

# The Almanian

serving Alma College since 1907

www.newmedia.alma.edu/almanian

## Freshman dances to world championships

RACHEL KINGSTROM  
Staff Writer

First-year student **Kate DeGood** is currently ranked the fourth best highland dancer in the world. DeGood has been involved in highland dancing for over eleven years. Degood's mother convinced her to start highland dancing after she moved to Alma when she was seven years old. Ever since then, she has been very busy traveling and competing in competitions.

DeGood has gone to Scotland every August since she was thirteen to compete in the world championships and competitions leading up to it. There are four major championships in Scotland and that highland dancers compete in before the world championships. People from countries all over the world including Australia, Canada, South Africa, and New Zealand come to compete. DeGood has moved up to the oldest age category, 18 years old and up. In the junior divisions, she was a four-time U.S. champion. In 1998 she placed first in the thirteen and under division. In 2000 she won the fifteen and under division. In 2001 and 2002 she came in first in the seventeen and under senior division.

Being a highland dancer has been a rewarding experience for Degood. It has given her opportunities that she would not have had otherwise. She enjoys being able to travel. She has also made a lot of friends though highland dancing.

"It's been a really great opportunity to travel all over the world and make friends with people from all different countries," she said. "I wouldn't have been able to go to the places I've been to otherwise."

The world championships last for two days. A preliminary competition is held on a Friday in which 76 dancers compete. Twenty dancers from the preliminary competition are chosen to participate in the actual world championship.

DeGood is now a highland dance teacher and gives lessons at the studio in downtown Alma. When she turns 21, DeGood plans on taking the highland dance judge's exam in Scotland for this competition.

## MORHA conference hosted by Alma

AMY WILEY  
Staff Writer

This past weekend Gelston Hall changed from being just a regular residence hall to being the "MORHA spot." It was Alma turn to host Michigan Organization of Residence Hall Associations business meeting. This meeting was hard to miss by anyone passing through Gelston, because the MORHA representatives were getting pumped up. Through ice breaking activities, games, and a brand of enthusiasm they like to call "MORHA Love," they were able to get to know each other and any one else who passed through the hall.

MORHA business meetings are ways for the Residence Hall Association (RHA) of different schools to get new and creative ideas that will aid them in making the students' living experiences at their schools better. They gain program ideas, new insights into possible solutions to problems, and resources from other schools.

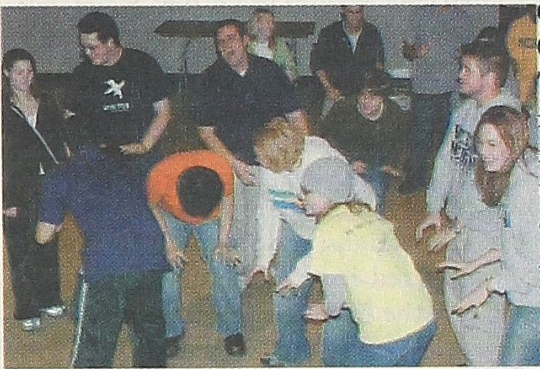
Such resources include the MORHA Resource Library Index, a binder that provides ideas for different on-campus organizations looking for creative projects.

This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> year of MORHA, and the members are very excited

individual schools provides students with excellent opportunities to build leadership skills.

MORHA also include representatives from each of the organization's 15 member schools known as the Michigan Organization of Residence Hall Associations (MORHA). Alma's MORHA Communications Coordinator (MOCC), **Angie Touchette** (04) seems excited for this year, and encourages any interested Alma College students to attend the events. She says, "You only get what you make of it at Alma."

Any student who is interested in attending MORHA events is welcome to go to the other schools. Current members believe that once students attend they will be hooked, with their motto being "You never forget your first time." Such students are known as MORHA Family Members, and their job is simply to network ideas with other schools and learn more about Residence life. Students can get more information



MORHA breaks the ice by playing games with Alma College students. photo by Thad Hopkins

to make it a productive one. The members include a twelve person executive board, with Linda Harvey, a senior at Central Michigan University, as the director. She believes that participation in the MORHA meetings, as well as the RHAs of

## Virtual reality comes to Alma

JOEL RENDER  
Staff Writer

If you are a junior, senior, or perhaps even a sophomore then chances are you do not know that Alma College has a virtual reality model of the campus; which became available just two short years ago. The virtual reality model was created by a company called City Simulations based in the city of Plymouth by Detroit. The president of City Simulations, Don Fullenwider, is an acclaimed architect and Alma alumnus.

The virtual reality models created by City Simulations has a variety of purposes. For example, models of industrial buildings and factories can be consulted in case of emergencies before sending in rescue personnel. The obvious usage of a model of Alma College's campus is as a recruiting tool. Prospective students can now really see what the environment looks like before visiting in person. Nearly 2,000 copies of the first version of the model were distributed to prospective students last year by the Admissions Office.

The astonishingly life-like depiction is relatively easy to control. Students can move forward, back, left, or right by pressing the W, S, A, and D keys respectively. Pressing the up or down arrows will allow the user to change their elevation. You can go underground or float high in the sky to get an aerial view of campus if you wish.

Also, holding down the right mouse button and moving the cursor allows you to view parts of campus as if you were really turning your head and looking at them.

The model is complete with extremely realistic views of buildings, trees, roads, and sidewalks. Unique features like the parking signs near SAC or the spirit rock look just like they do in real life.

According to Fullenwider the model took approximately four months of grueling work to complete. However, now that the basic model is finished improvements can easily be made. Fullenwider said, "We are adding more content at the moment." This means that links to the Alma website or various departments will be plugged in to

their appropriate place in the simulation. Insides of some buildings, such as the Recreation Center, will appear in the newest version as well, which will be released later this year.

The model was designed using a program called Creator and works much like the design of certain types of computer games. Buildings are created as polygons, and their depth and height are selected. Aerial pictures taken are then superimposed and stretched to fit on each different edge of the polygon. Fullenwider estimated that over 800 aerial photos had to be taken to make the model.

Fullenwider said, "As far as I know, Alma College is the only school of its size to have an extensive virtual reality model in the entire country. UCLA has a model of its campus but is not nearly as advanced as this one." If you would like to see for yourself what the model is like try asking the Admissions Office for a copy. Just make sure that you check the system requirements before you try running it because some of its requirements especially graphics can be stringent.

### In This Issue

Same-sex controversies hit Supreme Court  
page 2

Political comics  
page 3

Texas Chainsaw Massacre review  
page 5

Men and women's soccer  
page 8



# National/State/Local

## Search for library director continues

**LAURA SACHJEN**  
Staff Writer

The Alma library is searching for a new director to fill the position vacated last year by Peter Dollard. The search committee is now in the deliberation process and deciding which candidate will receive an offer. Their hope and goal is to have a new director by next term.

When Dollard returned from his sabbatical, no one expected that he would choose to start his retirement instead of coming back to work at the library. Priscilla Perkins took over as interim director during the sabbatical and retirement period. When she left to pursue another job, Carol Zeile took her place. Zeile is the library's current interim director. She has maintained the post for approximately 9 months.

The library also began searching for a new full-time director after Dollard retired. The process of searching for a director is both a lengthy and complicated one that can take several months. Advertisements were placed and a search committee received appli-

cations. After the selection committee sifted through the applications, the best applicants were selected to answer a series of e-mail essay questions. From those results, phone interviews were then conducted. After that, a few finalists were given interviews during on-campus visits. A candidate will be selected by the committee at the end of the process.

The candidate selected by the committee in the first search declined the offer, so the process had to be started all over again. The current search has been going on since April, and started back up again, after the summer vacation, in September. The selection committee is now in the final stage of the process.

The committee received a number of applications, and 8 semi-finalists were selected from the e-mail questions and the telephone interviews rounds. 3 candidates were brought to campus for a two-day visit in this latest search. The selection committee is now in the process of deciding which candidate the offer should be made to.

Steven Vest, head of reference and instruction librarian, is a member of

the library director selection committee.

Vest stressed the importance of the library director being a librarian. "At a lot of places, the director doesn't take on a lot of library duties," he said.

Part of the process in searching for a director is choosing a candidate who is a librarian. It is imperative at such a small library like Alma's that the director be a librarian. Currently, there are only 3 professional librarians on staff. This makes the library perpetually short-staffed, and that is a huge burden for them. The new director must be involved in day-to-day library duties. Having a full-time director would relieve a large amount of the staff's burden.

James Mueller, associate professor of economics, is the chairman of the director selection committee. According to Mueller, the library director position is an extremely important one on the Alma campus.

"This is a very important position on campus because the library is, and ought to be, the intellectual center of a place like this," said Mueller. "Who runs it is very important."

## Controversies over homosexual sex invade

### Supreme Court

**JULIE BOLITHO**  
Staff Writer

Recently, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia spoke against his fellow Justices' June decision to overturn *Lawrence and Garner vs. Texas*—a case regarding the legality of homosexual sex. The case began in 1998 when two gay men from Houston were engaging in homosexual activities and a neighbor reported a "weapons disturbance." The home was invaded and the men were required to pay a fine of \$200 and spend the night in jail for violating a law banning sodomy. The neighbor was later convicted for filing a false police report.

During the case, Texas argued that it was in the State's interest to keep sodomy illegal, because homosexual practices interfere with marriage and child rearing. The State claimed, "Sodomy has nothing to do with marriage or conception or parenthood and it is not on a par with these sacred choices."

The new decision further overruled a Supreme Court case from 1986. The 1986 ruling upheld a Georgia sodomy law that banned homosexual sex. According to the Georgia law, homosexuals had no constitutional rights to engage in private sodomy. With the abolishment of the Texas and Georgia laws, a precedent was set, thus prohibiting states to criminalize private, consensual sex. This new ruling also affected laws in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Scalia voiced his opinions at a gathering of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI). After reading the text, Scalia told the ISI that judges, including his fellow colleagues on the Supreme Court, "throw over the original meaning of the Constitution when it suits them." He also stated that, "All that the person interpreting or applying that document has to do is to read up on the latest academic understanding of liberal political theory and interpolate these constitutional understandings into the constitutional text." Currently, no Justices have publicly responded to the remarks made by Scalia.

Issues of homosexuality and constitutional rights are important to college campuses such as Alma. As Alma students are broadly dispersed between conservative and liberal opinions, discussing issues pertaining to the past and present of our country can broaden one another's views. Furthermore, these issues will continue to appear in our society; since many students will someday work in the public sector, it is valuable to consider these controversies.

## Martin Luther King task force creates a week long celebration

**AMY WILEY**  
Staff Writer

This year President Tracy created a task force, which will be responsible for coordination and planning of events for this year's celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The task force plan to extend this celebration to an entire week beginning Sunday night, January 18<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the task force held a forum with any and all interested students who wanted to discuss and help plan the events for the week. The goal of the meeting was to gain new ideas in order to commemorate the entire broad-spectrum of characteristics, which made Dr. King great. They stem much of their focus from the ideas of Coretta Scott King and her emphasis on the many different people her husband championed. She says that Martin Luther King Day "the peoples' holiday," and the task force hopes to make its celebration reflect just that.

Many things have already been planned for the week, including a hypothetical play called *The Meeting*, which simulates what Malcolm X and Dr. King would say to each other if they had been able to meet, a poverty simulation, a jazz concert, and some street theater (those interested in

performing in street theater should contact Joanne Gilbert or Janet Narrarro).

The group encourages all of the organizations on campus to get involved, and many showed up at the forum with ideas. Such organizations included the Alma College Peace Coalition (ACPC), Black Student Union (BSU), Pride, and Students Offering Service (SOS).

When asked about the meeting Professor Mueller seemed very optimistic. "There was a lot of energy in that room," he says, "I am encouraged by how many students showed up to talk about things they wanted to do during the week." Such students included **Desmond Wright-Glenn (07)** and **Shakaria Kiels (07)**. Kiels, a member of the BSU, came prepared with plans for a diversity game and is very pleased with the results of the forum, "I think it's a good thing. We need to promote greater emphasis and knowledge of things in African American history." Wright-Glenn, expresses similar sentiment, hoping for such involvement from the Residence Hall Association, where he is in charge of Issues and Diversity, as well as WQAC, the college radio station.

The King Center ([www.thekingcenter.com](http://www.thekingcenter.com)) stresses

that Martin Luther King Day is "A day on, not a day off," thus, the fact that classes will be held that day is considered to be a problem by the task force. Although the group encourages teachers to take an active role in encouraging students to get involved during the week, and incorporating some of what Dr. King stands for into their classes. One of the ways that the task force hopes to help with this is through the creation of a reading list, proposed by Maurie Sheppard (Political Science), which will show how numerous disciplines can be related to this celebration.

The goal of the task force is to impact the everyday life of people on campus through inspiration commemoration and education, and to let people know something is going on. If you are interested in or have any ideas for the week's activities, you can attend the Martin Luther King task force meetings on Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. in the basement of the chapel or can contact any one of the following: Jim Mueller, Associate Professor of Economics; Janet Narvarro, Assistant Professor of Education; Anne Ritz, Service Learning Coordinator; Chistine Vogel, Chaplain; Laura von Wallmenich, Assistant Professor of English.



OPINION

Greeks: today's life or tomorrow's demise?

KEVIN BRADY  
Staff Writer

Graduation takes place in a little less than six months. Towards the end of this year, seniors will look back assessing the experience each has had at Alma College. Some of the best memories for me have taken place on one night each year. Run-outs captivate Greek life in an instant, bringing together the Alma College community. However, because of certain incidents occurring at run-outs last year, it has been rumored this event will not take place any longer. It is premature to say it will not take place again, but it can be said a conservative, more boring approach to run-outs will replace the one in previous years. Coinciding with this, a new IFC rule recommended by administration, of having

one party per month for each of the fraternities on campus was passed earlier this year. One night a month, a campus full of students who want to let loose, have a good time, and forget about the exams and papers they wrote the week prior, can have a good time. Because of this, a portion of Greek life is hindered and will be for the future due to such limitations. Parking lots are empty almost every weekend. It is logical because the basic social aspect of this campus has been torn. Instead of asking themselves what to do on a weekend at Alma, students look to other schools to go visit friends from high school. Why should they stay here on a weekend if there is nothing to do besides work on a paper that is due a month from now? Fraternities are

friendlier with each other than past years, but as they have made this step forward, administration has forced a step backwards. I agree with Ms. Panik. The new regulations which have taken the Greek system (especially fraternities) by storm are causing more negative results than positive. The party system here at Alma College is unique. I do not know of any other institutions which have their administrators go around to each party and patrol. Is this not what the police are for? Each fraternity has their own ideals which they follow and abide. It seems Alma College does not have enough faith in these individuals, forcing them to place a "babysitter" at a fraternity's social event. Fraternities have alcohol checks and verify birthdates on driver's

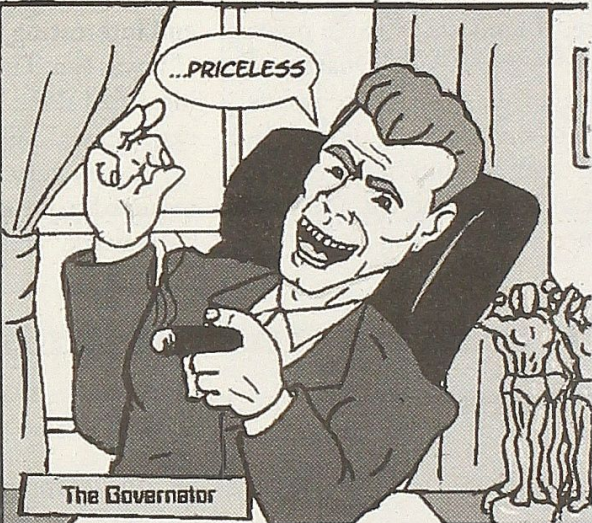
licenses. Each administrator remembers what it felt like to be a college student. Let the students have fun. Let them enjoy the experience of college. This will not change the image of Alma College. The social aspect of an institution of higher learning is just as valuable as academics. Fraternities, sororities, and Greek life provide a positive environment for social growth. Limitations on Greek life social life, as recommended by administration, may have a detrimental effect on the growth of Alma College. Make a statement for today's Alma College students. Are seniors going to remember the paper they wrote for an English class, or the night they went to a campus fraternity house, and had one of the best nights of their lives?

Talking Heads

by Mykiller

TOTAL RECALL CAMPAIGN SPENDING:  
50,000,000 DOLLARS +  
COST PER WEEK IN TELEVISION ADS:  
1.5 MILLION DOLLARS

BECOMING GOVERNOR OF ONE OF THE  
MOST POWERFUL STATES IN THE  
UNION WITHOUT HAVING TO GO  
THROUGH THE HASSLE OF A PARTY  
COVENTION, MORE THAN ONE PRE-  
SCRIPTED DEBATE, EVER REALLY  
BOTHERING TO DEFINE YOUR PLATFORM  
OR GIVE A CONCRETE ANSWER:



The Almanian

Serving Alma College since 1907

Brendan Guilford Editor-in-Chief

Katie Persitz News Editor  
Matt Helmus Sports Editor  
Olga Wrobel Feature Editor  
Whitney Hopkins Opinion Editor

Melanie Szewczyk Head Photographer  
Tim Throm Copy Editor  
Megan VanWyk Graphic Design  
Joel Render Staff Writer  
Alexa Boyce Staff Writer  
Rachel Kingstrom Staff Writer  
Andrea Radtke Staff Writer  
Laura Sachjen Staff Writer  
Adam Rose Staff Writer  
Amy Willey Staff Writer  
Kevin Brady Staff Writer  
Julie Bolitho Guest Writer  
Thad Hopkins Photographer

Kristin Oleszkowicz Dist. Manager

Faculty Advisor  
Robert Vivian

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@hotmail.com](mailto:almanian@hotmail.com) 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.

If you would like to advertise in The Almanian for your group or organization, please call 989-463-7161 or e-mail [almanian@hotmail.com](mailto:almanian@hotmail.com) for rates and availability.

Join ACUB and Theta Chi  
as they present:

ROCKY HORROR  
PICTURE SHOW

Tuesday, October 28  
8 pm  
VanDusen

Come dressed as your favorite character from the show!



# FEATURE

## ACDC prepares for upcoming show

**RACHEL KINGSTROM**  
Staff Writer

The Alma College Dance Company has been working hard for several weeks on their upcoming show, and all of their hard work is about to pay off. The Dance Company will perform November 14<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, 15<sup>th</sup> at 8pm, and 16<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. Dance Company members and dance and theatre department faculty are eagerly anticipating this event.

"I'm definitely excited any time we have a show. It's a time to showcase what you've been doing," **Kristi Schneider (04)**. "It's been a lot of work and it's a stressful time, but it's rewarding."

Other members of the Dance Company share Schneider's sentiments.

"I'm very excited," **Jacqueline Winnell (05)**. "It should be fun."

The concert will be an eclectic showcase of two very different styles of dance. It consists of three pieces. The first piece, Pas de Quatre, is a classic ballet. Pas de Quatre is a celebration of the romantic period, and it brings together four of the greatest ballerinas of the time for a quartet. The dance company will also be per-

forming Swan Lake. Staging for Swan Lake was staged by Tom Morris, associate professor of dance. Carol Fike, associate professor of dance, is very excited to have it in the show.

"Swan Lake is timeless. It has been around forever and will continue to do so," she said.

The final piece featured in the concert is A Choreographic Offering by Jose Limon. Limon dedicated the piece to the memory and honor of his beloved teacher, Doris Humphrey, a famous modern dancer. In preparation for this piece, the Company invited Maxine Steinman, a professional modern dancer from New York City, to come to Alma for two weeks and teach Limon's technique. Practice was held from 6pm-10pm every night, including weekends, during the two week period. Even though it required a lot of hard work, dance company members found the experience of working with a professional to be rewarding and interesting.

"It was fun. The dance was like nothing I had done before. It was a good experience," Winnell added.

"It was very intense, hard, and it required a lot of concentration and hard work," Fike said. "It is a very

complicated piece, and it is also a very well known piece."

The dance company was able to afford to have Steinman come because of a substantial amount of money given to Fike from the Gratiot County Community Foundation.

"It is very important for the arts to be exposed to professionals," Fike added. "Because we live in a small community, we need to bring in outside acts."

Fike is very proud of the show and eagerly anticipates opening night. It will be a sort of collaborative effort between the dance and theatre departments. Fike had many positive things to say about the various aspects of the upcoming performance.

"The show is a classic, traditional representation of ballet and modern dance," she added. "It is beautifully staged and beautifully costumed. Also, the lighting in the show is beautiful."

Lighting is provided by Christine Crosser, assistant professor of theatre.

The dance company's upcoming concert will be a mix of different dance styles and will give the dancers a chance to showcase their talents.

## SIFE teaches students and community the importance of money management

**ALEXA BOYCE**  
Staff Writer

The Alma College chapter of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) was founded in the fall of 2000. Many students assume that because of the nature of the work that SIFE participates in, that you must be a business major to join. Membership is mostly students studying business, though it is not limited to that. In fact, this year SIFE has actively tried to diversify its members and events. The organization is funded mostly through donations and fundraising, but they do have a small budget from Student Congress.

SIFE is a global non-profit organization that consists of over 1500 teams in 37 countries. The umbrella organization guides the teams and holds competitions regionally and nationally. These competitions consist of presentations with visual aids of all the projects they have done and how many people the group has reached. The judges are actual business executives, so these competitions are also a networking opportunity. Member **Laurie Eccles (04)** says that, "Alma's team has been regional champions at the competition in Chicago for the last two years. We also went to the

national competition both years."

Many of you may have seen signs for the roundtables that SIFE holds. Last year the only roundtable event they did was titled "Ethics in Business". This year, as part of their diversification, they also have held roundtables for ethics in medicine, education and law. These events bring professionals in the specific topic area into a room. Eccles explains, "Each professional sits at a separate table and gives a few students an ethical situation to discuss. For example, at the business ethics session, one speaker asked students how they would feel about doctoring accounting records if asked to by a superior. After a few minutes on this topic, students switch tables and are given a new situation." These roundtables, that lasted for the whole month of October, coincided with National Business Ethics month.

President **Jenn Hoornstra (04)** explains that next month is National Fiscal Fitness month. SIFE members plan to hold seminars dealing with personal investment and saving. SIFE is also very active in the community, and will go to the area middle schools, including Alma, St. Louis and Vestaburg, to hold a Bank and Trust program. They will teach the kids the importance of saving money, and

also play the stock market game with them. Other programs SIFE plans to do with middle schools include a Career class for 8<sup>th</sup> graders. This is designed to determine the strengths of the students and point them in the right direction. SIFE will also hold a program for 4<sup>th</sup> graders called Mini World. This activity teaches the children about countries, currency and culture. Some overseas students will go to provide an emphasis on their country's culture.

SIFE is organizing the Alma High School students to be Young Entrepreneurs. The SIFE team, in conjunction with the high school students, will open a snack and tee shirt shop in the Alma community center. Hoornstra calls this "the biggest program for this year, because we will actually open and run a business." This will be very educational for both SIFE members and the high school students. SIFE also has a WQAC radio show and will help seniors at the Masonic home through a program called Linking Generations. They will teach the seniors how to use technology such as search engines.

Even if students do not study business, SIFE offers opportunities for diverse interests and has an impact on the community at large.

## Texas Chainsaw Massacre lacks depth; perfect for fans of gore

**WHITNEY HOPKINS**  
Opinion Editor

There is one thing worse than a film about a deranged mass-killer whose weapon of choice is a chainsaw and who enjoys wearing preserved body parts of his victims: the fact that the plot is loosely based on a true story. The sad part is that this story has now largely become a cliché in modern horror flicks.

*Texas Chainsaw Massacre*, directed by Marcus Nispel, is only one in a plethora of remakes of the 1970s cult-classic, which was a pioneer of its time. In an age where *Silence of the Lambs*, *Jeepers Creepers*, and *Psycho* are the norms in slasher-thrillers, with skin-slicing, wearing body parts, and copious amounts of Hollywood blood, *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* fails to impress with plot or character development, depending instead on gore, its claim of a true base, and an incredulous new generation of audience to make big bucks at the box office.

The story begins with five teenagers — Jessica Biel, Jonathan Tucker, Eric Balfour, Erica Leerhsen, and Mike Vogel — driving through rural Texas. On the way, they pick up a teenaged girl, played by Lauren German, who inconveniently commits suicide in the back of their van. This, in turn, leads to a domino-like series of events throwing the teens from the arms of one unhelpful towns person into those of yet more murderous characters, all of whom work to support "Leatherface," played by Andrew Bryniarski, a man with a skin disease and fetish for chainsaws.

From a videographer or photographer's point of view, the film was an excellent example of how to make a movie; the setting and actors came across as real, if slightly unbelievable in circumstances.

The amount of truth in the story is debatable, with numerous websites devoted to the original movie and its origins. One thing is for sure: whether or not you enjoy this movie, the actors do a wonderful job of portraying their characters and Jessica Biel really shines as a leading lady.

If you enjoy the cult slasher movies reminiscent of the 70s, check out this flick. While lacking in anything other than superficial plot development or explanation, it's well-made and worth the time of horror movie fanatics.



# FEATURE

## W.S. Merwin presents poetry on campus

**ADAM ROSE**  
Staff Writer

W. S. Merwin, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, translator and environmentalist is coming to Alma College on Thursday, October 30. Merwin is one of the most widely read American poets and has received many awards in recognition of his work. W. S. Merwin has led a storied life. He was born in New York City in 1927, and he grew up in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Merwin first began to write at the age of five, composing hymns for his father who was a Presbyterian minister. In addition to writing poetry he worked as a tutor in France, Portugal, and Mallorca. He now lives on Maui, in the Hawaiian Islands.

It has been said that in some respects, W. S. Merwin has already

visited Alma College – through his books. Dr. Robert Vivian, Assistant Professor of English, uses Merwin's books in his poetry classes. Vivian describes Merwin's poetry as using an "intimate voice" that "speaks in a deep, private way." Any student who has been through one of Vivian's poetry classes knows exactly what he means.

In fact, many people have difficulty describing the effect Merwin's poetry has on them. Merwin aficionado **Marilee Brooks (04)** illustrated her reaction to Merwin's poetry by saying, "He takes something ordinary from everyday life and turns it into something more than ordinary." It is this ability to grab something simple and overlooked from life and make his audience stop and think that makes Merwin such an amazing author. His

poetry has been known to take readers by surprise and stir up thoughts and emotions long buried. As Dr. Vivian puts it, "People walk around in tightly wrapped-up skins and [Merwin's] poetry reestablishes us with what things are important."

Clearly, the poetry of W. S. Merwin has a profound effect on those people who read it. However, some may wonder what benefit they would receive from taking time out of their day on Thursday to listen to a poetry reading. After all, students could spend that time studying, working out, or socializing with friends. In addition, to perhaps trying something new and broadening one's college experience, Vivian suggests that poetry can provide students with something few other forms of media can. He says, "If you're a human being and have a heart,

soul and mind, very few other things in the course of daily living attempt to put that in some kind of utterance." Poetry can give a voice to those parts of life that are too often ignored.

Alma College is fortunate to have this visit by W. S. Merwin because the poet only leaves his home in Maui to come to the mainland once a year, and Alma fits nicely into his schedule. In fact, students will be coming from Kalamazoo to listen to talk with Merwin and listen to his readings. Merwin will be reading his poetry at 8:00 p.m. in Dunning Memorial Chapel on Thursday, October 30. It is not everyday that an Alma College student has the opportunity to listen to and talk with someone who has had such an extraordinary effect on so many people's lives.

## Despite low participation, Alcohol Awareness Week affected students

**ALEXA BOYCE**  
Staff Writer

You might know someone who was "killed" by the Grim Reaper this week. For Alcohol Awareness Week, Alpha Xi Delta sponsored eight black signs that volunteers wore for six hours. They represented the number of people who die, on average, from alcohol related car accidents during that time period.

This was the first year that Alma held an Alcohol Awareness week. Kate Brock, Newberry Hall Director, coordinated the week because, "Alcohol is a very important issue. Students drink every night of the week here. I wanted to educate students about it. I didn't think they knew how much harm could come from drinking, and I wanted to do something the whole school could get behind." The week is actually a national event, where campuses all over the country hold alcohol-free events to teach students about drinking.

Sunday night Sigma Chi sponsored speaker Rick Barnes, who discussed many relevant issues relating drinking and college students. About 55 people came to listen to Barnes talk about the real purpose of college. He asked the students to think about whether they came to college to party or to get an education. Brock was pleased with his performance, saying, "He did it in a way that was humorous and that people understand, but he was also

covering real issues."

RHA passed out buttons that read "Not This Week". The students who wore these pledged not to drink for the duration of Alcohol Awareness Week. On Monday, about 100 people from the college and community came to the event in Van Dusen, sponsored by the South Complex RAs and Wil-



*photo by Melanie Szweczyk*

"Trauma Nurses Talk Tough" was one of many events that took place during Alcohol Awareness Week to inform students of the dangers of alcohol.

cox Medical Center. Some of the people probably came for the sole reason that Brock and Mitchell Hall Director, Jake Acton, played Century Club with real beer. Diane Crites, a registered nurse from the Wilcox Medical Center did a presentation on the effects of alcohol. Students played along with fruit punch as they watched the real-time demonstration

Brock and Acton. **Amber Elenbaas (05)** said, "I just came to see the hall directors drink, but I learned a lot more than I expected."

On Tuesday, MADD came to the Chapel to do a presentation on the impact of drunk driving on victims. Attendance was not as high as Brock would have liked, but those who were there reported that they were really affected by the presentation.

Wednesday, about 20 people participated in the Beer Goggle races, also sponsored by Sigma Chi and the Alma Police. Later that night, the "Trauma Nurses Talk Tough" presentation went well, although attendance was low. Brock would like to bring them back for pre-term next year.

About 30 women showed up for the Sorority Mock-Tails on Thursday. Friday night ACUB brought the campus an innovative event. They hosted a showing of JAWS in the Physical Education building pool. Students had the option to swim or watch from the side.

Saturday night all the fraternities sponsored alcohol-free events, including an open mic night at Theta Chi.

Brock says she really hopes that Alcohol Awareness Week will be repeated next year. Her goal is to get faculty involved with incorporating the theme of the week into their classes. She really felt their lack of contribution simply had to do with the short notice, but next year hopefully this will be a week that the whole school can participate in.

## Sigma Chi plans Derby Days Fundraiser event

**TOM MARTIN**  
Guest Writer

The Theta Nu Chapter of The Sigma Chi Fraternity at Alma College will hold its 17th annual Derby Days—a weeklong, fundraising event October 27 – November 1, 2003. Sigma Chi will donate all proceeds to the local Community Café, The Children's Miracle Network, and a charity designated by the winning Sorority. The sisters of Alpha Gamma Delta, Alpha Xi Delta, Gamma Phi Beta, Kappa Iota, and Phi Sigma Sigma will give their time and efforts to make Derby Days successful. Local businesses also showed their support by purchasing advertisements for the annual Derby Days Newspaper. Derby Days raised more than \$4,000 last year, and the chapter hopes to continue its success in 2003. "We are very excited about this year's Derby Days," said Derby Days Co-Chair **Nate Belill (05)**. "We have many fun events scheduled throughout the week and encourage all students to participate." Derby Days events during the week will include a Brother Auction, Derby Dancing (our version of Mock Rock), Week Long Penny Wars, Dunk-a-Sig on Thursday just outside SAGA, and will wrap up with a free Haunted House open to the community on Friday October 31st from 5:00 – 7:00pm located at the Sigma Chi House on 526 W. Center.



# OPINION

## The Almanian's VIEWS

### Be realistic

By Matt Helmus  
SPORTS EDITOR

Alma College: the place where dreams are made . . . or is it? The atmosphere on campus seems to be like the weather we have been seeing: gloomy. In both the Almanian and on campus, comments can be found and heard that rip on the state of the college. Is Alma in that bad of condition?

Some of the complaints heard really can't be sincere. Is the new setup at SAGA really causing a huge number of students an inconvenience? It may not be the greatest way to do things but it should definitely not be something that students lose sleep over. Oh well, now you only get 8 chicken nuggets instead of your usual 245.

Another complaint is the ugly, unkempt state of campus. This is another lame observation. While our campus might have architectural forms that go unappreciated it is only a few waterings of the lawn away from being a very pleasant looking place. Remember, our "jungle, grove and campus fair" is not meant to compete with places like Oxford, Harvard or Duke. If you want a campus that looks like those places, pony up the dough and go there. Also, look around the mid-Michigan area and you'll find that our city-block we call home is actually one of the nicer places to be.

Now we come to the oft-heard cable TV complaint. How ungodly is it that the administration is not willing to provide 128 stations to each and every dorm room at a minimal cost? It's really not that bad. It seems already that at least every other room has cable and most people are ready and willing to share their TV bounty. Find a friend or make a friend and watch your favorite shows with them. If that isn't your bag, find one of the billions of DVDs on campus and watch one of them.

Lastly, one can't complain about the education they receive at Alma. Alma is nowhere near the worst institution in this state, unlike the reputation some spread about it. Again, we are not an Ivy League institution, but then again, we're not supposed to be. Alma does a great job providing a quality liberal arts education. It may be true that students can sneak out without being the sharpest knife in the drawer. Just remember, you are responsible for choosing your course load and major. Challenging classes are available. Are you sure it is the college that is holding you back?

In summary, we are all part of a great thing. As of yet, our beloved college has not had to board up buildings or fire any faculty members. We are still providing a quality education to those students willing to be challenged. Be proud to be part of Alma.

## What do you think?

**Are you going trick-or-treating this year?**

Yes: 77%  
No: 20%  
Not Sure: 3%

**Is Halloween your favorite holiday?**

Yes: 10%  
No: 87%  
Not sure: 3%

**Are you going to a party?**

Yes: 67%  
No: 23%  
Not Sure: 10%

**Do you get scared easily?**

Yes: 40%  
No: 60%

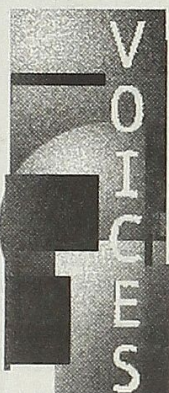
**Do you have a costume?**

Yes: 60%  
No: 40%

**Apples: good treat or bad?**

Good: 77%  
Bad: 23%

## AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com



**We asked: "What is the most unique or crazy costume you have ever seen?"**  
**You Said...**

"My freshman year I saw this guy running around campus with a pumpkin suit on."

**John Swise (05)**



Swise

"One year my friend walked completely naked around the neighborhood using a bucket to collect and and, well, to cover himself"

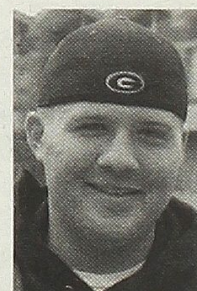
**Justin Rose (06)**



Rose

"The most unique costume I have ever seen was a cross dresser."

**Mike Tobin (07)**



Tobin

"The craziest costume I have ever seen would be Freddy Krueger."

**Angie Zamarripa (06)**



Zamarripa

"One time I saw a man walking around with only a barrel covering himself."

**Jared Stephens (07)**



Stephens

"Our professor told us about a girl who wrapped herself in tin foil."

**Colin McLaughlin**



McLaughlin

# Listen to WQAC The Duck. The Great Pumpkin says so. 90.9 FM



SPORTS

Men's and women's golf teams wrap up successful campaigns

JOEL RENDER  
Staff Writer

The Alma College Men's and Women's Golf team both had productive seasons that definitely bode well for next year. The men's team finished in fourth place just as predicted. Their average of 322.1 strokes was only .2 ahead of Albion, who finished in fifth place. However, Alma was only 18 strokes in average behind Hope who finished first. Calvin and Olivet, who took second and third respectively, finished with averages of 310.3 strokes and 312.3.

Standout players for the men's team were **Justin DesJarlais (04)**, **Ryan Munro (04)**, **Ryan Riley (05)**, and **Chris Lowry (07)**. DesJarlais and Munro finished tied for 11<sup>th</sup> with each other. They both managed an average of 79.57 strokes, which is certainly a remarkable feat. Nevertheless, this average was good enough to earn both of them Second-team All-conference Honors.

Riley finished tied for 15<sup>th</sup> place with an average of 81.4. Lowry's stroke average of 84.7 was good enough to garner him 23<sup>rd</sup> place, which is

impressive considering this is his first year on the team. Despite the fact that the team will lose its two best golfers this year, DesJarlais and Munro, the team remains hopeful for next year because they still have a solid foundation in Riley and Lowry and several new players with lots of talent.

Interestingly, the women's team also took fourth place overall. Going into the final two-day tournament the team had already been in fourth place and was fairly sure they could not catch any of the teams above them. In response, the team shot its season low of 357 strokes on the second day of the season-ending tournament. Their previous low of 374 had come in the third tournament.

Coach Charlie Goffnet simply said, "We finished the season on a high note." No doubt about that since they beat their previous low by 17 strokes. Just about every player on the team had their best round of the season and contributed to their season low score. Their score of 357 was nine strokes ahead of Hope, who was two places ahead of them in the standings.

With that excellent finish, the team held

on to their fourth place position and widened the gap between them and the fifth place team. Their final team tournament average of 375.8 strokes was 11 ahead of Olivet, the fifth place team. Third place Albion only finished 21 strokes ahead of Alma.

Despite this relatively wide margin, the team can be very proud that their star player, **Courtney Rheinhardt (05)**, finished tied for first place in the overall player standings. Her astonishing average of 82.8 earned her a variety of awards. Not only was she co-Medalist, and Co-MVP, she was also named to the all-Conference First Team.

Rheinhardt also made history with her performance this season. She became the first player to win Medalist and MVP honors three years in a row. That definitely qualifies as an impressive feat. It would be even more amazing if she could do it again next year in her final year. With the return of Rheinhardt and the improvement of the rest of the team, the women's team certainly has a good chance of moving up the standings next year. Coach Goffnet proudly said, "The future is bright for Alma College women' golf."

Best darn sports column ever

MATT HELMUS  
Sports Editor

Well, with the changing weather comes the changing of sports seasons. The men's and women's golf teams are already done with their competitions. The cross country team is not far behind. Next week will be the MIAA volleyball championships. The swimming and diving teams have already started their winter schedule. Basketball season is not far around the corner.

This week the football team travelled across the lake to Wisconsin. They came back with a conference loss to Wisconsin Lutheran. It was inevitable that the Warriors would win a conference game. Unfortunately it had to be against the Scots. Now for all intents and purposes the Scots can only play the role of spoiler in the MIAA. It would take quite a miracle (key losses by Hope, Adrian and Albion) for the Scots to be back in the race to defend their league championship. Hopefully the Scots can regroup this week and go down and beat Kalamazoo. They should be ready after last week's wakeup call.

The volleyball team is still on track for a league title. They need to go down to Grand Rapids and beat Calvin to secure a regular season title. Next week they can get an NCAA playoff berth if they win the MIAA championship tournament. Last year the team fell short of this goal. Hopefully this will be their year.

In Lions news, they lost. Again. To the Bears. In a fight for the cellar of the NFC North the Detroiters came out (surprise!) on bottom. It seemed that through the entire first half that neither team wanted to win the game. At the end of the game the teams decided to make it interesting. The Lions got two touchdowns and two point conversions to pull within 8 points. From there they failed to recover (questionably) an onside kick. Luckily many of their fans had turned off the game by the time they were in a 24-point hole. It remains to see whether Steve Mariucci wants to win this season and is willing to make some changes for the team. Mike McMahon looks more and more tempting for a starting quarterback spot.

In other football news Michigan won to set up a huge showdown this week in East Lansing. The Spartans come into the game with the better record for the first time since the '60s. Both teams are rated in the top 25. The Spartans lead the Big Ten with a 4-0 record while Michigan is in second place on their own. The game has major implications as a BCS bowl could be on the line. There will, at the least, be New Year's Day implications. The nation will see if Michigan State is a legitimate Big Ten power and whether or not Michigan deserved their early season hype.

For the record I believe the Spartans will win the game. (Granted, last year was the only year in a long time that I didn't give the Spartans a shot.) I think that two variables will give the Spartans the edge in East Lansing. The first will be the comeback player of the year, Jeff Smoker. The second will be the ever-present Michigan State homefield advantage.

Cross country teams place 9th and 16th at Michigan Intercollegiates

ANDREA RADTKE  
Staff Writer

On October 10<sup>th</sup>, the Men's and Women's Cross Country teams competed in the Michigan Intercollegiate Cross Country Championship at Grand Valley State University. In the 4K race, the men took ninth overall. Top finishers were: **Joe Whitman (05)** who finished 18<sup>th</sup> with a time of 12:43, **Dirk Callahan (05)** who finished 44<sup>th</sup> with a time of 13:36, **Nate Belill (05)** who finished 50<sup>th</sup> with a time of 13:46, and freshman **Paul Phillips** who finished 56<sup>th</sup> with a time of 14:07.

The women took 16<sup>th</sup> overall in the same race. Top finishers for the girls were: **Alice**

**Sova (04)** who finished 72<sup>nd</sup> with a time of 17:00, **Kim Sinclair (06)** who finished 85<sup>th</sup> with a time of 17:32, **Tifarah Brumback (05)** who finished 88<sup>th</sup> with a time of 17:56, and freshman **Megan Gibson** who finished 94<sup>th</sup> with a time of 19:19. The women also participated in the 6K race, taking 12<sup>th</sup> overall. Top finishers were **Erin Stone (05)** who finished 61<sup>st</sup> with a time of 25:10, **Liz Smith (05)** who finished 67<sup>th</sup> with a time of 25:33, **Emily Sias (07)** who finished 70<sup>th</sup> with a time of 25:42, **Carly Day (04)** who finished 75<sup>th</sup> with a time of 26:16, and **Corey Cunningham (05)** who finished 76<sup>th</sup> with a time of 26:25.

The Alma Invitational took place on October 17<sup>th</sup> with the Scots dominating. The men

took third in their own tournament, while the women won theirs. Top finishers for the men were: **Whitman (05)** who finished second in 25:38, **Callahan (05)** who finished tenth in 26:58, **Phillips (07)** who finished 15<sup>th</sup> in 27:07, **Belill (05)** who finished 17<sup>th</sup> in 27:35, and sophomore **Tony Cuttitta** who finished 25<sup>th</sup> in 28:53. Top finishers for the women were: **Stone (05)** who finished second in 19:46, **Smith (05)** who finished sixth in 20:00, **Sias (07)** who finished ninth in 20:35, **Day (04)** who finished 11<sup>th</sup> in 20:41, and **Emily Breczinski (04)** who finished 13<sup>th</sup> in 20:44.

The teams next travel to Albion College on November 1<sup>st</sup> to compete in the MIAA Championships. The NCAA Regionals will be held in Hanover, Indiana on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

FOOTBALL

The football team travelled to Wisconsin Lutheran this past weekend. The Scots went down to the Warriors 49 - 28. The game marked the first ever MIAA win for Wisconsin Lutheran. The loss drops the Scots to 2-2 in the MIAA and 4-3 overall.

The Scots were outgunned by the Warrior offense in the matchup. Scot quarterback Ryan Palmer (06) went 30 of 49 for 359 yards, 1 interception and 1 touchdown. Warrior quarterback Seth Fitzsimmons was 34 of 47 for 443 yards and 5 touchdowns. The Scots did manage to outgain the Warriors on the ground with a 93 yard rushing performance. The home team managed 56 rushing yards.

VOLLEYBALL

This weekend the volleyball team headed to Grand Rapids to compete in the Midwest Invitational at Calvin College. The team won the Maroon Pool on Friday against Hanover and Kalamazoo. On Saturday the Scots beat Aquinas before losing in the finals to Palm Beach Atlantic.

The Scots are currently tied atop the conference with Calvin. They will travel to Grand Rapids on Wednesday to decide the regular season conference championship. Next week the Scots will be competing in the MIAA playoffs. The winner of the playoffs will get the MIAA berth in the NCAA playoffs.

SONGFEST  
2003

Friday, November 7  
in the Chapel

The action starts at 8 p.m.  
Brought to you by ACUB



SPORTS

MIAA STANDINGS

FOOTBALL

		MIAA TOTAL
Hope	3-0	5-2
Albion	3-1	4-3
Adrian	2-1	6-1
ALMA	2-2	4-3
K'zoo	1-2	5-2
Wisc. Luth.	1-2	3-4
Olivet	0-4	3-4

VOLLEYBALL

		MIAA TOTAL
ALMA	12-1	26-5
Calvin	12-1	25-6
Hope	10-3	18-11
Adrian	6-8	14-12
K'zoo	5-7	18-14
St. Mary's	4-9	14-12
Albion	2-10	9-20
Olivet	0-12	3-26

MEN'S SOCCER

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

WOMEN'S SOCCER

		MIAA TOTAL
Hope	9-1-0	13-2-1
Calvin	8-2-1	10-4-1
ALMA	7-4-1	11-5-1
Albion	6-4-1	7-7-1
St. Mary's	5-2-3	9-2-3
K'zoo	4-7-0	6-9-1
Olivet	1-9-0	1-13-2
Adrian	0-11-0	1-16-2

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

	MIAA PTS
Calvin	17
Albion	55
Hope	78
K'zoo	106
Olivet	151
ALMA	153
Adrian	DNF

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

	MIAA PTS
Calvin	25
Hope	65
K'zoo	74
Albion	127
ALMA	130
St. Mary's	145
Adrian	180
Olivet	DNF

Soccer teams take down Adrian and Tri-State

ANDREA RADTKE  
Staff Writer

The women's soccer team decisively defeated Adrian College on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The impressive 4-0 win gave many different players time on the field. The cold weather couldn't keep our Scots from once again proving their talent, depth, and desire to win the conference. **Brandi Wright (06)** came off an injured hand to make several key saves in goal to earn the shutout. Going into halftime the Scots were ahead by only one goal, which came from senior **Anna Lukezich**.

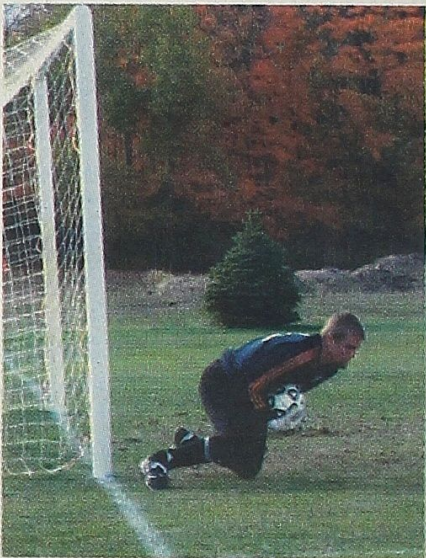
The second half however, was filled with scoring and dominated by the Scots. **Lukezich** posted another goal on an assist from fellow senior **Sara Monsere**, who also assisted on the goal by **Anna Springsteen (05)**. The final goal came from senior **Megan Karchon** on an "exceptional" assist by **Angel Bushor (04)**. Sophomore **Pam McCarthy** commented that "We played really well, especially our defense; we controlled the game."

The Scots head to Indiana this weekend to take on St. Mary's College. After losing to them last year, the Scots are pumped about the game. **Springsteen (05)** explained "We are driving down there a day early so we'll be well rested. We're definitely ready to win this year." The women's soccer team will host Hope College on October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. This will be an exciting battle for the conference, and

is one of the ladies' last home games.

In other soccer action, the men took on Tri-State University at home on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. They battled through the nasty weather and won 1-0. The game was very physical, but the Scots pulled through on a beautiful goal by junior **Wes Rasdorf** on an assist by senior **Matt Funk**. In goal for the first half was junior **Kyle Borgerding**. Senior **Marty Ciurlik** took over in goal in the second half to maintain the shut-out.

The Scots travel to Albion College on October 28<sup>th</sup> and Adrian College on November 1<sup>st</sup> to try to make some noise in the conference.



Above: Kyle Lieberman (05) makes a save for the Scots against Tri-State. The Scots pitched a shutout, winning 1-0. The team is currently 2-5-1 in the MIAA and 5-9-1 overall.

Left: Anna Lukezich (04) races past two Adrian players. The Scots won the game 4-0. Lukezich scored two of the goals in the game. She currently has 9 goals in league play.

Photos by Melanie Szewczyk

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Oct. 28

- 8 p.m. - Rocky Horror Picture Show pres. by ACUB & Theta Chi (Van Dusen)
- 9 - 10:15 p.m. - Trinity Bible Fellowship (Jones Auditorium)
- 9 - 10 p.m. - Residence Hall Association (Fire-side Lounge)

Wednesday, Oct. 29

- 3 p.m. - Women's Soccer Home v. Hope
- 6:30 p.m. - Volleyball @ Calvin

Thursday, Oct. 30

- 7 - 7:30 p.m. - Prayer Service with Communion (Chapel)

Friday, Oct. 31

- Last day to drop a 14-week class

Saturday, Nov. 1

- 11 a.m. - Men's and Women's Cross Country - MIAA Championships @ Albion

- Noon - Women's Soccer @ Tri-State

- Noon - Volleyball Home v. Tri-State

- 1 p.m. - Football @ Kalamazoo

- 1 p.m. - Men's and Women's Swimming & Diving @ Grand Valley

- 2 p.m. - Men's Soccer @ Adrian

- 8 p.m. - Kiltie Band Indoor Show (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

Sunday, Nov. 2

- 3 p.m. - Kiltie Band Indoor Show (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

- 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. - Mass (Chapel)

- 9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Service (Chapel)

Monday, Nov. 3

- Winter Term Pre-Registration Begins

- 8 p.m. - Speaker Khidhir Hamza (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

- 9 p.m. - Students Offering Services Meeting (Chapel Basement)