

Students share on drinking off campus

ROSE CYBURT
 STAFF WRITER

Thursday nights are considered “bar night” at Braveheart’s Pub in Alma, because drinks are half off. Wayside in Mt. Pleasant has pint nights on Tuesday where a pint is half off and on Friday nights women don’t have to pay the cover fee to get in.

Students that are 21 years of age or older have multiple options to drink off campus at decent prices, but they still need to plan for a way to get there and back.

“Drinking off campus is inconvenient due to the lack of transportation,” said **Mandee Henkel (’18)**.

“Most of the time my friends and I stay on campus.”

Within the city of Alma, there are no Uber or Lyft drivers. The limited options include Speedy Cab, Chippewa Cab and a designated driver (D.D.) service. If those aren’t viable for students, they either walk or have a friend be a D.D..

“I generally walk, but if I need to, I call one of my fraternity brothers to come pick me up,” said **Scott Scriptor (’17)**.

“Most of the time I call for a ride because it is too cold to walk and not because I’m too drunk.”

The designated driver service is willing to drive students and people from Alma to bars and back. There are multiple cab services in or near Mt. Pleasant, but only Chippewa Cab is willing to drive students back to Alma.

“I was scared riding with Chippewa Cab because of the

poor driving,” an anonymous source said.

“I will say that some of the taxi cab drivers in Mt. Pleasant are pretty creepy and I’ve had a lot of weird experiences with male drivers taking us to Wayside,” said Henkel.

Students frequently walk to and from the bar in downtown Alma on bar night.

“The walk there always seems longer than the walk back,” said **Noah Slater (’19)**.

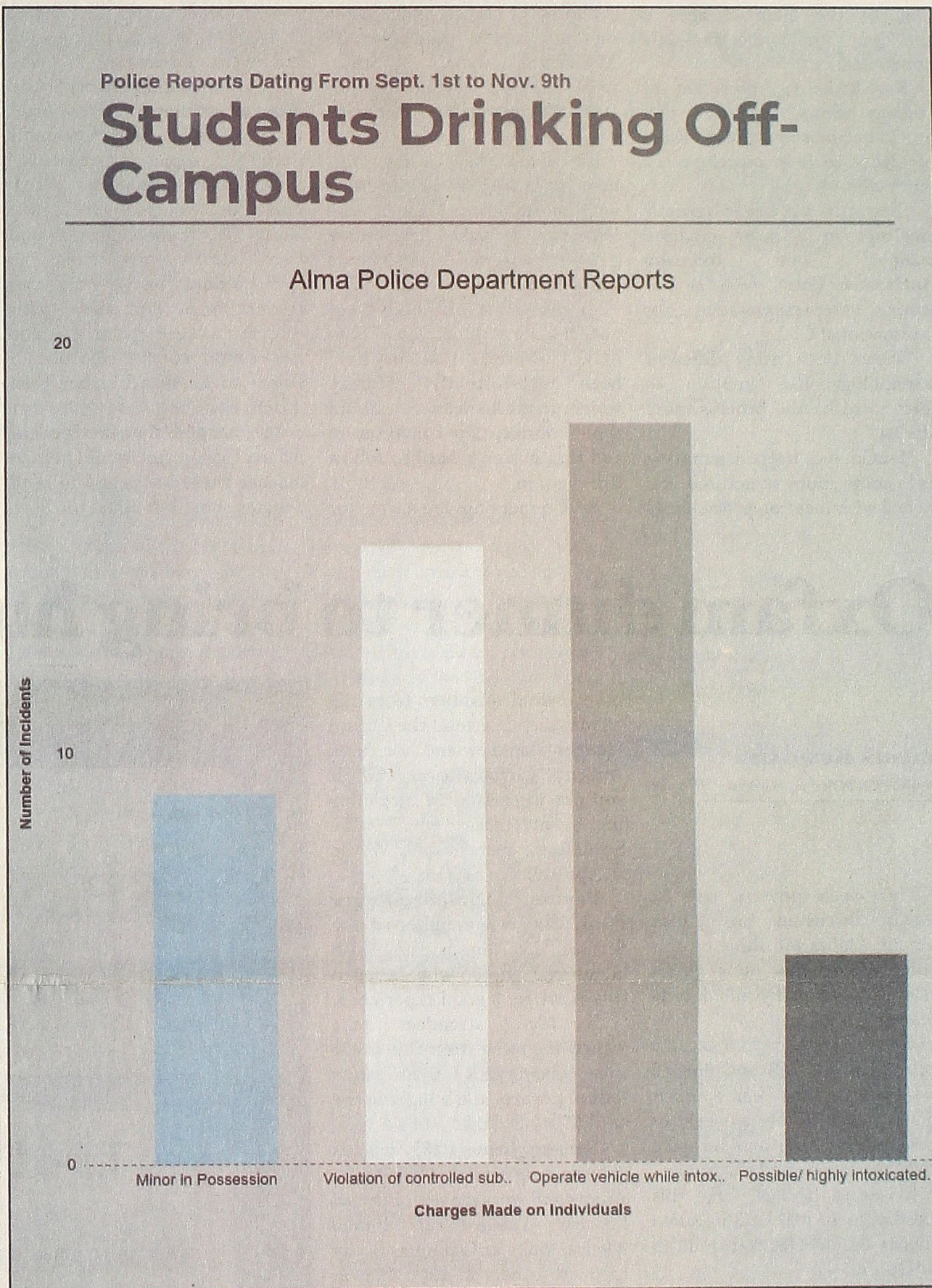
In Michigan, public intoxication is treated as a social ill and not a crime, but in the Michigan Penal Code section 720.167 a person is considered a disorderly person if “a person who is intoxicated in a public place and who is either endangering directly the safety of another person or of property or is acting in a manner that causes a public disturbance.”

“I know about public intoxication, but I’m never concerned about it,” said Scriptor.

“If a person seems to be incapacitated, but isn’t acting disorderly, police can still take the person into protective custody. I always walk in a group just to be safe,” said Slater.

The Alma Police Department posts daily updates on incidents that have occurred the previous day. Since Sept. 1 of this year, there have been nine minors in possession reports, 15 violations of a controlled substance, 18 reports of operating a vehicle while intoxicated and five possible/highly intoxicated subjects.

In Student Congress last week, president Tyler Eible (’18) shared that a representative from Uber is interested in establishing a service in which students 21 or older could serve as drivers.



Shayla Crawford: Illustrator

Statistics from the Alma Police Department public records show incidents related to intoxication since classes began. This data reflects all of Alma not just the college campus.

“It’s okay to be white” posters pockmark campus

BRITTANY PIERCE
 COPY EDITOR

Over the past week, students and staff have reported seeing “It’s OK to be White” posters in various locations around campus, including on the chapel doors. This is not just a local occurrence. These posters have been spotted on colleges and universities all across the country last week.

The phrase is connected with the white nationalism movement and originated in a 4chan.org chat room on Oct. 31.

According to Eric Kaufmann, a professor of politics at Birkbeck University in London, in an interview for the New York Times, white nationalism is “the belief that national identity should be built around white ethnicity, and that white people should therefore maintain both a demographic majority and dominance of the nation’s culture and public life.”

Allegedly, the purpose of the posters was to demonstrate that that statement would be considered racist.

“I asked my students in REL 280: African-American Religion

what they thought these signs meant, which is when someone looked online and found out it was a national 4chan campaign to upset supposedly liberal college campuses,” said Kathryn Blanchard, professor of religious studies.

“I think most of us agreed that these signs might be considered a ‘microaggression’—that is, it’s not false that ‘it’s okay to be white,’ but it is a fairly obvious pushback from white people who resent the campaign that ‘black lives matter.’”

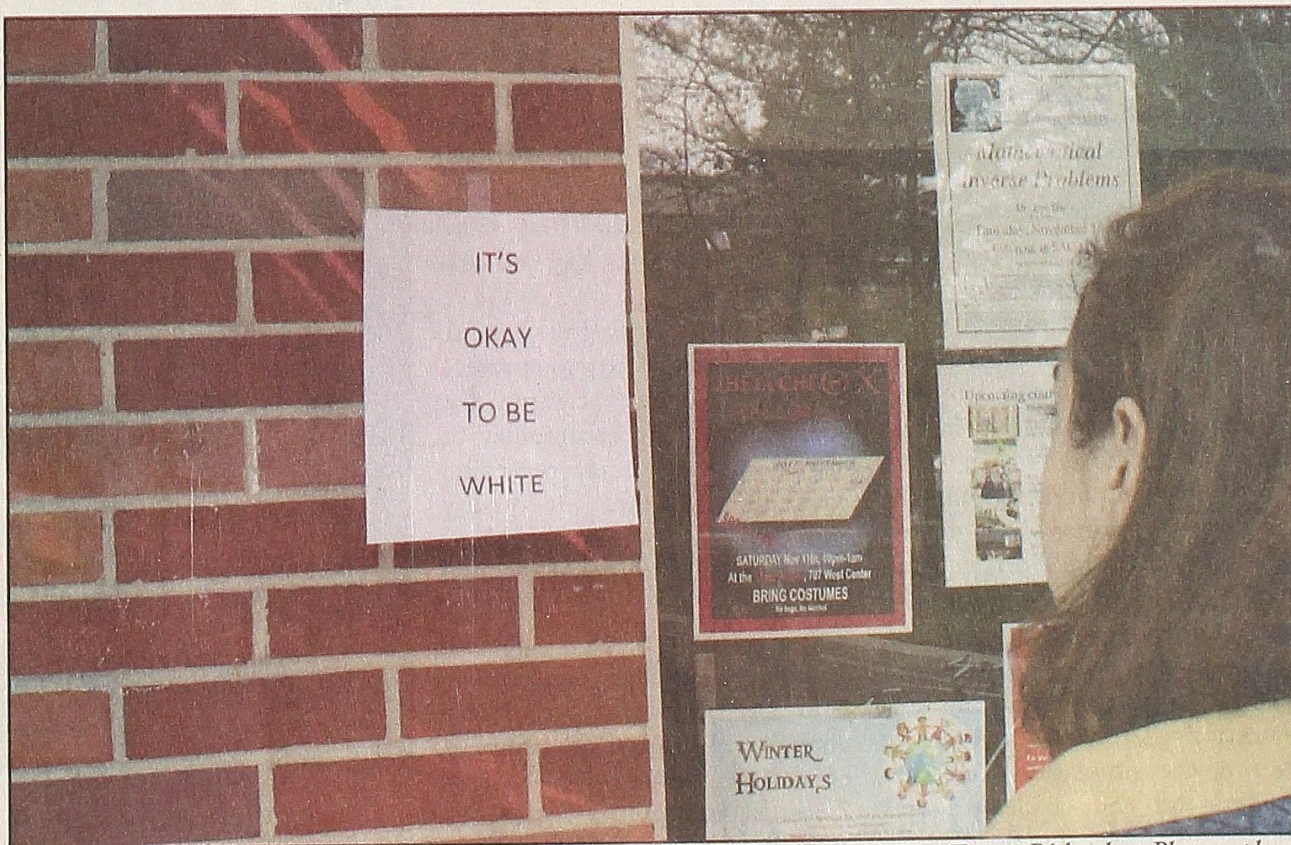
Blanchard does not think that the messages pose a threat to the college or its reputation.

“[The posters] are the work of cowards who are afraid to stand up publicly and say such things,” said Blanchard.

Blanchard also mentioned that the college is carefully considering how to respond to this incident.

“Faculty are wary of responding too loudly, since loud responses are precisely what 4chan is going for. We are thinking carefully about how and when to respond most fruitfully.”

Other colleges and universities have reacted by holding public forums for students and communities or by publicly condemning the incidents on social media.



Taryn Richardson: Photographer

An anonymous member of the community hung posters reading “It’s okay to be white” around campus early on last week.

Blanchard offered a lesson that could be taken away from the poster campaign. She does not think this poster campaign means that the state of society is getting worse. She believes that the first step to improving the current situation is addressing that racial issues are still prevalent in our societies.

“I don’t think America is moving backwards,” said Blanchard.

“We are a country built on racism, and I think it was high time for us to have open conversations about it again. White people like to think that Martin Luther King Jr. fixed everything in the 60s and that black people should just

‘move on’ now from America’s long history.

“But we are still living with the legacies of genocide, slavery and Jim Crow, and every day we don’t talk about it is a lost opportunity to make it better. So, the good news is that we’re talking about it, however unpleasant we may find it.”

StuCo reps weigh in on recent changes

ALINE BATAWI
STAFF WRITER

As the semester comes to an end, Student Congress has been implementing some changes. One of the main changes is the way StuCo meetings are conducted.

Karl Rishe, vice president for student affairs, suggested that StuCo begin using Robert's Rules of Order to help meetings run more efficiently.

"Recently, we began running meetings in a more civilized manner," said **Brianna Barbeaux ('20)**, who is the StuCo representative for International Club.

"We've been using different terminology like 'motion to vote' to make the process more official."

"StuCo has been attempting to become more structured and formal with meeting proceedings

this year," said **Brian May ('18)**, StuCo representative for the Ultimate Frisbee Club.

Because the use of Robert's Rules is still new to StuCo meetings, it has been difficult for representatives to adjust.

"Robert's Rules is catching on very slowly," said **Natalie Murrey ('18)**, StuCo representative for Sigma Alpha Iota. "But people are trying, it's a valiant effort."

"I don't like using this new system because it feels uncomfortable to me," said Barbeaux. "It makes things more complicated and adds more obstacles to the conversation."

"I think that in theory these changes are a great idea," said May. "However, I think they have been inconsistently enforced which tends to lead to certain topics dominating conversation and that makes it hard to follow a discussion."

StuCo meetings are a time for

representatives to be the voices of their respective organizations. However, because there are so many organizations on campus, it can be difficult for opinions to be heard during meetings.

In addition to Robert's Rules, the Student Affairs Committee will tackle the issue of long and inefficient meetings.

"A complication during StuCo meetings is that some reps want to speak their mind repeatedly during a topic introduction," said **Elly Jaquet ('19)**, representative for See Spot Run. "This leads to debates and excruciatingly long meetings."

According to Jaquet, this student based committee pulls representatives from StuCo into a more concise selection of voices to be heard rather than dozens at once.

"I'd imagine that the Student Affairs Committee would help to manage these issues and to keep debates short but equal for both

sides of the topic issue," said Jaquet.

The Student Affairs Committee is led by StuCo president **Tyler Eible ('18)** and is designed to bridge the gap between student opinions and faculty actions.

As StuCo representatives, they are required to attend every meeting and report back to their organizations what they discussed at the meetings. Consistent attendance is important to ensure that every club and organization is on the same page.

"Executive council has become stricter about rep check-in and keeping a consistent record about the clubs involved," said **Cecelia Brady ('18)**, representative for the Catholic Student Organization.

It is essential for reps to attend every meeting to ensure that their club or organization is recognized by Student Congress

and to share their ideas during meetings.

"Even though the new system is confusing, people still talk and everyone listens," said Barbeaux. "When a rep has something to say, it is always considered."

Some representatives feel like they don't have a say in certain decisions.

"I feel as if I and other students may get a reasonable say in little changes, like whether a club receives a grant for a trip or not," said Jaquet.

"With larger changes that seem to exceed StuCo, I feel like my voice is left out because the decision is already made."

"Often times at meetings there are so many reps and varying opinions that I feel my voice is drowned out," said May.

"I think if I really wanted to, I could make my voice heard but sometimes apathy takes over and it's easier to blend in to the crowd of more than 60 reps."

Oxfam dinner to bring hunger awareness

MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

This week poverty will be heavily discussed on Alma's campus. Lights will shine on this problem, not only on a global scale--but nationally and locally as well.

The Service Learning department, ACUB and Stuffed and Starved First Year Seminar will be putting on a week of events showcasing and bringing up discussion around this topic.

To start things off, this Tuesday there will be an Oxfam Hunger Banquet at 6:30 p.m. in VanDusen.

One of the lead organizers, **Maxim Short ('18)**, explained the event.

"Oxfam is an organization that heavily focuses on alleviating global poverty," said Short.

"The Oxfam simulation is a conversation starter for students and the community to discuss challenges and ways to aid individuals experiencing hardships globally, nationally and locally."

Short continued on to say that this issue is important for campus, because poverty is not something Alma is immune from.

"Being a private institution, Alma College is located in one of the poorest counties in the world," said Short.

"18.9 percent of the population in Gratiot County lives below poverty line," said Short.

"This is compared to the national average of 14.7 percent. Our purpose is for students to have a conversation, ask questions and embody an identity during the simulation to better understand the challenges and hardships concerning poverty."

"It is our hope that students will reflect on this experience and engage in service work in Gratiot County. The Service Team has many wonderful opportunities available throughout the year."

Short hopes campus and the community get involved.

"We are encouraging both students and the community to participate in this event. We

have invited members from the community to attend the Oxfam Hunger Banquet and we hope students participate as well. If you are interested in attending the event, please email Sallie Scheide for reservations. We do accept walks in as well."

Payton Hirschenberger ('20), who is a member of the Service Learning team, also hopes that people who come to this event get a good experience.

"I hope attendees take something away from this event that encourages them help reduce poverty and hunger in the world."

Bergen Jome ('18), who is volunteering on behalf of Public Affairs and working with Edward Lorenz, director of Public Affairs, looks at Oxfam as a way to invite others to the table on the discussion of poverty and hunger.

"I hope that students and staff come to this event with an open mind" said Jome.

"There are many great discussions that can be had on the topic of hunger that I think need to be addressed. I believe students will walk away from the event with a new sense of hunger issues around the world and more specifically in Gratiot County."

This is not the first time that Alma's campus has had this opportunity.

"In the 1980s, Dr. Lorenz initiated the Oxfam project on Alma College's campus for students and the community to engage in a discussion regarding poverty, income inequality and challenges communities experience economically," said Short.

"In 2015, Alma College's Service Learning department held the simulation to foster community growth through education. I am very excited for students to experience (on a micro scale) the degree of income inequality and hardships community experience daily. We hope this opportunity will educationally benefit students and inspire them to get involved, stay passionate and drive to make changes globally, nationally, and locally."

"The service team is extremely passionate about this project and we are working with First Year

CSO
SERVICE LEARNING
WEEK OF EVENTS

NOV
13-17
MONDAY-FRIDAY
Presentation in the Library

NOV
14
TUESDAY
Oxfam Hunger Banquet at 6:30 pm in VanDusen

NOV
15
WEDNESDAY
"A Place at the Table" at 7:00 pm in the Clack Building

Shayla Crawford: Illustrator

Schedule of events occurring on campus related to National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

seminar and the Alma College Union Board to provide this opportunity for students and the community. Communication and partnerships are key when it comes to planning an event like this.

Hirschenberger credited Sodexo for helping with the

event as well.

"Planning an event such as Oxfam takes a lot of preparation," said Hirschenberger.

"Sodexo was generous enough to donate the food that will be used at this event, so the only things that need to be paid for are manual labor and tablecloths."

Read more about Oxfam

Chipping away the barrier around Jason Pero's death

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jason Pero, a 14-year-old member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in north Wisconsin, was shot and killed on Nov. 8 by a policeman responding to a 911 report of a suspect fitting Jason's description. The report given stated that a man was walking around the reservation with a knife. I learned about this late on Nov. 11.

I'm moving to Wisconsin in January and I was searching for a group in the area on Facebook when I came across the story. I'm told there was talk on Twitter about Jason's death as well. When I search Google for his name, 283,000 news articles pop up. Women's Indigenous Media on Facebook has shared about the story and the Bad River Band has been posting regular updates. A friend of mine in Wisconsin has shared the story on his personal page and now I see that today a vigil will be held to remember "Baby Jay."

This past summer I spent five weeks on the Bad River reservation learning about Ma'iingan (the Anishinaabemowin word for gray wolf). I'm recommending updates for the tribe's Ma'iingan management plan as my senior thesis. This is to try to help the band protect not just the gray wolf, but a brother to Anishinaabe (including Chippewa) Indians.

Wolves are sacred to the Anishinaabe and the fate of the wolf is intertwined with that of the people. I'm still amazed every day that the band has entrusted me with the honor of gathering input from stakeholders and offering my own as well, because Ma'iingan is so intimately important to these peoples.

I got to interview a number of tribal members, share many lunches with elders, and have countless laughs with the Bad River Band Natural Resources employees. I was a complete



Photo Courtesy of Native Lives Matter

14-year-old Jason Pero (pictured above) was shot and killed by a policeman on Nov. 8 on his reservation. Abigail Fergus' personal connection to his tribe has allowed her to chip away at an understanding of police brutality.

stranger to the community, but I was accepted and loved in a way I couldn't have imagined happening.

When I wasn't working on my project, I was being shown around the rez by the engagingly funny tribal warden or lending a hand with the wily invasive species crew to pull cattails from the Bad River sloughs. Coming back to Alma for this last semester of mine hurt and I knew I needed to get back to the tribe and spend more time with the members if I could.

In the updates the Bad River Band has been sharing from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, the story goes that Jason called 911 and gave a description of himself, as though it was another person walking around with a knife. The narrative continues that when the policeman showed up, Jason lunged twice with his knife and prompted the cop to fire two shots. One went into Jason's heart.

One person in the comment section begged to differ with this story, saying that Jason did not even have a knife according to an eye witness. The commenters, seemed to be all or primarily tribal members and are questioning why a knife justifies the use of a gun or why Jason would call 911 on himself. Others simply state that the whole

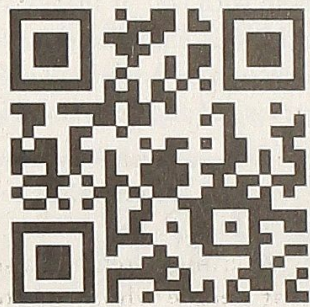
narrative is BS.

I texted a friend I made while up there who is a tribal member. I wrote that I was sorry for the pain the tribe must be going through and that I will be keeping an eye out for any opportunity I have to help. I figured that Jason's death would be sending a ripple of sorrow through the band, but I didn't foresee how deeply my friend is being impacted. This friend was the first EMT on scene and spent 10 minutes working to keep Jason alive before others came. Jason was the brother of this friend's nephew.

I wrote this yesterday, because I wanted to elevate Jason's story and how it's causing heartbreak for the Bad River community. My friend is trying not to think about the situation. I still can't imagine what my friend is going through, but this is the closest a story like this has resonated with me.

It's like I understand something new about this trend of police-caused deaths in the U.S.. I think the nature of a human brain and the fact that I am not a racial minority creates a barrier between me and these events. With Jason, I feel like there's almost a small hole in the barrier now. I'm going to

try my best to make it a bigger hole so I can reach through and understand, listen, maybe even help. I don't have any conclusions though, and my conclusions don't really matter. That's not the point of my writing. Please read about Jason and give the Bad River Band a platform for its conclusions and its pain.



Use the QR code
to visit the Bad
River Band's
Facebook page to
read updates on
Jason's story and
the tribe.

Divides grow between political parties

By CADEN WILSON
STAFF WRITER

For two years, Donald Trump has dominated the headlines of every major national news outlet. From candidate to President-Elect to Commander-in-Chief, his bizarrely unorthodox style which he has been dubbed "Modern Presidential" continues to draw strong emotions from the public. It's an odd day when controversial news doesn't come from the White House.

Trump failed to condemn the white nationalist "Unite the Right" rally in Charlestown, instead denouncing "hate on many sides." Subsequently, he attacked the "alt-left," blaming them in part for the violence that erupted during the rally, which left one anti-nationalist protester dead. The President explained that many of the protesters there were not Neo-Nazis and had in fact been protesting the removal of Confederate statues, and described them as "some

very fine people."

Let's break that down. First of all, there's the issue of Confederate monuments. Southern pride is a common rallying point for the public preservation of many statues which have recently been taken down or considered for removal. The official United Nations estimate of deaths due to the trans-Atlantic slave trade is roughly 17 million people, or the entire population of the Netherlands.

Speaking of the Netherlands, I'm able to trace my grandmother's family to Groningen in the northern area of the country. Whereas I can review immigration records for my family, a vast majority of African-American people don't have that luxury. Their ancestors were taken from their homelands to be sold as property and dehumanized; their names and children taken from them by force.

The same monuments that these "very fine people" claim represent their heritage represent much more: hundreds of years of oppression and misery and a nation that was formed in order to prevent rights from being bestowed upon them. But remember, just because

these people march with Nazis doesn't mean they are Nazis.

Which leads to another bizarre conclusion. World War II has been one of the most important cultural events in the history of the United States. Adolf Hitler and the Nazis have been used for more than seventy years as the ultimate evil, from The Sound of Music to Captain America. World War II has been referred to as "The good war": the last time the United States fought in a truly good versus evil battle.

Suddenly, neo-Nazis, white nationalists and members of the Ku Klux Klan are resurgent, drawn by the rhetoric of a man who can speak with unchecked power and without fear of repercussion. Trump's words resounded with a group of straight white men who felt insecure following eight years of a black man's leadership and the threat of the first female presidency.

Nearly 4,000 African-American men, women and children were lynched by the Ku Klux Klan. Adolf Hitler's Nazi party was responsible for

the murders of nearly 6 million Jewish people and several million others. Yet those who follow their ideology are permitted to assemble and protest.

The divide has grown without question. Politics have become an important part of a person's identity, influencing their ability to hear and address the opinions of others. Protests and counter-protests have turned violent and deadly. The left and the right are split at awkward angles, with neither of the two parties likely to come out unscathed.

It has now been just over a year since President Donald Trump was elected. Unarguably, things have changed. However, this change isn't the result of internal influence or the formation of new groups. These offshoots of extremism have always been present, they simply needed a push.

As part of the liberal arts academia, it is our duty to investigate this change, or lack thereof. It is our mission to stand united as a modern society and refuse to entertain hate and bigotry.

VOLUME CXII ISSUE IX
THE ALMANIAN

"ALMA COLLEGE'S STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER, SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1907."

THE ALMANIAN
ALMA COLLEGE
614 W. SUPERIOR ST.
ALMA, MICHIGAN 48801
EMAIL: editor.almanian@gmail.com

Editorial Staff

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Abigail Fergus

HEAD EDITOR
Najelle Gilmore

THOUGHTS EDITOR
Paige Daniel

SPORTS EDITOR
Brianna Zimmer

COPY EDITOR
Zac Cahill
Brittany Pierce

WEB EDITOR
Monica Kunovszky

PHOTO EDITOR
Zack Baker

FACULTY ADVISOR
Ken Tabacsko

News Staff

STAFF WRITERS
Joelle Fisher
Aline Batawi
Brianna Soriano
John Durga
Caden Wilson

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Maggie Zou
Zack Kribbet
Tayvon Richardson

ILLUSTRATORS
Zachary Meyer
Shayla Crawford

DISTRIBUTION MANAGER
Madison Webster

BUSINESS MANAGER
Rose Cyburt

Code of Ethics:



Staff Editorial Policy:

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

Letter Policy:

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

Distribution:

The paper is distributed on campus and published online every Monday.

Phoebe Bridgers' new debut album haunts

By PAIGE DANIEL
THOUGHTS EDITOR

Phoebe Bridgers is a folk singer-songwriter who has been kicking around the Los Angeles music scene for a little bit now, but her recent debut album, "Stranger in the Alps," carries her voice to a wider audience. While the soundscape Bridgers creates is contained and cohesive, its emotions harbor a tender and wistful kind of sadness about love, friendship and intimacy that is the auditory equivalent of a fresh bruise, purpling and slowly blooming outward.

Bridgers seems to have come from nowhere, but the reality is that she has been in the music business for many years. She even attended a performing arts high school. A video on YouTube from 2014 shows Bridgers describing how her days are spent "between the studio, the gig and band practice." She is not a novice when it comes to the instruments of her voice and her guitar. The things that make "Stranger in the Alps" so haunting might be attributed to this already-formed sense of musical identity. Bridgers is only 23 years old, and has an adept and patient ear for melody. The languid strings in opener "Smoke Signals" are particularly astonishing, but not as astonishing as her lyrics.



Zachary Meyer: Illustrator

Phoebe Bridgers' debut album, "Stranger in the Alps," portrays her interior journey through loneliness and strained relationships, backed by sparse folk instrumentals. The effect it has lingers, just like her lyrics, which evocatively crystallize personal experiences.

her oldest songs, ones she wrote when she was younger. "Killer" has somber keys and "Georgia" shares a juvenile outlook, but they still sound distinctly meant to be alongside her new songs. Up to "Georgia," Bridgers is more concerned with telling her own stories, and they are varied yet alike enough to proceed without upsetting the thematic tone. The last three full songs of the album show her trying her hand at collaboration and homage. "Chelsea" is about Sid Vicious from the Sex Pistols and his girlfriend Nancy Spungen, immortalized as they are in movies and music already. "Would You Rather" is a duet with Conor Oberst of Bright Eyes that lands somewhat off-kilter. Finally, "You Missed My Heart" is a cover of Mark Kozelek's (of Sun Kil Moon) and Jimmy LaValle's song of the same name, followed by the brief orchestral reprise of "Smoke Signals." You can't fault Bridgers for switching gears slightly. Her collaborations and homages are strong in their melodic similarity and match to her album's tone, but it seems like what made the earlier half cut so deep gets lost in the mix those last few songs. Bridgers' voice stands out even when she lets others muddle her shadow. She has a lot of music to make in her career and this is an exceptionally beautiful debut album.

HOROSCOPES

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

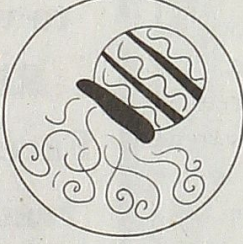
Advice for the Signs

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



Where have you been recently? Seems as if you're nowhere to be found and a ghost! Take time to come back out to the sunlight and to your friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



Don't be easily fooled by those who say they mean well. For someone that can be detached and fairly neutral with things, you have a hard habit of being easily gullible. Learn to be more wary and skeptical of individuals. Use your head a bit more.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



Let your stubborn nature go this week. Revel in humility, the fact that it's okay to be wrong sometimes, and the concept of 'going with the flow.'

LEO (July 23- August 22)



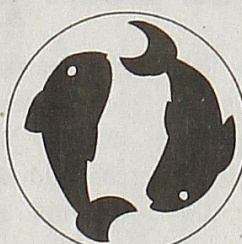
Remind your friends why you love them and remember to call your mom because it's been a good while.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



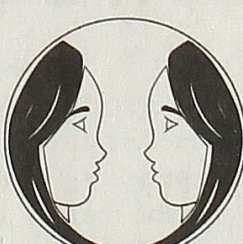
You've been working hard this week, and although some things haven't fallen towards your favor, it isn't your fault. You can only do so much and sometimes there's just too many uncontrollable variables that no one can account for. You're doing fine in your endeavors.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



Find strength to be optimistic and distract yourself from things in life that are anything but. Sadness is all around us, but so are silver linings.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



Learn to be more modest and honest. There's no use is lying to make yourself look better or playing the victim card to get people to like you--that doesn't work. Figure out how to love yourself first.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



Have you flossed recently? Make sure you're doing that. Other than that though, keep doing what you're doing with your life this week!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



This month take a good look at who your friends are, and remind yourself of who is really there for you and who isn't. Cut away negativity and the people that bring out the worst in you (even if you don't realize it right away).

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)



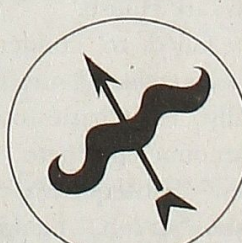
Get into gear as the winter months are coming upon us. Although you can be optimistic, the end of Scorpio season will test your strength in keeping optimistic as temperatures drop and sunlight disappears.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



Eat more vegetables than just potatoes. Start giving some advice to friends in need, or at least words of affirmation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



Cut back on your coffee intake, it's starting to get out of hand. Get more sleep at night too, this 'sleep is for the weak' mentality is quite idiotic.

Bake sale hosted to bring campus diversity

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

Daughters for Life (DFL) is an organization founded by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish after his home was shelled by an Israeli tank in 2009, killing three of his daughters. The death of his children prompted this foundation, which is in memory of Bessan, Mayar and Aya—his daughters.

This organization seeks to honor their lives by promoting education and empowerment of girls, not only for themselves but as a solution to war and the answer for lasting peace in the Middle East.

Ashley Sullivan (‘20), decided to do something this semester and help fundraise for the organization.

“I heard about DFL through a public affairs class I took last year,” said Sullivan.

“When I took the presidential honors seminar in the winter, one of the projects for that class was to propose a change for Alma College. I chose to propose Alma College partnering with DFL, to bring DFL scholars here to Alma.”

Asiel Clark (‘20) is a volunteer who helped with the bake sale.

“I’m hoping that we’ll inspire more commitment to this organization with our campus,” said Clark.

“I know two seniors specifically who attempted to work with DFL. We haven’t teamed up yet, but they came by to buy stuff from the bake sale and are going to send us information and act kind of as mentors while we attempt to do more with DFL. They’ve already been helpful with some

information they’ve gathered.”

Bergen Jome (‘18) is one of these seniors. She has worked to plan events and to conduct research on DFL to advocate for the project over the past three years.

“My freshman year (fall of 2014), Dr. Abuelaish came to speak about a book that he had written about his experience with the conflicts going on in the Middle East and about the tragic death of his three daughters,” said Jome.

“The book was called ‘I Shall Not Hate.’ He also spoke about DFL.

“Since then, my classmates and I have taken the project on to bring girls from the middle east to Alma College, as many of other girls have been brought to different schools in the U.S. and Canada under the program. If girls were to come to AC, it is the request of the program that they would be coming for free. We have been met with both success and challenges”

Sullivan has high hopes regarding this task of incorporating DFL with Alma College. Her wish for the bake sale was to bring awareness to campus as well as make sure that this foundation is not forgotten.

“Though I really wanted Alma to partner with DFL, I knew that kind of change would take a while, so I decided to host a bake sale in the meantime,” said Sullivan.

“I hoped to raise a decent amount of money for DFL through this bake sale. I also hope to raise awareness for not only DFL, but the importance of equal opportunity education as well.

I want this to lead to a future partnership with DFL and

further fundraising.”

Jome has had similar hopes, but as she nears the end of her college career, she can only reflect on what had happened when she had tried to bring DFL to Alma.

“We found that AC does not have adequate funding for this project at this time,” said Jome.

“We have seen first-hand that many people within the college and the community as a whole hold great opposition to inclusion of middle eastern peoples and that there is a great presence of racism amongst members in the community to minority groups who already reside here.

“Funding to bring people here is a problem, but more so the main problem is the fact that Alma, MI is not an extremely open and welcoming place for these people and discussions. The college social atmosphere is very different than the rest of town generally speaking. Fixing this issue must come first if we want to implement DFL successfully.”

Jome continued, “We have worked hard over the past few years to make the college first, and the community second a place that is better able to accept different groups from around the world (not just the middle east).”

Jome stated that there have been events in the past as well, similar to Sullivan’s bake sale, to bring awareness to campus.

“We have put on panel discussions about the differences between ISIS and Islam, hosted interfaith dinners, helped to host filmmakers who report of peaceful intervention, held movie events, done research on demographics, sent out campus wide surveys about racial, ethnic

and religious issues and biases across campus.

A portion of the efforts by Jome and others has been focused on discussion with local religious leaders and with professors on the issue of raising tolerance toward the demographics DFL recruits, according to Jome. Despite setbacks that Jome had, she is still hopeful.

“We have very supportive staff and a fair portion of students who wish to make alma a more inclusive and accepting place,” said Jome. Jome reflected on her efforts.

“We will not be able to finish the project that we originally started a few years ago, because most of us are graduating this April,” said Jome.

“We would be so happy and at peace if younger students could take this on.”

Sullivan is willing to take on such a task and is optimistic and hopeful for the continuation of this project.

“I believe DFL and its scholars could teach the Alma community a lot about diversity and acceptance,” said Sullivan.

“I also believe that education is so important because it empowers individuals. Not only does education provide resources for self-sufficiency, but it also allows people to develop a sense of agency and control over their own lives. Education is vital to identity and empowerment.”

Clark, the other student taking over the initiative discussed the value the program could bring to Alma.

“I think this organization

could teach a lot to Alma students and community members,” said Clark.

“We can only be benefited by being more diverse and inclusive. Greater interactions with this organization would definitely do that. I think that education is important because it is one of the most apparent paths to opportunity.”

This education is difficult to come by, according to Clark.

“Being able to get a higher education is a privilege. Not just because of the physical knowledge (textbooks, course material, etc.) but because of the experience you get that is hard to come by otherwise.

“Exposure to a wide range of ideas and people, especially ones unfamiliar to you, help you to think more critically, to question things and to explore your own potential. Education is a great way to do all that in a safe place.”

Sullivan reminds students not be shy about doing their own research regarding this organization, and holds out an open hand to those who would like to get involved or help.

“I would just like to encourage all interested individuals to contact me about the bake sale or visit daughtersforlife.com to learn more about the foundation.”

Clark also adds on a similar note that education for all, whether in Alma or the Middle East is important.

“I think education is especially important to young people, so that they have understanding of the world around them and themselves. We can’t make gains as a human race until we allow each individual to develop. The world needs all kinds.”

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Caden Wilson: Staff Writer

Monday Nov. 13	Tuesday Nov. 14	Wednesday Nov. 15	Thursday Nov. 16	Friday Nov. 17
Winter and Spring Registration	Winter and Spring Registration	Winter and Spring Registration	Winter and Spring Registration	Winter and Spring Registration
EDC Dept Questions & Answers 12:00-1:00 in Hamilton, Thistle Room	Off-Campus Study Fair 11:30-1:30 in Hamilton Lobby	Study Abroad Info Session 11:30-1:00 in Hamilton, Thistle Room	Orientation for Winter 2018 Study abroad in the Center for Student Opportunity	Campbell Scholars Lunch 11:30-1:00 in Hamilton, Thistle Room
Conversar y comer 5:00-7:30 in Hamilton, Thistle Room	Hummus Making with Hillel 6:00-8:00 in Tyler-Van Dusen, Rotunda	Conversar y comer lunch edition 12:00-1:00 in Hamilton, Scots' Corner	IPHS Seminar Speaker 5:00-6:00 in DOW Science Center L1	
Kitty Fun Night 6:30-8:00 in the Stone Rec Center Multi-Purpose Room	Hunger Banquet 6:30-8:00 in Tyler-Van Dusen, Rotunda	MI Blood Drive 1:00-6:00 in Tyler-Van Dusen Commons North and South	French Club Meeting 6:00-7:00 in Swanson Academic Center 103	Alma College Kiltie Marching Band 8:00-10:00 in Remick Heritage Center
	Swing Dance Practice 8:00-10:00 in Stone Recreation Center, Multipurpose Room	Team Time with God 7:30-9:00 in Dunning Memorial Chapel KC1	ACOG Meeting 7:00-8:30 in Swanson Academic Center 106	Music Open House Presentation 8:00-1:00 in Swanson Academic Center 113
	Active Minds Meeting 10:00-11:30 in Swanson Academic Center 103			

U.S.A. cheer coach works with Alma cheer

By **JOELLE FISHER**
STAFF WRITER

Oklahoma State University. Currently, McCullough is the head coach the for Team U.S.A. co-ed team.

“LeRoy has a ton of experience with college nationals and he will be able to help us put together a pyramid section that is competitive and maximizes both our strengths and the scoresheet,” said Michelle Sabourin, cheer coach.

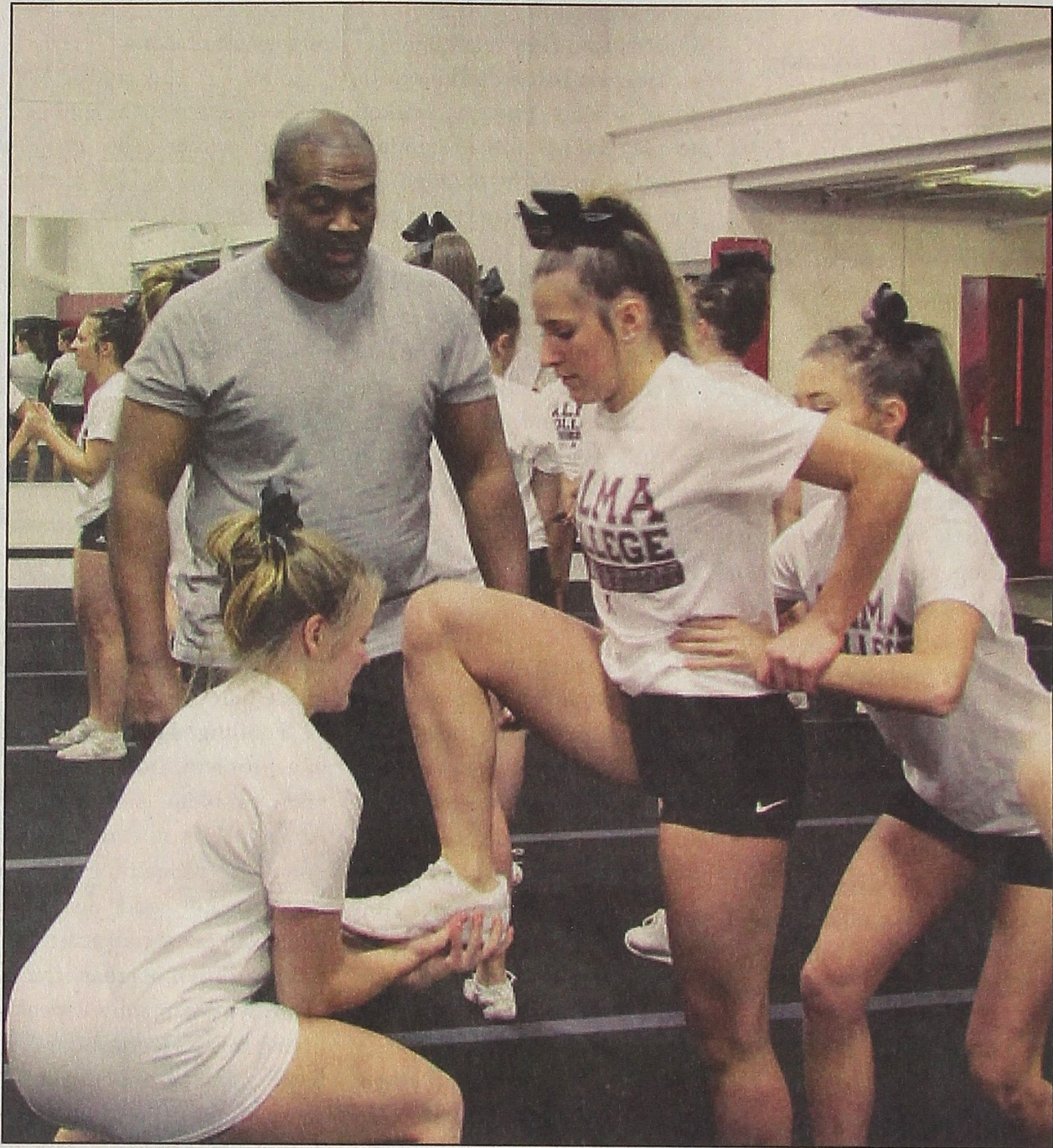
“Having Leroy here to help will set us apart from every other team in our division,” said **Dominique Burke (’18)**.

Over the course of his coaching career, LeRoy has won six NCA High School National titles, seven NCA All Star National titles, four ICU World Championship gold medals, two USASF World Championship gold medals and seven NCA Collegiate National titles.

“I’ve been able to work with LeRoy at summer camps since 2004,” said Sabourin.

“We began planning this a few years ago, and we were excited to finally be able to make it happen this year. He’s been a great mentor for me both as an athlete and in coaching and I’m excited for the girls to get the same opportunity to learn from one of the best in our sport.”

Sabourin emphasized that



Maggie Zou: Photographer

Gabby Saum (20’) gets pointers from Team U.S.A. cheer coach Leroy McCullough.

the goal of this rare experience was to give the team a competitive routine and to increase the team’s confidence before it gets full swing into its season.

“We are in a new place, where we are no longer the underdog,” said Sabourin.

“We have added the pressure of defending a national title and building off of what the

team did last season.”

The Cheer and STUNT team will begin their competitive season on Jan. 28 at Davenport University’s STUNT tournament.

Wrestling kicks off season with success

By **BRIANNA SORIANO**
STAFF WRITER

Last weekend the Alma College wrestling team kicked off the 2017-18 season by participating in the Ben McMullen Open at Muskegon Community College. Of the 13 wrestlers who participated in the tournament, two had exemplary performances.

Senior **Taylor McPhail (’18)** came in first place for the scots, winning the 197-pound bracket.

In the semifinal round,

McPhail won by a 21-6 technical fall over a wrestler from Lincoln Community College. McPhail was awarded first place in the championship match after his opponent from Joliet Junior College defaulted due to injury.

“It felt good to get my first tournament win, especially in my hometown,” said McPhail.

“Although not all of my matches were against top competition, I believe I executed solid fundamentals and was ready to wrestle all seven minutes.

“With this being my final year of wrestling, I’m looking forward to reaching my highest potential and leaving the sport

and program knowing I did my personal best.”

Brendan Ladd (’20) was also a finalist in the tournament, but fell in the championship round of the 141-pound bracket.

In the semifinal round, Ladd won 13-3 by major decision to an opponent from Macomb Community College. Ladd fell in the championship round by a 5-2 decision to an opponent from Lincoln Community College.

“Considering the credentials of the opponents I beat (D2 MHSAA State Champion and a D1 MHSAA All-State wrestler), I’d say I did considerably well,” said Ladd.

“Also, a 5-2 decision to a junior college All-American in the finals was not a bad finish. Two goals that are of the most importance to me is to become both an All-American and a scholar All-American. If I achieve them both as a sophomore I’d feel greatly accomplished.

“This season I’m excited to see how I will match up with other wrestlers at my new weight class. Our first tournament went well and I hope this transfers to our next.”

When asked about the performance of McPhail and Ladd, Jeremiah Tobias, head wrestling coach, was pleased with their wrestling.

“Despite moving up two weight classes, both Taylor and Brendan wrestled well for adjusting to the weight change,” said Tobias.

“They performed well, because their expectations of themselves and how they perform are at a higher level than the rest. A lot of the freshmen were able to see the preparation it takes to succeed and I hope it rubs off on them.

“My goals for the team this year are to be top four in the country academically and have scholar All-Americans. In the past we have had eight All-Americans so this is a big goal for both the team and individuals.”

Cross Country competes at NCAA Regional

By **JOHN DURGA**
STAFF WRITER

Every college athletic team has a chance to win events and trophies at many different levels. Alma College Cross Country pursued this on Nov. 11 at the NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional in Powell, Ohio.

Every year, teams that spread throughout the Great Lakes region come together to compete and see who the best team in the region is. Alma Cross Country has never won

this event and hopes to break that losing streak this year.

Alma placed fifth at the MIAA championships for both men and women. The men were led by **Jack Montgomery (’21)** who ran a 26:12.9 minute 8,000 meter. The women were led by **Chelse Van Spronsen (’18)** who ran a 22:33.2 minute 6,000 meter.

“Individually, for this meet or any other NCAA meet in general, all of our work is done about two weeks out before the race,” said **Maddie McDonnell (’20)**.

“The team and I have been training for our regional race

since June by making sure our mileage is in place as a base for the rest of the season.”

The work for a race like this cannot be attained through working out over a short amount of time. Long distance endurance takes a lot of consistent work to attain.

“The hay is already in the barn,” said head coach Matt Chovanec a week before the meet.

His meaning was that the work to do well had already been done, and the only thing left for runners to do was take care of their bodies and run the race.

Regional races only happen once a year. That means that the stakes are much higher when these types of races happen.

“The championship experience is a great opportunity to be a part of a race against the best competition,” said **Justin Jones (’19)**.

Alma College Cross Country has never won a regional meet so every year as a chance to re-write history.

“It’s an exciting time of the year,” said **Luke Reed (’20)**.

“Everyone on the team becomes a little more focused

and determined for the rest of the year.”

Alma’s women’s team placed thirteenth at this year’s regional meet, which is higher than they have placed in the last four years. **Hannah Garn (’18)** placed 33rd at this meet earning the nod on all region honors.

Alma College Cross Country will continue racing on Saturday, Nov. 18 when they compete at the NCAA Division three championships hosted at Principia College. This will be the Scots’ final meet for the year.