

The

Almanian

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Faculty book addresses issue of terrorism in America

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

Terrorism has been an issue on the forefront of every American's mind since September 11, 2001. Derick (Sandy) Hulme, associate professor of political science, has authored a new book discussing the response of the US government to terrorists. The book, which is entitled *Palestinian Terror and U.S. Foreign Policy 1969-1977: Dynamics of Response*, is the culmination of a ten year study undertaken by Hulme.

The study attempts to analyze the United States response to Palestinian terrorist attacks in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Some examples of Palestinian terror in this era include several embassy bombings, such as in Munich and Khartoum. The analysis is specifically designed to explain why governments respond as they do to international terrorism. This is especially important since the terrorist attacks of September 11.

Hulme said the study is designed to answer one question in particular. That question is, "What were the central influences that brought Nixon and Ford's responses to Palestinian terror?" Ten years of study have yielded three variables that Hulme identified as answers to this question. Those variables are what the Palestinians actually did, how much those actions affected U.S. foreign policy, and how the terrorism affected the U.S. domestically.

The book, which will be released in early 2004, is mostly for research purposes. The price of nearly \$120 is a good indicator of this. Still, Alma students will of course have an opportunity to read or reference the book for free as the library will have a copy around the release date.

Hulme remains extremely proud of this effort. He has been reading and researching for nearly ten long years. This has included an extensive number of trips to the Nixon Presidential Research Library and the Gerald R.

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Tension in Iraq prevents Iraqi leader from speaking to College

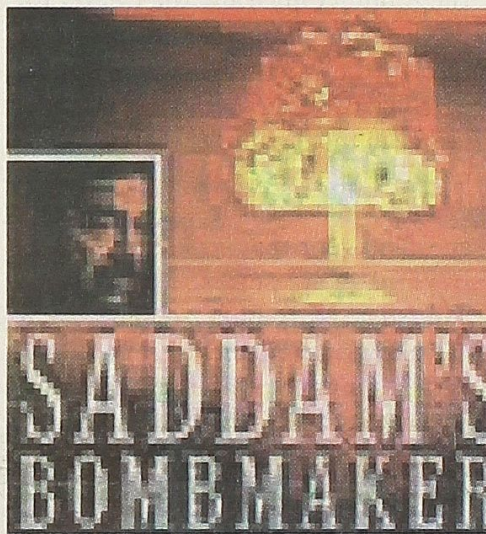
RACHEL KINGSTROM
Staff Writer

Khidhir Hamza was scheduled to come give a speech at Alma on November 3rd but was unable to do so because of current problems in Iraq. He was going to fly from Baghdad to New York on October 30, then speak at the college and the University of Maine, and fly back to Baghdad. His plans were interrupted because rocket attacks that occurred in Baghdad that week had restricted air travel and Hamza was unable to make it out of Iraq.

Hamza served under Saddam Hussein for twenty years. He became director general of Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapon program in 1987. Prior to that Hamza served as Chairman of the Physics Department of Iraq's Atomic Energy Commission, Head of the Nuclear Fuel Division, Head of the Theoretical Division of the Office of Research and Development, and Science Advisor to the Atomic Energy Organization. In 1994 he escaped through the North of Iraq. He was refused admission to the United States for a year, but he was eventually able to defect. Hamza became one of the people feeding the CIA information

about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Last April, he was sent back to Iraq by the United States government as the Iraqi energy commissioner.

With the help of Jeff Stein, Hamza wrote the book *Saddam's Bombmaker*. The book was published by Scribner in November 2000. The book was reviewed by the New York Times and



Courtesy of www.alma.edu

Washington Post.

"I was disappointed [to learn that Hamza was not coming]. It's not often that you get to question a primary source like that," James Mueller, chair and associate professor of economics, said. "We were really looking forward

to having him here to talk about nuclear weapons in Iraq. We thought it would be a big deal."

The college is currently in the process of finding other individuals to come give speeches. For instance, negotiations are being made to have a Nobel Prize-winning chemist come during winter term. They also hope to have Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. come during winter term. Another possible speaker is Russian poet Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

The college will try to get Hamza to come in March. However, the probability of Hamza's being able to visit at that time is not high. According to Hamza, he will not take on speaking engagements until the situation on his assignment in Iraq is improved and he is able to return to the United States. It will depend on what happens with the situation in Iraq. In the meantime, a talk given by Dune Lankard, a famous Alaskan environmental activist, is scheduled for November 16th and is sponsored by Dr. Marek Payerhin, assistant professor of political science.

Faculty were disappointed that Hamza had to cancel his visit, but they are excited to have a lot of other possibilities of speakers that might be

Student Congress takes a stand against organizations neglecting meetings

ALEXA BOYCE
Staff Writer

There has been a situation developing over the last two weeks regarding the presence of a Student Judicial representative in Student Congress. Student Judicial is a board made up of students who rule on cases regarding infractions of the Student Handbook such as drinking, noise, and noncompliance violations. These students are mostly RAs, but there are also four students appointed in Student Congress at the beginning of every year. So far this year, there has not been a Student Judicial representative at the Student congress meeting. This was brought to the attention of Student Congress as the body was voting to expel organizations that had not attended a meeting this year. Student

Congress President **Tim Throm (04)** decided to treat Student Judicial as a special case, because of important connections with Student Congress.

Student Judicial has the power to levy fines on the cases brought before them. The revenue from this then is turned over to Student Congress to be placed in contingency funds that are made available to student organizations. Therefore, the actions of Judicial have a direct impact on Student Congress. According to Student Congress Vice President and Student Judicial board member, **Shabnam Mirsaedi (04)**, "We have records going back to 1994 that they have sent a representative every year." One of the reasons that Judicial is recognized as a special case is that there is no official document such as a constitution or bylaws that exist outlining

its operation. The only place where Judicial is acknowledged officially is in the Student Handbook. There is no mention of a representative to Student Congress, however attendance records show that Student Judicial has attended Student Congress for at least the past five years.

In a vote during the Student Congress meeting on November 3, the body passed a resolution prepared by Throm to encourage Vice President of Student Life, Dr. Nicholas Piccolo and Coordinator of Student Judicial and Mitchell Hall Director Jake Acton, who both advise the Student Judicial body, to appoint and send representative to Student Congress. The resolution was printed in last week's Almanian. There was a majority vote of 30-13 to accept the resolution. Nei-

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National/State/Local

Alumni return to teach students about Meetings and Manners

Rachel Kingstrom
Staff Writer

Meetings and Manners, a seminar that was held last Thursday at 6pm at the Smith Alumni House, introduced students to important skills relevant to getting ahead in the business world and it gave them a chance to practice those skills. They were also informed of various opportunities available to them that would give them the opportunity to practice their networking skills and gain valuable work experience. It was also a chance to learn tips and tools to be comfortable meeting people they do not know in a business setting.

Those who attended were given tips on how to handle themselves in various situations in networking events. Areas covered included first impressions, body language and gestures, appearance, introductions, listening skills and other communication principles, manners, and how to exit gracefully.

The evening was hosted by Mindy Sargent, associate director of Student Development. Susan Bradshaw, an Alma College alumnus of the class of

1971 and director of Career Services at Northwood University, came as a guest speaker. Sargent and Bradshaw, along with Bob Eldridge, director of Alumni/Community Relations, and Danelle Barber, an Alma College alumnus from the class of 2002, told personal stories related to their experiences with interviews and networking.

The event was part of the Life Beyond Alma series co-sponsored by the Alumni Office and the Center for Student Development. Students were informed of the various other events in which they can participate that will also help them improve their business networking skills and get work experience. Living and Working in Lansing, another event that is part of the Life Beyond Alma series, will be held Thursday, November 20. The event will allow participants to get in touch with a number of alumni who have become successful in various fields.

Sargent feels that the Life Beyond Alma series is an important program.

"I feel that it is important from two perspectives. It gets students out meeting alumni and makes them feel

comfortable in the business arena," Sargent said. "Getting work experience and things like mock interviews are also helpful in making students feel comfortable and greater at ease."

The networking opportunities that the Life Beyond Alma series provides allow students to get in touch with Alma alumni. According to Sargent, the alumni have connections and knowledge that students could not get another way. The connections students form with alumni prove to be helpful when they need to find internships.

"The alumni are very dedicated," Sargent added. "They have a great desire to be of assistance to students."

The Life Beyond Alma series will continue in January with an event called Dress and Dine for Success. The event will focus mainly on learning proper dining etiquette in a business setting. These are among the many events part of the Life Beyond Alma series that allow students to practice their networking skills and gain valuable experience in the business world.

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Ford Presidential Library. The work is the second book authored by Hulme. His first book, titled *The Political Olympics*, was released in 1990. The book specifically discusses the boycott undertaken by the United States during the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

His newest book is just the first in an intriguing series as well. Hulme indicated that another book relating to terrorism will be available in the recent future. He plans in this book to discuss terrorism responses during the Clinton and George W. Bush administrations.

JUDICIAL from page 1

ther Acton nor **Colin MacLaughlin** (04), Chairman of the Judicial Board, agreed to comment regarding the official decision of Student Life or the resolution.

This is important to discuss in Student Congress because the body deals with preventative measures. If there was a representative from the Judicial Board, perhaps some of the issues, like how to deal with the copying of parking passes, could be decided ahead of time. Although it could be pointed out that this is the responsibility of Judicial and Judicial alone, Student Congress is involved in certain situations that do pertain to the work of the Judicial Board.

Throm stressed that a representative from Judicial is a question of accountability. He said, "Judicial deals with campus issues, and Student Congress is an appropriate forum to discuss these issues." Throm believes Judicial brings a unique perspective to meetings due to their involvement in the disciplinary side of Student Life. "Not all issues are good issues. Negatives need to be discussed as well," he said. Throm emphasizes that Student Congress attempts to be as representative as possible of the entire student body and that all members of the Alma College community are invited to attend their regular Monday night business meetings or discuss campus concerns with the Executive Council members.

Piccolo recognizes that the Judicial board sees a different side of student life than most of the organizations in the Congress. He also says, "The J board can really offer a lot to Student Congress as a deliberative body." However, Piccolo would like students to recognize that the Judicial board had a right to raise issues regarding their attendance in Student Congress. He does not believe that this issue warranted this much controversy, but acknowledges that the board raised some valid concerns. As it stands, both sides seem to be able to live with the agreement, and hopefully the Student Judicial representative will become an important addition to the Student Congress body.

North Korea still poses as threat, but U.S. is willing to negotiate

JULIE BOLITHO
Guest Writer

When President Bush declared the US decision to invade Iraq, many people asked, "But what about North Korea?" At the time of the announcement, there were heightening tensions between the northern and southern halves of the peninsula, and satellites detected North Korean activities restoring nuclear reactors in Pyongyang (the North Korean capital). For a period of weeks, one could walk about campus and hear political science majors and other students hypothesizing about North Korean intentions.

So, what about North Korea? The United States revisited the Korean situation late last August when China called a meeting involving Japan, Russia, North Korea, South Korea, and the United States. The session of talks ended without agreement; however, in October, President Bush stated at the summit meeting of Asia-Pacific leaders that he was willing to offer security assurances to North Korea if they disarmed and abandoned their

nuclear weapons programs. It was after this statement that North Korea offered more willingness in returning to multilateral talks.

On Friday, the United States and China acknowledged hope for establishing a new round of the six-party discussions concerning North Korea. The possibility of resuming these talks was brought about ten weeks after the original meetings when US Secretary of State, Colin Powell met with Chinese Vice Foreign Minister, Wang Yi.

Currently, Beijing is making preparations to hold these meetings.

US State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, stated that the United States will strive at "ending North Korea's nuclear weapons programs, which have caused so much difficulty and consternation."

Presently, there is uncertainty as to what the United States is prepared to offer North Korea. US officials are arguing as to when and how the security assurances President Bush proposed to North Korea in exchange for nuclear disarm will occur. Some officials sug-

gest that no security assurance should be awarded until after disarmament, while others claim the United States should proffer the benefit earlier in the dismantling process.

Though North Korea is on the other side of the world, it is important for Alma College students to consider the impact of nuclear weapons worldwide. Under United Nations treaties and conventions, a significant portion of the world's countries have agreed to outlaw nuclear, chemical and biological weaponry. What about countries that choose not to agree to these UN standards? Are there countries in the world angry enough to stir a nuclear war? Is it more than a mere possibility that the world could end in a mass nuclear explosion? It seems like science fiction, but unfortunately, it is the reality of our future: this is why Alma students need to care. Currently, most of us are citizens of one of the most influential countries in the world. As future leaders, it is our benefit to consider the impacts of world affairs.

OPINION

Letter to the Editor: A little change goes a long way

To the Editor of the Almanian:

As the president of the U.S. Fund for the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Alma College, I wanted to thank all participants of UNICEF's Trick or Treat program this October. I am pleased to announce that the Alma community, especially Alma College students, have shown great participation and effort and collected US \$264.17 for the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

For many of us in the United States \$264.17 would not even cover a month of expenses. For children in developing nations, \$264.17 can immunize 264 children for life against polio, or it can buy enough vitamin A for 88 children in one year, or it can provide 100 children which educational supplies such as pencils, books, and chalk for a school year, or it can buy one water pump for \$150 that will serve a village of 250 people with clean water.

The point is obvious. A couple of cents that we kept in our pockets and drawers can go a long way for children in developing countries. While 25 cents will buy us a piece of candy or gum here in Alma, it can pay for 5 water purification tablets in the Dominican Republic.

This has been the first year of Trick or Treating for UNICEF at Alma College. Thanks to all of you and several elementary and middle school students from the community we were able to make a significant difference in the lives of children in developing countries.

Thank you,
Shabnam Mirsaedi (05)
President
U.S. Fund for UNICEF
Alma College Chapter

What do you think?

1. Will you vote in the Democratic primary?

a. Yes: 13%

b. No: 57%

c. Not sure: 30%
2. Which is the picture of Democratic front-runner Howard Dean? (Shown 2 pictures a. Howard Dean, b. Dennis Kucinich)

a. Right: 17%

b. Wrong: 27%

c. Not sure: 57%
3. Is online voting a practical solution to low voter turnout?

a. Yes: 47%
- b. No: 47%

c. Not sure: 7%
4. Would you have voted to recall Gray Davis, former Governor of California?

a. Yes: 23%

b. No: 30%

c. Not sure: 47%
5. Would you have voted for Arnold Schwarzenegger as the Governor of California?

a. Yes: 37%

b. No: 40%

c. Not sure: 23%
- Results are rounded to the nearest percent and based on 30 students polled.



We asked: "Do you think the college should include cable in the student activities fee?"

You said:



Diener

"Yes. \$13 a month- We are getting ripped off. Since we are giving Charter so much business already they should give us a deal."

Megan Colligan (06)



Colligan

"I think they should just give it to us, we shouldn't have to pay."

Jamie Diener (07)



Brooks

"No, because television is a waste of time anyway. The college shouldn't encourage bad habits."

Taylor Brooks (07)



Colarelli

"Yes, because there's not enough to do."

Catherine Colarelli (07)



Mirsaedi

"Yes. It would increase student attraction to Alma College because other schools already offer it."

Shabnam Mirsaedi (05)

The Almanian

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Statement of Purpose

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

Publication

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

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.

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FEATURE

Matrix: Revolutions ends trilogy with many questions unanswered

KEVIN BRADY
Staff Writer

The Matrix: Revolutions was filled with anticipation and positive energy. Walking out of the movie, I heard the audience discuss many mixed emotions, both good and bad. The last of the trilogy centered on the ideal of death. It was certainly portrayed throughout the movie through the death of many Zion soldiers and civilians. There were many heartbreaking deaths that may upset the viewers, and they may be surprised about who survives and who does not.

The most action packed and energetic scenes of the movie were the fight between Smith (Hugo Weaving) and Neo (Keanu Reeves). Was Neo going to die? Would his powers overcome Smith and his forces? In the end the better forces

seem to have prevailed, but the audience is left questioning the results of the battles. The writers of this film left it open-ended, leaving room to make the story keep going.

There were many parts in the movie that were cheesy, and others which portrayed *Star Wars* more than anything. The opening scene of the battle was especially intense. Zion was ready for the warriors but the machines kept coming and coming, overpowering their every single move.

A very important theme in the movie revolved around the bible. It seemed as if Neo was being compared to Jesus. Neo gave his life up (supposedly), through his fight with Smith, and sacrificed himself for the rest of Zion. He gave into his enemy to salvage the Zioni species. Why the biblical reference?

A problem I had throughout was the

larger focus on the battle for Zion instead of the main plot of the entire trilogy: the matrix itself. There was lesser focus on this and more on the actual battle. This is where the movie has faults and decreases the amount of enjoyment within. From the very beginning of the original *Matrix*, the plot centered on Neo and his search to be "the one." At the end of *The Matrix: Reloaded*, the prophecy was indeed starting to become true. It was completely fulfilled until the very end of the last movie.

On a grade scale, my overall impression of the movie was a "B". It could have been better with more focus on the actually matrix, but it also could have been much worse. The cheesy love scenes dialed down the action portion of the movie creating a more sentimental theme. Overall, it was a decent movie.

Life Like Maracas

EMILY WHITMER (07)
Guest Writer

The hectic racket of the subway train screeches across metal tracks. A cool breeze blows through a long dry cotton field. Car horns honk and arms wave in a yellow sea of taxi cars. Bright flowers stretch their arms towards the brilliant sun. Newspapers fly through the air. The gentle hum of the rain falls quietly into the banks of the riverbed. Tin cans roll across the street. Crickets sing sweet lullabies under a blanket of stars. The little sounds in our everyday worlds are rhythms of our lives. Different cultures and people all over the world are like little beads inside a maraca- moving at their own beat, their own song. People speak different languages, eat different foods, and even drive on different sides of the road. All people and cultures have their own melody. It is when these melodies join together that we can enjoy the symphony of life. Music has the power to unite people in a way that words and actions cannot.

I first felt the truth and beauty behind music while traveling in Europe. I was with a group of musicians from all over the state of Michigan. I had very little in common with most of them. On our breaks from rehearsal I would play basketball, while others read books. Most of them went to private schools, while I went to a public school. I had to pay for my trip to Europe while most of them let their parents pay. This is also why most of them had slender arms and piano fingers, while I had the arms and vocabulary of a sailor after working a whole summer scooping ice cream. We were all different people with one passion- music.

I thought that Europe would be just like the United States; however, I discovered the differences immediately after almost being killed by walking on the right side

see MARACAS page 5



Neo (Keanu Reeves) battles Smith in the final film of the Matrix trilogy, *Matrix: Revolutions*



The machines hurl bombs at Neo's Hover Ship while headed towards the Machine City.

Wilcox Medical Center provides a number of services "behind the scenes"

LAURA SACHJEN
Staff Writer

The Wilcox Medical Center offers a number of services for students to take advantage of. Flu shots are still available for \$10 to anyone who would like one.

The Medical Center provides urgent care to all in the campus community – faculty and students. They have an emergency room where they can do suturing. There is a small pharmacy with over-the-counter drugs. There is a small dayroom for students who are too sick to stay in their rooms or just need someone to watch over them. Wheelchairs, crutches, and bandages are also provided by the Medical Center. A whirlpool, ultrasound, and hot and cold packs are a few other services.

The Medical Center also draws blood for testing. The blood isn't tested at the Medical Center, but staff can get the

blood to a lab or hospital. The staff also tests students for disease at the Medical Center or they can refer them to a hospital for testing.

The Medical Center is always getting new equipment as well. They have a computer EKG and they have also received new first aid mannequins. The Medical Center has the only AED (Defibrillator) machine on campus, which can be very helpful when there are large gatherings at the football field where parents or anyone with heart problems might be present.

Budgets cuts from the state have forced the Medical Center to scale back in some areas. They used to do programming twice a week and now they only do it once a week. Equipment is usually replaced every 4 to 5 years. The Medical Center has now decided to replace equipment every 5 to 6 years. According to Director of Health Services Joe Gelina, P.A., "we've cut back

but haven't eliminated any services."

State budget cuts have forced the elimination of one service at the Medical Center. The Women's Health Care Clinic operated through the Health Dept. in Ithaca and used the facilities of the Medical Center. The Medical Center had nothing to do with it closing. "The Clinic is one service that is surely missed on campus," said Gelina. Students can still take advantage of the Clinic's services. They just have to go to Ithaca. However, the budget cuts have limited the Clinic to only doing family planning now. The Medical Center can provide gynecological exams.

The staff also organizes programs related to health concerns with themes for each month. This month's theme is "Smoking Cessation." December's theme is "Handling Stress."

Besides the themed programs, the

Medical Center staff is working with the Recreation Center to certify students for CPR. The Medical Center also puts on a Breast Cancer Awareness program.

The Medical Center has a small resource library for students with pamphlets and magazines about health related issues. "We have information for students on every imaginable disease," said Gelina. "The more informed they are, the better the choices they can make in life." Displays for RA's or Hall Directors to put on presentations are also provided.

Nurse Diane Crites noted the difference between working in an office instead of a hospital. "It's a happier place to work. People aren't severely ill," she said. "You actually see people get healthy."

Gelina said that a lot of what they do is behind the scenes. "People see us when they need us," he said. "They don't think about us the rest of the time."

FEATURE

Songfest showcased Alma's musical talents; hosts kept audience involved

AMY WILLEY
Staff Writer

This past Friday the Dunning Memorial Chapel was buzzing with excitement over Alma College's annual demonstration of musical ability: Songfest, sponsored by ACUB. Songfest is an annual performance by Alma College students at the chapel, and by 7:30 Friday night, there was a long line of anticipating students standing outside, in the cold, and willing to wait half an hour to secure good

seats. Once inside, the students were soon met with performances from many of their talented peers. The performances included solo acts, small ensembles, and large groups, as well as small breaks including games and prizes, and performances from so-called exhibition groups. The hosts **Michelle Monsour (04)** and **Paul Sibbald (04)** made sure to keep things fun and fresh.

The solo acts included performances by **Alicia Kopen (05)**, **Marc Hong (07)**, and **John Kruse (06)**. **Kyle Ritsema (05)** took second place in this competition singing *You're Still You* by Josh Groban, however he was first in the hearts of the sisters of Phi Sigma Sigma to whom he dedicated the song. Kruse performed

Someday, a song he wrote and played, "I really love the musicality and emotion of the song," he says. He has been writing songs for about three to four years, and encourages anyone who likes his music to buy his CD, which comes out November 28th or to visit his Website www.JohnKruse.com.

The small groups portion of the competition was very competitive, with many top-notch performances. The defending champions, B - Sharp performed a beau-

tiful a cappella rendition of *Stand By Me* by Mac Huff and AFRIKOR-CHILAT, a group of international students, performed *Global Rap*, which had the crowd on its feet. The winner of this competition was a group called Men in Music, another a cappella group featuring men from Phi Mu Alpha. **Sean Galloway (06)**, the lead singer in this group, said that they had been practicing for more than a month. The group performed the song *One More Minute* by Weird Al Yankovic. During the song, Galloway mourns his relationship (with a girl from Albion) while his friends, the other singers, comfort him. "I figured we wanted to be funny but not over the top, I thought this would be the perfect song for Songfest." The second prize went to Ben Folds Three, a pianist, cellist, and

vocalist trio that performed *The Luckiest* by Ben Folds. The large groups only contained two: Scots on the Rocks and the Sisters of SAI, first and second places respectively. Galloway, also a member of Scots on the Rocks who performed *Stone and Light (In the House)*, arranged by Brown Derbies, said, "I am honored to be a part of this group."

The exhibition groups included performances by the Alma College Chapel Band and as well as one by the Alma College Percussion

Ensemble. The percussion ensemble had the crowd going wild after *Crates*, during which they drummed on objects from around the room.

The prizes for the winning performers were \$150 for first and \$100 for second, but as Galloway says, "It was never about the money, and always about performing." The other prizes that were given out were a \$20 gift certificate for a tattoo/piercing parlor, an MP3 player, and a digital camera. Songfest was presented by the Alma College Union Board (ACUB), and was dedicated to the memory of former Alma college student **Del Newhouse (02)**. ACUB encourages students to attend their next event, Mission Improvable, Wednesday November 12th at 8pm in

SONGFEST 2003

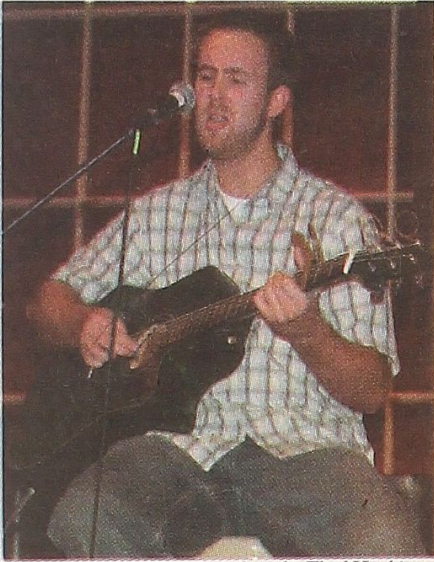


photo by Thad Hopkins

Winner of the first place solo act, John Kruse (06) performed an original number. His CD is available now.

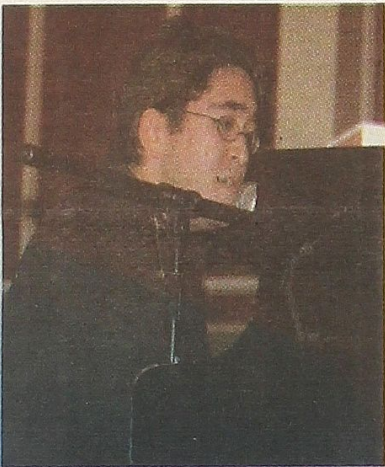


photo by Thad Hopkins

Marc Hong (07) set the mood by lighting a candle and won over the audience with his beautiful music



photo by Thad Hopkins

Men in Music won the small group category with their hilarious version of Weird Al's *One More Minute*



photo by Thad Hopkins

The hosts of Songfest made sure to involve the audience. A game of "Paul and Michelle says" ended with such prizes as a digital camera and MP3 player given away.

The Matrix: Revolutions was filled with anticipation and positive energy. Walking out of the movie, I heard the audience discuss many mixed emotions, both good and bad. The last of the trilogy centered on the ideal of death. It was certainly portrayed throughout the movie through the

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of the road at the airport. The little difference in the lifestyles, languages, and even the road signs were enough to make me feel like I was in a whole new world. Consequently, I was treated as if I was from a different world as well; I could not find the beat. I could find very little common ground with the Europeans. Then one night my views were forever changed.

I was playing the piano in a small town I Switzerland, high in the mountains above Lake Geneva. This town was like a giant bowl of pasta filled with Germans, Italians, French, Swiss and Americas. When I went into the supermarket the first morning I tried to buy cheese in three different languages, before finally stupidly pointing to my choice. I left the market in embarrassment after hearing the ca-

shier mutter "ugly American" under her breath.

This town was composed of almost two thousand people, all of them different nationalities. I didn't think this concert would be any different than any of the others I had performed; I only thought it would be smaller. As the concert began I could see that I was wrong. The whole town had come to fill up the large tent. Although the town only had two thousand people in it, everyone was there, ready to appreciate the music together. In the middle of the song "Stars and Stripes" to my astonishment the crowd began to sing along with the band. They began to clap: German, French, Italian, and Swiss hands all pounding together as one. AS they clapped and sang the melody that we were playing, we glanced at each other in

confusion. I was struck with amazement; I lowered my trumpet to my lap. And I stared out into the crowd. Smiles flooded the room. I had then looked around at the people around me; they had all lowered their instruments. Earlier that day I was not able to understand Europeans enough to buy cheese from them, but here we were in complete understanding. Slowly the band stopped playing, letting the crowd sing the chorus. I could feel the truth behind the music pulsating thought the crowd. WE were playing a song about freedom, and they were celebrating it with us. Two different countries, with different cultures, different languages- united. It was the music. I get chills to this day remembering that night—the night I discovered the power of music.

I thought about how much

more power music had than words. With all the conflicts between people today, sometimes you need more than words to find understanding. Then I think of that night. The people in that tent spoke different languages, had different nationalities, and had different stories. Everyone was different from each other. But we all understood- music, the power behind it, the rhythm, the life.

It is the crashing of the waves echoing on a sandy shore. Soft ice crunching underneath large wooden snowshoes. The gentle ring of cowbells whispering throughout the mountains. Neon lights that hum with electricity. Music is music in every language. Beats and rhythms are something that every culture has and can understand. Life is a maraca. All the beads have to beat together to make any sound

OPINION

Kobe: kids deserve better role-models

KEVIN BRADY
Staff Writer

As I was watching SportsCenter on ESPN Tuesday morning, I viewed the highlights of the Los Angeles Lakers. Of particular interest was the high flying athleticism of Kobe Bryant. The manner in which the announcer was describing his flashy moves to the basket or his flawless jump-shot, one would not even come close to perceive what is really happening in this star's life.

Once again the media has made him a national headline, not for his talent, but rather for his off the court activities. Each person has his or her own opinion. Many statements and questions surround the issue: Did he do it? You can't believe the girl." What a sick man! These are just a few of the comments and questions I have heard since this case came this past summer. Adults know the causes and effects of a sexual assault case, which allows them to have a firm foundation for a valid argument. But what about the children?

For me, Kobe is like Isiah Thomas of the Detroit Pistons. Isiah was the player who had most of the same moves as Kobe, who was a star in his own era. Those of us who remember looked up to Isiah when we were five to ten years old. It is the same way with Kobe today. Young people today know who Kobe Bryant is. He is the hero of school aged youth found

on most concrete and blacktop courts. What is to be said about this? Does anyone really know who Kobe is? His image has been tarnished regardless of the trial's outcome to take place in the near future.

Most important is the way in which his fans will look at him the rest of his career, and perhaps forever. More important is how parents and other adults explain this latest scandal to their children. This case is bigger than any basketball game. It is bigger than the image of this superstar. The events which have taken place, and that will continue to, will be on the minds of not only adults around the country, but children too. Boys and girls have looked to Kobe Bryant as an icon, someone to look up to so they to can capture their own dreams one day. Now he is not seen as the same person.

There will be a cloud of controversy which will always surround him no matter where he goes or what team he plays for. This man, the next Michael Jordan, the next superstar, the next American sports icon was to be the shining star for today's youth. But it will not happen because of one night with a woman Mr. Bryant did not even know.

This is why today's children need to look within their own families and communities for their heroes. It is time that Americans stop idolizing these "superstars", these over paid athletes who use fame for personal gain. Today's youth deserve more. It is up to the rest of us to make sure our children get it.

The Almanian's VIEWS

KATIE PERSITZ
News Editor

All over campus lately there has been an air of melancholy that pervades every activity and every class. What is going on? Why is everyone so depressed? Midterms have been over for awhile, finals aren't for another month, so what is wrong with everyone? It's been busy, but let's face it its Alma, everyone here is busy. While I realize that the weather has had quite a bit to do with the gloominess and it gets darker earlier, the atmosphere has been downright cranky. My roommates and I have affectionately named the kid down the hall who I have yet to see smile this year Grumpy McGrumperpants. Childish yes, but it makes us laugh. And at a time in life when a good hard laugh is rare to come by in the middle of the week it is a welcome silliness on our part.

Laughing is easily one of the best ways to perk someone up. A funny email, a smile for someone, and a good hug are such simple ways to cheer someone up. It is a proven fact that if you use the smile muscles in your cheeks that creates a social reaction in you and in others around you because society has trained us to respond to different facial expressions.

Also, the lack of participation on this campus has disgusted me of late. There have been specific incidences in the past month where I have seen everyone from professors to my sorority sisters who just don't seem to give a damn. And I have to say that I know the people on this campus are better than that. There are so many opportunities for social interaction, scholastic possibilities and leadership prospects that it saddens me to see how apathetic Alma students are. People complain and are grumpy because "there is nothing to do."

And I have an answer to everyone and anyone who has said that: GET INVOLVED! There is no reason to complain about this campus. And if you really don't like it that much, I can honestly say please leave. We don't want your negativity. It only brings people down. You don't want to be here, then go, we don't want you here either.

The problem on this campus that that too many sit and whine in their rooms while too few are bogged down by responsibilities that are thrown at them because not enough people are involved in campus activities.

If you don't like the way things are, then do something. You can complain until you are blue in the face, but nothing will change. DO SOMETHING! Get fired up about life, because let's face it kids, it's the only one we have. We might as well do something worthwhile and productive with it. Get involved the number of campus activities that are worthy of your time (and there are many). Not very many other campuses have the kind of people that we have. Take advantage of that!

Professors, the Center, the Vocation project, the alumni and the administration want to give you opportunities to make this the best time of your life. After all, what other time in life do you have to just work at school, hang out with your friends and not worry about food or bills? This is supposed to be the best time of our lives? Hell, yeah! So why is everyone so unhappy?

Yes, this is a small school. Yes, our internet does not always work. Sometimes our administration is a little unapproachable. The guys who blow leaves into piles come by our rooms at 8:00 in the morning. I know it gets old.

But you know what? They redid President Tracy's driveway (for no reason I can fathom) at 6:00 in the morning, directly outside my window, several months ago. And yes, I was NOT happy. But would you like to know something else? I got to see the sunrise. That's not something that happens every day. It was an awfully nice one too: blue and red and pink were all splashed across the sky in a beautiful randomness. I would not have seen that had those workers not been so irritatingly loud. But I got over it. I went back to sleep, though somewhat ruefully, but thanking my lucky stars that I got to see such a lovely sight that morning.

AlmanianOpinion@yahoo.com

Pass/Fail by Steve Bailey

You thought you had problems
getting through customs...

Yes, that is correct. I am Khidhir
Hamza, I was "Saddam's Bomb-
Maker", and that is a saxophone..

....nothing more!



SPORTS

Women's soccer finishes with best-ever record, men end up in fifth place

JOEL RENDER
Staff Writer

Yet another year has concluded for the Alma College men's and women's soccer teams with satisfactory results. Last Saturday, the Lady Scots participated in their last game of the season against Kalamazoo College. The result was a moderately disappointing overtime loss. The final score was 1-0. Nevertheless, Alma's **Sara Monsere (04)** received Defensive Player of the Week honors for her strong defensive effort in preventing Kalamazoo from scoring until overtime.

Despite the loss to Kalamazoo, Alma still finished tied for fourth place with St. Mary's. Their league record was seven wins, five losses, and two ties for a total of 16 points.

Overall, they went 12-6-2, which was the best overall record ever achieved by an Alma women's soccer team in our long school history. Certainly, that is an accomplishment that Coach Chi Ly and the team can be proud of.

Alma's best ever record is largely the result of excellent defense. In the league, Alma's twelve goals against was the second lowest only to Hope, which finished in first place. Both Calvin and Albion, who finished second and third respectively, allowed five or more goals in than Alma did.

Alma also captured Defensive Player of the Week honors five weeks of the ten week season. Remarkably, all five awards were granted to different players on the Alma team. Those players were **Pam McCarthy (06)**, **Carla Soule (04)**, **Ruth Anderson (07)**, **Stephanie Krieg (04)**, and **Sara Monsere (04)**. No other team in the league had more than two players win this honor.

The best offensive player for Alma is likely midfielder **Anna Lukezich (04)**. Lukezich who won Offensive Player of the Week honors in week two and three. She

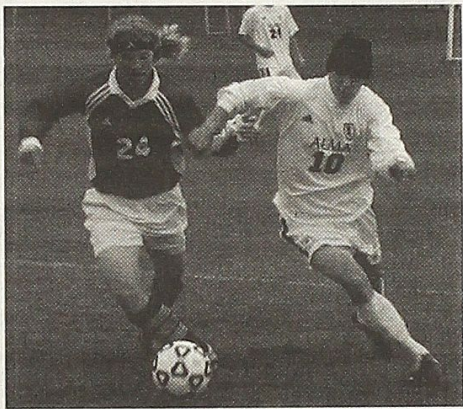


Photo by Thad Hopkins

Above: **Wes Rasdorf (05)** fights for the ball with an Olivet player. Rasdorf finished the season with 10 goals and 23 points. The Scots finished fifth place in the MIAA with a 7-10-2 record.

also finished third in total goals scored in the league. The team will feel her absence next season. Next year, the team looks to build on a strong foundation and possibly set another record.

The men had a slightly more disappointing finish than they had hoped for. They played their final two games of the season last week against Olivet and Calvin. The Olivet game last Tuesday ended in a 2-2 tie, while the Calvin game last Saturday was a 2-0 shutout loss. The Olivet game was extremely exciting, however, as the game was declared a tie after two overtimes.

At the beginning of last week, Alma was battling Albion for fourth place in the league, and Albion was one point ahead of Alma. Just like Alma, Albion came up with a loss and a tie, which resulted in Albion claiming fourth place and bumping Alma into fifth.

The men's final record in the league was four win, six losses, and two ties for a total of ten points. Overall, they managed a record of 7-10-2.

Wes Rasdorf (05) was statistically the best player for Alma on the season. He finished eighth in goals and ninth in total points. Just like the women's team, however, the men's team is excited for next year as they have a strong core of young players that will have plenty of time to improve over the next few years.

League title in hand, Scots set sights on NCAA tournament

ANDREA RADTKE
Staff Writer

The Scots hosted the MIAA Tournament this past week, and earned the right to represent our conference in the NCAA playoffs. Tuesday the Comets from Olivet College came for the opening round of the tournament. The Scots won in three short games, 30-12, 30-9, and 30-12. **Kelley O'Connor (05)** had nine kills and 2.5 blocks, while the other tall middle hitter, **Erin Fralick (06)** had eight kills and two service aces. **Caitlin Deis (05)** had eight kills, eight digs, and three service aces, while fellow outside hitter **Kristin Judson (05)** had 15 kills and eight digs. **Lindsay Baker (05)** led the team with 42 assists, adding five digs and three kills.

Freshmen **Betsy Bulthuis**, **Mary Murdoch**, and **Kelsee Krull** all combined for six kills, 14 digs, two service aces.

Next the Scots hosted Adrian on Thursday, defeating them in five games: 26-30, 34-32, 30-16, 26-30, and 15-11. O'Connor had two kills, four digs, and four blocks, while **Kerri Judson (05)** 16 kills, four service aces and 17 digs. Her sister, Kristin Judson had 13 kills and 21 digs. Deis had 11 kills and 11 digs. Fralick had 17 kills, four digs, and two solo blocks. Baker again led the team with 49 assists, adding nine kills, 14 digs, and two service aces. Krull contributed 14 digs.

In the championship game of the tournament, it was a rematch of the conference championship game against Calvin College. The Scots won in four games: 30-18,

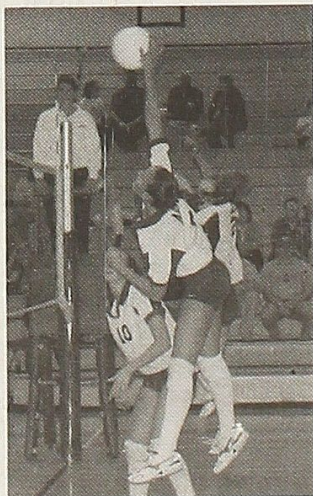
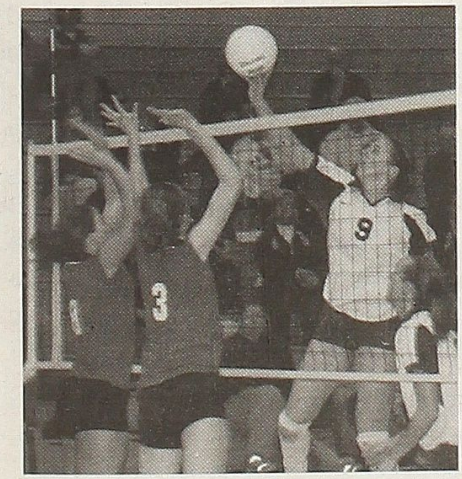
26-30, 30-25, and 30-20. Fralick's 18 kills, four service aces, six digs, and three solo blocks earned her MIAA player of the week honors for the second time. Baker's 60 assists, six kills, 15 digs, two service aces, and solo block earned the MIAA specialty player of the week honors for the second time. O'Connor had four kills and two digs, while Deis had 13 kills and 19 digs. Krull contributed nine digs to win. The Judson sisters combined for 31 kills, had 19 digs each, and two service aces.

The Scots will now compete in the six-team regional tournament at Wittenburg University in Springfield, Ohio. On Thursday, November 13th, they will battle Thomas More University for the right to stay in the tournament.

Left: **Erin Fralick (04)** pushes the ball over the Olivet defense in the first round of the MIAA Tournament. The Scots defeated the Comets 30-12, 30-9, 30-12.

Photos by Thad Hopkins

Right: **Kristin Judson (05)** spikes the ball back to the Albion side. After winning the MIAA tournament the Scots have moved onto the NCAA tournament. On their road to the MIAA tournament title they defeated Olivet, Adrian and Calvin.



Best darn sports column ever

MATT HELMUS
Sports Editor

Well, the fall sports season is almost at a close after this past week. The soccer, golf and cross country teams have already completed their seasons. The football team will finish their season this weekend with a home game against Tri-State University. The volleyball team will be looking to extend their season when they travel to Wittenberg to compete in the NCAA Tournament.

The volleyball team made the tournament after sweeping through the MIAA Tournament last week. The Scots defeated Olivet early in the week before beating Adrian and Calvin on the weekend. The championship is sweet after last season when the Scots won the regular season MIAA title but failed to win the tournament, leaving them short of an NCAA bid. This year they will be looking to prove that they can play beyond the MIAA.

The football team will be playing beyond the MIAA this week as Tri-State University visits Bahlke Field. The Thunder will be joining the MIAA next year when they move from being an NAIA school to the NCAA Division III level. The Scots have wrapped up MIAA play and finished with a 3-3 record in the league. With a win this week over the Thunder the Scots will make sure that they finish above .500. Considering Tri-State's weak season record the Scots should have a good chance to achieve that goal.

Starting out seasons soon will be the basketball teams. The men's team had a scrimmage against Lansing Community College last week giving the team a chance to play together against another squad. The team is hoping to recover from a few subpar seasons. They have several sophomores with experience as well as impact freshmen that will try to assist the upperclassmen. The team should be able to win their first MIAA contest in the last few years. Coach K has brought talent to Alma that should allow the Scots to complete in the league once again.

The women's team will also be returning to the floor soon. They will miss key seniors from last year but will look to fill those positions with quality younger players. The MIAA coaches voted and predicted that the Scots would finish somewhere in the middle of the league. They were tied in the poll at third with Calvin and Olivet. The men's coaches also took a poll and the Scots ended up on the bottom of the league. Hopefully both teams will be motivated by the polls to do better than predicted. We'll find out soon enough as basketball season is just around the corner.

SPORTS

MIAA STANDINGS

FOOTBALL

Hope	5-0	7-2
Adrian	4-1	8-1
Albion	3-2	5-4
ALMA	3-3	5-4
Wisc. Luth.	2-3	4-5
K'zoo	1-4	5-4
Olivet	0-5	4-5

VOLLEYBALL (FINAL)

ALMA	13-1	30-5
Calvin	12-2	28-8
Hope	11-3	21-13
Adrian	6-8	15-13
K'zoo	6-8	18-15
St. Mary's	5-9	15-13
Albion	3-11	10-22
Olivet	0-14	3-29

MEN'S SOCCER (FINAL)

Calvin	10-2-0	15-5-0
Hope	9-1-2	13-3-4
K'zoo	9-3-0	14-4-2
Albion	5-6-1	8-10-2
ALMA	4-6-2	7-10-2
Olivet	1-10-2	3-15-2
Adrian	1-11-0	2-17-0

WOMEN'S SOCCER (FINAL)

Hope	11-2-1	15-3-2
Calvin	10-2-2	12-5-2
Albion	9-4-1	10-7-1
ALMA	7-5-2	12-6-2
St. Mary's	6-4-4	10-4-4
K'zoo	6-8-0	9-10-1
Olivet	1-12-1	1-16-3
Adrian	0-13-1	1-18-1

MEN'S BASKETBALL PRE-SEASON RANKINGS

1. Hope (4)	8
2. Albion (2)	11
3. Calvin (1)	14
4. Olivet	21
5. Adrian	27
6. K'zoo	31
7. ALMA	35

(1st place votes in parentheses)

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL PRE-SEASON RANKINGS

1. Albion (4)	10
2. Hope (4)	11
3. ALMA	27
3. Calvin	27
3. Olivet	27
6. K'zoo	32
7. Adrian	45
7. St. Mary's	45

Scot-gun unable to outshoot Adrian

ANDREA RADTKE
Staff Writer

After coming off a big win against Kal-amazoo College in overtime last week, the Scots took a tough loss to Adrian College on Saturday, November 8th. The score was 45 to 42. In the first quarter, **Kevin Vermeersch (05)** took a fumble 36 yards to the endzone for the first touchdown of the game. The extra point kick by **Jeff LaPorte (05)** was good, and Alma led 7-0. Adrian responded with a touchdown themselves, evening the score at seven. There was no other scoring in the first quarter.

The second quarter was full of scoring, with Adrian drawing first blood: a touchdown to make the score 7-14. Alma responded with a six yard touchdown run by **James Edington (05)**. The touchdown came after a drive of seven plays for 50

yards. The extra point kick by LaPorte was good to make the score even once again at 14. Adrian scored another touchdown to take the lead back, 21-14. To end the first half, LaPorte missed a 30-yard field goal.

After halftime, Adrian came out and scored another touchdown, making the score 28-14. Alma responded with a touchdown: a 17-yard pass from **Ryan Palmer (06)** to **Clayton Sims (05)** to up the score 28-21. This came from a drive of 12 plays that moved the Scots 65 yards down the field. Adrian answered again with a touchdown, holding the lead at 35-21. Palmer ran 27 yards for another touchdown for the Scots, making them seven points closer to their opponent. This came after a 69-yard drive made in only six plays.

In the fourth quarter, Alma opened the scoring with a 5-yard run into the

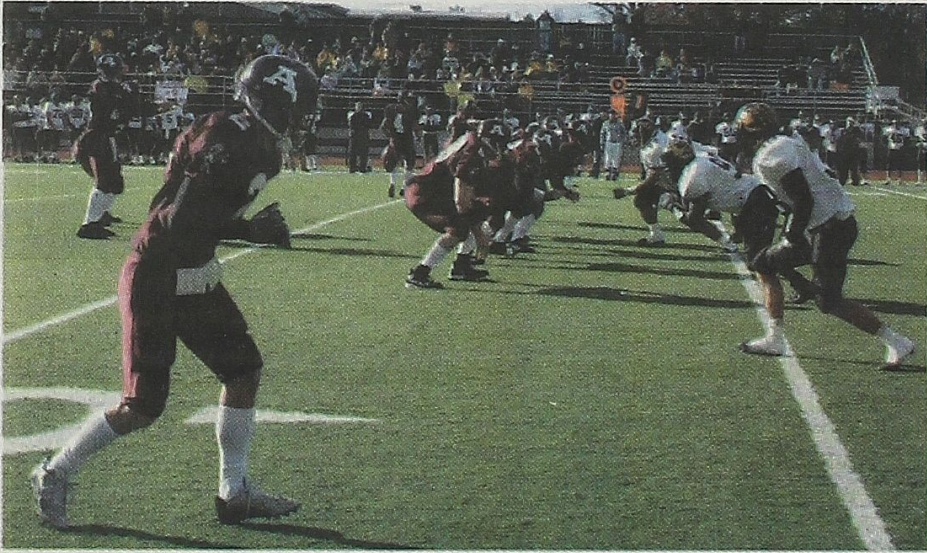
endzone by Palmer to even the score at 35. This came after a drive of six plays for 65 yards. Adrian answered yet again with another touchdown to lead 42-35. The Scots' final touchdown came on a 23-yard pass from Palmer to **Cole Thelen (06)**. The 64-yard drive down the field was made in only four plays. Adrian won the game on 35-yard field goal near the end of the game.

The Scots had 214 net yards rushing, and 252 net yards passing. Palmer threw 20 times for 12 completions, with no interceptions. **Josh Brehm (06)** also got some playing time at quarterback, throwing 18 times for 12 completions, with one interception.

Next Saturday, the Scots host Tri-State University here at Bahlke Field. Game time is set at 1:00pm, and it is their last scheduled home game.



Quarterback Josh Brehm (04) throws a pass to receiver Tyler Thelen (04). The Scots racked up 252 yards through the air in the loss to the Bulldogs.



The Scots line up to run a play against Adrian College. The Scots lost 45-42 after a see-saw game. The Scots last home game is next week against Tri-State. Next year the Thunder will be joining the MIAA.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Tuesday, Nov. 11

- 9 - 10:15 p.m. - Trinity Bible Fellowship (Jones Auditorium)
- 9 - 10 p.m. - Residence Hall Association (Fireside Lounge)

Wednesday, Nov. 12

- 8 p.m. - Mission IMOPROVable (VanDusen)

Friday, Nov. 14

- 8 p.m. - Alma College Dance Company Fall Concert (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)
- Volleyball - v. Thomas More @ Wittenberg, OH in 1st round of NCAA tournament

Saturday, Nov. 15

- 11 a.m. - Men's and Women's Cross Country @ Hanover, IN - NCAA Regionals
- 1 p.m. - Football Home v. Tri-State
- 8 p.m. - Alma College Dance Company Fall Concert (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)

Sunday, Nov. 16

- 11 a.m. - Noon - Mass (Chapel)
- 3 p.m. - Alma College Dance Company Fall Concert (Heritage Center, Presbyterian Hall)
- 9 - 10 p.m. - Chapel Worship Service

Monday, Nov. 17

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