

# Professors discuss DACA, Alma

**MONICA KUNOVSKY**  
 WEB EDITOR

President Donald Trump announced on Sept. 5 his intent to repeal The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, also known as DACA, according to CNN. Originally enacted under President Barack Obama, almost 800,000 immigrants who were children when they arrived in the United States undocumented have received protections from this program.

In 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that the act would be authorized to allow certain individuals the ability to defer action, according to CNN. This means that any child brought to the United States before the age of 16 has the chance to have temporary amnesty from deportation.

Although the Trump administration announced it is ending the program, Congress still has six months to decide whether it wants to pass a measure that would continue protections for the recipients of DACA—also known as Dreamers. History professor and long-time immigration activist, Edward Lorenz, weighed in on the DACA repeal.

“I think it is bad that DACA was never passed as a law,” said Lorenz. “President Obama issued DACA as an executive order to overcome the failure of Congress, earlier in the decade to act.”

Stephany Slaughter, chair and associate professor of Spanish and HisCo advisor, also supports DACA.

“DACA is hopefully a break of reprieve from the eminent fear of deportation,” said Slaughter. “This helps immigration offices not prioritize these folks who’ve been contributing to economies and communities, which helps DACA recipients stay and finish their education here.”

Slaughter made a point to state that contributing to the economy or communities isn’t the only measure of worth for immigrants or undocumented individuals.

“Most people seem to agree that young folks shouldn’t be demonized for being brought here when they were so young,” said Slaughter.

“That being said, I don’t want to seem like I’m demonizing the parents either. They made the best choice for their kids. They wanted to give them the best life. People are looking for better lives for their kids.”

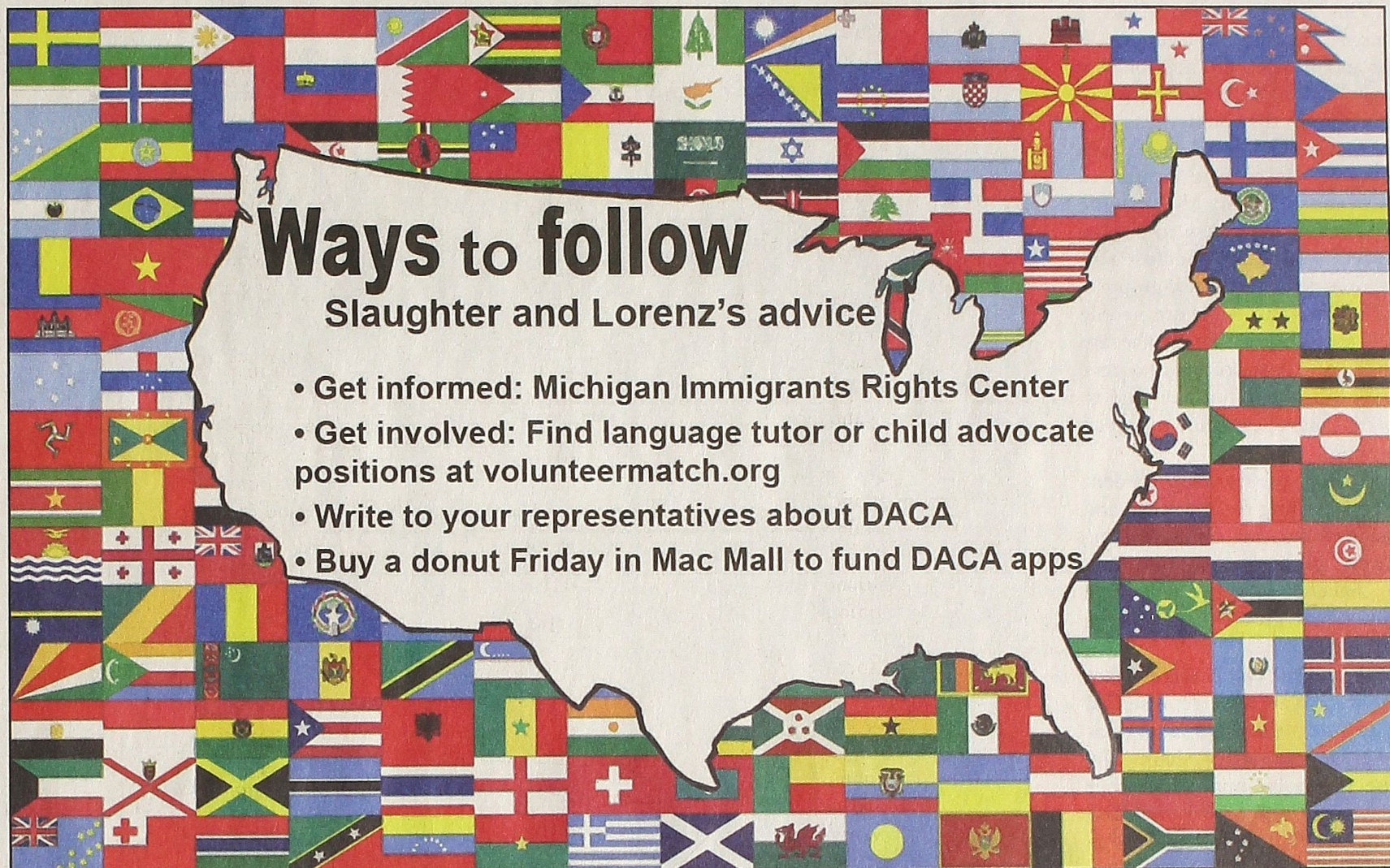
Slaughter listed economic, environmental and governmental issues among reasons that parents bring their families to the U.S..

DACA students “benefit schools because it’s important to have an educated populous,” said Slaughter.

“People living in our borders, regardless of documentation, matter. We can have a productive society if we educate all. If you’re educated you have less a chance to fall into the ‘burden’ category.”

Slaughter uses burden to reference the stereotype that undocumented people often are categorized by.

“These kids who grow up here are Americans—in a socio-cultural sense,” said Slaughter. “They’re here legally studying and



**Stephany Slaughter, Spanish professor, and Edward Lorenz, history professor, advise students on how they can get involved in the DACA conversation.**

*Abigail Fergus: Editor-in-Chief*

working.”

Some view anti-immigrant attitudes as un-American.

“When I look at my passport, which includes a picture of the Statue of Liberty, I think our response to DACA kids is a rejection of our historic commitment to easy immigration—especially of the world’s outcasts—the people who were the ancestors of many of us,” said Lorenz.

He raised the point that many of us can trace back roots to those family members who themselves were also immigrants to this country.

“I know my ancestors were fleeing the German draft and earlier some had fled religious persecution,” said Lorenz.

“They were not well educated, didn’t speak English, and were really poor. Yet, we were a haven for them and they worked hard and told their kids to get an education and help others.”

Slaughter explained why a number of people are against the Dreamers.

“Some people might think it’s good because it would be a return to rule of law. DACA was an executive order.”

Lorenz criticized those against DACA by picking apart common arguments he hears.

“[Immigrants] are poor people, who speak differently and seem a threat to jobs,” said Lorenz. “But they are the people who refresh our culture and often are among the most creative and appreciative citizens if allowed to become documented.”

Slaughter underlined negative effects that repealing DACA could bring.

“What happens when 800,000 people are out of the economy,” asked Slaughter.

Revenue from two-year Dreamer applications would be lost and many of the jobs U.S. citizens overlook and refuse to do are often taken by undocumented individuals, according to Slaughter.

“There’s also a negative impact of how other countries view us,” said Slaughter. “People don’t want

to come to the U.S. because of fear of what will happen if they come here, which is perhaps what the administration truly wants.”

Lorenz addressed the possibility of college students being affected by a repeal of DACA.

“Since there are 800,000 DACA youth, I would assume there is an impact of some of the kids coming to college,” said Lorenz.

“However, the students cannot receive federally regulated financial aid. So a DACA kid could only attend college if they have non-federal funds to pay tuition. Before DACA, Alma had a few students who would have met the DACA rules—being brought to the U.S. as a child and being a good student.”

Lorenz knew one of these

“But they are the people who refresh our culture and often are among the most creative and appreciative citizens if allowed to become documented”

students well, and told of how a pre-DACA deportation affected the college.

“One of those who was a great student—high GPA and premed—had to leave the U.S. and continued her education at a top Canadian university. Deportation was really Alma’s loss and a loss to the U.S. of a brilliant physician.”

DACA’s future appears to be grim, according to Lorenz.

“Perhaps Congress will get its act together and pass a law implementing DACA. But, I’m not optimistic about Congress being able to address such a complicated issue. Based on the president’s later comments, telling DACA kids not to worry,

I think the popular pressure may protect DACA eligible youth; but that is a really uncomfortable status to live in.”

Slaughter has a more optimistic outlook of things.

“Rescinding it doesn’t have all the consequences thought out,” said Slaughter. “Not surprising from this administration—but maybe this can lead to more permanent solutions that protect the rights of all immigrants. This might be what it takes to have Congress work to have humane immigration reform.”

Slaughter admits a negative side too, stating that there’s “increased numbers of families thrust into a deeper state of insecurity than ever before. They’re too afraid of getting picked up by ICE, so they neglect health. A lot of anxiety and health issues arise from this uncertainty.”

Slaughter offered support to anyone in the Alma area potentially threatened by a DACA repeal.

“I don’t know if campus has DACA recipients, but concerning how that student might feel, we need to ask ‘how can we help them?’ I want folks to know if they’re in this situation, they have people here ready to fight on their behalf.”

Lorenz offered advice to those who are concerned with DACA issues.

“I think step one is to become informed about the immigration issue. The vast majority of undocumented migrants in our midst do our hardest, most unappreciated jobs, pay taxes and, in most cases cannot even receive the benefits other taxpayers get from the funds they give the government.”

Slaughter sees a silver lining for this situation.

“What we’ve seen over the last year is people getting more engaged in a political process than I’ve ever seen in my lifetime. Contact representatives. Encourage those who represent us in the government to share our views.”

Slaughter offered steps that students can take to try and stand

against this repeal of DACA.

“One, we can be kind and show compassion,” said Slaughter. “Use privilege in positive ways to help people who can’t: people who could be at risk if they spoke out—use your privilege for that. Two, volunteer. Law clinics might need help. Help dispel myths. Help find opportunities. Get to know your neighbors.

“Institution change is important, too. Contact your reps, create public dialogue. There are different ways to get involved, find your strength and what fits for you—and do it.”

Lorenz addressed the responsibility religious people have regarding DACA.

“If you are Christian or one of the other Abrahamic faiths, you also have an obligation from scripture to welcome the ‘aliens in our midst’ and treat them as fellow humans,” said Lorenz.

“In many ways, those teachings leave us with an obligation to oppose laws and policies that target the weakest in our society and that certainly applies to undocumented young people and the other vulnerable migrant group, undocumented parents of American citizens.”

Slaughter gave a comparison that may help students put the DACA situation into perspective.

“The crime (undocumented or out of status) can be similar to underage drinking. Do people on this campus think they’re criminals? That’s a perspective to take.

“Undocumented persons are not illegal. No one is illegal. It’s important to say undocumented person, because that individual is whole and they’re more than their status.”

Lorenz advocated for alternative breaks as a forum to be involved with immigration.

“I think the college should again support the immigration Alternative Break to Nogales, Mexico, where we actually served food to people deported from the U.S.. Until you meet a deportee, you cannot understand the injustice inherent in our immigration policies.”



## Students for Life get active on campus

**BRITTANY PIERCE**  
STAFF WRITER

Students for Life, part of the national pro-life movement, recently became active at Alma.

The group recently had a kickoff meeting on campus. It has an anti-abortion mission that supports legal prohibition of abortions in the country.

“Our overall goal is to just educate those who want to learn more [about the pro-life movement] and to try to change hearts,” said **Kate Merlo ('19)**, the president of the new group.

“We want to get more people who are pro-life that maybe are afraid or don't know of other [pro-life] people [on campus] to become more active and to spread the word.”

With a plethora of student groups battling for members and preferred meeting times, starting a new group on campus can be challenging, especially for a conservative group liberal leaning institution.

“We are just embracing the fact that we are an underrepresented group on campus and that some people who share the same viewpoint might be either ashamed or feel[ing] embarrassed about their viewpoint and we're just trying to make ourselves known as a positive and loving group on campus,” said **Jared Fleming ('19)**.

However, the group is not afraid in any way of how its conservative roots will fit in on campus.

“[The hardest part is] trying to get our name out there and make sure we are a positive resource on campus and that we can spread our influence,” said Fleming.

“Being the smaller representation on campus, it is inevitable that we will receive some backlash,” said Vice President **Maria Ruedisueli ('21)**.

“But we want to make sure that everyone knows that we want to keep open communication and that we want to respect everyone's opinion and also ask for the same respect back for us.”

Historically, the pro-life and pro-choice groups have clashed, but this group hopes to end the hostility between the two communities.

“We want to ease the tension between the two groups and create a common understanding

to promote and support life,” said **Payton Hirschenberger ('20)**.

The group has big plans for its first year. In two weeks, members will chalk up campus with pro-life messages just in time for homecoming.

Throughout the rest of the year, it plans on watching

videos, movies, slideshows, guest speakers and having discussions

related to the pro-life movement.

“I know I've talked to a few people who would be willing to teach [members] how to vocalize their opinions and vocalize why they are pro-life,” said Merlo.

“I'm really open to other people's ideas too; I really want everyone to be involved.”

Outside of meetings, the organization plans on

participating in service acts such as making blankets for expectant mothers and volunteering at the local pregnancy center. Potentially, it may participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., as well.

Members are also asked to wear pro-life shirts on the first day of every month. Before the group will be officially recognized by the

college, it needs five participants, an advisor and a constitution, which it will need to present at a Student Congress meeting.

Students for Life at Alma will hold biweekly meetings Thursdays. The next meeting is Thursday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m. in the lobby of the Swanson Academic Center. Meeting date, time and location are subject to change.

## Presbyterian U.S.A. reverend speaks on privilege

**ROSE CYBURT**  
STAFF WRITER

Denise Anderson, reverend and co moderator for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., gave a presentation in the Chapel last Wednesday.

She represents two minorities within her faith: being a woman and a person of color. Anderson and her partner are not only the first co-moderators, but also the first female moderators.

Ninety-five percent of Presbyterians are white, but Anderson believes that tradition needs new voices.

“Minorities can't expect to grow in institutions unless change is perpetuated,” said Anderson. “By 2060, every ethnic group will increase except for whites, leading

to a decrease from 77 percent to 68 percent in the population.”

The topic of Anderson's speech was how to reconcile between races and ethnicities and understanding what privilege is. She started by discussing how Christianity is racist; not because Christians are bad people, but because racism is so entrenched into their culture.

“Racism is not personal, but systematic,” said Anderson.

She differentiated racist acts that the church has committed from what those who aren't in the majority are capable of: prejudice.

“It began with the Doctrine of Discovery that legitimizes the European monarchy taking other colonies,” said Anderson.

This lead to the Treaty of Tordesillas between Spain and Portugal agreeing that only non-Christian lands can be “discovered” with the goal of

conversion. This extended to the United States with the idea of manifest destiny, according to Anderson.

The attitudes of owning other people and the genocide of cultures inspired the concept of “othering.” Anderson explained that society must examine the dominant cultures, which are generally white. This dominance has led to the implicit bias of maintaining dichotomy. This is the assumption that the non-dominant culture is the opposite.

The example used during the presentation was considering the dominant culture to be hardworking; therefore, the other cultures are lazy. Dichotomy can also be applied to the saying “black lives matter.” This example suggests that white lives don't matter, according to Anderson.

Othering is what divorces different ethnicities from building

relationships.

“The most important idea is perspective taking,” said Joanne Gilbert, professor of communications and new media studies, who offered extra credit to students who went to the speaker and wrote a response.

Not all of Gilbert's classes relate to the topic, but she wanted to “induce students to attend, especially in this highly charged political climate.”

Anderson asked the professors and students who attended what they believed reconciliation meant. Answers ranged from healing to bringing opposites together and inclusion, but Anderson wanted to address radical reconciliation.

Being a religious speaker, Anderson related radical reconciliation to the story of Jesus.

“He came down and

lived through what humans experienced,” said Anderson. “That is what people need to do with other ethnicities.

“Exchanging places does not just mean understanding oppression or listening or even empathizing. No group of people are the same,” said Anderson.

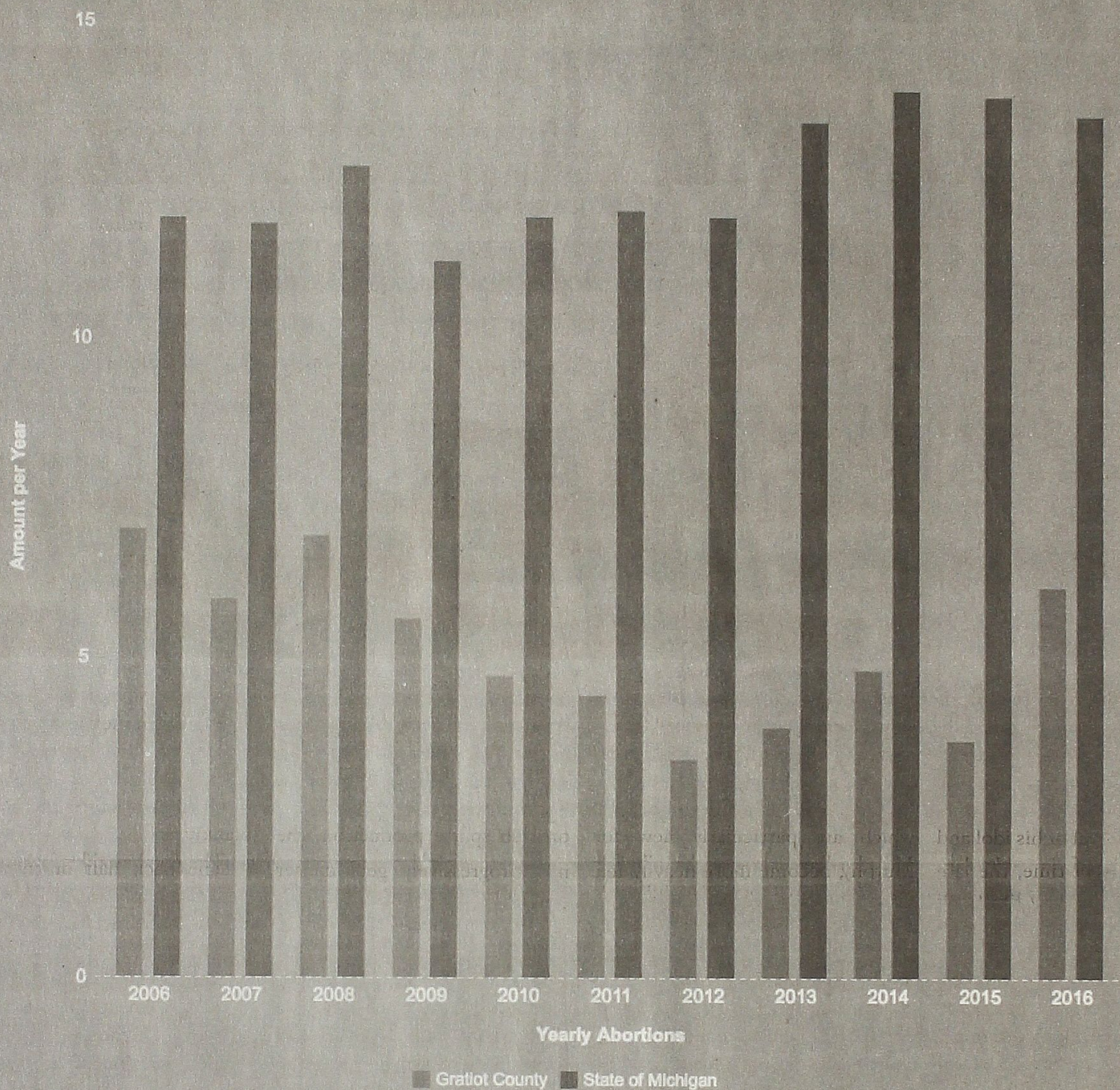
While those are important, Anderson's focus was on humanizing others by taking the risks they have to live through.

“I always feel like people should take every opportunity to learn about other people and try to understand them,” said **Laney Alvarado ('20)**, who attended the talk.

Anderson mentioned occasions where white people were killed while supporting people of color, including the death of Heather Heyer, who was the victim during a Charlottesville rally against white supremacists.

### Gratiot County and Michigan Abortions within the Past Decade

Rates are per 1,000 females ages 15-44



Statistics on abortion rates were gathered from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Shayla Crawford: Illustrator



LCD Soundsystem makes triumphant return with ‘American Dream’

James Murphy and Co. returns with a record that is both immensely enjoyable and deeply emotional

By ZAC CAHILL  
COPY EDITOR

LCD Soundsystem broke up in 2011. It was kind of a big deal. Then they rolled out their final album.

The impeccable “This Is Happening,” embarked on a farewell tour and sold out Madison Square Garden for their final show, which ran for over three hours. There was a movie – “Shut up and Play the Hits” – documenting that show and the following day in frontman James Murphy’s life. Later, a special edition vinyl recording of the concert titled “The Long Goodbye” was released. LCD Soundsystem was done.

Done, that is, until recently. After a special Christmas single in 2015, and a few shows in 2016, Murphy – LCD’s main architect, producer and songwriter – announced that 2017 would be the year of a new LCD Soundsystem album.

Comeback records, as any fan of a band that has gone through a hiatus at some point in its career can tell you, are tricky. Even trickier, when the dissolving of the group is such a public spectacle.

For Murphy, the revival of LCD Soundsystem – certainly one of the most critically lauded bands of this century – was not a decision he took lightly. It took the approval of his idol and friend for a brief time, the late David Bowie, to finally push him the rest of the way to making the decision.

The other thing for Murphy to consider, as certainly anybody writing a comeback record must, is that no matter what the album sounds like, there’s going to be a fair amount of positive and negative hype. You can’t come out of retirement to put out some B-sides and a few retreads of old ideas. It’s gotta be quality to please the die-hards.

Luckily for James Murphy and co., their latest record, “American Dream,” is immensely satisfying. Neither a rehash of previous songs nor a drastic departure from form, “American Dream” finds balance between the two extremes. It sounds unmistakably like an LCD Soundsystem album, but there’s certainly not another like it.

This is made abundantly clear on the album’s opener, “Oh Baby,” a loose re-styling of Suicide’s 1979 single, “Dream Baby Dream.” It comes in with tinny, plinking pianos which remain at the bottom of the mix for the song’s entirety. Atop them come warm, reverbed synths atop which Murphy sings. That’s where the song gets interesting.

He practically croons here, and the song becomes a lovelorn



Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

LCD Soundsystem said they were over -- “American Dream” proves they aren’t. Scan the QR code to hear the song “Tonite” from the album.

breakup song; simultaneously searching and exhausted. It’s a delivery entirely new to an LCD Soundsystem track, and one which suits the subject matter beautifully.

From there, the album unfolds itself into one of the best LCD Soundsystem albums to date, and certainly the most sonically diverse. Always open about his influences – go back and listen to “All I Want” and then Bowie’s “Heroes” back to back – Murphy wears them even more prominently on his sleeve this time around, channeling Talking Heads, New Order and Berlin-era Bowie, among others, as well lyrical nods to fellow NY rock-poets Leonard Cohen and Lou Reed.

All these influences, none of which are particularly new for Murphy, become more heavily felt on “American Dream.” While this could easily become a trap to fall into – nobody wants to listen to an hour of blatant idol worship – LCD avoids the trappings of simply emulating their influences by the sheer force of the unique weight the album generates throughout its ten tracks. For an album obsessed with endings; endings of relationships and friendships and of moments and the lives that experience them, Murphy’s role as de facto caretaker of past musical ideals is both welcoming and emotionally impactful.

Not all songs take this approach, however. “Other Voices” and “Tonite” are both classic LCD Soundsystem tunes, self-conscious and schizophrenic dance tracks with a dramatic flair to each of them. “Tonite” is the better track of the two, with its poppy bass synth rhythm and a beat so sharp it could cut, it features Murphy in his lyrical element, with lyrics about the state of popular music right alongside thought-provoking stanzas on the finite nature of life: “and there’s improvements unless/ you’re such a winner/that the future’s a nightmare/and there’s nothing I can do/nothing anyone can do,” all delivered with an unrelenting sincerity.

Coming in five songs deep, “How Do You Sleep?” is the album’s

centerpiece, a nine-minute epic about a dead friendship, most likely Murphy’s previous business partner at DFA Records, Tim Goldsworthy. It starts with a spasmic, echoing beat. James sounds like he’s singing from the bottom of a well, his voice cracking as he shouts his lyrics, which range from sentimental – wondering whether if they saw each other they could pretend nothing had happened – to darkly condemning – “you warned me about the cocaine/then dove straight in” – with the constant being his frantic delivery.

And then there’s the drop. Coming after nearly five minutes of such sparse production, the mix progressively gets denser and noisier for the remainder of the track, nearly smothering Murphy’s voice in its oddly danceable rhythms. It’s a moment of supreme catharsis that takes hold of the otherwise bleak track, making it one of the better cuts they’ve ever recorded – like, this drop is “Dance Yourself Clean” good, maybe better.

Similarly, the album’s title track finds Murphy singing behind walls of cascading synths, belting out his lines, presenting a scene of the morning after a romantic encounter, the pain inherent in the event and how disappointing it may be while considering death of the ideals of his youth.

Other highlights include the steady, similarly obsessed-with-the-death-of-a-period-of-life “i used to,” and “emotional haircut,” a barn-burner of a rock track with fuzzy guitars and an initially comedic premise – aging rocker gets a bad haircut – that doubles as another treatise on the more existential perils of the situation: “you’ve got numbers on your phone of the dead that you cannot delete/ and you’ve got life-affirming moments in your past that you can’t repeat.”

And then there’s the closing track, the nearly 13-minute

“Black Screen,” a eulogy of sorts for Murphy’s idol-turned-friend David Bowie. With a low, sequenced beat that plods along and stabs of rising and falling synth leads – sounding, in an interesting way, like the closest James Murphy would bring himself to being stripped back – he sings in the quietest voice he can muster.

He sings of his relationship with Bowie, sounding downright heartbroken. “Saving email trails” from their correspondence and lamenting his limited involvement in Bowie’s final album “Blackstar”: “I had fear in the room/so I stopped turning up.” He concludes that his friend “could be anywhere on the black screen” which he now stares blankly at.

The back half of the song is even more affecting than the first, purely instrumental, with a fuller, pulsating beat and some piano, played about as if improvised, seemingly in refusal to end the song despite the knowledge that it must. This is not the bittersweetly triumphant coda at the close of “New York, I Love You...” nor the sincere “farewell and goodnight” in the form of a dance track that is “Home.” It is simply a sadness, an acknowledgment of an intensely profound loss.

The ways in which reality clash with our idealistic aspirations; the death of our idols and the departure of the people and sounds we love due to all our mutual aging; a sense of futile understanding in the face of it all. And still dancing despite it. These are the sounds and emotions which make up the landscape of LCD Soundsystem’s “American Dream.” As Murphy sings on the title track: “look what happened when you were dreaming/then punch yourself in the face.”

It’s a beautiful record, a return which proves itself to be not only warranted, but necessary. In a year which has been excellent for music, James Murphy and co. have deepened their mythology as one of the great bands with achieving the near-perfect comeback record, a record which is also the best album of the year thus far.

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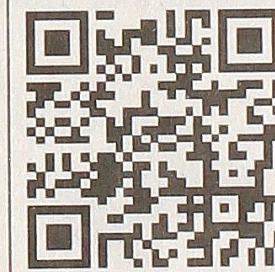
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Complacency harms others, continues world’s trajectory

By ABIGAIL FERGUS  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

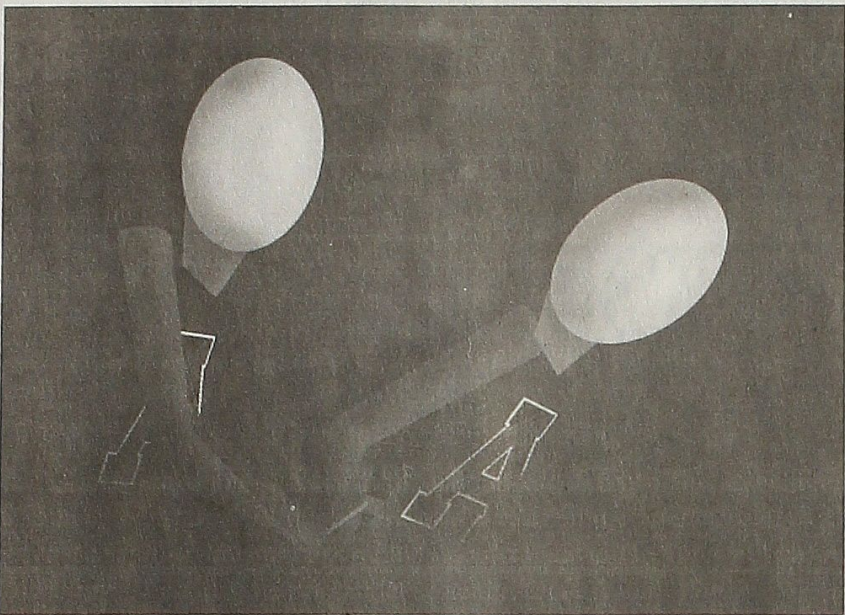
In high school I had shallow dreams and didn’t care. I was fortunate enough to have the ability to ignore most issues, because they didn’t affect me.

My friend Emma implored me to help her run a recycling program at our high school. I had the time, but I wouldn’t help her. I only did things for myself.

That was an unfulfilling time and I am ashamed to look back on who I was. I am grateful to have been woken up during college. I have many friends and faculty to thank and most of them would probably hunt me down out of fiery bashfulness if I listed them, so I will refrain.

These people, though, know who they are and have humbled me into understanding the advantages I have in life that were not worked for. They taught me to be a leader and a listener and a supporter- whatever was needed to support others in their struggles.

College to me has meant both increased involvement with the world around me and more frequent battles with my mental health issues, but overall I am happier in this life. This life entails stress induced teeth grinding at night and the



Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

**Ignoring the voices of marginalized people will only cause the problem to grow, according to Abigail Fergus. Complacent majorities obstruct the efforts of marginalized groups.**

occasional anxiety attack and a lot of counseling. But I have a purpose and I am comfortable with myself and I know that others are fighting for better communities, nations and worlds too. They’re doing more than I could dream of. They remind me to keep on going. Many of them have fewer resources than being white, affluent and middle class affords me. On campus these people take part in groups such as MCSU, CCAN, HisCo, VEE Club and Public Affairs.

Unfortunately, many students

are not compassionate and active like those in these groups. I gave up on Chapel after my freshman year, because not only was I made to feel like an outsider, but I couldn’t convince others to get out of the chapel and engage with campus.

When I play Ultimate Frisbee and have a pointer for younger players, I need to turn to a guy on the team to voice it. VEE Club’s protest against Trump’s wall last year was met with faceless calls from dorm rooms of “Build a Wall!” The demographics most

likely to commit sexual assault on campus don’t take responsibility for Title IX advocacy or education.

For change to be made, those who are marginalized need support from those who are listened to. Chapel kids would need to stop forming cliques and go out of their way to get to know people they perceive as different from themselves.

Ultimate Frisbee players would need to stop scoffing when a girl or a non-athlete makes one poor play or offers advice to others or tells someone that their game play talk is intolerant. Students would need to call out and educate their friends when they make intolerant or uninformed comments on topics such as immigration. Fraternity brothers would have to seriously engage with each other on Title IX issues and maybe even join a SlutWalk.

Most of the voices shouting on this campus, in this nation and throughout the world, however, are the people who don’t have institutional power. They are intelligent and full of perseverance. They don’t need the majority demographics to teach them how to do anything, but they could use the power that these demographics have.

If caring for fellow humans is not enough of a motivator for you, remember that these and other issues can come for you down the line. Marginalized groups are like the canary in the coal mine. If you carelessly ignore them when they are suffering from oppression, the same problem will grow.

When anti-Semitism went unchecked, the holocaust was committed and its end required war and more death of all types of people. Today the water quality of St. Louis and Flint are ignored, which sets a precedent for corporations and governments to continue contaminating all of our water. Today the plight of Syrian people and Rohingya Muslims are ignored by economically able countries until enough people are killed that the formerly unwelcoming countries let the suffering peoples in, except they didn’t plan ahead so taking in mass amounts of people causes difficulties.

We can learn from these mistakes now. Alma is not suffering from such atrocious issues as those mentioned in the previous paragraph, but we have the same pattern going and the future is in our hands. Believe your marginalized and hurting fellow Scots. If not for their sake, remember that issues grow and expand in influence when gone unchecked.

HOROSCOPES

By MONICA KUNOVSKY  
WEB EDITOR

Advice for the signs

CANCER (June 21- July 22)

This week may hold rejection of some sort. Cancers being sensitive and not taking this rejection easily might become full of fear and sadness because of it. Some things are unavoidable and hard to deal with. But surround yourself with good company and remember things change and nothing is permanent.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)

You don’t always have to work hard to try to NOT be like others. You’re not selling out or being ‘unoriginal’ by giving up the ‘cool guy’ act and just catching a break relaxing and being like others. Not everything has to be ‘original’ and unique—it’s impossible.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)

This week it may seem like you have nothing under control. Things are changing too fast and you can’t process or accept the fact that some of these changes are permanent and things won’t be able to go back to how they once were. Try not to isolate yourself because of this. Challenge yourself to embrace change.

LEO (July 23- August 22)

Leos love being the center of attention, so this week you might feel a little salty after not being the focus of everyone’s lives. No matter how confident, Leos do feel the need for validation and approval of others’ — no matter how small or large. So Leos, remember to remind yourself that you’re not forgotten. People have busy lives and can’t always show 100 percent how much they care, but they do.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)

Aries are good at hiding their emotions around people they know. Seeing it as a sign of weakness, they try hard to keep it in. Anyone who is close to an Aries knows though that they’re actually very sensitive and emotional people. Don’t bottle it up Aries, it’s okay to show emotions, so try this week to make sure you’re venting and doing healthy things to get rid of stress.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)

School is hard and so is everything else, at least it seems like especially so this week. It may seem tempting to drift away into a fantasy land and engage in behaviors that lead to escaping from these hardships, but you are strong and you can handle more than you believe you can. Just keep trekking. Challenge yourself to face some of these issues you’re having this week and resolve them.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)

Although Geminis have a hard time focusing on one thing at a time, they have a knack for getting things done. Yet they always fear that they haven’t done enough. Take time this week to make a list of all you’ve done and make peace with the fact that you underestimate your abilities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)

This week you may feel as if no one needs you, whether it’s helping someone study or having a friend vent to them. Virgos are good at helping others because it distracts them from thinking of their own problems. Don’t get discouraged Virgo—take this break as a sign to work on yourself. Face the fears of your mind and try to work through some things you’ve been avoiding.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)

This week is may seem like all your hard work is going to waste. Capricorns put a lot of time and energy into everything they do. You may have doubt because this week has just wrecked your confidence, but dear Capricorn don’t give up quite yet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)

Tell people how you really feel this week. Don’t be afraid to not hold back, potentially hurt others’ feelings (if you’re telling the truth about something that’s been bothering you), or getting something off your chest. You may want to uphold the balance but doing that causes unbalance within yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)

Don’t be afraid to open up to only get hurt, you might surprise yourself some time and actually find someone willing to listen and accept who you are. More than likely, you will find good people who will love and accept you for all that you are!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)

Don’t be afraid to stop making vague promises and just be honest with things. If you can’t make an event, or can’t help a friend out—just say NO.



Two new themed houses added to campus

By PAIGE DANIEL  
THOUGHTS EDITOR

The Animal Welfare house and the Green House for Environmental Studies have been added to campus this year and offer new opportunities for involvement to the student body. You may have noticed lighted windows in the greenhouse on West Superior Street, or wondering what happened to Theta Chi's old house on Mechanic Street.

The idea for an Animal Welfare house arose when a group of students went on an Alternative Break to Harlan, Kentucky, for a service learning project. The program concerned the care and well-being of domestic pets, particularly dogs, in notably impoverished conditions. Harlan is known for having many dogs chained outside on short leashes without shelter, according to **Madison Webster ('18)**, one of the residents of the house.

"We walked around the community and tried to educate people on how to take care of their pets," said Webster.

On the alternative break, she joined others building dog houses to donate, bought the dogs straw for extra warmth, and provided tires to act as food and water bowls. The dogs were often dehydrated because their owners used bowls that were prone to spilling water; utilizing the more protective option of



Zack Baker: Photo Editor

**Madison Webster ('18) and Aline Batawi ('18) stand in front of the new Animal Welfare house.**

tires would prevent that.

Sarah Dehring, associate athletic director, supervised the alternative break and became the advisor for the animal welfare house.

"They had a passion for animals before [Harlan], but that trip really helped them open their eyes to what they can do to educate [others]," said Dehring.

Webster and her friends were inspired to create the house after their experiences in Harlan and are preparing to start new initiatives related to the house.

"We were paired with a shelter and we start our volunteer work next month,"

said Webster.

Their goals for the house include educating campus on proper pet care, encouraging volunteerism at Gratiot County Animal Shelter, collecting pet food to donate, and spreading information about adopting pets instead of breeding them.

Though the animals that are their central focus are domestic pets, they are also interested in addressing inhumane treatment of farm animals. They hope to acquire a therapy pet for the house and want to continue their project in Harlan by building more dog houses.

While the Animal Welfare house builds dog houses, an actual greenhouse has been built

behind the environmental house in conjunction with the Stuffed and Starved FYS.

According to house manager **Jacob Templeman ('19)**, a composting system has been set up in the greenhouse and herbs and spices are growing.

When it comes to the actual house, however, Templeman has hopes for more environmentally-friendly modifications to the way it is run.

"One of the goals that I personally have for the house is to develop it to be used as an example for how to live sustainably," he said.

This includes recycling

and composting, making sure to turn the lights off when not in use, installing and increasing the usage of solar panels, and stocking the fridge with locally-sourced food products.

These sustainable practices have been advertised around campus by Climate Change Action Network (CCAN); a group of students from CCAN expressed interest in the creation of an environmental house for two years before it was achieved. The house affiliated with CCAN and the environmental studies department.

The unit's advisor, Assistant Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies Amanda Harwood, believes the house will represent the importance Alma's campus attributes to taking care of the environment.

"I feel that having [this] house provides a unique resource for students engaged in activities which promote environmental health, the campus, and the local community," said Harwood.

She wants the house to become a resource for the hosting and sponsoring of events that will help benefit all three of those groups.

As the year goes on, these houses will settle in and become fixtures on Alma's campus. The environmental house can be found at 517 W. Superior St., and the Animal Welfare house can be found at 711 Mechanic St..

Looking back

By CADEN WILSON  
STAFF WRITER

In 2001, the United States experienced the largest terror attack in the history of the nation. We examined old editions of the Almanian to see how that staff covered the event.

The rock was painted with the worlds "Stand Together"

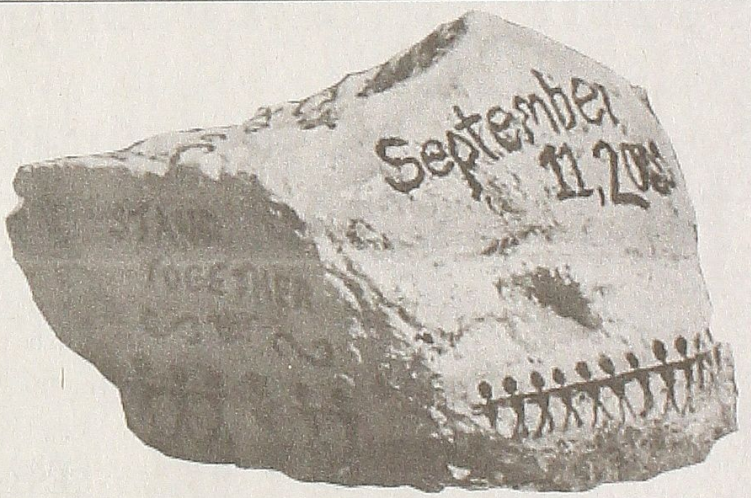
as well as "September 11, 2001" while the base was bordered with a line of small figures, holding hands.

Several candlelight vigils were held and a sunset procession ended in the Chapel where students shared thoughts, stories and prayed

for the victims' families.

A Staff Editorial entitled "Our Turn" addressed the possibility of war.

"Our first move involves squashing ignorance," the editorial reads. It dared students to question the truth presented by reactionary sources and to consider the effects of military actions.



Letter to the Editor: Writer seeking change

By GABRIELLE ALTER ('19)

While reading the article "I'm paying for freethinking, not day care," there are several points that I would like to make in response.

I believe that many students have not taken advantage of the aspects that make Alma College a liberal arts college because of how they are seen on campus.

For example, one student applied for a P-Global and was rejected—they believed that the basis on which they were rejected was that the program advisor was biased against them. There is a relationship between those who have been involved in Public Affairs, the Honor's Program, and have taken a P-Global. Some of these students have taken more than one P-Global when some have not even taken a single one.

Is that fair? Why should a student, who is possibly too busy with classes, work, socializing, and organizations be judged as not taking advantage of the liberal arts programs that Alma offers?

Students are halted at every point for trying to make a change; this is something that is true, however, some points must be taken.

First of all, as was said "Other leaders do the same and more as me, but we are a minority of the student body and we are halted at every turn," it is important to note that many individuals who are not taken seriously are not because of their age and how many individuals have accepted that fact that they're helpless in these situations. It is difficult to get past this amount of learned helplessness that many

individuals are exposed to and accept due to societal norms.

Drinking is something that I've been exposed to more while on my semester abroad. Particularly due to the fact that the (overseas) University sells alcohol and the drinking age is 18.

At the University of Aberdeen, it is acknowledged that there is going to be drinking and it's not going to be supervised. Many individuals learn their limits early—this is not seen in the States and is one plausible reason as to why the administration does not want there to be drinking without security personnel.

A plausible solution is declaring some dorms "dry" and others "wet." In order to be placed in a "wet" dorm, students should have to be over 21 and there should be RAs who know

how to deal with drunken individuals.

Cameras are an issue that needs to be addressed, however, it needs to be done in a town hall setting with all involved parties. These parties include: Dr. Jeff Abernathy, Dr. Karl Riche, Mr. Dave Blandford, Mr. Toby Pickelmann, Dr. Lynn Krauss, and Ms. Ann Hall.

The main question is: why were these installed and will they be used? There needs to be open communication between students, faculty, administration, and the board of trustees. The board of trustees also needs to have open communication with students because many times, members don't hear the whole story and need to.

We can't point fingers at who needs to be at fault for the

assaults. Does this mean that all students are innocent? No. Does this mean that changes need to be made? Yes. Are all individuals who are involved in Greek Life responsible for the assaults? No. When the Slut Walk occurs, whose houses are knocked on? Fraternities, the president's, and sports houses. This places the blame on men, when women aren't always so innocent. Just as much as women can be victims, men can also.

I'm not afraid that I've ruffled some feathers. I want change and I want it before I leave. That is under two years. The majority of us are legal adults; we can make our own decisions and maybe one of them should be to make a change about where we recommend our friends attend college.



# Athletes relax, practice faith via FCA

By BRIANNA SORIANO  
SPORTS WRITER

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) provides an opportunity for athletes to meet a community of people with common values and interest in athletics. With the group's first meeting starting just last week, FCA looks to form lifelong relationships among its members.

"I joined FCA freshman year because some of the older girls on my team were involved and I was looking for a place to be with and learn from other Christians," said basketball player **Emma Towers ('18)**.

"It's been really valuable to get to know other people's stories. I love it because it's so laid back and fun; everyone just wants to support each other. Life can get really busy, especially when people are in season, so it's nice to have a place to go and relax and meet people like you outside your current circle."

Although all members hold different beliefs, FCA looks to make a connection within its members through the



Photo courtesy of Laura Kastler ('18)

**FCA group (from right to left) Emily Hinsman ('18), Madaline Barnauskas ('19), Emma Towers ('18), Jared Fleming ('19), Mason Ippel ('20), Jake Curtain ('19), Laura Kastler ('18), Kassi Adams ('17) enjoys the boardwalk a traveling sports trip.**

Bible. FCA creates an outlet specifically for those who have an athletic background.

"We have many different beliefs through the members of FCA, but we believe in trying to live like Jesus Christ and learn from the Bible and its teachings," said **Jared Fleming ('19)**, the group's coordinator.

"It is a belief of Alma FCA that sharing your faith comes through relationships and caring about one another. We do that all across campus and we try and love and hear everyone's opinion. No one is not loved by God, so why would our thinking be any different?"

FCA meets every Tuesday night at 9 in room 228 of Hogan.

Although most meetings occur in Hogan, last week's meeting was moved to the Art Smith Arena because of the large turnout of athletes. With over 60 members, FCA looks to continue to grow.

"I decided to try FCA because of the people I knew who were involved, and because it will provide a chance to devote some time to faith during the week,"

said **Ben Luzar ('18)**.

"There were some younger players on my team, who were interested, and I thought it would be great if I could join."

"I enjoyed listening to the lesson and connecting with new people. I am looking forward to more of that throughout this year."

# Spirit Squad brings new opportunities for students

By JOELLE FISHER  
SPORTS WRITER

As the 25 sports teams continue to thrive at Alma College over the years, the athletic department decided it was time to bring something new and unique to campus. The college is now welcoming the addition of the Spirit Squad.

The Spirit Squad will be a co-ed, sideline cheer team throughout the fall and winter semesters. The purpose of creating this new team is to give

Alma's students on campus an extended opportunity to cheer as an Alma College Scot.

Lindsay Ford will be the new coach of the Spirit Squad. Ford cheered on Alma College's Cheer and Stunt team all four years of her undergraduate studies, and stepped in as the assistant coach for the team last year before taking on this position.

"The competitive cheer roster fills up so quickly every year and it is so hard to turn away talented students," said Ford.

"This new team will allow

an increasing number of students be involved and put their cheering talent to use."

The Cheer and Stunt team has a hefty roster of 36 women. After the formation of the Spirit Squad, the Cheer and Stunt team will strictly be involved in drop-in competitions and cheering at home football games.

The Spirit Squad will cheer in events such as home volleyball games, home basketball games, the homecoming parade and any community event requesting cheerleaders. These two teams will be completely separate—members will not be allowed to

switch between the two during the season.

"This is something that we have been working towards for a long time and I believe that it will be a great addition to our already thriving sports department," said Ford.

"I have been cheering my whole life and I wanted to continue cheering in college, said **Kaitlyn Greenfield ('21)**.

"This is going to be a great experience for my new teammates and I."

After the first tryout of the fall season, the squad has accumulated 11 individuals to

join the team. Ford will be holding one more open tryout in the Sherman Cheer and Stunt Facility on Wednesday, at 7:15 p.m.

"I wanted to join the Spirit Squad to get back into cheer, but also to bring excitement and spirit back into our school's home games," said **Abigale Harrington ('20)**, a new member of the team.

"I think others should feel encouraged to embrace this opportunity because it is a great way to make friends and get more involved on campus with teams."

# Winter and Spring teams work hard in off season

By JOHN DURGA  
SPORTS WRITER

This fall, multiple sports squads are taking advantage of the limited time together as a team to improve during non-traditional seasons.

"Fall ball is a great way for the team to get back into playing and being competitive as well as a good time to really build team chemistry with our new players," said Ashley Johnson, head women's lacrosse coach.

Having a good team

chemistry can lead to shared goals and drive, say coaches. These factors can give a team extra upside when traditional seasons start.

"It really helped me get to know the team and how things work and make a lot of close friends," said **Tommy Huckle ('21)**, freshman lacrosse player.

College athletics often require a different mentality and work ethic than high school teams, coaches say.

"Non-traditional season can give new players a chance to get used to playing a sport year round unlike just a single season in high school," said Brett Knight, athletic trainer.

"It gives them a chance to adjust to the work load of school with a sport."

"No one goes to college solely to play a sport. The bigger plan is to get an education and graduate. The chance to adjust during a less strenuous season gives new players the chance to

save themselves a lot of headache by working through new issues with coaches and advisors."

Fall ball seasons aren't just about adjusting to school and making new friends. Coaches use this time to do all they can with their players.

"Fall ball is all about intensity and competition," said Jake Sabol, head basketball coach.

"It gives us a chance as coaches to see where our players are at and to push players to get better."

These non-traditional seasons are important to coaches as it's a time for them to put in their expectations and the systems they use. Without the knowledge and practice that players gain in the fall, putting together a successful team can be much more difficult from a coaching standpoint. Overall, non-traditional seasons give teams a chance to gain a competitive edge and get better.