



Alma Ranked #1 Undergrad Teaching

By **AUDREY HESTER**
STAFF WRITER

Alma College placed high on the U.S. News and World Report's yearly ranking of colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning. Alma received a number of high placements this year, most notably tying for first place in Undergraduate Teaching among Regional Colleges for the Midwest, sharing the top spot with Indiana's Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

The U.S. News and World Report Undergraduate Teaching ranking places schools based on the quality of education they provide their undergraduates, according to an assessment survey collected during the previous year.

Alma also placed 6th out of the 113 schools in Regional Colleges Midwest, which considers five different areas when ranking its institutions: student outcomes, peer assessment, faculty resources, financial resources and standardized tests. Student outcomes is the most heavily-weighted

area and looks at things like graduation rates, first-year retention rates and student earnings by major in order to see how successful a school is in ensuring its students are ready to graduate.

Peer assessment is a more vague category, utilizing responses from presidents, provosts, and deans of colleges to attempt to understand a school's quality of teaching and the institution as a whole. Faculty resources looks at student-faculty ratio, the proportion of full-time employed faculty and full-time faculty salaries.

Standardized tests looks at the SAT and ACT scores of a school's incoming class. In the event that less than half of an incoming class submits their scores, the weight of this category moves to graduation rates instead, which is the most heavily-weighted individual piece of the ranking system.

In Top Private Colleges for the Midwest, Alma once again placed 6th, this time out of 39 institutions. This ranking uses the same methodology as Regional Colleges.

In both these categories, Alma was the highest-



Photo courtesy of Nayanikaa Singhaal

ranked school from Michigan. Aquinas was the next-closest institution for both, landing in 20th place.

Alma placed 7th out of 31 colleges for Best Value Schools. Rather than just looking at the standing cost of a school, Best Value Schools also considers financial aid opportunities and how the quality of its teaching measures up against its cost. The four categories weighted are academic quality, percentage of students receiving aid, grant and scholarship aid

and average discount.

Alma, while being an expensive private school, offers significant financial aid and unique grant opportunities such as the Venture Grant, which allows for students to receive school-supported money for travel and research, and the Deacon Scholarship, which further supplements the Venture Grant.

In addition to these scholarships, Alma also gives scholarships to students who attend college tours, come from

low-income families, and intend on pursuing music while at the school such as choir, private instrument lessons and orchestra.

The U.S. News and World Report gathers their information from surveys distributed out to institutions, meaning that the way faculty and students from a given school assess their own experiences at their school is an important factor in determining school rankings.

Halloween Coming to Alma

By **LILIAN ROUTOWICZ**
STAFF WRITER

With Halloween just around the corner, Alma College students are preparing to celebrate with campus events and community traditions. With such a diverse student body, campus leaders and organizations have been hard at work planning events to ensure there is something for everyone.

For those looking for a challenge, the Rec Center will be hosting a Spooky Climb Night at the Rec Center Rock Wall with a costume contest on October 22 from 6-8 p.m. All students are invited to

participate, with the climb open to all skill levels and a twenty-five-dollar gift card at stake for the winner of the costume contest.

"I like that Alma student organizations have Halloween events and encourage students to dress up and just have fun. It's a good way to take a breath of fresh air in the middle of the semester," said **Erica Johnson ('27)**.

Students interested in joining the Model UN team can join them for their Pumpkins and Pancakes event on October 23 at 5:00 p.m. in the Thomas Andison Chapel. The event allows students to meet current members of the team, learn about opportunities within

the organization, including traveling to New York City, India, and Iceland, all while enjoying some Halloween-themed treats.

Scots Mystery Tour will take place on October 29 at 4:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. There will be a Halloween-themed Admissions Presentation, followed by an interactive campus tour. Alma students and staff will need to work together to gather clues across campus in order to solve the Case of the Missing Scot. Costumes are optional, but there will be a prize for the best costume.

For students looking to keep their celebrations laid-back, the Rec Center is hosting a Horror Movie Night starting at 8:30 p.m. on October 30.

"My favorite part about Halloween here at Alma is the event that is put on for the community where student organizations are encouraged to engage with and hand out candy. It's a really good way to get Alma students involved with people in town," said Johnson.

As is tradition in the Alma community, the annual Trunk-or-Treat event returns on October 29.

Trunk-or-Treat will take place downtown Alma from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and all campus orgs



Picture courtesy of Charollette Rockwell

are encouraged to participate and hand out candy to trick-or-treaters.

The fraternities at Alma are also looking forward to the Halloween season. "I'm getting into the

Halloween spirit by listening to spooky songs but also by hanging lights, like I did outside the

DGT house. I think it makes us as a fraternity look fun, and I wanted DGT to have the best

decorations, so I put them out," **Logan Mollitor ('29)**.

Each year, the fraternities at Alma College host haunted houses for Alma students in each of their respective houses. The brothers of each fraternity work together to put up decorations and get into costumes to create a spooky experience for students.

"I am very excited for the DGT haunted house. It was so fun last year, and people actually loved it, so I can't wait for what we have in store," said Mollitor.

Whichever way you choose

to celebrate Halloween this year, whether it be dressing up, enjoying a spooky movie, visiting a haunted house, or participating in community traditions, Alma offers

plenty of ways to celebrate Halloween this October. All of Alma's Halloween traditions give students a chance to get creative, spend time with friends, and make memories outside the classroom.

Dogman: Radio Play

By KATELYN THOMAS
LAYOUT EDITOR

During Halloween weekend, the first student-led production at Alma College will be taking place since the theater department closed last year.

Senior **Aaron Scolaro ('27)** chose to direct a production of Dogman for his senior capstone project. He is collaborating with co-stage managers **Ruth Losey ('27)** and **Graci Whyte ('31)**.

Working alongside 16 of his peers, Scolaro has forged a new path for future students who are also passionate about theater and would be interested in directing future student-led productions.

"I am the Director and Sound Designer for Dogman. I have been a sound designer for shows here since my freshman year," said Scolaro.

Auditions for Dogman began in mid-September, and the first day of rehearsal was Oct. 6. They moved rehearsal to the stage on Oct. 14, which I was able to attend.

"This has been a very smooth rehearsal process so far. There is a great synergy between the cast and crew, with everyone

very excited to be a part of the show," said Scolaro.

For much of the cast, this is their first ever student led production in an academic setting. Many of these students have been a part of Alma's previous productions, such as Little Women. Dogman is Alma's first student-led and -produced production.

Since there is limited staff involvement for the show, Scolaro has been seeking guidance from those around him regarding its production and development.

"With there being some limitations in place by the school, and the focus for this production to be student led, there have been many times where I have turned to the people around me and we have taken experiences from past shows to determine how we structure rehearsals and move the process forward," said Scolaro.

The story of Dogman originates from Northern Michigan folklore, beginning with sightings of a massive, bipedal, lycanthropic creature with glowing eyes first spotted in the late 19th century. These tales inspired the story of Dogman.

The story of Dogman



Photo courtesy of Charlotte Rockwell

received significantly more interest after a song called "The Legend" was recorded and subsequently aired on WTCM-FM in Traverse City, Michigan. This song, written by disc jockey Steve Cook, was originally an April Fools prank but quickly gained traction around Michigan, with callers into the station claiming to have had encounters with the Dogman.

This story inspired Christian Bowyer to create Alma's piece. "Dogman is an original work written by Christian Bowyer.

I had been in communication of wanting to do a radio drama as a student led production and he volunteered to write the script for the Halloween season," said Scolaro.

Christian Bowyer was a part of Alma's Theater program staff. He worked on the production side as a Theatre Technical Director and the Heritage Center Assistant Technical Supervisor.

Since Bowyer is one of two remaining faculty associated with the previous theater department, he has taken on the role as an

advisor for Dogman.

Audiences can catch the roughly 60-minute production of Dogman: A Live Radio Play at the Heritage Center's Strosacker Theater during Halloween weekend, with performances scheduled for Friday, October 30, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, October 31, at 2:30 p.m., with tickets available online through the Alma Box Office.

Budget Delays Explained

By NAYONIKAA SINGHAAL
LAYOUT EDITOR

A semester into the year, many student organizations at Alma College are still waiting on the money they need to plan events, and frustration over the delay is growing across campus. Knowing when the organisations are getting their budgets is a question that is on everyone's minds.

The Student Budget Allocation Committee (SBAC) has finished allocating budgets, but the funds cannot be released until Student Congress Body approves a set of constitutional amendments.

"This year we didn't receive the budget amounts for a very long time because the school was collecting census data, so for the first four weeks we didn't even have an estimate to work with. Once we did, the Budget Allocation Committee met twice and allotted budgets for every club within five days," said **Reagan Gleason ('27)**, Vice President of Student Congress.

Despite the quick turnover with the budget allocation process, some issues still remain.

"The problem now is that roster updates were not completed by the April deadline, so we

had to hold an emergency constitutional meeting and propose amendments that will allow those organizations to receive their funding. Until those amendments are passed, we cannot send the budgets forward for approval. We are trying our best, and all we want is for organizations to get their budgets as soon as possible," said Gleason.

The emergency constitutional meeting was held Wednesday, Oct. 14. Every recognized student organization was required to send at least one representative. Since each organization must have at least eight members, clubs were asked to coordinate so that someone could attend. The proposed amendments will go to a final vote on Thursday, Oct. 22. If they pass, the allocations will be sent to Alice Kramer, dean of Student, for approval. The budgets have also been sent to Financial Services, where they are on hold until the amendments are resolved.

Members of SBAC said the allocation work itself is complete.

"The most important part was making sure that all budgets were following StuCo guidelines and making sure that requested amounts actually fit the description each organization gave us. StuCo and the Budget



Photo courtesy of Nayonikaa Singhaal

Allocation Committee are done with reviewing and allocating budgets. It's out of our hands now," said **TJ Salley ('27)**, Secretary of Student Congress and member of SBAC.

"Being on the budgeting committee was a great experience. Being able to go over every budget and make adjustments was quite fun," said **Morris Pengal ('29)**, member of SBAC.

Some organization leaders said this year has brought

broader challenges while navigating this frustrating time of not getting their budgets as the school enters the second half of October and midterm grades already being uploaded.

"I think that it's been a little haywire this year due to many staff leaving, but the StuCo EC is doing a really good job handling it and helping everyone understand," said **Reece Miller ('28)**, President of the Pickleball Club.

If the amendments pass Oct. 22 and the dean approves the allocations, organizations will be able to access their budgets. Under the Student Fee Allocation Guidelines, organizations that receive less funding than requested may appeal in writing within five business days.

For now, organizations will keep waiting as Student Congress works to resolve the issue and move the process forward.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Cloudy
67°	67°	68°	67°	64°	64°	66°

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

BY PETRONELLA WILSON
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

The month of October is designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Started by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in 1981, and officially recognized by Congress in 1989, October has represented a time to support victims and survivors of domestic violence. Men, women, children and seniors can all be victims of domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is an umbrella term that includes physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse as well as instances of stalking, reproductive coercion and blackmail. When an intimate partner, ex-partner, or family member inflicts any type of abuse onto someone, it is classified as domestic abuse.

Intimate partner violence affects about 12 million people a year, with over 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the U.S. having experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime (National Domestic Violence Hotline).

In recent weeks, Cornell has been in national media due to an alleged incident involving seven members of the fraternity Chi Pi raping a woman (known as Jane Doe) for seven hours after drugging her. Some of these men were friends with Jane Doe before the incident, which could classify this event

as an instance of domestic violence.

Sexual violence is a large part of domestic abuse/violence. According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men have been raped in their lifetime. The Cornell case is only being talked about because it involves an Ivy League school.

“Unfortunately, this is not a unique experience. Fortunately, this situation was brought to light, reminding people of reality. This sort of thing happens all the time but isn’t talked about, by talking about it we are raising awareness.” says **Lillian Sierakowski (’28)**,

Title IX is a law that protects students from instances of sexual abuse.

“The Civil Rights/Title IX team believes that every person deserves to feel safe, respected, valued, and supported—and that no one should ever have to navigate a difficult experience alone. Recent events across higher education remind us of the importance of continuing to build a campus culture where people feel comfortable asking for help and speaking up when something doesn’t feel right,” said Alma College Title IX Team.

“At Alma College, we believe in living responsibly, which means that we all should avoid



Graphic courtesy of Petronella Wilson

causing harm, step in when harm could happen, and help others receive support when it’s needed. Our hope is that every member of the Alma community knows there are people here who care, resources available to help, and a community committed to walking alongside you. Together, through compassion, courage, accountability, and care for one another, we can continue making Alma a place where everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and belong,” said the Alma College Title IX Team.

By talking about cases such as Cornell and listening to do-

mestic abuse victims, we raise awareness to try to prevent these issues from continuing to happen, especially on college campuses.

“Spreading awareness about domestic violence, and all Title IX issues, on campus is critical. When people know how to identify issues or warning signs, whether in their own life or in the lives of others, they can report it to the Title IX and Civil Rights Office,” said Dr. Brianna Harfmann, Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Health Sciences.

To read the rest of this article, please visit thealmanian.com

France Protests Spark Violence

BY AVA PERAINO
STAFF WRITER

In late September, there have been multiple ongoing student protests in France that have become very violent. There have been many arrested and injured.

The start of the student-led protests can be traced to high schools just outside of Paris where students began protesting more under-resourced schools. These lower income neighborhoods suffer with problems of understaffing, unfair treatment of students and very notably poor air conditioning units for students.

Most of the occurring protests have started out to be peaceful, however things have escalated very quickly and are becoming more violent. Crowds have begun to projectile fireworks and vandalize areas as part of the protest. Not just students, but other vigilantes have attached themselves to the movement just to cause vandalism on the streets.

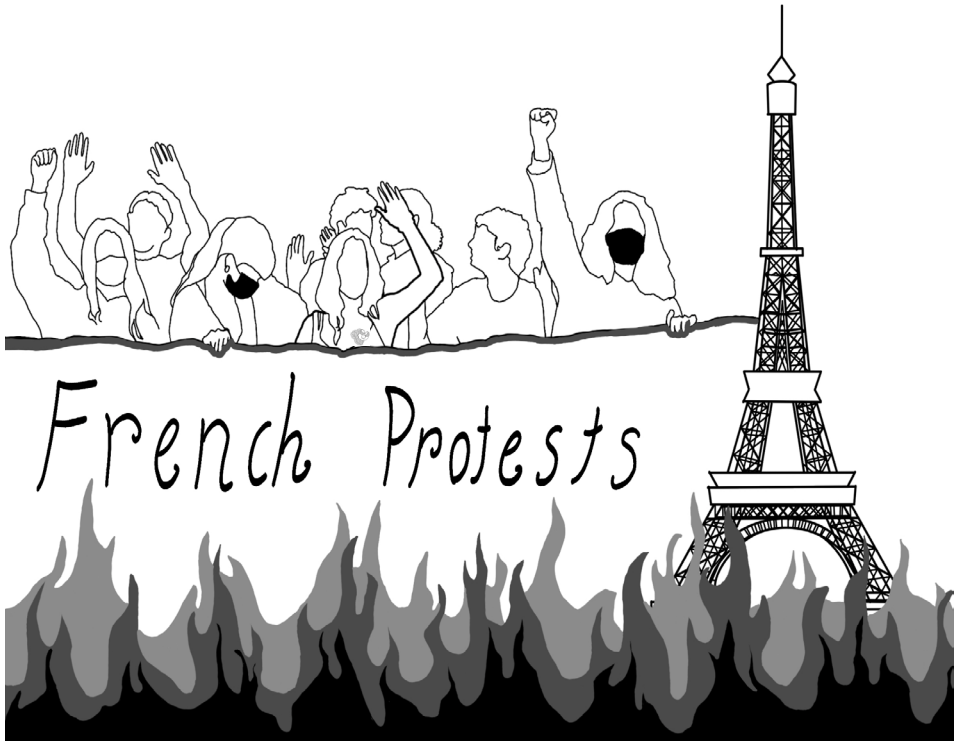
The French government has begun to distribute riot police into these crowds of students where they are using batons and tear gas to break up crowds. Recently, around 6,600 police arrests have been made. Several citizens and students have been severely hurt or injured as well due to these riots.

Though this situation only is happening in France, it really is not. There has been

other student unrest in European countries such as Belgium and Italy. Though they are much on a smaller scale in other countries, it is worthy to note that the education system has become a noteworthy topic in the World.

“Although Europeans are aware of the protests in France, and may well stand in solidarity with demands for increased support for education, the degree to which education becomes a rallying point depends on challenges people are facing in their own lives and where they see education on the list of issues hampering their pursuit of a promising future,” said Dr. Deborah Dougherty, Gunda S. Kaiser Professor of Spanish and Director of Andison.

As protests seem to continue, the movement has suddenly become important in French politics as they are soon to have their Presidential election coming up in the spring. With French President Emmanuel Macron last term ending, two new candidates have stepped up to the ballot. The far-left candidate Jean-Luc Mélenchon has publicly displayed his support for the students and disapproval of police actions, while his opponent and far-right leader Marine



Graphic courtesy of Ava Peraino

Le Pen expresses his support for more police and is against the rioters.

“These protests could influence election campaign debates, particularly on education, public services, social inequality and the police response to protest movements.. When citizens lose faith in the State’s ability to uphold these principles, their discontent can extend beyond

education issues and fuel broader criticism of public policy,” said Dr. Khanssaa El Alami Canning, Lecturer of World Languages and Culture.

“However, it would be too early to claim that these protests will determine the election results. Their influence will depend on how the situa-

tion evolves, the government’s response, and how candidates address these demands,” said Canning.

Overall, student protests have yet to have seized in France. They are growing in numbers and becoming more violent due to the size of these crowds. The entire world will continue to watch as these protest progress to see what the French government is going to do about the violence.

Volume CXXII Issue III
The Almanian
“ALMA COLLEGE’S
STUDENT-RUN
NEWSPAPER, SERVING THE
COMMUNITY SINCE 1907.”
The Almanian
Alma College
Email: ciccima@alma.edu

Editorial Staff

Editor-In-Chief
Lexie Thayer
Copy Editors
Grace Main
Audrey Hester
Layout Editors
Nayonikaa Singhaal
Katelynn Thomas
Grace Main
Photo Editor
Charlotte Rockwell
Web Editor
Thanh Vo
Faculty Advisor
Matthew Cicci

News Staff

Staff Writers
Jazmine Matthews
Grayson Clifford
Jordan Howard
Jake Keenan
Madeline Gustincic
Jax Frost
Ava Peraino
Grace Main
Katelynn Thomas
Lillian Routowicz
Lillian Sierakowski
Clover Lucha
Olivia Wolters
Photographers
Abigail Shaub
Graphic Designers
Olivia Holt
Comics
Damien Gagnon
Social Media
Petronella Wilson

Distribution Manager
Audrey Hester

Staff Editorial Policy:
Opinions expressed in editorials with bylines solely reflect the views of its writer. Opinions expressed in editorials without bylines reflect the views of The Almanian editorial staff. They in no way reflect the views of the entire Alma College community.

Letter Policy:
Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters while maintaining their integrity. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before publication.

The Real Scare: Misogyny on Halloween

By **LEXIE THAYER**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

With Halloween quickly approaching, it is almost impossible not to contemplate which Halloween costumes everyone will be wearing this spooky season. However, with this dialogue, it is hard not to additionally pick up, in my opinion, the misogynistic undertones that occur while discussing women’s Halloween costumes.

As a college woman myself, I have always tended to lean towards cute DIY costumes, as these are cheap and ‘party’ appropriate. With this type of costume, many comments usually follow through a misogynistic lens that tries to decipher what is considered a ‘real’ or a ‘good’ costume. If you ask me, this needs to stop.

Moreover, the idea that Halloween costumes need to be scary and high quality is undoubtedly outdated to an extent. A simple search on Google for the most popular Halloween costumes provides evidence to support this claim. Which begs the question: what is the hatred centered around female Halloween costumes?

On TikTok, I’m sure many of us have seen videos

that say something along the lines of, ‘if your costume includes an Amazon corset, it’s boring and uncreative.’ However, I see no discourse or debate about male costumes, and if it exists, it seems overshadowed by everyone commenting on female appearance instead.

“Beyond the gendered double standard, I feel, there is also a clear financial discrepancy while I’m being policed on what I should be wearing as a costume. I have to pay for tuition - a nice Halloween costume can run upwards of a hundred dollars,” **said Ashley White (‘28).**

Furthermore, one of the reasons that women’s Halloween costumes are so central in discussion is that it could be partly a reaction to the societal expectation that women should dress provocatively on Halloween. However, this shift in perspective may begin to unintentionally create new pressure toward women who choose to embrace a more revealing costume as a form of expression or empowerment.

“Why is it that every time a woman embraces her body and wants to feel sexy,



Photo courtesy of Lillian Sierakowski

she is criticized for ‘sexualizing herself’? Yet, when women dress in a way that is conventionally ‘unsexy’, we are criticized for being prudish and hating our bodies. Why can’t women just simply exist in our bodies?” **said Kennedy Mullens (‘29).**

To be clear, I do not think that we should start criticizing men’s costumes. In my opinion, it just seems like Halloween is another frustrating example of how women’s clothing and bodies are policed

in subtle ways.

“The double standard isn’t that women want to dress sexy. It’s that femininity is so often packaged for the male gaze that even a holiday about creativity and self-expression becomes another opportunity to comment on women,” **said Lillian Sierakowski (‘28).**

Ultimately, Halloween should be a night of celebration and playfulness; not an audit of women’s clothing choices. Whether a woman chooses a low-budget, DIY, Amazon cor-

set costume, or if she chooses a traditional scary ensemble, the decision should belong to her, with no comments being made.

It is time that we stop turning costume choices into a commentary on a woman’s character. Most importantly, it is time that we let people simply enjoy the holiday and stay safe and happy.

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND THE VIEW OF THE ALMANIAN AND ALMA COLLEGE

To Yik Yak or Not to Yik Yak

By **MADELINE GUSTINCIC**
STAFF WRITER

Yik Yak is a social media platform for college students that provides anonymity to its users. On the site, users can interact with posts and post anonymously, direct-message (DM) anonymously and even gain popularity or hate beneath an anonymous veil.

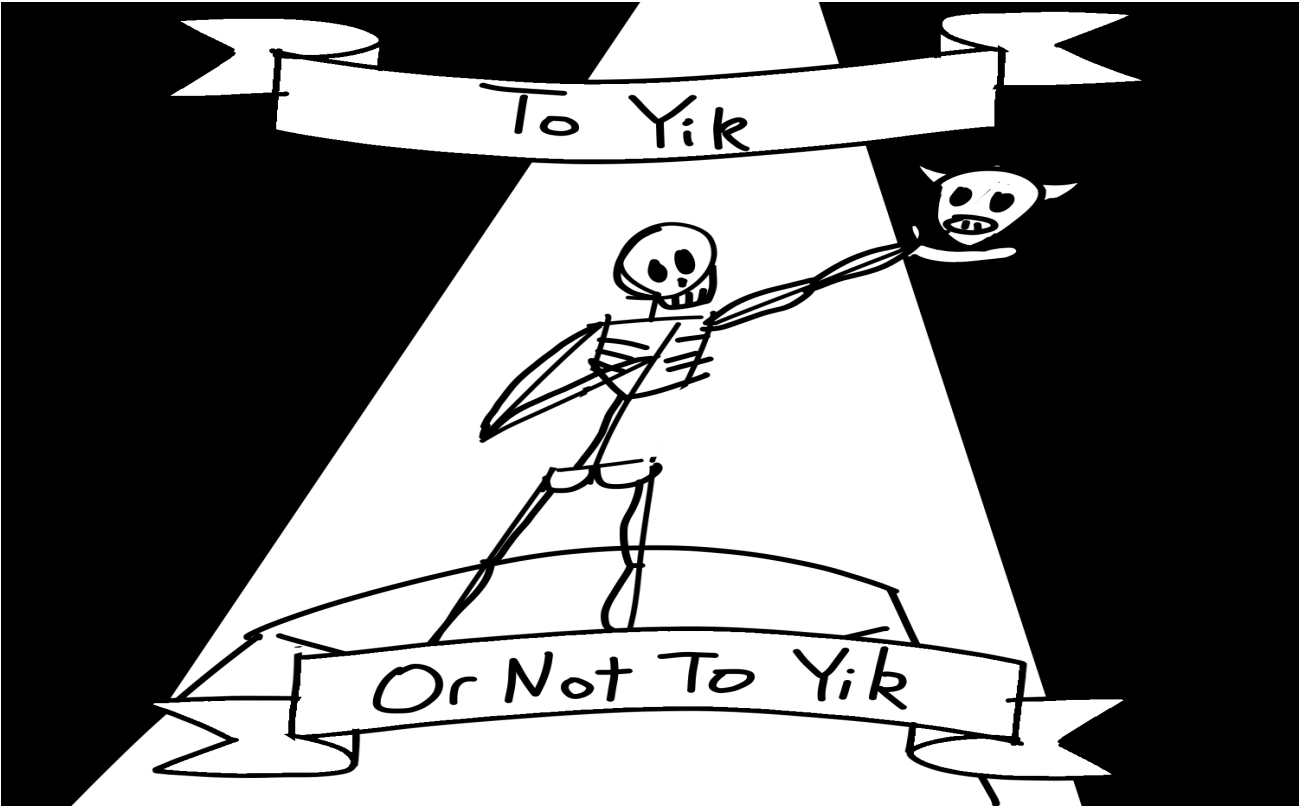
Yik Yak, despite its potential to provide space for equal conversation, I find more often creates the opposite environment. The platform allows its users to create echo-chambers of negativity and in general, discourages in-person conversation. Although Yik Yak has restrictions on hateful language and identification of individuals in place, users can easily find ways to avoid having their content taken down, allowing misinformation and harmful rhetoric to overwhelm the app and disrupt the campus environment.

The Yik Yak app was first released in 2013, but closed its services in 2017 due to its inability to maintain user engagement. This lack of user engagement stemmed from Yik Yak’s predisposition toward spreading hateful speech, such as racism, sexism and other forms of cyber-bullying. At the time,

Yik Yak did not have enough restrictions in place to curb the amount of hate and negativity that began to fill the platform. This caused Yik Yak to be banned from some campuses and college students in general, to uninstall the app due to its overwhelming negativity.

In 2021, Yik Yak announced its return and has remained a prevalent social force on college campuses. Since its return, additional universities have implemented campus-wide bans on the platform, due to its ability to foster unregulated hate. In some extreme cases, Yik Yak has been associated with cyber-bullying related suicides of college students. The harm of this anonymous platform is ever-present and in my opinion, there isn’t much defense that can be given to continuing to utilize this platform that is consumed by hateful rhetoric.

“I think people should use Yik Yak as a way to ask questions they are scared to ask in-person or to be able to post positive stuff that’s not bullying people. If you aren’t using it like that, I don’t think you should be using it at all” **said Zacharia Byle (‘28).**



Graphic courtesy of Olivia Holt

Despite Yik Yak’s ability to foster communities of hate, the anonymity of the platform does allow all users to have the same voice, providing a space for people to express their concerns, thoughts and/or opinions.

Yik Yak does have the possibility of providing students with the ability to advertise their event or ask questions about campus. It could serve as an equal-footed means

of communication and a way for students to come together over certain issues or campus-wide events, but from my experiences on the platform, this content is often overshadowed by hate threads against certain student organizations, sports teams, individuals, or generalized drama. The negativity is naturally what gets more clicks so the platform relies on hate against individuals or organizations, causing division across campus.

“We only care about the comments of others on Yik Yak because we as a student body decided that it mattered [and] that the opinions of people who can’t be bothered to speak their minds without the shield of anonymity are important. Yik Yak COULD be a neutral space to share information, but it’s become nothing but a hateful campus gossip board,” **said Abigail Dumond (‘29).**

Volunteering locally: Fall Alternative Breaks

By: GRACE MAIN
COPY EDITOR

Alma College led two Alternative Breaks over this recent Fall Break. Alternative Breaks are student-led service projects which volunteer locally and throughout the country. Instead of going home for break, many students choose these volunteer excursions for part or sometimes the entirety of their break.

The first Alt. Break this past Fall Break was based on the themes of Faith and Leadership. For this experience, students volunteered at Camp Greenwood in Gowen, MI, for spiritual life leadership training, and as a way to meet spiritual leaders from other college campuses. Students went from Oct. 10 to Oct. 13 and did repairs and clean-up at the camp as part of the volunteer experience.

There was also an Alt. Break through Dalis to the Rescue Animal Shelter in Alma, based on the theme of Animal Welfare on Oct. 13.

Leading the Dalis to the Rescue Alternative Break was **Sophia Sanford ('27)**, who has been on three Environmental Stewardship breaks, one to Everglades and Biscayne National Parks, one to New Orleans and one for disaster relief in Sarasota, Florida.

“During our break, we helped the rescue by walking dogs, building cat trees, preparing overnight spaces for the dogs and deep cleaning the cat and dog rooms. We split up into groups to complete different tasks like scrubbing cages, cleaning litterboxes, wiping down walls, preparing dog food and sweeping and mopping the floor,” said Sanford.

Dalis to the Rescue is a nonprofit Animal Shelter in Alma, focusing on rescuing animals and finding new homes for them, while educating pet owners on how to properly take care of their pets. There are dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds available to be adopted or fostered.

“The most rewarding part of the break was knowing that nothing was left undone by the end of the day. We had completed every task that the owner and staff could think of for us to do, even the extra “house-keeping” type of chores that they don’t typically get time to do. To me, just being able to take a load off the shoulders of people who dedicate so much time to a noble cause, even if it is just for a day, is a rewarding experience,” said Sanford.

In September, there was also a bonus Alt. Break on



Photo courtesy of Charlotte Rockwell

Saturday, Sept. 12, Friends and Family of Cystic Fibrosis Annual Golf Outing, who assist people with cystic fibrosis and their families financially and through community. Led by **Kennedy Mullens ('29)**, volunteers helped with set up, golf course activities and lunch.

“The golf outing is one of their biggest fundraising efforts every year, and it was an honor to help run such an event. Volunteers mostly helped run different holes and

mini events like Speed Bag; we really helped wherever FFCF [Friends and Family of Cystic Fibrosis] needed help. It was so rewarding to hear the stories of the people, like my cousin, that FFCF has helped over the years, and to know that we Alma College students, staff, and faculty are now a part of that mission,” said Mullens.

For Winter Break, Dec. 12 through Dec. 19 of this year, there will be three Alt. Breaks, two traveling and one in Alma.

Volunteers can go to Memphis to work with St. Jude’s Hospital, New Orleans to plant trees with Further Along, or here in Alma with the Come Home To Alma Jingle Bell Run.

“Even a few short hours of volunteer work can make a world of difference for communities and organizations and the people who rely on them,” said Mullens.

Alma celebrates Lavender Week

By: AUDREY HESTER
COPY EDITOR

Lavender Week will be taking place at Alma College from Oct. 18 to Oct. 25. The week consists of a week of events meant to celebrate LGBTQIA+ students and stories. A variety of on-campus clubs and organizations will host events, including Queer Spiritual Life (QSL), Gender & Sexuality Diversity Club (GSD) and Sigma Alpha Iota (SAI).

“Lavender Week is an acknowledgement and celebration of queer history, which is ridden with strife, connection, love, riots and overwhelming passion. It is important for queer students to feel like their predecessors are seen and appreciated, to feel like they are seen and appreciated. Queer history is world history. Queer history is American history. Queer history deserves to be taught and mourned and celebrated, and Lavender Week is how we do that,” said **Kennedy Mullens ('29)**.

In the Anderson Chapel on Sunday, Oct. 18, there was a service with guest preacher Doug Parter, and on Monday, Oct. 19, Trans Talks were hosted, giving transgender students the opportunity to discuss their experiences and LGBTQIA+ allies the chance to learn more about said experiences. On Tuesday, Oct. 20, there will be a Hooks and Needles event in the chapel basement at 6:30 p.m., which provides students with the chance to work on fiber-arts.

On Wednesday, Oct. 21, there will be a poetry and art showing at Ballyhoo Books and Brew in downtown Alma at 6 p.m., and on Thursday, Oct. 22, at 7 p.m., there will be a showing of the movie The Bird Cage in the Lavender Lounge, which is located in Tyler Van Dusen in what was formerly the Campus Security office.

On Friday, Oct. 23, there will be a forum held in the Anderson Center, starting at 4 p.m. and running for about an hour. On Saturday, Oct. 24, SAI will be having a Lavender Week concert at 7 p.m. in the chapel. The concert will feature songs written or popularized by queer artists and performed by members of SAI.

Finally, on Sunday, Oct. 25, there will be a murder mystery ball called the Masquerade in the Opera House at 7 p.m., written and organized by GSD.

Lavender week is a vital opportunity to celebrate LGBTQIA+ voices and people on Alma’s campus, especially now that we live in a time where being a part of those communities can be controversial. It is important to give everyone the chance to feel seen, heard, appreciated and safe.

“Alma is in a state of transition and new things. As we get more students and as political issues inevitably impact our campus, I think it’s important to celebrate the queer and trans students who have always been here



Photo courtesy of Damien Gagnon

and to celebrate queer joy,” said **Kay Keller ('27)**.

“I also think it’s important to look for glimmers of queer joy in the world today. Sometimes, that can be hard, and Lavender Week acts as a dedicated period of time for me to intentionally seek queer joy. Lavender Week is about queer connection, education, passion, and to me, those things

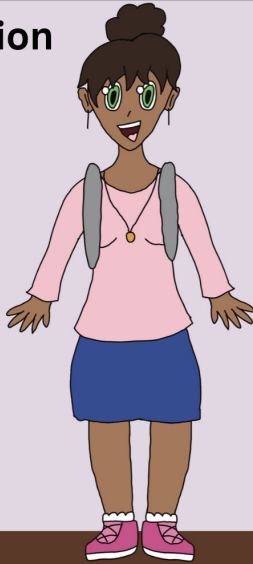
mean the world,” said Mullens.

engage in activism and education ... Happy Lavender Week!” said Mullens. Regardless of whether or not students identify as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community, the events of Lavender Week are open to the entire campus.

“Whether it be as an ally or a member of the community, I encourage you to make the intentional choice to participate and

Waking Up For Your 8 am Class

Expectation



Reality



Comic courtesy of Damien Gagnon

The Gossip Squirrel



Dear Gossip Squirrel,

I'm pretty sure my friend thinks I'm dumb- or at least not as smart as them; which is crazy hurtful especially since we are the same major, same age, and I have actually been scoring better than them so far. They will answer over top of the teacher when I ask questions to try and explain how I'm wrong or what the answer is, but they are rarely right and their interjection still doesn't answer my question. I sit next to them often so it would be very obvious if I sat somewhere else suddenly. Should I just cut my losses and go ahead and sit elsewhere or should I tell them that I don't appreciate being corrected completely unprompted? - Frustrated Friend

Dear Frustrated Friend,

That is definitely a tough situation. You want to keep your friendship, but this is also obviously pushing your boundaries. I think that a sudden seat change in class isn't a good idea, unless you talk to them first. I think that a good conversation goes a long way, and explain to them how hurt it makes you feel when they speak over you and make you feel dumb in class. It might be a good idea to talk to them about their class schedule for next semester, and as you are scheduling in the next couple weeks, try to enroll in some classes separate from your friend. Sometimes a little distance is the best for the sake of maintaining a friendship. -XOXO, Gossip Squirrel

Horoscopes:

NAYONIKAA SINGHAAL
LAYOUT EDITOR

October 18th, 2026

Aries: This week is a good time to reconnect with friends and make more time for the people who matter to you. Remember to protect your energy, focus on yourself when needed and be open to a fresh start by the weekend.

Taurus: You may discover new things about yourself and your ability to lead this week. Make time for a creative project you have been putting off and find the courage to go after what you really want.

Gemini: This week brings opportunities to explore new ideas and think beyond your usual routine. Friends and colleagues may help you move closer to your goals, while the weekend is a good time to reconnect with people from your past.

Cancer: Staying organized and keeping up with your responsibilities will help you feel more in control this week. You may also get an opportunity to travel or take the lead on something, so make room for new experiences and creative ideas.

Leo: Pay attention to the effort you put into your relationships and whether others are giving you the same energy in return. Be patient with the people you care about, but remember to put yourself first when necessary and stay open to new ideas.

Virgo: Take some time to slow down and reflect before making important decisions. Honest conversations can help you work through issues you have been avoiding and bring you closer to the people who matter.

Libra: This week may bring people from your past back into your life and give you a chance to revisit unfinished business. Stay curious, explore something new and remember to support your friends without forgetting your own needs.

Scorpio: Take another look at your plans and do not be afraid to make changes if things are not going the way you expected. New ideas and creative inspiration may come your way, helping you see your current projects in a different light.

Sagittarius: You may find yourself returning to old interests or ideas that inspire you. Use this week to get back on track, explore new opportunities and make progress on projects you have been meaning to finish.

Capricorn: This is a good week to review your spending habits and rethink your financial plans. You may also feel ready to revisit your career goals and consider what changes could help you move forward professionally.

Aquarius: Relationships and new ideas take center stage this week, encouraging you to look at situations more realistically. Revisit problems that have been bothering you and make time for friends and activities that help you feel connected to your community.

Pisces: Give yourself space to rest and think about what you need instead of trying to keep up with everyone else. As the week progresses, updating your routines and finding positive ways to use your energy can help you feel more focused and motivated.

SPORTS

Fall Sports Update

BY: GRAYSON CLIFFORD
STAFF WRITER

With November luring in the distance and already past the halfway mark of this fall semester, our fall sports programs have been in full swing. Alma's fall programs include football, volleyball, tennis, soccer, golf and cross country.

Football: Homecoming on Sept. 26 was full of festivities here at Alma, but the Scot's Football squad made it thrilling with a 27-24 victory against Adrian College. With around seven and a half minutes left in the fourth quarter and down 13-17, Scot's linebacker **Jett King ('27)**, snagged an interception and returned it to the endzone for a pick six, putting Alma on top 20-17.

Adrian, however, marched down the field and took back the lead with their own touchdown, tallying the score 20-24. But **Tyler Herzog ('28)** and **Cooper Keene ('27)** put the game on ice, as with less than 30 seconds to go, Herzog connected

a 23 yard passing touchdown to Keene, turning a 20-24 loss into a 27-24 homecoming win.

Volleyball: For their home opener on Sept. 8, the Scots Volleyball Team went down to the wire, narrowly beating Bluffton University in a five set thriller. In the fifth set, the Scots needing 15 points were down 12-13 against Bluffton. However, with the help of kills from **Mallorie Nevadomski ('29)** and **Nevea Bush ('27)**, the Scots were victorious.

Tennis: On Sept. 25 and 26, Scots Women's Tennis players **Leah Wronikowski ('27)**, **Norah Lacher ('30)** and **Karly Kushner ('27)** competed in the Intercollegiate Tennis Associations' Division III Women's Central Regional Championship. In the doubles tournament, Wronikowski and Lacher were able to win 8-2 in the first round, before falling in the round of 32.

The Intercollegiate Tennis Associations' Divi-

sion III Men's Central Regional Championship took place on Oct. 2 and 3, where Scots Men's Tennis players **Daniel Hickey ('28)**, **Alex Jonas ('27)** and **Liam Ludeman ('30)** partook.

"For me it was a roller coaster experience, me and my doubles partner, Alex, drew the two seed and played very well, we lost but were very happy with how we played. Then I played singles after and wasn't happy with my performance. It was a very up and down experience but the atmosphere was electric." said Ludeman.

Soccer: For their home opener at Scotland Yard on Sept. 1, the Scots Men's Soccer Team immediately made a statement, tallying a 10-0 win against Kuyper College. **Asher Clark ('30)**, recorded a hat trick in the first 11 minutes of play.

On Oct. 10, the Scots Women's Soccer Team notched their first conference win of the season against the University of Olivet with a final



Photo courtesy of Charlotte Rockwell

score of 5-0. The Scots' defense was an immovable object, as Olivet had no shots on goal the entire match.

Golf: Women's Golf concluded their fourth and final MIAA Jamboree this fall on Oct. 12 in Notre Dame, Indiana. The Jamboree included golfers **Jocelyon Rolston ('30)** and **Sarah Ream ('28)**, both who finished in the top five of the 54 competitors present.

The Scots Men's Golf Team has their final MIAA Jamboree Oct. 26.

"The Alma Men's Golf team has two events left, one

this Monday [Oct. 19] at Hope, and the last next Monday [Oct. 26]. The team has been continuing to practice to prepare for our tournament, the course on Monday is a longer course, so we've been trying to focus on longer irons and drivers off the tee. The team is set up in a good spot so that we can hopefully finish strong. We are hoping to hit our goal of breaking 300 in a MIAA event" said **Andrew Skellinger ('26)**.
To read the rest of the article, please visit thealmanian.com.