

Students, professors weigh in on Betsy DeVos

HANNAH KING
 CAMPUS EDITOR

Many students at Alma College have concerns about the growing Trump administration. Cabinet members suggest a major change in many career fields including environmental science, health care, and most recently, education.

The confirmation of Betsy DeVos as the head of the Department of Education seems to have many questioning the future of the schooling systems in America.

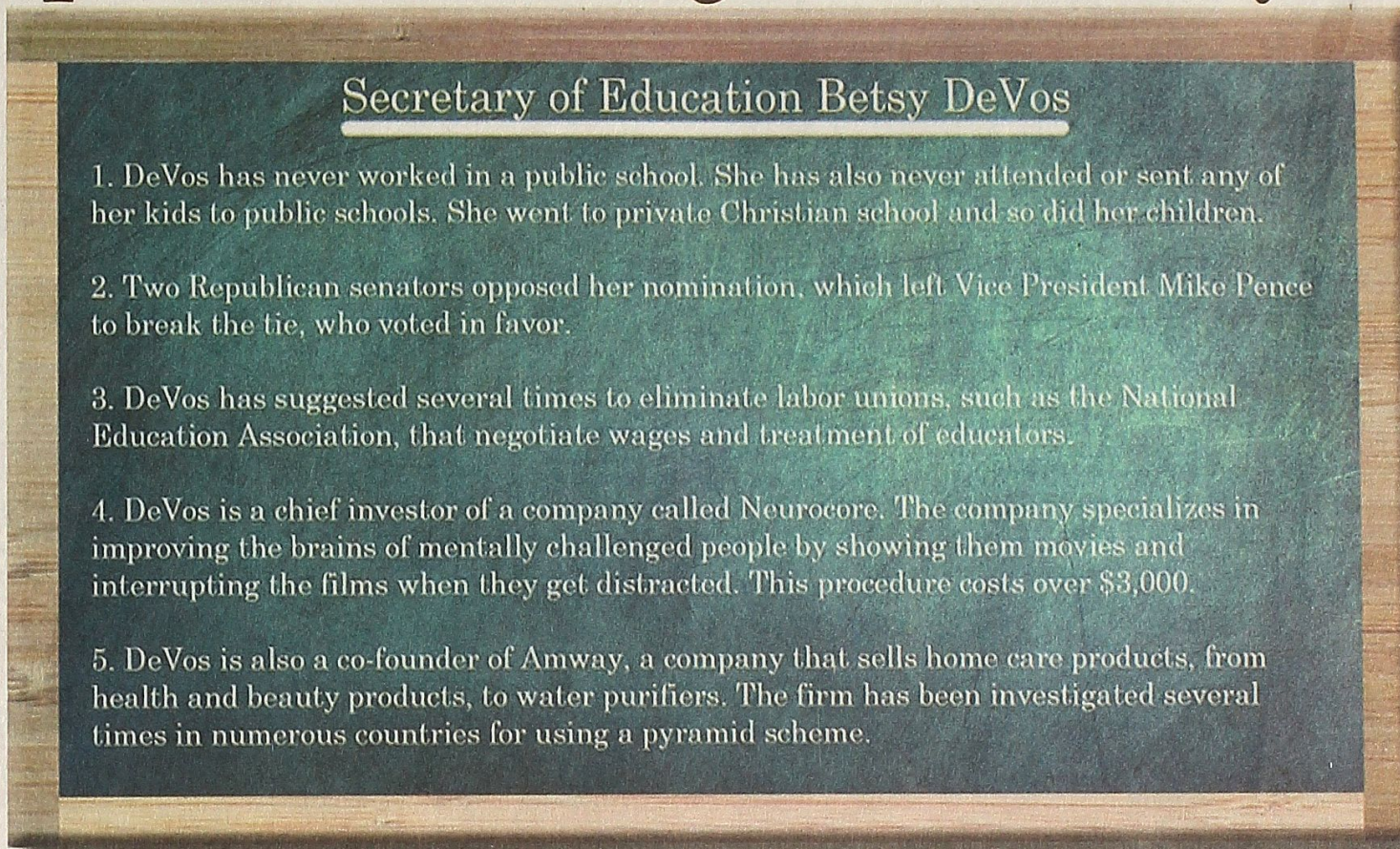
Nicola Findley, chair of the education department, shared some of the general thoughts among students that she has been hearing.

“DeVos is generally understood to be unqualified in many ways,” said Findley. “The fact that she has not been directly involved with public education frustrates many students; they find her embarrassing.

“Despite their dislikes of DeVos, students have become passionately engaged with the current politics of education and that is always great to see.”

In relation to these current politics, some classes talk about the dynamic of the various schooling systems in America, some that DeVos strongly supports over others.

“In one class, we introduce students to charter schools and



Betsy DeVos' history with school systems, her business engagements and her focus on finances leave some concerned with her newfound power.

*Abigail Fergus:
 Editor-in-Chief*

the voucher system,” said Findley. “We want to help students identify philosophies behind different schools so that they can find their best fit.”

The voucher plan, as explained by Professor of Political Science William Gorton, is “a system that uses public money to fund private schools. This system gets controversial when these private schools have specific values that may not align with those of the public. DeVos has promoted some of these systems, especially when the private schools are Christian.”

Gorton and Findley both expressed that there is only so much that DeVos can actually

do with her newfound power. Findley expressed that she does not think that “the Department of Education will be ‘demolished’ as was proposed earlier by the Trump administration.”

Gorton also emphasized that DeVos should not necessarily be the most concerning cabinet appointment.

“Her role is not a particularly powerful position,” said Gorton. “Unlike others, she oversees a department that is mostly dictated at the state and local level. She does, however, support some controversial changes in the education system, and her position could help her implement them.”

One of these issues is the regulation of for-profit schools that assure they meet certain qualifications in order to collect public money.

“Under Obama, the Department of Education, the federal government, began to establish guidelines that would ensure students who are paying for school are getting the education they deserve,” said Gorton.

“Under Trump, I would not be surprised if the federal government lost interest in these investigations and for-profit schools gained power without meeting certain standards.”

Students have their own

concerns for their futures.

“Everything is a disaster,” said **Abby Porter ('17)**. “DeVos has literally no experience teaching, never sent her kids to public school, has no experience with federal aid and she wants to privatize everything to gain money and power, rather than bettering the education system.”

Despite some fears, Porter will still be pursuing a job as a teacher. “I am going to try and make my students loving, tolerant people in this unfortunate time.”

**SEE CAMPUS COMMENTS ON
 BETSY DEVOS: PAGE 2**

Women's march forum becomes round-table discussion

ROSE CYBURT
 STAFF WRITER

Alma College Action and VEE Club hosted a forum last Wednesday in which individuals who attended the Women's March on Washington or the sister march in Lansing told tales of their experiences.

During the evening, the event turned into a round table discussion, with panelists and attendees alike sharing their own ideas and opinions.

Hannah King ('17) marched in Washington, D.C. She arrived on Inauguration Day, and headed downtown.

“The streets were empty except for police and a few vendors selling Trump products, but they did not look like they were making much money,” said King. Once the inauguration was over, protesters began walking assorted routes. King and a friend attending with her eventually stopped to eat at an Indian restaurant.

While dining, they heard bangs and people started running into the restaurant. The news showed people dressed in black throwing bricks through windows, first into a Starbucks, then other businesses. Within the hour, approximately 100 people were arrested.

The next day was the Women's March on Washington, which King



Dalia Barghouty ('18), Audrey Karr ('18), and Hannah King ('17) share their experiences at the women's marches in D.C and Lansing.

Zach Baker: Photographer

described as “obviously peaceful.” She said that there was a “strong dichotomy between the two days. One bleak and aggressive, the other warm and energetic.”

“Overall, it was a positive experience with not much incident,” said **Madison Amlotte ('20)**, who also marched in Washington, D.C. She had taken a 12-hour car ride to the march, with only a few hours of sleep, but when she arrived she said the atmosphere w o k e

everyone up.

The march began as a protest for women's rights, but everyone involved agreed that it grew into something larger.

“I was marching for women and reproductive rights, queer rights and closeted queers,” said **Domenica Dalla-Vecchia ('20)**. Another Alma College student, **Bridget Flanery ('20)**, was marching for the environment because she is an environmental science major.

While the Women's March on Washington was the largest event the day after Inauguration Day, there were many smaller marches taking place in solidarity around the nation. **Audrey Karr ('18)** and VEE club members attended the demonstration in Lansing.

“It was powerful and empowering to see the numbers and what people believed,” said Karr. On the other hand, Karr did also consider the negatives of the protest.

She believed white traditional feminists took too much control and need to take a step back and look at what is happening as a whole.

“I am a white woman and I am always critiquing myself,” said Karr.

Dalia Barghouty ('18) echoed similar ideas.

“White feminism alienates black lives matter,” said Barghouty. She discussed the possible influence of white privilege, hypothesizing that police would not fear a rally of white women. This launched the open discussion.

“Most of us [here at the discussion] share similar ideology, but it is important to address differences within the platform,” said Amlotte. An ongoing debate was one regarding the pussy hats. Some believed it created alienation by defining women by their genitals or what color they wear and emphasizing only women's rights.

Alternatively, some said that the pussy hats are a recognizable symbol of comfort and support, similar to the safety pin. Chih-Ping Chen, professor of English and women and gender studies, was at the event, but stayed silent until the end.

“It is important for the students to be owning their leadership,” said Chen. “This conversation shows students a r e thinking long and hard.”



Theatre tries out a farce with ‘Rumors’

ALINE BATAWI
STAFF WRITER

The theater department’s first performance of the semester intends to excite and entertain the audience with improbable situations and exaggerated characters. Its presentation of Neil Simon’s farce “Rumors” challenges the actors to portray their characters in a physical and emotive way.

“This play is very different than what we’ve done in the past,” said **Anna Dillingham (’20)**. “The process is different because we’re using an acting technique to create more physical aspects of characters rather than internal.”

In the past, the department has opted for classic productions. The acting technique necessary for a farce is unfamiliar for some of the actors.

A farce is a type of comedy characterized by its physical humor and outlandish events that occur typically in one location. In this case, ‘Rumors’ has one complete set with many doors and stairs that the actors run up and down.

“I’ve never done an actual farce before, so this was different for me,” said **Jessica Peters (’17)**. “It takes a lot of energy and the chemistry between the cast has to be really good.”

The need for chemistry has resulted in the cast growing very close. According to Peters, the cast is very supportive of each other.

“We get excited for each other, but we also share our pains together,” said Peters.

The support that the cast members give each other has made this show easier for some of the new actors.

“The cast knows it’s my first time acting and how nervous I am,” said **Susan Dumont (’20)**. “They always give me words of encouragement and advice on how to get better, which I really appreciate.”

According to Dillingham, all of the actors have their moment in the show that’s center stage. Everyone gets an opportunity to shine.

“It’s been really cool to see how we’ve all developed into our characters and grown into them,” said Peters.

A farce requires extreme exaggeration of characters which can be physically demanding for the actors.

“I’ve had trouble being as loud as I need to be for this show because it’s not something I’m used to,” said Dumont. “I’ve been doing vocal warm-ups to get my voice to the volume it needs to be at.”

Although this style of acting might be different, the actors are embracing their opportunity to play characters they might not usually get to play.

“It’s fun to bring that much energy to the stage,” said Peters.

The actors have found that in order to effectively portray a character in a show like this, it is important to find ways to relate to the character.

“It’s impossible not to have one thing in common with a character,” said Dillingham. “You can always find some way to relate.”



Actors **Maxwell Flagler (’18)** and **Anna Dillingham (’20)** will share the stage this weekend at the theater. The play opens Thursday and continues through the weekend.

Domenica DallaVecchia: Photographer

According to Dumont, the characters have a broad range of personalities and are everything you could ask for in a play.

“The characters are serious, crazy, sarcastic, narcissistic, funny,” said Dumont. “The characters are great, and the actors make them even better.”

It’s essential for the actors to bring a lot of energy to their characters on stage, but they rely heavily on the energy from the audience, too.

“Each audience is different,” said Dillingham. “The energy is traded between the actors and the

audience.”

According to Dillingham, the audience’s reaction is the best part about comedies. The actors can feel when the audience isn’t responding in the way they hoped they would. The audience is an important factor for a farce.

“If the audience isn’t enjoying it, you can feel it in the atmosphere,” said Peters. “If it’s low energy, it affects us.”

However, the cast anticipates that this won’t be an issue and that the audience will have fun watching this play.

“I hope the audience will be

laughing throughout the whole thing and that they’ll enjoy it as much as we’ve enjoyed working on it,” said Dumont.

According to Dillingham, the best part of this process is opening night.

“The best feeling is opening night because you put so much time and effort into perfecting your character,” said Dillingham. “The energy from the audience is rewarding.”

Opening night is this Thursday at 7:30 p.m. with performances through the weekend until Sunday.

Facilities responds to Gelston Hall burst pipe

ROSE CYBURT
STAFF WRITER

A Sodexo employee reported seeing water streaming down the sidewalk by Gelston Hall near the bathrooms Jan. 31 at 3 a.m. The source was not easily visible, so facilities called the city to shut the water off in the building.

Students were informed of the situation and those who lived in Gelston had to use either the bathrooms in Newberry or by Joe’s.

According to facilities, the break was due to old age.

“It is no different than the city’s water line bursting in the street,” said Doug Dice, director of facilities and service management. “My guess is that the pipe was from about 1954.”

Dice wasn’t informed of the situation until 5 p.m. that evening. By then, he was already home and Brandon Smith, energy management engineer, had called a contractor to assess the situation.

The water line that broke was located seven feet under the porch to VanDusen. “After we

assessed the magnitude of the break, we realized we couldn’t leave the building with no water and decided to work through the night,” said Smith.

The area and equipment were mobilized by 7 p.m. and workers began digging to expose the pipe. “The pipe was made from ductile iron, which is a brittle metal,” said Dice. Facilities contacted the city to obtain the repair coupling necessary which arrived at around 11 p.m.

By midnight, the water was back on. After flushing out the

dirty water from the pipes, students were able to use Gelston’s bathrooms and laundry rooms.

The water did not only leak outside though. According to **Hunter Sharrard (’18)**, three rooms had water in them as well.

“Facilities worked hard and got everything cleaned up and all the water out by midnight,” said Sharrard. He also said that no student has mentioned any damaged items from the flooding.

Students also helped to carry out the rugs that were soaked, but they were left in the Gelston

lobby for a few days.

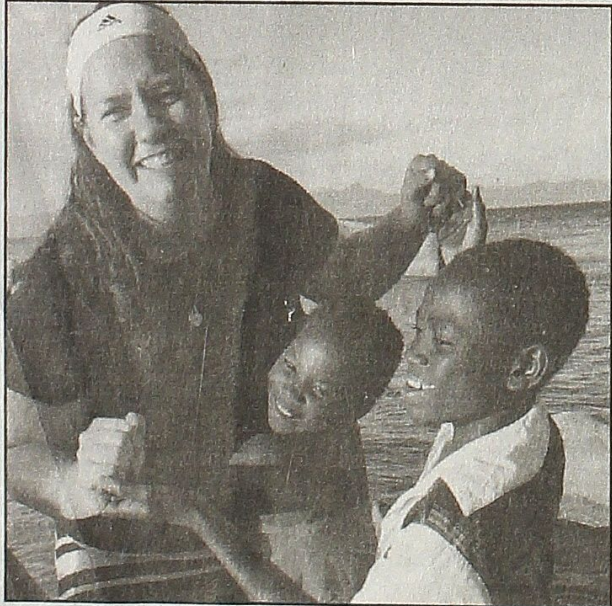
The pipe was left exposed until last Monday, February 6th to confirm the break was repaired and that there were no other leaks. Temporary concrete was poured over the hole.

“We will not be doing a permanent repair until the spring,” said Smith. “It is necessary to have consecutive 50 degree weather to [properly] repair the area.”

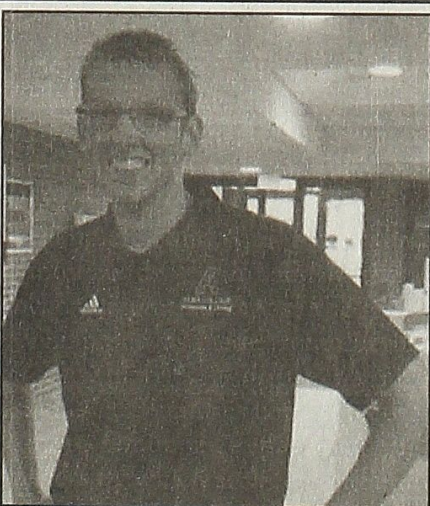
The emergency exit is still accessible, but plans are being made to demolish the stairs and rebuild them.

Campus Comment

How do you feel about the confirmation of Betsy DeVos?



ALI HOLMQUIST (’17): “I think Betsy DeVos will have detrimental effects on the future of education. She has spent decades trying to undermine public education. It is frightening.”



NICK FULLER (’17): “As an education major I am worried about what DeVos will attempt to do to public education, as she has no personal or professional experience in the area. I am most concerned about her advocacy for vouchers, as that could help to defund public schools and place money in unaccountable private schools.”



DEVE WISHART (’18): “Betsy DeVos, is, in my honest opinion, a disaster waiting to happen. Her level of misunderstanding and idiocy when it comes to pedagogy leaves, upperclass, such as DeVos.

unfortunately, nothing to the imagination. I am not a particular fan of the public school system itself, however the state of it currently is nothing compared to the havoc that I honestly believe Betsy DeVos wishes to wreak. Her lack of experience as either an educator, or in the public school system in general is horrifying. Her plans to destroy the public

school system in favor of charter schools will only further divide this country. Education should be a right, however under DeVos and the Trump administration I think that it will be seen as a privilege earned only by the elite.

Betsy DeVos’ Neurocore problem

By Hannah King
Campus Editor

There are seven locations in Michigan that are home to a company known as Neurocore. Neurocore Brain Performance Centers offer a unique service: brain enhancement for those with mental issues from autism to anxiety.

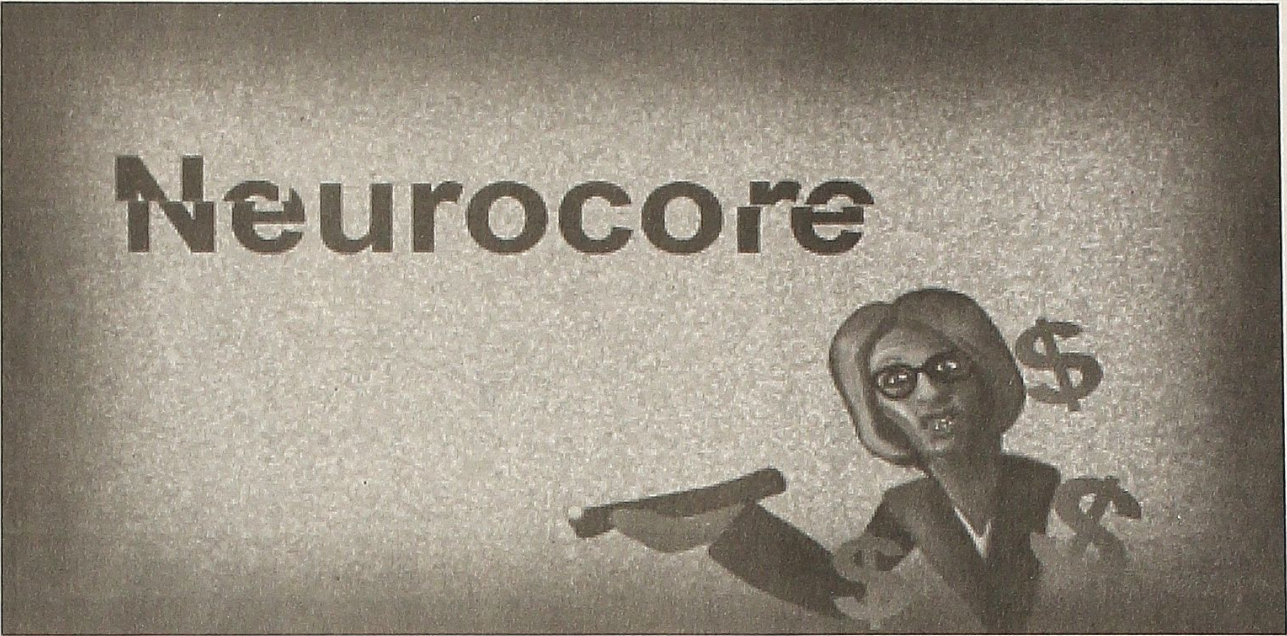
The training goes as such: a person suffering from mental impairment picks out a movie. They watch the film and “scientists” monitor the individual’s brain activity. When brain function goes out of the “therapeutic” range, the film is paused. This interruption is supposed to induce a recovery of attention to the movie. One session lasts 40 minutes and a total of 30 sessions is the supposed longevity of the treatment.

The therapy is targeted at children: the malleability of brain cell growth is greatest in youth. It seems simple, but that brings me to two arguments.

My first is that this concept, as outlined on the company’s website, is insanely simple. “Scientists” pause the video based on the amount of activity detected on an electroencephalogram, known an EEG.

I put scientists in quotation marks because these employees do not need to have any specialized training. In fact, you can buy one for at-home use for around \$1,000. Neurocore does not hire doctors, which attracts suspicion—they hire social workers.

So, parents with a child struggling with a cognitive



Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

Betsy DeVos’ involvement in the company Neurocore is unethical, says campus editor Hannah King.

disability could easily administer this training at home if they really wanted to, and it would cost \$2,000 less than going through the procedure if they do not have the proper insurance.

One report of the experience claimed that it cost families over \$3,000 and was a complete exploitation of their situation.

Also reported in this review was that the contract between the customer and the company was incredibly binding. Neurocore must be paid whether the procedure meets expectations or not.

This brings me to my second argument: the treatment does not work. According to a New York Times article, these brain tracking techniques—known as biofeedback—do not have therapeutic benefits for of the conditions claiming to be treated. Blanketing one treatment over such a wide spectrum of cognitive disabilities and illness is not medically correct.

One woman who underwent the

treatment was denied insurance to cover it. The insurance company informed her that this denial was due to the Michigan insurance department officials reporting that biofeedback is not an established therapy or medical necessity.

A professor of psychiatry at Ohio State University, Dr. Mark Arnold, conducts intensive research on biofeedback and found no solid evidence for effectiveness and that it could result in headaches and disrupted sleep. There is no federal approval for psychotherapies because most do not directly affect the body, so the lack of regulations allows Neurocore to continue illegitimately collecting money.

On top of all of this, Neurocore has been reported to be a poor employer. Workers who have a master’s in social work are paid less than \$20 an hour, and they oversee an entire team of technicians who are

also not qualified. One technician and recent college graduate at the clinic in Sterling Heights said that some of his colleagues were still in school but that getting paid \$10 an hour is “better than working at McDonald’s or Wendy’s.” To compare working at a fast-food joint to working in a “clinic” where children with cognitive disabilities are “treated” is appalling.

Betsy DeVos, the chief investor of Neurocore, was sworn into heading the chief position in the Department of Education this week. She claims that she will remove herself from the Neurocore board but will retain her investment in the company. DeVos claims this investment to be “between \$5 billion and \$25 billion.”

DeVos’ inability to see the issue here is indicative of much deeper problems. But DeVos should not tend to these problems at Neurocore because my studies lead me to believe that biofeedback does not cure capitalist corruption.

Sampha’s “Process” is an exciting, emotional debut

By Zac Cahill
Thoughts Editor

I’m completely new to Sampha. I had never heard of him until a friend recommended this album to me. Apparently they were new to him as well.

Sampha Sisay is a London-based singer, songwriter and producer, and is fairly new to the popular music scene. Despite this, his rise to prominence has included working with artists such as Frank Ocean, Solange, Drake and Kanye West.

He had an EP released in 2013 (which I have not listened to yet), “Process” being his debut full-length album. And what a debut it is.

“Process” is many things all at once. It is a deeply felt bit of electronic pop and R&B music, crafted with an eye for exact detail. Sampha’s production style is sleek yet bold, it shimmers but never fails to leave a mark on the listener.

The most obvious influence of “Process” is fellow brit James Blake, whose production style seems have been a jumping off point for many of the songs. Tracks such as “Reverse Faults,” “Under” and “Incomplete Kisses” feel as though they would have been right at home on a James Blake record, at least in their instrumentals.

Luckily, however, this does

not end up becoming a liability on the album. Sampha’s voice, a beautiful accented falsetto, moves wonderfully throughout the mix in most cases, leaving most tracks

“Timmy’s Prayer” hits particularly hard, talking of a failed love which still keeps the speaker “prisoner.” The first verse alone his heartbreaking, as

chorus.

There are also several small moments throughout that feel a bit out of place, such as the first track’s seeming inability to properly kick



Sampha’s debut album “Process” is textured and deeply felt pop music. Use this QR code to listen to lead single “(No One Knows Me) Like the Piano.”

Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

feeling unique despite the obvious influences.

“(No One Knows Me) Like the Piano” is a shining point, a slow, touching ballad with no other instrumentals besides Sampha and a piano. On an album awash with synths and sequenced beats, this is a well-needed breathing point.

Other high points included “Blood on Me” and “Timmy’s Prayer,” with both tracks merging catchy head-bobbing beats, but with vocals that are downright depressing.

Sampha sings “my vital organs are beating through/my ribcage opened, my heart ballooned/ I’ve lost another one/I’m on the floor trying to dress my wounds.”

The album is not without its faults, however. “Kora Sings” features an annoyingly scattered instrumental, making the mix too busy to be effective as a cohesive song. “Under,” featuring the most obvious James Blake rip-off, never finds its own voice despite a catchy

the album off. I actually considered stopping and trying something else, until the track got more interesting a couple minutes in.

In the end, however, “Process” is a deeply felt, exciting debut for Sampha. It is becoming increasingly hard to make a name for oneself as a unique producer (especially in the world of R&B post “Blonde” and “A Seat at the Table”), and Sampha does an excellent job of adding his name and unique voice to the roster.

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HOROSCOPES

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

Quotes from civil rights leaders for the signs

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



“I would just encourage everybody to just talk your opinion more, allow other people and fight for other people to [express theirs].”
— Killer Mike

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



“Silence is for fools. Communication is for leaders. Justice is for those brave enough to not stand another moment dealing with people that feel the solution to any problem is through cold indifference because of their lack of courage and insecurities.”
— Shannon L. Alder

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



“The greatest evil in our country today is...ignorance...We need to be taught to study rather than to believe.”— Septima Poinsette Clark

LEO (July 23- August 22)



“I have great belief in the fact that whenever there is chaos, it creates wonderful thinking. I consider chaos a gift.”
— Septima Poinsette Clark

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



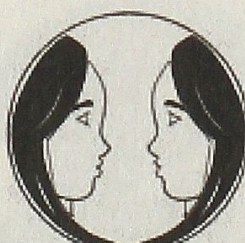
“If there is no struggle, there is no progress.”— Frederick Douglass

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



“There is no noise as powerful as the sound of the marching feet of a determined people.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



“If you’re not hopeful and optimistic, then you just give up. You have to take the long hard look and just believe that if you’re consistent, you will succeed.”
— John Lewis

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



“Remember, you have within you the strength, the patience and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world.”
— Harriet Tubman

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



“If you fall behind, run faster. Never give up, never surrender and rise up against the odds.”— Jesse Jackson

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)



“The question is not if we will be extremists, but what kind of extremists we will be. The nation and the world are in dire need of creative extremists.”
— Martin Luther King Jr.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”
— Thurgood Marshall

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



“Don’t be afraid to speak up. “If you are silent about your pain, they’ll kill you and say you enjoyed it.”
— Zora Neale Hurston

Students discuss P-Global experience

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

They use the program to learn about world through traveling, volunteering



Bergen Jome ('18), history major

Photo courtesy of Bergen Jome ('18)

Q: Where did you go?

A: "Nadi, Fiji"

Q: What did you do?

A: "I worked at the Treasure House Children's Home. I was working mostly with smaller children—infant to five or six years old. I helped older kids with homework when they got back from school. I repainted lots of rooms at the orphanage and helped with laundry, naps and meals."

Q: What was the most fulfilling aspect of your trip?

A: "The best part was meeting people, particularly at the hostels, who had so many stories and adventures. I liked being able to bond with people much older and much younger than me, like my friend Nikki from Australia who's in her late forties: she's the best."

Q: Any advice for students wanting to apply?

A: "Take it all in. Do it. See it all—don't just stay in the nice areas, go to the bad parts of town and talk with the people- respect cultural difference, be happy about being where you are in the moment. Stay off your phone. Take pictures with your eyes and brain instead. Stay in contact with Alma while you're there—Sara Killingsworth is amazing."

Q: Where did you go?

A: "I went to Thailand for my first one, and Cambodia for my second."

Q: What did you do?

A: "Both were animal welfare. Mainly taking care of elephants rescued from the tourism/trekking industry (elephant riding.)"

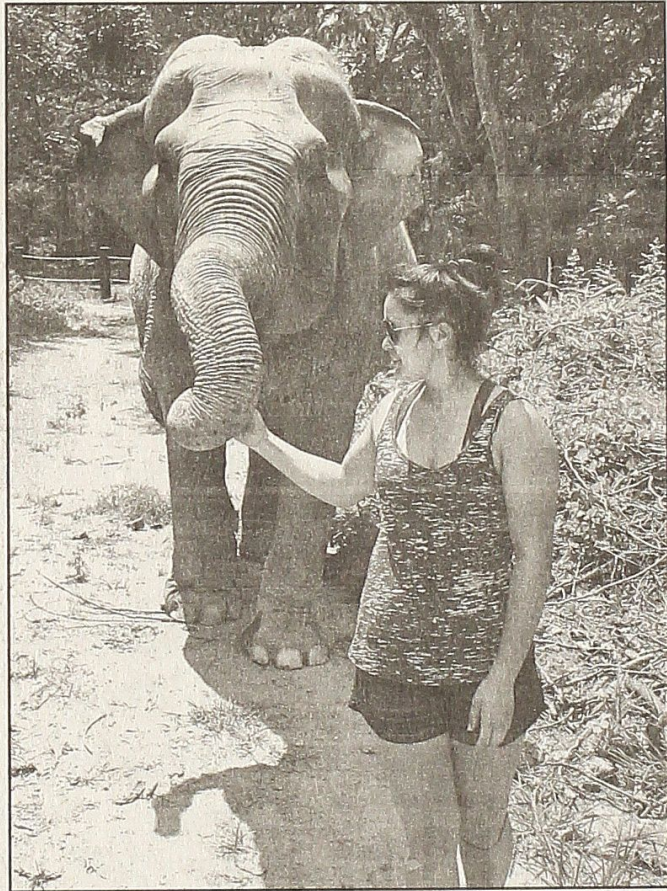
Q: What was the most fulfilling aspect of your trip?

A: "Being around the animals made all of the cold showers, bugs and dirtiness worthwhile. All of the animals were there because of the irresponsible actions of humans, so I was happy to do my part in making the rest of their lives as good as they could be."

"One of the biggest passions of mine after doing my P-Global is trying to educate people on not riding elephants because it's a really inhumane practice. People might be doing it just to get a few likes on a photo, but it just continues to spread the idea that it's okay to ride an elephant—when it's really not."

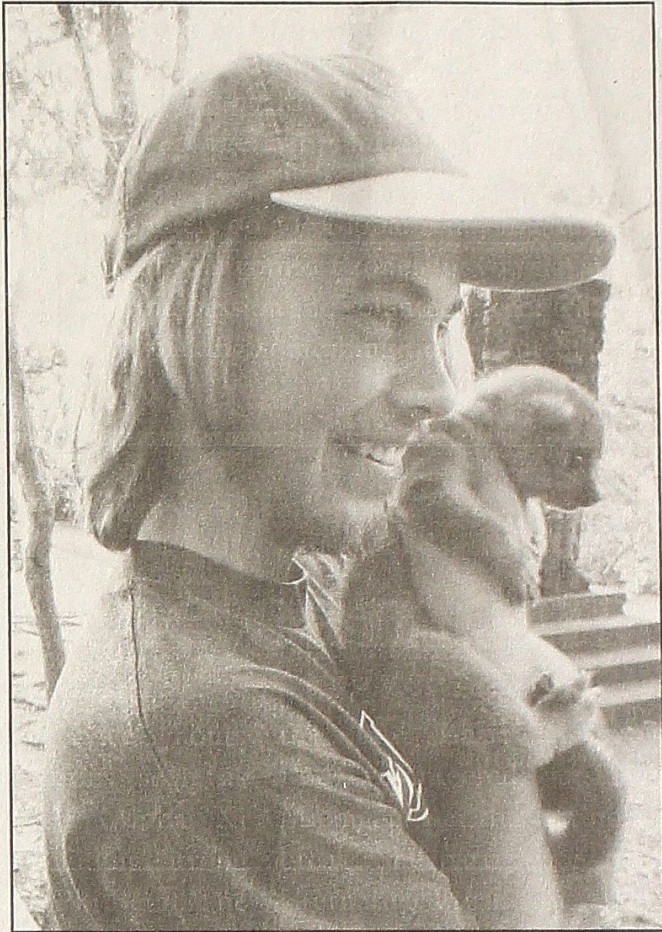
Q: Any advice for students wanting to apply?

A: "I would definitely recommend others apply. I wish I hadn't waited until my junior/senior year. Don't do something just because your friends are doing it, do what you're passionate about. Don't be afraid to get out of your comfort zone whether it be traveling alone for the first time, or going somewhere without general amenities (like hot showers)."



Zoe Lanier ('17), psychology major

Photo courtesy of Zoe Lanier ('17)



Tyler Goerge ('17), biology major

Photo courtesy of Tyler Goerge ('17)

Q: Where did you go?

A: "I went to Belize on a marine conservation project (with **Billy Mulligan, '17**)."

Q: What did you do?

A: "We did a lot of different data collection while scuba diving... we did reef, lobster, conch, fish and invertebrate surveys. That data was sent to the Belize Department of Fisheries to assess the health of the reef. We also did lionfish spearing... they're really invasive and cause a lot of damage on the reefs. They're also working on educating the public on the lionfish problem."

Q: What was the most fulfilling aspect of your trip?

A: "The lionfish part was really fulfilling because we made an immediate impact on improving reef health."

Q: Any advice for students wanting to apply?

A: "Absolutely do a P-Global. They might take you out of your comfort zone, but you can start to find your passion and volunteer to contribute towards making something better out of this world."

Help the community through the campus

By BRIDGET FLANERY
STAFF WRITER

out service and leadership opportunities at least once a week.

Last week, the Service

"It was a great experience being able to learn about other people's lives and experiences while still being able to serve."

Learning Team paired with Entrepreneurs in Action and threw a charity dodge ball tournament to benefit the Red Cross Baby Pantry. Students participated in squads and were able to help the cause in a fun and team building way.

Teams of six to 10 paid \$50 to join the tournament and the proceeds of their fun went to the Red Cross Baby Pantry.

Last weekend, local Girl Scouts were "locked in" to the Stone Recreation Center. They were able to enjoy a fun array of games all night from 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. Alpha Phi Omega, Alma College's co-ed service fraternity, works with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of Gratiot County.

The two groups participate in many events together, and Alpha Phi Omega helped out with their lock-in.

Greek life is another avenue to service work on campus. Many Greek organizations require members to complete

community service hours with organizations such as Autism Speaks (Alpha Xi Delta), and Building Strong Girls (Gamma Phi Beta). The brothers of Sigma Chi join in on the philanthropy fun by holding their annual "Derby Days" to raise money to help fund cancer research.

The program provides an opportunity for off-campus opportunities. Alternative breaks provide volunteer experience during breaks from school, serving as an escape from the Alma Bubble as well as a service opportunity.

It allows students to help within the Michigan area, but it also offers many chances for students to leave

the state. **Laney Alvarado ('20)** volunteered outside of Michigan over this last holiday break. She participated in an alternative break in Atlanta, Ga. Alvarado's trip was aimed at helping victims of human trafficking, as well as refugees.

"It was really amazing to spend the last week of my break helping other people," said Alvarado.

"It was a great experience being able to learn about other people's lives and experiences while still being able to serve."

There are endless opportunities on and off campus to volunteer. Believe it or not, you'll be able to find most of them are right at your fingertips.

Tennis prepares for competitive season

By Emily Krolewicz
Sports Writer

outdoor season rolls around we can be really competitive in our conference.”

Both teams are relatively young—the men’s team has 15 on its roster, nine being freshmen, and the women have 10 total with five being freshmen.

“We are young but hopefully as the season goes on they will become more accustomed to how college tennis is compared to high school,” said Ackerman, regarding the men’s team. He also said that he believes the team has a lot of potential to improve and win matches this season.

The women’s squad graduated three of their successful players last season and are taking advantage of the indoor matches to make team adjustments and personal improvements across the board.

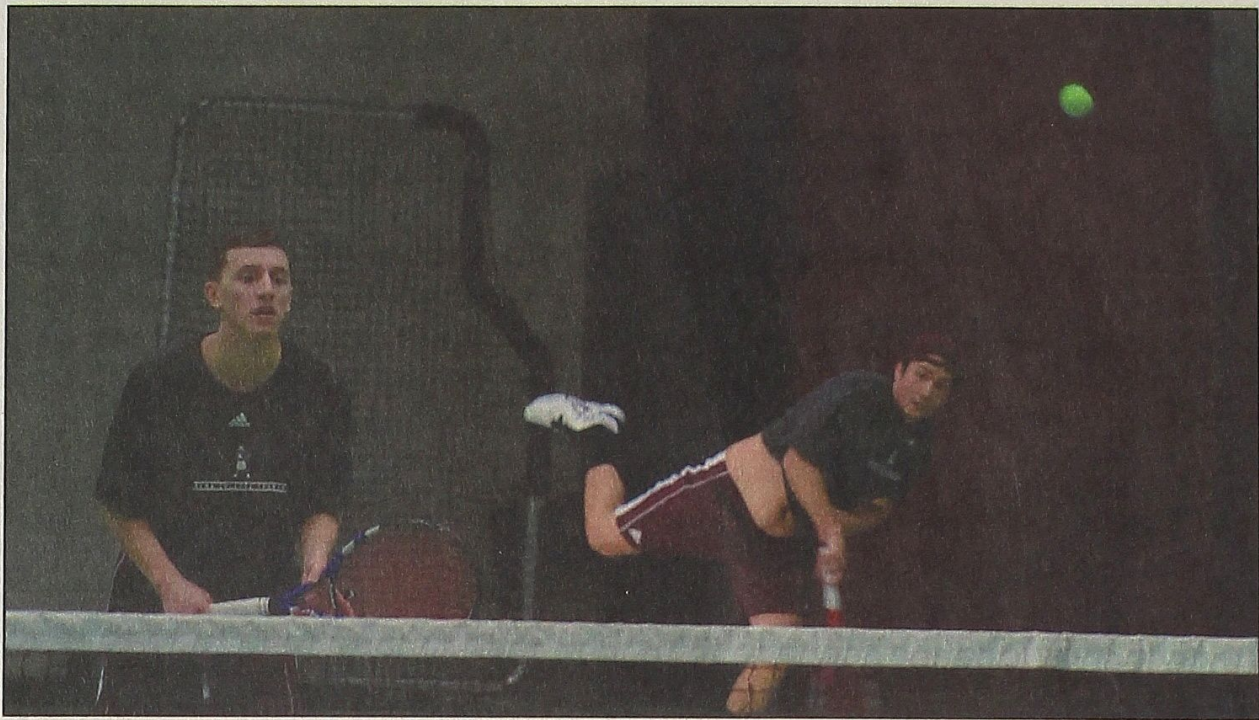
“We have some great freshmen and lots of young talent along with all of our returning players,” said Ennis. “We definitely have our work cut out for us but I think we’re all looking forward to a great

The women’s and men’s tennis teams opened their indoor seasons last week, on Wednesday and Thursday respectively. Both teams lost their matches against Spring Arbor University, with the women falling in a 9-0 decision and the men dropping a close 5-4 match.

Winning, however, isn’t the main goal for either team during the indoor season.

“We use the indoor season to get practice with hitting at a faster pace so we’re better prepared for our outdoor matches,” said **Matilda Ennis (’18)**. “We’re focusing on getting better as a team and playing the best we can with continued improvement throughout the indoor season.”

The men have similar goals. “We’re using this time to get back in to the flow of playing tennis,” said **Noah Ackerman (’18)**. “We focus on basic form and technique so that when



Noah Ackerman (’18) and Grant Hill (’17) play doubles.

Photo courtesy of Jordie Hayes(’18)

season.”

Practicing and playing indoors poses a challenge to the players, as the surface causes the ball to slide more and move faster, Ackerman explained. Players have to make adjustments, and learn to play at a much faster pace, which can be a bit challenging.

“Playing indoors allows us to work on our technique and overall improve our game,” said Ennis. “Competing with the different elements adds a whole

other dynamic to matches.”

Although both teams are relatively small, the men’s team has had to make adjustments to it’s practice structure so each player can focus on different aspects of his game each day.

“We’ve had kind of a rotation with players working out and running while others play practice matches and work on their game,” Ackerman said.

The women are able to alternate between days when they play actual matches, both

singles and doubles, which allows them to pinpoint facets of their personal game that need some attention, and the next day they work to improve those individual aspects of their game.

“Our coaches are awesome about personalizing practices and making our time worthwhile and beneficial,” said Ennis. “They remind us before each match that they care about how we play more than the final score.”

Students start up college sports news outlet

By Brianna Zimmer
Sports Writer

Although Alma College can call many media outlets its own—a newspaper, a yearbook, a number of websites, and formerly, a radio station, none were devoted exclusively to the coverage of athletics. This void was what inspired **Steven Luomala-Kipp (’17)** and a few peers to create one.

Between the Lines is Alma College’s newest media effort, covering campus athletics. It emerged September of 2016 as the passion project of Luomala-Kipp and a group of his friends who liked to talk about sports.

“Between the Lines is essentially a conglomerate of many forms of media,” said Luomala-Kipp. “We have a show, podcast, some blog writing and sports photography, which will soon be on a

website I’ve been creating. It’s essentially a way to organize all of the media in athletics.”

The group’s original idea was to make a podcast where they could talk about sports.

“I’m a sports communications major,” said Luomala-Kipp. “I am heavily involved in working with athletics. I actually run all of the streaming here on campus, anything that is live streamed goes through me so I already have access to camera and equipment, which made it fairly easy to call together my friends and say ‘Hey, wanna talk about what happened in Scots athletics this week?’”

“I am a teaching assistant of a sports information class,” said Luomala-Kipp. “We had about eight people from that class who wanted to help out with the show and they are still helping out this semester even

though they aren’t taking the class. They like sports and they like to learn some of the skills and get the hands on experience with techniques we use when it comes to camera lighting, sound, and post production.

“We meet on Thursdays and discuss the [athletic schedule] email from Tracy Howd and use it as a starting point or outline to see what events happened and what’s coming up,” said Luomala-Kipp.

“We usually try to mention the MIAA (Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association) player of the week honors and try to get them on the show.”

“Harrison and I are always at the games because we do the live-stream, which makes it very easy for us to sit down and talk about the game. We normally have a guest on either a coach or player; we like to get to know

our guest. Not just what’s going on in their sports because that’s common knowledge.”

The effort started as a weekly video podcast posted on their YouTube channel, but it has now expanded into something more.

“I was recruited in mid-August,” said Assistant Sports Information Director and Between the Lines faculty advisor Zachary Russo. “A group of students just wanted to dive in with Alma [College] sports. I’ve been here to help guide the production of the show last semester and now with the expansion to help keep things on track.”

By expanding the organization within the past couple of weeks the members have been able to reach out to many Marketing and New Media Studies majors who know how to spread the word on this new idea.

“Steven has done a great job

continuing and growing the idea, producing and creating content and in the last few weeks expanding on what we’ve done previously,” said Russo.

The group is currently in the process of becoming an official club.

“I applied and sent in a constitution to Student Congress, but haven’t heard back from them yet,” said Luomala-Kipp. “I’m hoping to make it an official club not for the budget, but just for more recognition and awareness.”

“This group provides an opportunity for students who want to get into this line of work,” says Russo. “They are able to get some experience outside of the classroom, which will be greatly beneficial to the students.”

Administrator Howd recognized for hard work

By Joelle Fisher
Sports Writer

Alma College prides itself on the quality and quantity of its educated and well-rounded staff members. Of the staff, special recognition has been made in recent years to the school’s Athletics Administrative Assistant, Tracy Howd.

Howd began her career at Alma College in 2002 as an accounts payable clerk before switching to a position

working with conferences and the mailroom. In 2009, she transitioned positions again and began her stretch as the administrative assistant for the athletic department.

“Tracy was very instrumental in my transition into this position at Alma College,” explained Head Athletic Director Steven Rackley.

“She allowed me to worry about the big picture and acted as my helping hand in every situation. She truly understands what we are trying to do here, where we are trying to go and is always

helping aid in that process.”

Howd’s office in the upstairs of Hogan is never vacant—students and faculty are always there in search of advice, requests or even just a friendly chat.

“Every time I’m in Tracy’s office, I am amazed at how many things she is able to juggle at once,” said **Katie Neiswender (’18)**. “She always brightens up my day and makes everyone’s job so much easier.”

Howd’s main job is to assist the coaches and staff with daily duties, to ensure that the athletic department is running

smoothly. **Miranda Kruse (’17)**, who is a captain for the women’s lacrosse team and representative of the SAAC E-Board, explained her thoughts on Howd’s presence.

“Tracy works tirelessly to make sure all the pieces of our athletic department are up and running every single day. She is so wonderful, and I couldn’t imagine Hogan without her.”

In 2010, Howd was the recipient of the Alma College Presidential Award of Excellence for her diligent work within the college. Following this honor, she was awarded “Support Staff

of the Year” at the 2016 Scotty Awards, voted by the students on campus, for the friendly relations and order she maintains in the athletic department.

“My favorite part of the job is being able to help the coaches and student-athletes on campus,” said Howd. “They work so hard and I love to be able to make it easier on them.”

Rackley added, “We couldn’t do it without Tracy. She truly cares about everyone she encounters and is one of my favorite people.”