammates pulled off a 20th placing. **GAME OF THE WEEK:**

Men's and Women's Swimming+Diving vs. Kalamazoo College

WHEN: 1:00 pm Saturday

WHERE: Alma

College, PEC

WHY? The Scots will look to take out the Hornets for their first MIAA and overall victories of the year.

SCOTS TO WATCH:

Brent Gostomski(07)

- 50 m Freestyle, Emily

Smith(08)- 400 yard IM

HORNETS TO

WATCH: Joe Waller-

50m Freestyle, Ashley

Arnold- 400 yard IM

PICK: Scots Scots Scots!

Fantasy sports gain appeal with students

JOSH MORGAN FREELANCE WRITER

Playing college and professional sports is no longer a dream for many—it's a fantasy. Fantasy sports have emerged as one of the biggest hobbies among sports fans since the emergence of the Internet.

Fantasy sports are games where fantasy owners build a team that competes against other fantasy owners based on the statistics generated by individual players or teams of a collegiate or professional sport.

"Fantasy sports are the best thing that have happened to sports and its fans since I've been alive," said **Greg Nelson (06)**, who partakes in numerous fantasy games.

"They make any irrelevant games all of the sudden relevant," Nelson added. "It gives the fans more to cheer for."

It also gives the fans a chance to watch and cheer

for sports that they are not ordinarily intersted in. There are many different fantasy games or sports that fans can compete in. Some of the most popular games are: Fantasy football, baseball, hockey, and basketball.

But this is not the extent of the games that can be played. Other games include: Fantasy golf, auto racing, soccer and even cricket, as well as leagues where you can pick the winner of all games being played in the given sport. "It is nice to be able to follow each of the sports in a different and more competitive way than just watching them on TV," said **Josh Latz (06)**, who competes in six different fantasy sports throughout the year.

Not only may it be nice to follow the games in a more competitive way but in an inexpensive means as well. Many fanatsy games are offered in leagues that are free for anyone with no prizes, or in leagues that cost

money to enter with cash prizes awarded to the winner.

"Putting money on games like this make it much more worth while," said Latz. "Especially when it is between a group of friends." "I do like free leagues though," Latz added. "It allows you to get in a lot of different leagues with different people and draft different players."

Leagues are forming every day and all it usually takes is an e-mail address to get signed up. There are a countless number of Internet sites that offer fantasy leagues.

But joining fantasy leagues does not always require an Internet connection. Many leagues are formed by a group of friends with one of them acting as the 'league commisioner.' These leagues are usually more personable because you know everyone in the league. Though they tend to consume more time, many believe they are worth the work.

"I've never had more fun

doing so much work," said Zac Steele, a league commisioner of a non-Internet run fantasy football league.

Steele runs a league out of his house that has 20 players split up into two leagues. The AFC and the NFC. These are the two conferences in the NFL as well.

This type of league is called a 'holder' league, in which at the end of the year each player holds his three best players on his team and keeps them for the following year.

"You don't see holder leagues very often," Steele said. "I guess that why they are so much fun."

Not only is this a holder league, the only form of scoring in this league is by scoring touchdowns or kicking field goals.

"You have to draft very differently in this kind of a league," Steele added. "Someone might be a good overall fantasy player but if they can't score touchdowns you're not going

to want him on your team."

Who will you want on your team? That is up to you.

As of right now, the fantasy season is winding down for fantasy football but many leagues are still forming for both basketball and hockey for interested participants.

There are many players on this campus that enjoy the camaraderie of fantasy sports and you can to. It is very easy to join and many say it is very addicitive once you are a part of it.

"Football season just wouldn't be the same without it," Steele added

And for all those gamblers out there, this is a much safer way than going out and playing blackjack or craps at the casino. Not to mention you get to talk trash to your opponents if you beat them head-to-head.

So get out there and play, and hey, if you're Lions fan, now the 'fantasy' of having a winning season is never out of the question!

Basketball prepares for big tournament play

JOEY ZEHNER
STAFF WRITER

It is often said to be the best that you have to beat the best. The Alma College men's basketball team will have the opportunity to do just that at this weekend's Wabash Tip-Off Tournament.

Among the four teams entered in the field is Illinois-Wesleyan, which happens to be the number one ranked team for Division three teams in the country.

Two things would have to happen for this match-up to occur. The Scots would have to defeat host Wabash in their first game. They would then have to hope that Illinois-Wesleyan also wins their opening game. If those things happen, Alma would get a dream game and go for the possible upset.

"It would be a great chance to see what our team is made of," said head basketball coach Ed Kohtala. "We could take the experience and put it to use for the rest of the season, especially when we get into conference play."

The Wabash tournament starts off what is hopefully a strong season for the Scots. The team has some experience on the roster, but a lot of young players will be involved in the mix during the season.

Carl Hill, Greg Nelson, and Drew Barnhart will be the senior leadership on the team, with Hill and Nelson having spent three complete years in the program. The three will hope to be able to replace the production of last year's leading scorer Anthony Jones who has transferred to Northwood University.

The Scots will have some transfers of their own that they hope can lead the team to the top of the MIAA. Mike Murphy looks to be the replacement that the team needs for Anthony Jones. Murphy comes from Delta College bringing with him his excellent three point shooting ability. Also new to the team this year is international student, Bener Ser of Turkey. Ser is 6'7 and provides sorely needed height to the Scots.

One of the team's strong areas will be the ability to bring many talented players of the bench. The starting lineup has not been set yet and coach Kohtala hopes to have about ten rotational players that will be getting some playing time.

The goal of the season for the Scots is being one of the top four teams in the league. That would enable them to secure at least one home game during the MIAA tournament.

"A high percentage of teams that have hosted a home playoff have gone on to win that game," Kohtala said. "Having that advantage could help us get into the semifinals of the MIAA tournament."

The team is going to use a primary motion offense high relying heavily on their strength which is shooting the ball. ON the defensive side, Alma will occasionally dapper in press or zone coverage but they will apply man to man defense for the most of the games.



Photos by Christina Harig

(Above) Sophomore, Toby Tuomi takes a freethrow shot during practice. (Below) Scots basketball team members show off their dunk skills after practicing plays in the key.



Hockey comes to students through local rinks

NICK NICHOLAS
FREELANCE WRITER

Wouldn't you just love play hockey again? Like those times that you would go over to your next door neighbors pond, or even those times you played for your high school, or a club team. Well those times aren't far away, as winter will be here shortly, and everyone might just be able to get that "hat trick" one more time.

Wright Park's Ice Rink in Alma is probably the closest place to skate near Alma College, and it is a worthy place to do so. In fact, the City of Alma just passed two motions to bring the rink more up to date, spending nearly \$4,000. The rink is going to have new sideboards, brackets, back plates, and plywood.

Wright Park is also where many people can go to have fun with their friends on a winter day, and why not try out the new and improved rink? Even the Alma Police Department has a club hockey season.

"It is just a place where many people from the neighborhood can get together and play Hockey," said officers from the Alma Police Department.



Wright Park is located behind St. Mary's Church on Downie St. and it is open to the public and for all of those with the urge to have at least one more slapshot in their life.

If you're willing to get in a car before strapping up your skates, then consider heading north to Mt. Pleasant. Mt. Pleasant has a few indoor skating rinks, one of which being the Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena. The arena offers a skating and hockey class,

caters parties, hosts CMU intramural Hockey games, and has open skate seven days a week. They even have a dollar skate every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday! Dollar skate starts at 3:30 and ends at 4:50 and is open to the public. Dollar skate is a huge hit with the CMU students, so go check it out. There is not much that this place will not do, so why not take advantage of that? For more information on the Mt. Pleasant Ice Arena go to www.mp.icearena.org

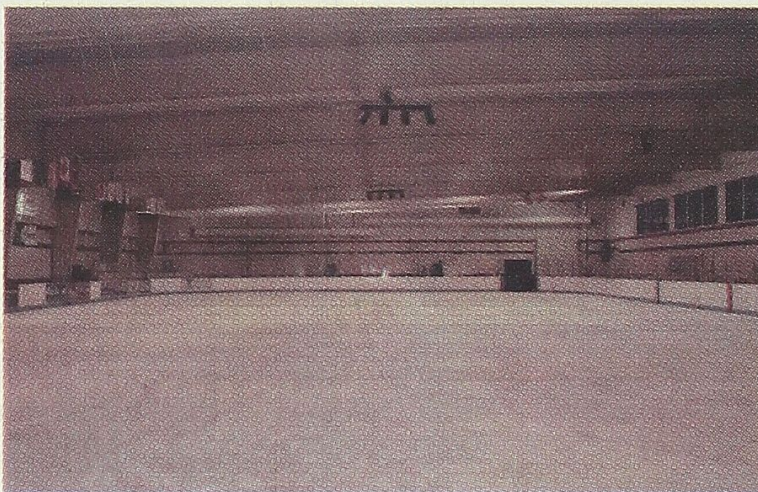
Our own college even offers IM floor Hockey, but some Alma students are missing out on the element of ice to make their hockey dreams a reality.

"I would love to get an IM team together at Alma, there is just such a better feeling with the ice beneath your skates," said **Aaron Weisburger(08)**, a former hockey player.

Those who are interested in even having a little fun shooting around a puck can get together this winter for some hockey. If you are one of those people that just want to make the best of your Michigan winter, grab your stick, and skates, and get out there and play.

Photo by Christina Harig

The Mount Pleasant Ice Arena not only hosts CMU intramural games but is also a location where anyone can lace up and skate around.



ADVERTISEMENT



Gamma Phi Beta

Congratulations to the newly initiated members of Gamma Phi Beta! We are so excited and proud to call you our sisters!

Katie Allison
Melissa Boguslawski
Abby Bonar
Amanda Brady

Megan Coffin
Mallory Hick
Jackie Jorgenson
Melanie McIntyre

Julie Opperman
Megan Rasch
Sami Spedoske
Em Syrewicze

*Love in Pi Kappa Epsilon,
Your sisters in Gamma Phi Beta*

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