

The

Almanian

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Student lifestyles responsible for majority of illnesses on campus

WHITNEY HOPKINS
Staff Writer

Alma College prides itself on being a small, close-knit community. Students do everything together, from going to dinner to climbing the rock wall. However, those very characteristics that Alma prides itself on can be dangerous to your health, unless you know how to take care of yourself.

Microorganisms, such as bacteria and viruses, cause diseases by breaking through one of the body's many defense mechanisms. The most prevalent way of spreading these illnesses is by airborne means (sneezing, coughing, etc.), with close contact with the organisms second. Unfortunately, in many ways, living in close quarters in a residence hall promotes the spread of these microorganisms. Students often cover their mouths with their hands when they cough, but also go ahead and grab a doorknob with the same hand later. The flu bug that kept your neighbor in bed may soon attack you, even if you have absolutely no contact with that other person. It's just the way "germs" work.

While falling ill may be inevitable, students still have little patience for how often they are sick. The winter months find Joe Gelina at the Wilcox Medical Center a busy man, as he suspects that at any given time 5-7% of the campus community is ill, with slightly higher number right now as a result of the flu season being in full swing. He says that Alma College has statistics similar to those of similar-sized colleges, such as Albion or Kalamazoo, and stresses that people are no more likely to fall ill on the Alma College campus than they are in any other close proximity living conditions.

Gelina, does, however, draw a correlation between the lifestyle of typical college students and an increased tendency to get sick. Studies by the Center for Disease Control have shown that cases of sexually transmitted diseases, such as syphilis and gonorrhea are most common in the age group of 18-25 years old. Also, Gelina explains, "My concerns are that the spread of diseases can be related to body piercing, tattoos, and sexual activity, and those are common on campus."

The physical aspects of life in the winter months can improve the chances of virus and bacteria survival, says Gelina, as students keep radiators on frequently and hardly ever air out rooms by opening windows or doors. Also, the cold keeps students indoors and confined, making them more likely to spread the virus by being in close quarters.

"When's the last time you got up and went outside for a walk?" Gelina stresses the importance of staying

See DISEASES page 2

Renowned environmentalist discusses sustainability with students

KATIE PERSITZ
Staff Writer

Internationally recognized environmentalist Dr. Donald Huisigh came to Alma College on Thursday, February 6, to address local, national and global environmental issues. Dr. Huisigh is a well-known figure for the environmentalist movement, working for groups such as UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank.

Getting his Bachelor of Science in science specialization in Genetics, Biology and Chemistry from University of Minnesota and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Plant Pathology from University of Wisconsin, Huisigh is dedicated to challenging today's society to make the environment more sustainability. His work has focused on developing policies and technologies to help the government and corporations to identify sustainable approaches to pollution prevention and waste reduction.

Sustainability is Dr. Huisigh's main focus. Sustainability is defined by the United Nations as the ability "to meet the needs of the present without sacrificing the resources of future generations to meet theirs".

Huisigh's main point in his talk *Sustainable Development, Poverty and World Environment* was to emphasize what it means to be environmentally sound. His motto was "Think globally, act locally." The issues he thinks needing to be addressed are the greenhouse effect, the ozone layer desecration, specie diversity loss, food/water insecurity, toxic waste dispersion, poverty, terrorism and the world population explosion. He also addressed toxic substances and hazardous wastes in industry and the home and how they relate to philosophical, ethical and political implications of improper land use management, human population growth and control and energy use.

"The atmosphere is fragile and there is a certain interconnectedness of the world

that needs to be respected by all people. Everything is related to something else, making a chain of everything in the world," said Huisigh.

Respecting the environment and growing economically has often been thought to contradict each other, but Huisigh's approach combines the two and creates monetarily sound businesses while still protecting the environment.

The idea of sustainability is gaining momentum at Alma College as well. The Honor's Day competition is to come up with a design for an environmentally sustainable residence hall. The challenge for the administration will be the monetary ability to live up to the ideals they promote while building this new hall.

This greatly affects Alma students. The movement towards sustainability is growing and the future professionals will need ecological knowledge in order to be competent in the corporate world.

"Alma College has a tremendous opportunity to be at the forefront of the sustainability movement and to distinguish itself from other institutions by applying the liberal arts philosophy to the college as a whole, not just to the classroom. Where we spend our money and how we allocate other resources are real

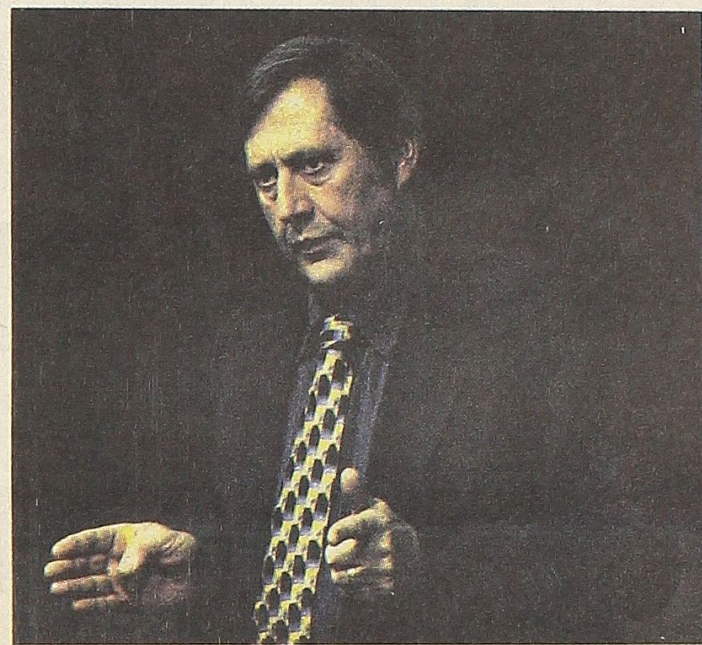


photo by Jason Garvin

Environmentalist Dr. Donald Huisigh will speak to campus on Thursday, February 6 regarding environmental sustainability.

indicators of our commitments," said April LaCroix (05).

"Dr. Huisigh discussion of sustainable development exemplified that it isn't just a far away issue, it is pertinent to Alma College today. New building projects as well as academic plans need to incorporate sustainability in order for this institution to remain academically and economically viable," said LaCroix.

Huisigh was invited to campus by Edward Lorenz, Reid-Knox professor of history and political science, and LaCroix who met Dr. Huisigh at the International Conference on Cleaner Production and Pollution Prevention where Huisigh was the keynote speaker.

Cheap Eats attempts the impossible!



In its fourth segment Cheap Eats checks out The Original Tony's, and gives a warm review for its chill treats. See page 4 for a full review and more photos.

Jillian McNally (05) and Wendy Wohlfeill (05) enjoy a banana split at Tony's in St. Louis.

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healthy and active as a way to both prevent disease and shorten downtime it causes. He stresses that the simple things we're taught in Kindergarten, such as hand-washing and the use of Kleenex, can prevent the spread significantly, and that taking multi-vitamins and getting sufficient sleep also affect overall health. He also admits that, "of course, that's what college students are known for: poor diet and not enough sleep."

As far as health safety on campus is concerned, Gelina explained that the highest concentration of germs is not found in any one residence hall or academic building, but in the Medical Center itself, where the sick are inevitably found, and that he and his staff work very closely together to keep exposure minimized. However, Gelina does work in conjunction with Physical Plant and the Housekeeping staff to keep the campus safe and disinfected, and finds that both groups are prompt when responding to issues that affect student health.

While smallpox vaccines and cases of meningitis on college campus worry various health professionals nation-wide, Gelina instead suggests that if every student could have one vaccine, he or she receive Hepatitis B vaccinations. The Medical Center does offer these. Also, he suggests Hepatitis A vaccinations for those who may be traveling overseas in the near

future. In regards to the necessity of a smallpox vaccine, Gelina doubts "that college students will be offered the vaccine unless a smallpox case shows up in our area." In addition, Alma College has been lucky enough to have never suffered an

12 ways to stay healthy during flu season

1. Wash Your Hands
2. Don't Cover Your Sneezes and Coughs With Your Hands
3. Don't Touch Your Face
4. Drink Plenty of Fluids
5. Take a Sauna
6. Get Fresh Air
7. Do Aerobic Exercise Regularly
8. Eat Foods Containing Phytochemicals
9. Eat Yogurt
10. Don't Smoke
11. Cut Alcohol Consumption
12. Relax

experience with meningitis, which is a rare disease but one that is highly contagious and extremely dangerous. The media on these diseases has been scary, and for good reason. "It's meant to scare you," explains Gelina. "These are dangerous diseases, and it's all about controlling epidemics." Education and prevention is the best form of control, he explained.

So while Alma is no more dangerous than any other campus, bugs like the flu and colds do fly around. The Wilcox Medical Center is available for students with a full-time medical assistant, half-time licensed nurse, and Gelina himself, a Physician's Assistant. While student are under no obligation to seek treatment at the med shed, doing so does have its benefits. The staff there can treat almost any condition that a normal doctor's office can, and in many cases do so more quickly for no charge. From immunizations to blood tests and dietary advising, the staff is well trained and more than willing to help students however possible. In most cases, treatment is at no cost to students. For the few things the staff can't do, such as take X-rays or consult as a specialist, they will facilitate appointment scheduling and make special arraignments whenever possible.

While every student will, almost inevitably, get sick and pay a visit to the medical center, remembering that staying healthy and rested is the best prevention and treatment for any illness, and that special care should be taken during the winter months, when the flu virus is most common. The staff of the medical center or the Center for Disease Control's website at www.cdc.gov are excellent resources for any medical questions students may have.

Student Congress hosting campus forum

Alma College's Student Congress and the college's executive staff have organized an open forum for students interested in speaking openly about issues on campus. The forum will take place Monday, February 17, at 6:30 pm in the Rotunda. Issues being discussed include: the technology update, the search for a new Vice President for Student Life, facilities (new residence hall as well as other buildings on campus) and tuitions and fees.

The student facilitators will be Robyn Paige (04), Tim Throm (04), and Grant Kinney (04). Dr. Sandra Tracy, Jerry Scoby, Dennis Bergvall, Carol Hyble will be present to answer questions about all of the issues. Paige hopes this will be a good opportunity for students to interact with the executive staff.

Benefits of space program questioned

KRISTEN BROWN
Staff Writer

With the space shuttle Columbia accidental explosion reverberating throughout the American people, the importance of the shuttle program has come into question once again. Many critics argue that the cost of a human life, the degree of despair imposed on the family of those aboard space shuttle Columbia outweighs the scientific benefits of manned space flight.

While many are questioning the value of the space program, researchers respond that space shuttles provide the best laboratory anywhere.

Best known for its work in scientific space research, the shuttle program has launched unmanned probes to Jupiter, Venus and the sun. Here on Earth, the shuttle program has produced a wide range of biological and physical insights as well as supplying inspiration for many innovations- from heart ultrasound testing to golf clubs that impart more spin.

Dr. Michael DeBakey of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston claims that National Aeronautics and Space Administration "have produced knowledge of tremendous importance that has been of practical use in a number of different areas." DeBakey implanted the first successful partially artificial heart in 1966 and is now testing a heart pump that has been developed with technology from the shuttle program.

Other shuttle innovations have included cancer treatments with light-emitting diodes, balance-checking devices for head injury and stroke patients and software to track emergency vehicles.

However, the cost of these scientific and technological advances have been great—in 22 years of shuttle flights, 14 crew members have been lost, seven in Columbia and seven in the Challenger explosion of 1986.

Many view the shuttle program as too fiscally expensive as well. Costing around \$500 million per flight, the program is arguably uneconomical. NASA was spending about \$3.2 billion on its shuttles this year before the Columbia disaster. President Bush proposed a 5% increase for next year, in a plan devised before the catastrophe.

DeBakey said that critics do not know enough about the specific science incorporated in operation of the shuttle program. No plans have been made as of yet to hold further shuttle launches.

President Bush unveils teacher loan-forgiveness program amid funding concerns

WENDY WOHLFEILL
Staff Writer

President Bush's ongoing agenda for improving educational programs throughout the country may now substantially help future teachers pay off their Federal loans. Bush's plan would triple the aid that is given to teachers who are in agreement to teach math, science, or special education in poor school districts. In the past, these subject areas have been the hardest positions for schools to fill. Research suggests that graduates have been staying away from these positions in particular. "A math teacher's salary, for example, falls more than \$15,000 below that of a statistician or an engineer, according to U.S. Department of Education statistics. Intense workplace pressures make special education courses particularly hard to fill as specialists opt for general education or other careers."

Bush's proposal would allow teachers of

these subjects to use up to \$17,500 to pay back past Federal loans. This figure has been found to be the average amount that most students owe after four or five years of college, so new teachers could wipe out their college loan debt after only five years of teaching. Current laws allow today's teachers to eliminate only \$5,000 after their five years of teaching. The new plan would give teachers an extra \$12,500 to use in the paying back of loans.

Many proponents of the plan feel that this would significantly help filling hard to fill teacher positions. "Expanding loan help for teachers, particularly those serving poor areas, would be a welcome recruitment tool," said Kim Anderson, a lobbyist for the National Education Association.

Although the plan looks appealing to many on paper, there are some who feel the proposal is unrealistic. Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, the top Democrat on the Senate's education committee,

commented on the proposal by saying: "The good news is President Bush recognizes that there is a national crisis when it comes to our teacher shortage, especially in the most challenged schools. However, as we saw with similar Republican proposals last year, if there is no real money behind the increase in teacher loan forgiveness, it's just another empty promise to the nation's schools, teachers, and students." Bush's loan-forgiveness proposal follows closely to an idea that he and lawmakers have attempted before. The House approved a broader version last fall, but it languished in the Senate.

Others have voiced concerns addressing the issue of where this extra money would be coming from. "What the taxpayers need to understand is you're not giving people money, people are having their loans forgiven by having to work five years", said Sen. Lindsey Graham, (R) South Carolina. The program would cost an average of \$70 million a year.

Granholt's state of state address focuses on budget balancing and education

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

Last Wednesday evening was a historic and unprecedented occasion as all of the members of the Michigan government as well as all of the citizens of Michigan had the chance to hear the State of the State Address of Michigan's first female governor, Jennifer Granholm.

Governor Granholm began her speech by dispensing with the biggest issue that faces our state government in the coming few years: the \$1.7 billion deficit that the state must correct.

She detailed most of her ideas for balancing the budget this year and reducing the deficit as much as possible. Granholm capped off her discussion of the budget with an inspiring quote when she said, "Although the state of our budget is weak, the state of our spirit is strong."

Granholm also explained that her administration's focus would be to streamline the government as much as possible and increase efficiency and expediency in every area possible. This comes as a bit of

a surprise since the Democratic Party often advocates a large government. Nevertheless, she made it very clear that she would, "cut the government." Obviously this was in light of earlier discussion of how the budget needed to be balanced.

Governor Granholm did not mention many of the specific provisions for streamlining the government, but she made it very clear that a new committee of top executives of private sector companies had already agreed to work together full-time to assist and recommend any means to decrease the size and increase the efficiency of the government.

She also made it very clear that professionals would not be the only group of people helping to trim down the government. Rather, she stressed that citizen participation would be an essential part of the process, and as a result a committee from all over the state made up of citizens will be able to address concerns directly with her.

Granholm's other major consideration in her State of the State Address besides the budget was public education in the

state. She said very forcefully, "Educational excellence will be my number one priority." In this area, Governor Granholm presented several ideas for both the citizens and the State Legislature to consider.

One of those ideas, which she calls Project Great Start, purports to educate new parents to read to their children long before kindergarten. According to Granholm, this system is in place in several areas already, and it has been very successful. Two other ideas that Granholm proposed were requiring 40 hours of community service in order to graduate high school, and denying driver's licenses to students that are frequently truant from school.

Overall, the speech was fairly well received by both sides. There were several occasions where everyone present gave Governor Granholm a standing ovation in the House of Representatives chamber as well. As is often typical of these types of speeches, Granholm spent a large portion of the time calling for unity and strength, and somewhat less detailing exactly what policies she was going to introduce.

OPINION

Letter to the Editor

'Blazing Saddles' seemed inappropriate choice for MLK Day—at first

This is my first year at Alma College and ever since I returned from Christmas break, I have been holding my breath waiting for Martin Luther King Jr. Day. To be honest, I was not expecting this college to even celebrate it; an acknowledgement or two was the most I was hoping for. I then learned that this college used to have a convocation that students were to attend in observance. After a group of students protested about it being mandatory, there was no longer a convocation. Even though I understand the lack of desired to be forced into a celebration or observance, I cannot honestly say I was not the least bit upset at this. As time passed and I had time to think about it, I realized that observing Martin Luther King Jr. Day should not be a chore but rather an experience to give some sort of remembrance to someone this country considers a great man.

Another week went by after I made my peace with the convocation when I saw the movie selected for MLK Day. I had only heard things about this movie and none of it seemed to measure up to the seriousness with which I started to take this day. All at once movie titles that would have been more appropriate choices ran off in my head. My feelings about this movie made me realize what I have been avoiding since the day I decided to attend Alma College: a school that would pick that movie for that day cannot be considered well aware of other cultures. I was ready to voice my opinion and not see the movie. This would have been a mistake and I am glad that I did not make it.

I went to the view of the movie with a pen, a sheet of paper and some prejudice. I was ready to tear the movie apart and add more substance to my anger. It was then that Provost Avery gave a speech before we watched the movie. He told us how it was okay to laugh at some of the jokes, but this movie—sadly—was reality. If he had not spoken before I saw the film, I am sure I would have been out of my seat after the first n—er joke. I am glad I stayed, however, because I realized that this movie was about all of the people the Reverend King preached to. These were the people who were mistreated and valued under material objects. It became hard to laugh after a while but the movie was funny. I have no idea if Mel Brooks meant to make a move that was not only funny but also touched on the sadness in which America has treated the minorities.

This letter was going to express my displeasure at the movie, but now I consider it a brave risk well taken. I still hold my belief that this college does not fully acknowledge other cultures outside of the classrooms. I am aware that there are programs, but I still feel more can be done. However, it is not up to the administration to make sure. We students must express the interest to know, to learn, without receiving credit. This is, of course, assuming that there are students who are interested. Blazing Saddles, the movie mentioned, was a funny movie but it was also sad because the world in the movie still resembles real life.

Melissa Terese Draughn (06)

Comix Crusade

by Nick Martin



The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

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Please send leads, story ideas, inquiries or comments to almanian@alma.edu

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.

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@alma.edu or address letters to Newberry Hall, Alma College.

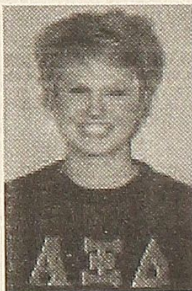
Staff Editorial Policy

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

How do you view Greek life in light of run-outs this year?

"Run outs may have gotten a little out of control, but I think Greek life is one of the most exciting things on this campus and I hope I get to participate in run outs again next year."

-Loren Huggett (06)



Huggett

"I feel there were more students in the wrong other then just the Greek community. I think that what happened was very disrepectful, but I also feel that the greek community does many great things for this campus and should not be looked down upon because of one night of irresponsible actions"

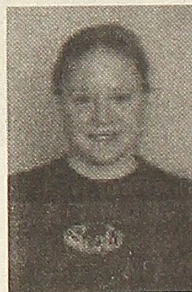
-Melonie Peebles (05)



Peebles

"I don't think badly of the Greek system, but the actions were shameful and there will be repercussions."

-Billie Radke (05)



Radke

"I definitely think run-outs should go on-it's one of the best things Alma has, and one of the best party night of the year."

-Ryan Sleszack (04)

"I think it really shows the dependancy

our campus has on the Greek community, whether that's in a good or bad sense."

-Jonathan Becks (04)



Sleszack



Becks

FEATURE

Cheap Eats does dessert: Tony's of St. Louis serves up banana split of mammoth proportions

WENDY WOHLFEILL
Staff Writer

With the last three food reviews looking specifically at main course meals, I figured it was time to change things up a bit and review something a little more exciting. And in my opinion, when it comes to exciting foods, there is nothing better than desserts. After asking around for great dessert places in the area, I was immediately directed to Tony's restaurant. Not only known for its giant steak sandwiches, it also has the largest known desserts in the area.

Tony's is located in downtown St. Louis at the address of 518 W. Washington St. and has been open for seventeen years. When traveling through St. Louis you can't miss it. A humongous chicken statue, which is quite a sight, is located just outside the building and makes the restaurant stand out among other businesses. Its business hours are 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. on Sunday thru Thursday and 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. on Friday thru Saturday.

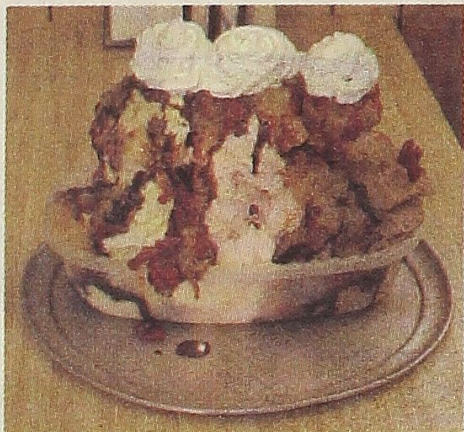


photo by Jason Garvin
The mythically large banana split - the most fun way to develop diabetes for the low price of \$7.25

The small modest interior, which held about ten booths, was about a third full when we arrived. An elevated television that was playing sports and news seemed to be the center of most people's attention. Overall the atmosphere was pleasant except for the non-existent separation between the smoking and non-smoking section, a definite negative to anyone bothered by smoke.

Being a little skeptical of this "huge" dessert that I was about to order, I went into the experience with an open mind. I figured that somewhere in the stories I had been told, exaggerations had taken place. I was expecting to be a little disappointed. I couldn't have been more wrong.

The dish that I ordered, the Large Banana split priced at \$7.25, was by far the largest serving of anything I have ever seen in my life. Brought out on a pizza pan, in a huge plastic dish was over a gal-

lon and a half of ice cream. Piled over a foot high, it was a mountain of chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry ice cream topped with chocolate, strawberries, and pineapple. When the dish was brought out to us, all I could think was how glad I was for bringing four other people to help me dig in. Spoonful after spoonful was hardly making a dent in this humongous mound. More than worth the cheap price, this dessert is great for anyone with a sweet tooth and a lot of friends willing to help them out. As of now there is no recognition to individuals who finish the dish alone except for pure self-satisfaction.

Other than desserts, Tony's offers a full menu of large entrées. Breakfast items including favorites like omelets and pancakes are in the price range of \$3.00-\$5.00. A large menu of sandwiches including the ever-famous steak sandwich can be ordered at a bargain price of \$3.00-



photo by Jason Garvin
Tony's trademark chicken overlooks Washington Street in St. Louis and serves as a beacon to all seeking the ultimate ice cream experience.

\$6.00. Dinners like spaghetti, steak, shrimp, fish, and chicken are priced between \$5.00 and \$9.00. A full variety of children's items are also available on the menu for the low price of \$2.50.

The service, food quality, and enormous serving makes Tony's very worth recommending-even if it's just for dessert.

Newly-formed AC Fencing Club brings 'European Martial Art' to Jones every Sunday

WHITNEY HOPKINS
Staff Writer

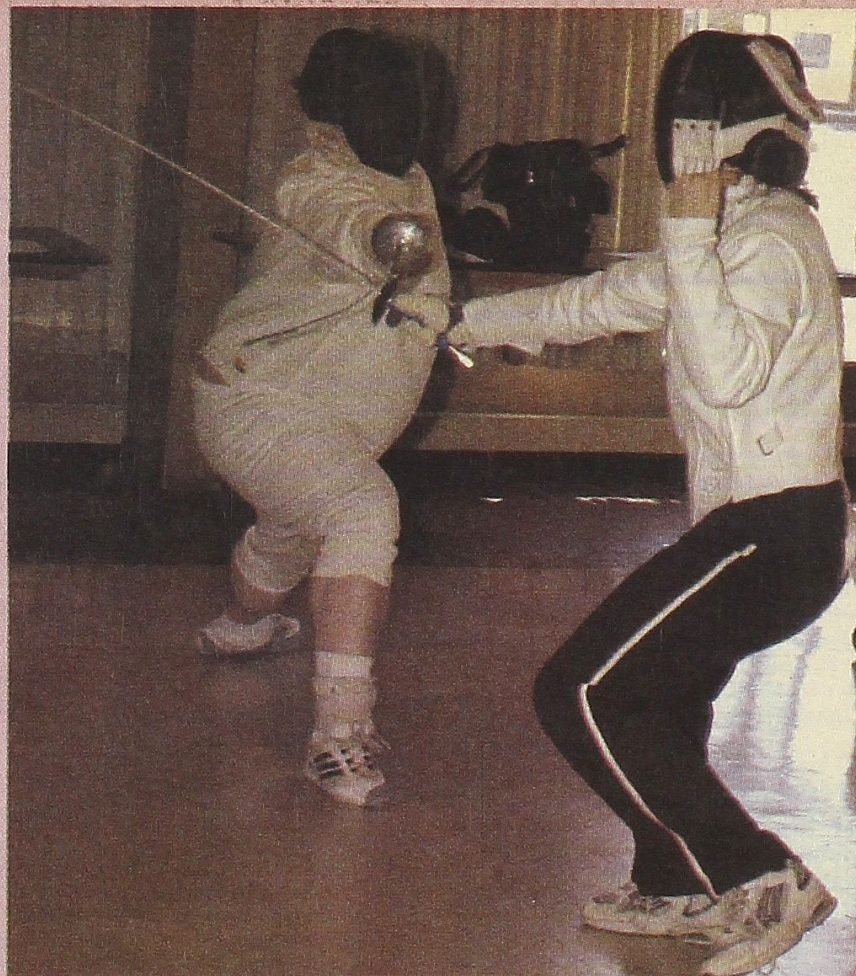
Finally, you now have a chance to gasp like a movie star and ask, "Who was that masked man?" Or, at least, you will, once the Alma College Fencing Club's constitution makes it past the Constitution Review Committee and into the records of Student Congress as an official organization.

The club's origins can be traced back to two Alma High School students who traveled to Lansing once a week for private fencing instruction from Mary Douglas, an MSU student. Interest levels in Alma rose and, eventually, spread to the college, where Jen Banister ('06) got involved. She had fenced previously, and found the absence of a fencing team on the Alma College campus to be a hole she thought she could fill.

Currently, about 10 students are involved in the club, which started official meetings this term. Elections for officers will be held soon, and fundraising will begin pending word from Student Congress. Charlie Cove and Mary Douglas, most members of the MSU fencing team, offer lessons every Sunday in Alma. From noon until 2, the club itself meets, followed by classes in the Heritage Center dance studio.

Cove and Douglas teach based out of the Mid-Michigan Fencing Academy. The club and instructors provide gloves, weapons, jackets, and masks, until students decide whether or not to purchase their own. Their purpose is "to bring people with fencing knowledge to teach in communities that are interested, may maybe don't have access to it."

Banister hopes to be able to have a competition-ready team prepared for



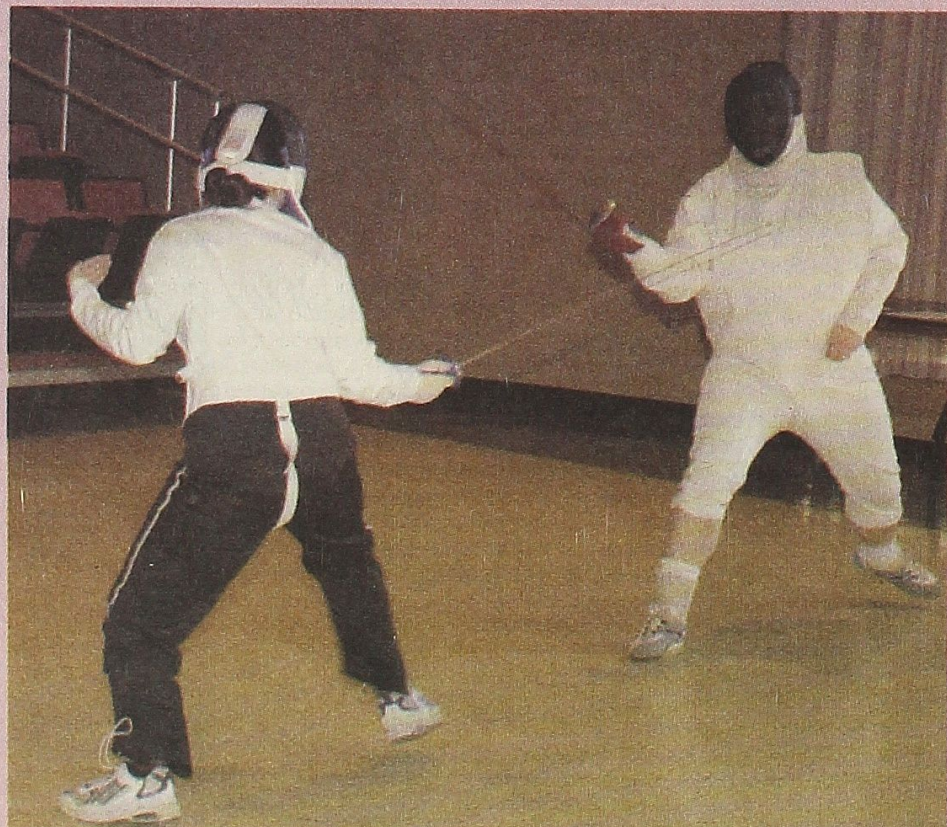
photos by Melanie Szewczyk
At left, Jen Banister (06) goes en garde against instructor Charlie Cove. Above, Banister parries Cove's thrust.

next December, when most collegiate competitions begin. This would involve the club buying electronic equipment and being able to host other colleges. Until then, the goal of the club is simply to improve the fencing skills of those involved, both beginner and advanced.

Fencing, one of the first Olympic sports, is sometimes known as the European Martial Art, citing its similarities to the more traditional martial arts such as Karate. Three types of weapons are used: the foil, the epee, and the sabre. Each weapon brings with

it an individual fighting style and strategy. Fencers achieve rankings of U (for unranked) and A-E, with A being the highest ranking available. Only the best and most experienced few achieve the coveted title of "maestro", a fencing master.

Unlike many sports, there is no sexual divide in fencing. While men and women may compete separately at large competitions, neither sex holds any large advantage over the other. Age is also not an issue. see FENCING on page 5



photos by Melanie Szewczyk

FEATURE

Photo of the Week



photo by Jason Garvin

Last week:
Spinning bowling pin

2002-2003 Writing Contest

Six categories: poetry, short story, short play, creative nonfiction essay, essay (without documentation), research paper

Prizes

In each category:

\$100 First prize, \$50 Second prize, \$25 Third prize

No limit on length, form, style, or subject.

Each contestant may enter a maximum of three poems, one short story, one short play, one creative nonfiction essay, one essay (without documentation), and one research paper.

All entries must be letter-quality printed. Clear photocopies are acceptable.

Do not place name and address on submissions.

An entry form must be attached (with a paper clip) to each submission or the submission will not be read.

If you submit a research paper, you need to follow the academic style of documentation appropriate to the discipline/subject of your work.

The English Department reserves the right not to award prizes if submissions lack quality.

Procedure: Make one copy of each submission. Be sure to attach an entry form.

Deadline: Noon, Thursday, February 20, 2003.

Send or drop off submissions and entry forms to Barp Tripp/Faculty Secretary, SAC 330.

ACUB Casino Night comedian Pete Domenic caustic and profane, but flat out hilarious

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

In the past, when various groups have brought comedians to campus, there have been several big disappointments, but Pete Domenic definitely turned out to be an excellent choice to follow the ACUB Casino Night. Domenic, who hails from New York City but tours all over the world, mixes his own brand of somewhat abrasive jokes with a little bit of slapstick, and some entertaining impressions. He also took several pauses to add comments about his own jokes, which were extremely funny as well. Domenic is currently 26 and has been on MTV and Comedy Central before.

Although the routine was rife with profanity, almost no one in the audience seemed to care in the least. The roar of laughter after every abrasive comment seemed to confirm that as a fact. As for the subject matter of his jokes, there was no topic that was taboo. Domenic spent a large portion of the show discussing his opinions about terrorism. He satirized everything from his lack of fear while flying in an airplane to the various levels of terrorist alerts. Some people were a little touchy about this topic, but most laughed very hard especially when Pete did his Al Qaeda impressions.

Domenic made sure that there was no shortage of humorous cracks about Alma. There was not a face in the room that was not laughing when he recounted a humorous story about an experience he had at the Comfort Inn the night before. He complained about how cold it was with a particularly funny joke. Domenic said, "Geez its two degrees here with a wind chill of old people don't go outside."

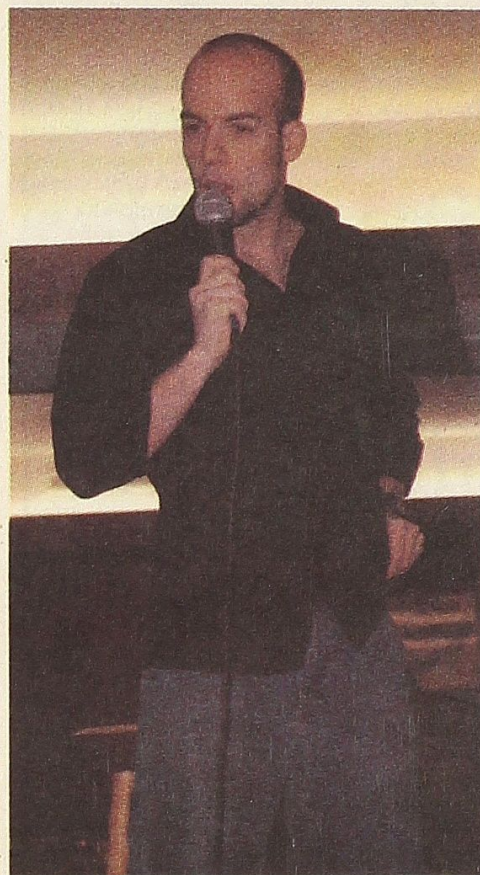


photo by Melanie Szweczyk

Comedian Pete Domenic capped off a successful night of low-stakes gambling in Hamilton, courtesy of ACUB

He also commented on townies, problems with roommates and their girlfriends or boyfriends, and having pets in dorm rooms. The crowd seemed to find these jokes particularly funny. Of course, throughout his entire discussion of college life he added some anecdotes from his one year of college experience. On several occasions, Domenic poked at various members of the crowd, but it was all in good fun.

Domenic also spent a lot of time telling about his parents, and the humorous experiences that he has had with them both today and when he was a child. He had no qualms about telling the audience anything in this area either.

I thought that the funniest section of his performance came when he told why he thought that Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory was the scariest movie of all time.

By the end of Domenic's routine, the audience seemed to be getting somewhat antsy. Even after the routine though, Domenic continued to entertain the crowd, while he helped the various ACUB members hand out the prizes.

The only bad part of the show was the few minor technical problems that occurred during the performance, such as when the speakers malfunctioned on several occasions. However, those problems can hardly be blamed on Domenic.

Overall, a good time seemed to be had by all despite some of the humor being particularly crude. After all, we are college students and that is the stuff that we find funny. Kevin Beggs (05) said simply, "He was pretty funny."

FENCING from page 4

Douglas cited fencing students ranging in age from 8 to 56. Prime physical conditioning is not necessary in order to begin to fence, but will be developed as one becomes more experienced. Kacie Schaeffer, (05), said of her first time in the club, "It was great exercise and a wonderful experience. I had fun."

Fencing is a sport of speed, with weapons moving at shape-blurring paces. Hand-eye coordination is greatly improved, as is balance. It is said to be

90% mental and only 10% physical. Banister admits to appreciating the aggressive battles, but also explains how much less clumsy she has become since taking up fencing. "I used to be so clumsy. Now, when I knock things over, I catch them. Reaction time really improves when you fence."

She also explains getting into the "Matrix-mode," where things are moving so quickly, but your mind is analyzing quickly enough that events seem slow, which is another benefit of the improved

reaction time. Banister also explained the natural workout that comes along with fencing, pointing to her right bicep. "I work out, and I don't even know it, cause I'm just having fun."

For anyone interested in fencing, Douglas explained that the best way to get involved in the sport is to watch it. Jen Banister invites anyone interested to attend a club meeting this Sunday from noon until 2pm in Jones Auditorium. She can also be contacted at 875-6034.

ACT does Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure": sex, lies and senior thesis

SEAN WILSON
Staff Writer

For over a month now, members of the Alma College Theater (ACT) department have been rehearsing for a rendition of William Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure*. It opens Thursday the thirteenth and will run until Sunday the sixteenth.

Measure for Measure is co-directed by ACT director Joe Jezewski and intern Scott Harman (997). Set in Vienna, it details the struggle of Isabella, an initiate nun, to save her brother Claudio's life. He has been condemned to die by the righteous Lord Angelo, who reigns in the Duke's absence, for impregnating his fiancé before their marriage. When Isabella confronts Angelo and begs him to relent, he offers her a choice: if she sleeps with him, her brother will be allowed to live. Isabella must decide whether to spare Claudio's life or to retain her virtue. With the help of the Duke, who is actually merely in hiding, she is able to attain both goals.

The play was selected by ACT in order to strengthen work done by its students last year on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and because it would be able to make use of a strong cast of incoming freshmen, including more men than have been represented in its performances in recent years. It provides many excellent opportunities for these new cast

members, as well as several complex and demanding roles for the college's more experienced actors and actresses.

Among them is Aili Meister (03), who has elected to prepare a theater department thesis based on her character in this play, Isabella. This demands that she perform a character analysis, keep a journal of rehearsals, and work closely with Harman and Jezewski to develop an understanding of the motives and goals of her character. "I really see Isabella as someone who is striving to do the best she can. She has a number of outside expectation thrust upon her, she has high standards which she holds herself to, and she must make some very challenging choices," Meister says.

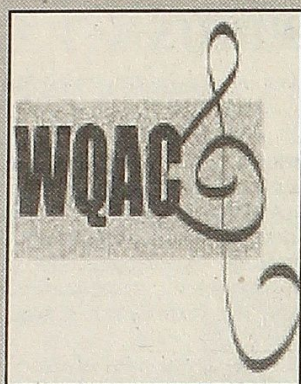
This piece is not often performed, and for years has been dismissed by many critics as a confusing and distasteful play about sex, and no more. Jezewski, however, argues that there is some greater significance to the play. "It was written at a time that many consider to be the high point of his creative genius; he had just finished *Hamlet*, and he wrote *King Lear* within a couple of years afterward," he points out. Jezewski believes that many problems encountered during critical analysis of the play arise when critics take the dichotomy of absolute good against absolute evil that Shakespeare presents at face value. Instead, he asserts that the world of this play "is not merely black and white, but many shades of gray."

Jezewski is himself playing the part of Duke Vincentio. He explains that he tries to occasionally act in a production "to remind myself of what it is that I'm asking my students to do. Doing so keeps me fresh as a director and instructor." He says that a large part of his ability to do this comes from the aid of Harman, his co-director.

The costuming and set being used in the production would not have appeared at Shakespeare's famous Globe theatre. Instead, the design is based on a pre-World War I vision of continental Europe. Lord Angelo and the various courtiers and authorities wear military uniforms, in stark contrast to the seedy appearance of various prostitutes and criminals. Steel plays a predominant role in the set. Jezewski explains that he does not believe in trying to force a script to fit a new concept in setting. Rather, the setting was itself carefully selected to fit the concept of the script. He believes it augments the feeling of the dialogue and the events portrayed.

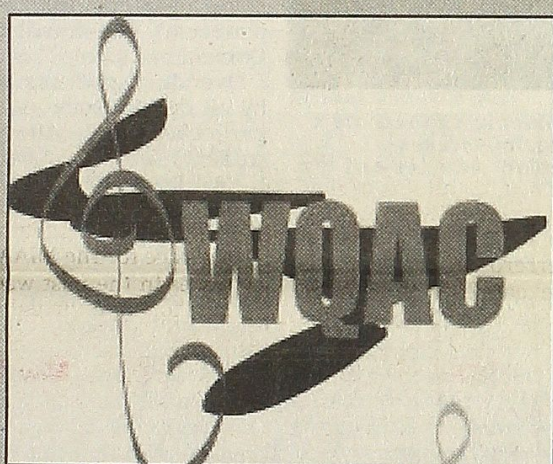
Various scholars of Shakespeare's large body of work have described *Measure for Measure* as a "problem play." Jezewski believes that it does not deserve this designation, and that its problems can be understood as assets by an attentive examination of the script. It will run in the Heritage Center at 8:00 PM Thursday through Saturday, and at 3:00 PM Saturday and Sunday.

ADVERTISING



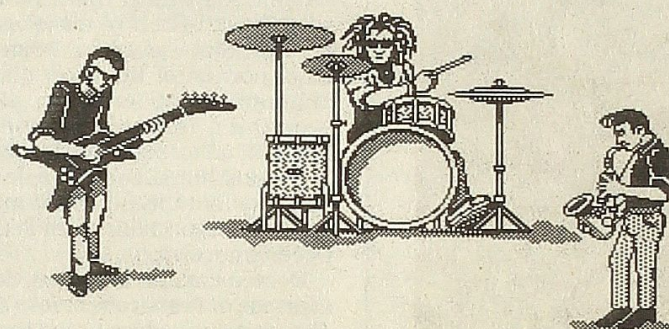
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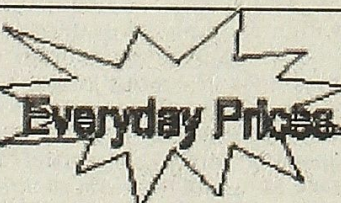
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SPORTS

Men's tennis starts year with new coach, many new players

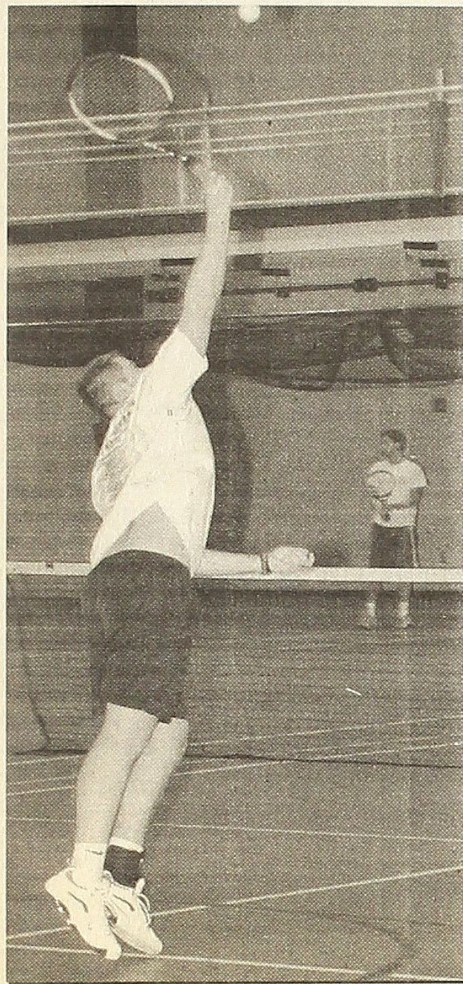


Photo by Melanie Szewczyk

Matt Baleja (04) creams an overhead in practice. The men's tennis team began their season this weekend in the Upper Peninsula with 3 matches.

KATIE PERSITZ
Staff Writer

The men's tennis team for 2003 is looking strong. Though inexperience is their main obstacle, Coach Brandan Snook is optimistic.

"This is a very talented group of guys. There is a strong nucleus within the team. And this is their team, I just provide guidance," says Snook.

In addition to being an Assistant Director of Admissions for Alma College, this is Snook's first year as Alma's men's tennis head coach. In 2000, he was brought to help with football as an assistant coach, but soon volunteered to help out with tennis as well as fill the roll of an assistant coach. "I love the game and in the past few years have gotten closer to the guys, so when Coach Harrison decided to retire, I just showed an interest in being the coach."

This year's team has five seniors: Jared Evans, Manny Guerrero, Nick Martin, Brian Priehs and Ben Zilz; four juniors: Matt Belaja, Matt Krieg, Rob Nicholson and Tim Slade; one sophomore: Brandon McNally; and two freshmen: Erik Sanborn and Tristan Wilson. Of the twelve, only four of these players are returning from last year: senior Ben Zilz and juniors Matt Krieg, Rob Nicholson and Matt Baleja. Senior Brian Priehs and junior Tim Slade are returning after taking last year off.

There are no captains for the team. Snook believes that the leaders will show themselves throughout the season and they will be more respected that way, "captains will emerge through the season, because each one of the players determines where their positions are. The positions aren't set yet, so it is all still open."

The statistics for the returning players

vary. Zilz had a 7-8 record in singles last year. Nicholson was 3-8 in singles and 7-10 in doubles. In 2001 Slade was 1-0 in singles and 1-0 in doubles and in 2000, Priehs was 1-0 in doubles. Overall last year the team finished with a 5-9 record, finishing fifth in the MIAA Championships.

"I'm happy with their progress physically, but now we just need to start focusing on the mental progress. Anyone can hit hard, but the need is to hit accurately on the court. This is going to be a rebuilding year for the team. While the guys here are talented, there is a difference between match experience and hitting ability."

"None of our matches will be easy this year. We're going to have to work hard," says Snook. "Tennis has a unique nature—like track and cross country—it's an individual sport that combines into a team." The season started with a big tournament last weekend in Houghton. On Saturday the team played Michigan Tech and lost 9-0. The next day saw a match against Minnesota State-Mankato followed by a match against Lake Superior State. The Scots dropped both matches losing 6-3 to Mankato and 9-0 to Lake Superior State.

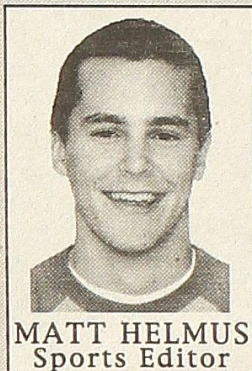
With six matches here in Alma, half the time will be spent away, including the match against Savannah College of Arts and Design in South Carolina, where they will be spending the week of spring break for training.

"We're all excited for the start of the season, with a new coach and lots of new faces and new competition," says returning member Nicholson.

New player Guerrero agrees. "This is my first year on the team even though I'm a senior, so I just want to have a good time and get a couple of wins. This new crew of young guys looks good though. I wish I had decided to play all four years."

Overall the team's outlook appears strong with a bright future.

Best darn sports column ever

MATT HELMUS
Sports Editor

Well, last week was not kind to the Alma sports community. The basketball team went a combined 0-4. The women's team went on the

road and came home with two losses from Kalamazoo and Hope. The men's team was twice bombed in Cappaert Gym.

I only had one thought during the Kalamazoo game: at least we didn't lose by 65 (as K'zoo did to Hope a few weeks back.) The game had a few highlights as the team hung close to the Hornets throughout the first half. The Sportscenter moment came when Joe Baysdell threw down a dunk on a fast break in the second half. (Yes, games are worth coming to.)

The women's team slipped out of the race for the MIAA title with their losses in the past week. Their tough loss to Hope virtually ended a shot at the conference crown. Hopefully they can still take second place to a dominant Flying Dutchman squad that is ranked third nationally.

This weekend is the swimming and diving conference meet. It should be exciting as the team is rested up and ready to swim their best times of the season. Just think, Holland isn't that far from here if you don't feel like sticking around Alma to watch the men's basketball team play Adrian on Saturday.

Men's tennis started up this past week with the Scots taking losses from larger, scholarship giving schools. The team traveled to Houghton (in the UP) and competed against Michigan Tech, Lake Superior State and Minnesota State-Mankato. The team should be a force in the MIAA this year with a new coach and several new players, as well as players who did not compete last year.

In local sports news the Lions surprised absolutely no one when they hired Steve Mariucci. "Mooch" will now look to the draft and free agents to get the team a few key players for next season. Next year will be an interesting football year in the state as Mariucci and John L. Smith (MSU) will make their head coaching debuts.

Another all-star game has come and gone with the NBA festivities taking place last weekend. Michael Jordan could not manage to come away with a game-winning shot, no matter how many opportunities he got. In the end the Western Conference came away with the win in what turned out to be a fairly exciting double-overtime game.

In other basketball news MSU brought a broom to Bloomington to sweep Indiana. The Hoosiers first 5 game losing skid in 30 years (including an embarrassing loss to Northwestern) have caused at least one fan to become disillusioned with Mike Davis' program. Hopefully these fans will now realize that they should really be cheering for the green & white.

Scots aim for respect at MIAA championship meet

MATT HELMUS
Sports Editor

The swimming and diving teams begin to wrap up their year this weekend with the MIAA Championships in Holland. Hope College will host the event at Holland Aquatic Center Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Each day will feature preliminaries at 10 a.m. and finals at 6 p.m.

The Scots will be facing stiff competition in the meet. On the men's side Kalamazoo and Hope have won every MIAA title since 1972. For the women Calvin, Hope and Kalamazoo are the only 3 schools to ever win a league crown. This year does not look very promising for Alma to break these streaks.

The team does have plenty of opportunities to score points. On the diving front the Scots will look to be one of the best teams in the conference. Cole Hughes (06) has the fourth highest point total on the 1 meter board and the fifth highest on the 3 meter this season. Colin McLaughlin (04) has the tenth highest total from 1 meter.

The Scots have two of the conference's top divers in Morgan Hansen (05) and Lyndsy Carr (05). Hansen has the second highest total from 1 meter and the third highest from 3 meters. Carr is fourth and seventh, respectively.

In the pool the women's team is led by

a few key swimmers. Stephanie Druskinis (05), a freestyle specialist, is currently sixth in the conference in the 50 yard freestyle, seventh in the 100 yard and tenth in the 200 yard event. Brienne Houser (05) is ninth and tenth in the 100 and 200 yard butterfly events.

Senior Meredith Henry is looking to score in the 1,650 yard freestyle, 400 yard individual medley and 100 yard

Liz Smith (04). Smith will also compete in the 200 yard backstroke. Jaci Wilkie (06) will be looking to place well in the 100 and 200 yard breaststroke events.

The men will also be led by a few key swimmers. Mike Porter (03) is near the top of the conference in the 100 and 200 yard backstroke events. Keith Hansen (05) will look to score for the Scots in the 100 yard breaststroke and 400 yard individual medley.

Coach Greg Baadte believes the Scots are ready to look their best in the conference meet. He notes that this will be the first meet that the team is completely trained as well as rested for.

He has set lofty, but achievable goals for the teams. He would like to see the women take third and the men take fourth. Baadte noted that anyone on the team could have a breakout meet. He noted that many of the freshmen have the potential to have a great meet.

After the conference meet comes nationals. Coach Baadte thinks that quite a few swimmers and divers have a shot at going to nationals. Among them are Hansen, Porter, Druskinis and Hauser.

Baadte stressed that the teams are not thinking about that right now, but focusing on the conference meet. He wants the team to swim "in the now", focusing on getting individual bests at what he describes as one of the fastest pools in the state.

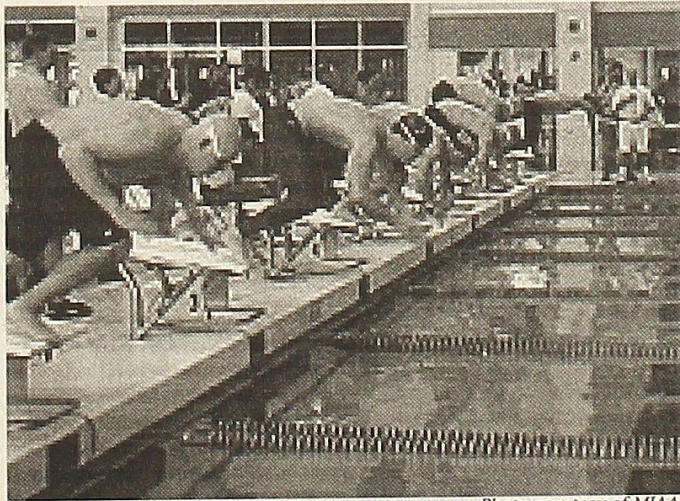


Photo courtesy of MIAA

The Scots will compete this weekend at the MIAA championships which will be held this weekend at the Holland Aquatic Center.

backstroke events. Joining her in the 1,650 will be Julie Fantone (04) who currently has the eighth fastest conference time.

Also in the 100 yard backstroke will be

SPORTS

Scots suffer two tough league losses

KRISHA LARSON
Staff Writer

The Alma Women's Basketball team dropped two games this week and dropped to a third place tie in MIAA standings.

Despite a close game at Kalamazoo College on Wednesday, the Scots fell 56-52. The Scots had built a ten point lead in the first half, but the Comets came back as the teams left for halftime with a 24-24 tie.

The Comets began the second half with scoring nine of the first ten points in the half, taking the lead at 32-25. The Scots tried to answer back but the closest they could get was within four points with 1:17 left in the game. Kalamazoo forced 27 turnovers from the Scots, while only committing 19 themselves.

Shelly Ulfig (03) led Alma with 13 points and 11 rebounds, while Karen Hall (04) had 11 points and brought down 10 rebounds. Mindy VanDamme (05) scored 9 points.

On Saturday, the Scots were on the road again as they faced undefeated Hope College falling 70-57.

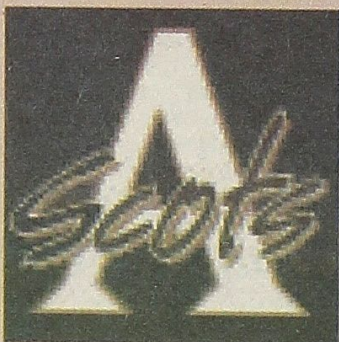
Early in the game, the two teams had the game tied several times early in the game, before Hope took over and never looked back. The Scots went ahead early 7-2, as Hope then tied the game at 7-7, as the last tie was at 14-14 with eight minutes into the game. The Flying Dutch had built a 34-19 advantage with 4:33 left in the first half, the Scots cut the margin down and the score was left at 39-31 at the half.

Halfway through the second half, Hope was up by only seven points, but they went on outscore the Scots 12-4 the next three minutes to gain a double-digit advantage over Alma.

Hope's shooting percentage was 50 percent, with Alma's at 37.8 percent. The Flying Dutch also out-rebounded Alma 42-23 total rebounds.

Ulfig led the Scots again with 16 points and Hall scored 14 points.

Alma is now 12-7 overall and 6-4 in the MIAA tied for third place with Albion. The Scots will host Olivet College on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. and then travel to Adrian College on Saturday for a game time of 3:00 p.m.



Hope and Kalamazoo take over Cappaert Gymnasium in wins



The Scots continued to have a rough time in the MIAA as both Hope and Kalamazoo travelled to Alma and won. The Hornets left with a 86-68 win while the Flying Dutchmen went away with a 108-79 victory. In both games visiting fans were more vocal than the home crowd, nullifying Alma's home-court advantage.

LEFT: Coach Ed Kohtala watches Joe Baysdell (05) throw down a dunk against Kalamazoo in the second half. Baysdell had a team-high 15 points in the game.

RIGHT: Nate Ashcraft (06) shoots a three-pointer over a Kalamazoo defender on Wednesday. Ashcraft is one of six freshman on the team.

Photos by Melanie Szewczyk



CAMPUS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Feb. 11

Spring Term Pre-registration

8 p.m. - The Chenille Sisters
(Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

Wednesday, Feb. 12

Spring Term Pre-registration

7 - 9 p.m. - Service Learning
House Open House (Service Learning House)

7:30 p.m. - Men's Basketball @ Olivet (JV @ 5:15)

7:30 p.m. - Women's Basketball Home v. Olivet

8 p.m. - ACUB presents "Shaking Tree" band (VanDusen)

8 p.m. - Catholic Student Organization (Fireside Lounge)

9 p.m. - Trinity Bible Fellowship (Jones Auditorium)

Thursday, Feb. 13

Spring Term Pre-registration

10 a.m. preliminaries & 6 p.m. finals - Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving MIAA Championships (Holland Aquatic Center)

8 p.m. - Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" (Heritage Center, Theatre)

Friday, Feb. 14 Valentine's Day

Spring Term Pre-registration

10 a.m. preliminaries & 6 p.m. finals - Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving MIAA Championships (Holland Aquatic Center)

4 p.m. - Men's and Women's Indoor Track & Field @ Laker Challenge (Grand Valley)

8 p.m. - Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" (Heritage Center, Theatre)

8 p.m. - "Love Song Waltzes" (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

Saturday, Feb. 15

10 a.m. preliminaries & 6 p.m. finals - Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving MIAA Championships (Holland Aquatic Center)

3 p.m. - Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" (Heritage Center, Theatre)

3 p.m. - Men's Basketball Home v. Adrian (JV @ 12:45)

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

8 p.m. - Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" (Heritage Center, Theatre)

8 p.m. - Alma Symphony Orchestra III (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

Sunday, Feb. 16

3 p.m. - Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure" (Heritage Center, Theatre)

3 p.m. - Alma Symphony Orchestra III (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

9 p.m. - Chapel Service (Dunning Chapel)