

Students help others across the country

By MARGARET RAUSCH
STAFF WRITER

The last week of holiday break was quite involved for a group of students who journeyed across the country to participate in one of the various Alternative Breaks. Experiences varied from building dog shelters to repairing homes damaged by flood waters to working alongside the homeless.

Students travelled south to Harlan, Kentucky to help promote animal welfare. Apart from building dog shelters, the volunteers gave dog owners straw to help keep their pet warm during the winter.

"We also gave people pointers on how to [take] better care of their dogs, like making sure their chains were long enough, they were getting enough to eat, and if their water bowl fell over, we suggested putting it in a tire," said **Amanda McKeith ('17)**, a site leader for the trip.

Seven dog houses were built and five were delivered, but several houses were given straw. An exact number was not known. Because the area was economically struggling, the dogs were not taken care of as well as they should have been.

"The dogs are used more as a burglary system," said McKeith.



One group traveled to Atlanta, Georgia to learn about refugees.

Courtesy of Katia Hamamouche ('17)

"They are not really the family's pet."

Two dogs that would not have survived without help accompanied the students back to Michigan and were placed in a foster home.

The Center for the Homeless in South Bend, Indiana welcomed students who were eager to lend a hand. "My goal was to meet and talk with as many people as I could as well as do as much as I could

to help the community and learn about the cycle of homelessness," said **Kelly LaPorte ('16)**, one of the site leaders.

In Manning, South Carolina, volunteers worked with Community Collaborations to help salvage and repair homes that were affected by flood damage.

"We helped re-tarp a roof," said **Chase Shultz ('18)**. "The roof had sustained rain damage

and there were leaks all over inside the house."

The second half of the trip was spent salvaging the inside of several homes for useful materials for future projects.

Over spring break, there are several different Alternative Breaks for students to take part in. Three of the trips will take place in Tennessee. Those who are interested can choose to work with the United Cerebral Palsy of

Middle Tennessee to help build wheelchair ramps, the Horse Creek Wildlife Sanctuary to promote animal welfare, or with Project CURE.

"Participants may be asked to sort medical supplies or test biomedical equipment," said **Annika Gurrola ('18)**, an Alternative Breaks board co-chair.

Two groups of students will also be travelling to Kentucky. One option will be to work alongside the House of Ruth and St. Joseph's Home for children to help those afflicted by urban poverty. The second trip will take place in Mammoth Caves where students will help to assess buildings for proper bat and rodent proofing.

If students want to stay close to home, there are two trips in Michigan and one in Ohio. Community Refugee & Immigration Services in Columbus, Ohio will work with students to help refugees adjust to living in Columbus.

"Those looking to attend the trip to Economic Justice Alliance of Michigan and Detroit can expect to serve with the Alliance members and work with their headquarters," said Gurrola.

The trip to Battle Creek will provide an opportunity for students to learn about urban and sustainable farming. They will help with the composting process and the construction of fence posts for grape growing.

Diversity Dialogue begins events for MLK

Holiday gives historical context to current events discussion

By HALEY PARKER
STAFF WRITER

A Diversity Dialogue titled Strength in Selma and Contemporary Protesting kicked off the week and a half full of events aimed at celebrating "the life and legacy of" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr with a discussion about peaceful protest.

"The goals of any Diversity Dialogue is to establish a safe space on campus to hold critical conversations regarding different social justice issues," said **Elizabeth Schoedel ('14)** who assists the Diversity and Inclusion office with running the events. "They are opportunities for others to share their view point, personal experiences and understanding of these different topics to help bring greater awareness to the issue at hand."

Over 20 Alma College faculty, professors and students joined the dialog facilitated by Brandi Stupica, professor of psychology. They discussed the psychological reasons for hate and the ways to go about changing the injustices that hate causes.



Josie Sabo ('17) views the MLK display in the Rotunda.

Marcella Flury; Photo Editor

"My perspective as a psychologist is to figure out what it is about humans that makes it easier to form hatred than it does love," said Stupica. "We tend to think 'I have this thought in my head' that would then be acted upon, but that is not really how it works."

Stupica began the dialog with a ten minute introduction

that branched into both current and historical events to try to explain the spread of hate, before breaking for lunch in order to think about what kinds of things may need to be changed. The group then met and discussed possible changes that might need to be changed.

"The faculty are always getting older and farther removed from

their students, who all remain part of the 18-22 age bracket," said Stupica. "[As a result, there is certain disconnect between students and professors] and there needs to be better education and training for the professors in order to have them be able to lead their students. There is a committee called the educational policy committee that tells us

what we have to teach and I'm attempting to talk to them about establishing safe space training for faculty and create a space to discuss."

Among other discussed changes, some move beyond Alma to provide basic human dignity, needs for the modern world, and a sense of truthful reporting.

"January's Diversity Dialogue incorporated the Civil Rights Movement and the leadership of Martin Luther King Jr," said Schoedel.

"We discussed philosophies and acts of peaceful protest that can be used to advocate for social issues any individual is particularly passionate about. We also discussed Alma College's protest policy, which can also be found online, and different protests students and faculty members have participated in at Alma College such as the Slut Walk or the Day of Silence."

These dialogues were instituted in 2014 and are held once a month during the academic year.

"We mean to answer the question of how we create a campus where we can see each other as being more similar than different and honor and respect what differences we do have," said Stupica.

Forty-year battle for health, answers not over

Students continue partnerships to work on St. Louis pollution issues

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
CAMPUS EDITOR

Forty years of health questions remain unanswered in Alma's neighborhood. In 1973 fire retardant containing the infamous, man-made chemical PBB was put in cattle feed bags and accidentally distributed throughout Michigan.

If you or your mother lived in the state during this time and consumed milk or beef, it is likely you have uncommonly high traces of this contaminant in your body.

The PBB was produced near Alma College at the Michigan Chemical Company owned by Velsicol. The factory has since closed, and it has been found that property owned by the company on the Pine River in St. Louis and nearby neighborhoods have been infested with toxic chemicals, including DDT, PBB and DBCP, which were once produced on site.

"There are a lot of questions about whether standards of clean ups are accurate and whether [these chemicals] have an impact on children and intergenerational [parent to child] risks," said Edward Lorenz, professor of history and political science.

Residents of Michigan, whose health was screened by the state until funding ran out and Emory University took over, showed levels of the chemical in their bodies 12 times greater than the national average.

"They're just numbers," said Katherine Vaillancourt ('17), referring to the preliminary data from Emory's PBB Registry and Reproductive Health Study. "The end goal is to be able to say, 'because you were exposed to PBB, you can expect to see this health effect.'"

Thus far, the university's

findings infer daughters whose mothers ate the infected cattle or milk hit puberty earlier and experience more miscarriages as adults. Sons of these women may have more genital and urinary conditions.

In an effort to turn data into action and understanding, Lorenz is organizing a conference at Alma to bring Emory's research together with the expertise of scientists who relate topics such as pollution and public health.

Fundraising and research still in development have postponed the event that was originally intended for this past September.

Experts in the health impacts of chemicals such as pesticides and fire retardants have expressed interest in speaking at the conference. David Carpenter, leader of University at Albany's Institute for Health, Jonathan Chevrier, project director of the VHEMBE Study and Diane Henshel, associate professor of toxicology at Indiana University are all scientists among this rank.

Emory University would also be involved. They are working on technology to screen the dried blood of babies from St. Louis for PBB. The heels of newborns are pricked in the hospital to do health screenings. This method would save time and resources since the researchers wouldn't have to draw blood from volunteers.

The progress of these developments are also affected by money, according to Vaillancourt.

In her work with Emory's community health screenings, Brittney Roggow ('16) witnessed health patterns in citizens.

"The amount of issues related to the thyroid was really prevalent to me," said Roggow. "It makes sense. The thyroid regulates hormones."

PBB mimics the hormone



Courtesy of Brittney Roggow ('16)

Left to right: Katherine Vaillancourt ('16), Brittney Roggow ('16), Lydia Prebeck ('15), Edward Lorenz, professor of history and political science.

estrogen, which is why it is suspected that Velsicol is to blame for the thyroid conditions and early menstruation patterns seen in St. Louis workers, residents and descendants, according to Vaillancourt.

"When [those tested] worked in the chemical factory, they didn't wear protective gear," said Roggow. "They were told it was so contaminated it didn't even matter."

Alma has hosted a similar conference in the past about the chemical DDT which was used as a pesticide, especially against mosquitos.

"When we did our DDT conference eight years ago, a lot of people locally, experts from the state, government officials from the state and federal scale, and experts from around the world such as South Africa and Canada came," said Lorenz.

To strive for similar success, Lorenz is applying for a grant

from the Center for Health, Environment and Justice for up to \$2,000 dollars. This will help compensate the travel and lodging for featured speakers. Depending on how fundraising goes, the conference could supply food and host attendants for little to no cost.

"You spend four years here," said Roggow. "Regardless of how much you interact with your community, you have the responsibility to know what's going on in your area. This isn't just happening here. If we don't ever learn from these mistakes, how are we supposed to prevent them?"

"These people are our neighbors," said Vaillancourt. "As members of an institution whose mission is to create service-minded leaders, we ought to lead the charge in cleaning up and figuring out what to do now that [PBB is] in our bodies."

To get involved with the

conference and cause contact Lorenz. You can also partake in conversations and organizations such as the Pine River Superfund Citizen Task Force. Member of this group, Jane Keon, will be giving a talk on her new book, Tombstone Town, on Tuesday, Jan. 19 in SAC 113 at 7 p.m. The piece details the first years of work the task force, the college and other organizations put into combating the damage from the Velsicol superfund site.

A scientist who fought to make Michigan take action in regards to the cattle feed incident the same year it occurred, Thomas Corbett, will be speaking in St. Louis on Wednesday. He will share his experience in the city hall at 7 p.m.

The Poisoning of Michigan Waters: The Flint and Alma Story is a community forum that Lorenz and some of his students will be hosting tonight at 7 p.m. in SAC 113.

Alternative Breaks Snapshots



The group that visited the Center for the Homeless in South Bend, Indiana. Courtesy of Kelly LaPorte ('17)



One trip visited South Carolina to work on disaster relief in the area. Courtesy of Olivia Whalls ('18)

This Week at Alma College

M
"Poisoning Michigan's Water"
Panel Discussion at
7:30 p.m. in Dow L1.

T
Presidential Speaker Series
featuring author Jane Keon,
6:30 p.m. SAC 113

W
Diversity Dialogues, Noon
in SAGA

TH
Student Choreographers Concert
-Student Night
8 p.m. Heritage Center Dance
Studio

F
ACUB Applications Due for
next year

Birder's vengeance, learning codependency

BY ABIGAIL FERGUS
CAMPUS EDITOR

I threw aside a travel magazine full of westernized getaways located in third world countries and gazed out the window into some sparse woods.

I spotted an unusual bird silhouette. The winged creature came closer to the window and I was delighted: a red-bellied woodpecker.

I'd never seen one and at that moment the dentist walked in to brief me on the operation. In response I pointed outside and said, "but look at that woodpecker."

"Oh yeah," he said. After giving me an odd look, he stuck his hands in my mouth and got to work.

Birders are weird and they are going after the Bundy family and their supporters who have taken the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge hostage in Oregon.

I was delighted to see conversation on my facebook feed between a well known ornithologist, Joel Greenberg,

I am friends with and his own league of birdbrains.

I've been absorbed into this strange culture since participating in instructor Mike Bishop's ASPIRE research group the summer before my freshman year.

I thought it was hilarious that feather-enthusiasts were cracking jokes about lurking through the woods and freaking the "militia" or "terrorist group" out of the reserve with all of their binoculars, mega-zoom cameras and bird call devices.

The Oregon protesters' actions are unacceptable. They've damaged federal property, they've taken over tribal land, they've caused schools to be closed and they've stopped employees from going into work.

But then I thought of the livelihoods of the ranchers. Something has driven them to the point of such drastic measures after years of fighting with the government and Fish and Wildlife Service over land. Perhaps a lack of communication and compromise.

It's hard to make a buck off of ranching between factors like competition against factory farms and predation by coyotes and

wolves.

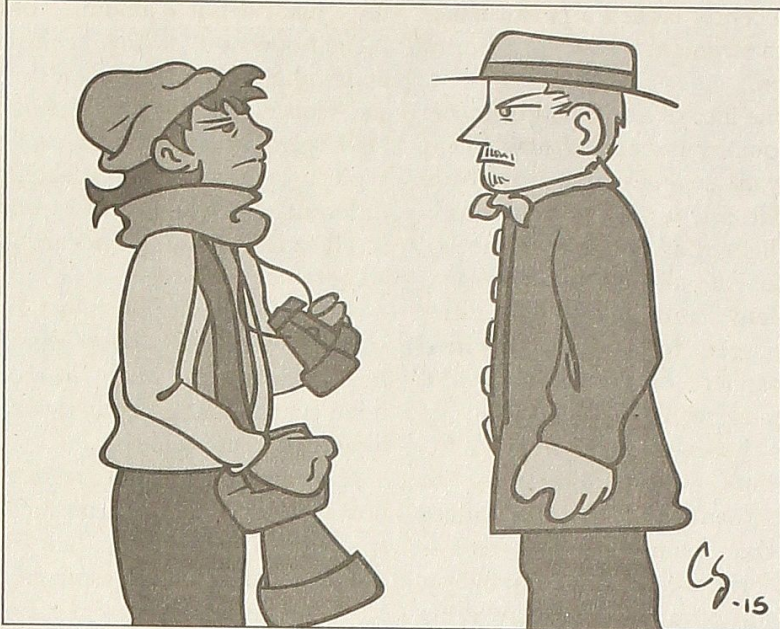
Some states, like Michigan, offer compensation when farmers lose an animal to a hungry canine, but programs to fund fence building or stipends to combat these struggles are nonexistent or not effective.

I love the earth and want to preserve its unique habitats from threats such as overgrazing by ranchers. That is why I want to hear people like the Bundy's

out. They need to teach us about their hardships and how we can help them.

We need to teach them about the environment how they have a responsibility to preserve it as well. This should have been done before it became a drastic and dangerous situation.

How can we move toward functioning like plants and animals? Producing the air that the other breaths in perfect codependency.



Cassidy Shankelton: Staff Illustrator

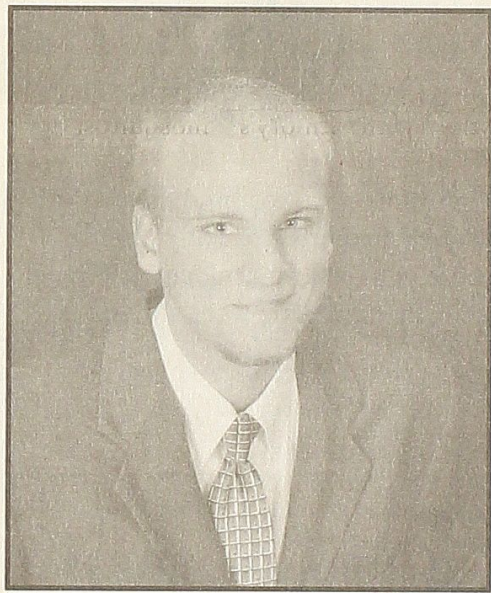
Attention Seniors:

Student Barlow Trophy Award invitation letters are being sent out to qualifying students (*top 10% Seniors GPA*) on **January 18, 2016** to their Alma email as well as to their campus mailbox address, commuter address, or to their home address.

If you do not receive a letter and believe you should, please notify Jenny Cooley in the Provost's Office (cooleyjl@alma.edu or x7176) as soon as possible.

The faculty nomination deadline is *Monday, January 25th* and the self-nomination deadline is *Friday, January 29th*.

In Loving Memory
Sean Thomas Murawske
November 2, 1995 - January 12, 2014



Loved and missed by family and friends

Have something you want or feel like you need to say?

You could be an opinion writer for us.

Like writing and the chance to make connections on campus?

You could be a reporter for the Almanian.

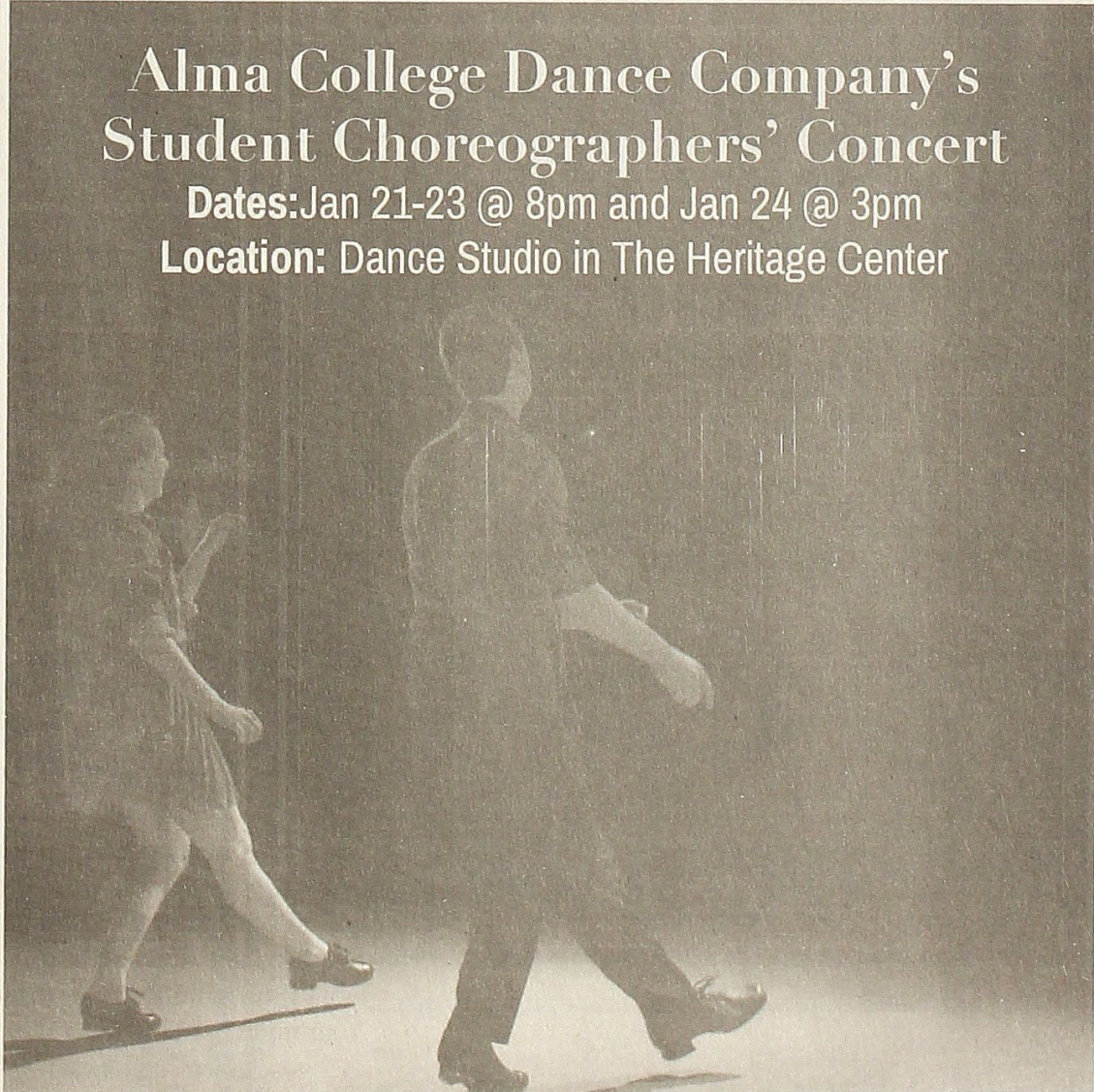
Enjoy sports and talking about them?

You could be a sports reporter for the Almanian.

Need a job?

Email us at
editor.almanian@gmail.com

Be sure to include a resume and a writing sample of some sort.



Alma College Dance Company's Student Choreographers' Concert
Dates: Jan 21-23 @ 8pm and Jan 24 @ 3pm
Location: Dance Studio in The Heritage Center

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

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Letter Policy:
Letters are published as layout space allows. Submission of a letter does not guarantee publication. The Almanian reserves the right to condense letters for layout purposes. Deadline for publication is 5 p.m. the Friday before requested publication.

Troye Sivan signals Internet phenomenon

By PAIGE DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Troye Sivan started out as an Internet sensation — millions of views under his thumb and, in turn, millions of viewers. Rather unfamiliar with Sivan myself until I heard his debut single, “Wild,” I approached his music with a level of suspicion.

Too many popular YouTube acts get by on derivative covers of the top 40 flavor of the week. Sivan, though, manages to fit into a sweet spot of youthful introspection and delicate pop.

However, Sivan did not start originally as a budding pop star. He built his audience as an internet personality, uploading informal videos that gave an audience the illusion of closeness. Calling it an illusion is a bit harsh. The closeness felt by Sivan’s followers has propelled his career past the boundaries of a YouTube page.

Time Magazine even honored him as one of the “25 Most Influential Teens of 2014,” and

he recently landed a performance on the Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.

The idea of a self-made internet personality is nothing new, but it is Sivan’s seamless transition from insular phenomenon to the pop spotlight that exemplifies the do-it-yourself culture of the Internet.

Many internet personalities never seem to leave the stratified atmosphere of the online world, instead staying relevant only in their chosen web communities.

There is something more to Sivan than just lucky viral videos and the dream of a pop career as well. First off, Sivan is openly gay, and this is rather groundbreaking and less common than you might think. Not only does this inform his music, but it manifests itself in his online media and music videos.

This creates a normalization of LGBTQIA+possibilities in his own safe space. He released a trilogy of music videos that compassionately depict a relationship between two boys for his songs “Wild,” “Fools” and “Talk Me Down.”

These songs are featured

on his debut album, Blue Neighbourhood, which charted at number seven. It is a mesh of sad teen electronic pop. I call it “sad teen” because Sivan evokes typical teen angst to a slightly different effect, one that is more levelheaded and endearingly vulnerable.

Borrowing purposefully and smartly from recent pop trends, he shrouds his vocals in bare bone synths that give his music a lighter-than-air quality.

Themes of desire, introversion, nostalgia, and affection permeate the album mixed with an odd dose of adulthood — aspirations to settle down, become monogamous, and revisit scenes of a past childhood.

His ability to be open about his sexuality, post online to a huge audience (and having one in the first place) and cultivate a new pop persona at the same time conceives the idea of the self-made pop artist.

Heavy record label control does not have to be the norm, and the venue of the Internet allows

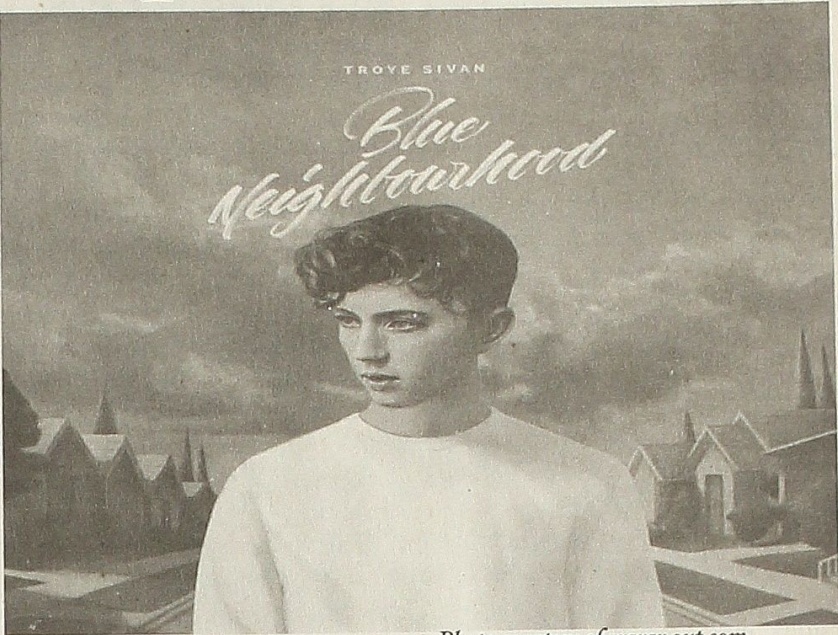


Photo courtesy of www.out.com

for this change with Sivan as a prime illustration.

Internet stars have and will continue to crossover to the mainstream — in his case, what comes with it is a fresh millennial meaning to the pop star: more emotional availability, more closeness, no matter how imagined, and more freedom to break patterns.

This past month, he graced the cover of Rolling Stone Australia. It must be weird for his avid fans to see his face on their computer screen, talking to a camera in his bedroom, and then in a highly stylized photoshoot in one of the world’s biggest magazines.

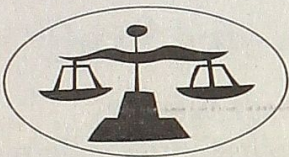
The melding of Internet celebrity with actual celebrity is a unique hybrid only possible in the Internet age, and Sivan is a great person to take on that role.

HOROSCOPES

By MONICA KUNOVZSKY
WEB EDITOR

Disclaimer: Horoscopes are meant to be fun and enjoyable. We take no responsibility if any of these do or do not come true. We wish no one bad weeks. Remember: life is what you make it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)



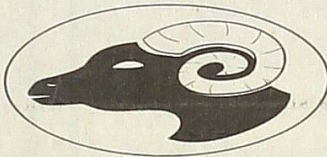
Don’t forget your I.D. because there’s nothing worse than being locked out of your dorm at 1 a.m. and not being able to get in because all your friends are asleep or too lazy to come get you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



Don’t forget to wear underwear this week, and bring back up ones in case you have an accident. It’ll be quite the traumatic week for you, so beware.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



You’ll need an umbrella this week, because all your friends will come to you, crying and pleading for advice. It’s up to you whether you want to counter that with tissues or ear plugs. Your call, Aries.

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



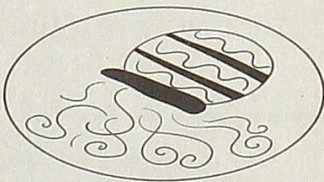
Water, water, WATER! Keep hydrated and healthy. You don’t want to get dehydrated during the winter season because it makes everything that much more miserable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



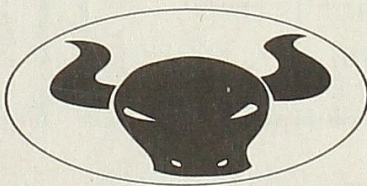
Might want to bring a flask around town this week because the amount of times you’ll see things that boil your blood will be unfathomable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



Might as well bring an ice pack with you all week, because you’re about to burn a lot of people with how careless you are towards others’ emotions.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



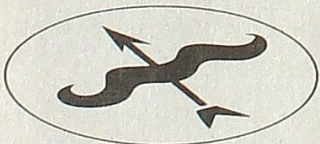
Don’t wear your favorite sweater at all this week. Someone will spill food all over it one night at dinner and the stain will be irreversible.

LEO (July 23- August 22)



Bring a pillow with you to class this week because you will fall asleep in at least three of them in the span of these next five days.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



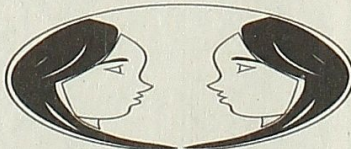
Remember you can’t make everyone happy, and you can’t please all. The best way to keep peace and balance is to put yourself first and to please yourself. Don’t achieve it at the expense of others though, but it’s alright to take time to attend to your needs first.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



Go out on a limb and express yourself in public. Don’t be afraid to take charge every once in a while and be progressive with actions and people.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



Watch your heart this week and remember to think with your head before your heart. Don’t jump into things irrationally and brashly. Take your time to think things through. Your mind is one of your strongest assets, so use it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



This month may be a hard one for you, but remember to look to the future for fun times ahead and all the positive aspects of the month. Break and holidays will be coming up and give you reason to rejoice. So remember there are happy things to come and that all bad things will come to an end.

Scots win big against the Flying Dutchmen

BY MAXXTON JOLLS
STAFF WRITER

The Scots are still perfect at Art Smith arena after taking down fourth ranked Hope, 86-75 last Wednesday. With the win, Alma now stands alone at the top of the conference with an unblemished record of 3-0. According to the D3hoops.com Top 25 poll, this is the first time in Alma men's basketball history to win over a top 10 opponent.

Reminiscent of the white outside, everyone in the Art was covered in white clothing covering the maroon seats. Both teams student sections were ready to cheer on their players.

The Scots jumped right out of the gate taking a quick 10-3 lead in just five minutes of gameplay. Moments later, Alma's lead was increased to nine, everything was going their way. However, Hope slowly made their way back into the game with a couple of calls going their way, cutting the deficit to five.

A couple of triples later and Hope took the lead 22-20 with 8:19 left in the first half. Alma kept pressing on tying the game up, but yet another three from Hope gave them the lead again. It was a back and forth battle in the last minutes of the half, but turnovers plagued Hope. Alma took advantage by going on an 8-0 run to end, with a pair of triples from **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** and **Doug Bradfield ('18)** and a layup from **Trevor Gernaat**



Kevin Gamble ('18) shoots during last Wednesday's big win over Hope College.

Brianna Yaroeh: Staff Photographer

('17). Alma held a six point lead at halftime.

Hope began the second half with the ball, only to turn it back over to the Scots. Alma knew just what to do with it, converting Hope's mistakes into points. Easy layups from Nikodemski and Bradfield started off the half. The crowd then erupted when Bradfield sent a shot back, which

turned into yet another three pointer from **DJ Beckman ('16)**, which increased Alma's lead 48-37. Hope then started to make a push, cutting the lead to four at the 16:12 mark.

Alma kept pressing on, not giving up the lead for the rest of the game. What gave the game an exclamation point was when Bradfield converted a huge

dunk, plus the foul. Bradfield had a career-high of 20 points to go along with four blocks. Nikodemski added 16 and eight assists and Gernaat finished the night with 13 points and eight rebounds.

Beckman gave some insight on the win, "It feels great to beat Hope, not necessarily because they were No.4, but because

of what it implies for us going forward in conference. We are in control of our destiny from here on out."

He also gave credit to the fans who attended the game, "The fans are HUGE. When we play in the Art, we feel like we can't lose. It really intimidates the other team and allows us to feed off that energy."

Alma clinches first win at Calvin since '99, increases win streak

BY MAXXTON JOLLS
STAFF WRITER

The Alma men's basketball team increased its win to 10

after defeating the Knights of Calvin last Saturday afternoon, 86-64. This was the first win at Van Noord Arena since the 1998-99 season. Over 2,000 fans were in attendance, but they watched

Alma come out victorious.

The Scots still remain perfect at the top of the conference with a 4-0 record, and a 11-4 record overall.

Runs from both teams started the game out. The Scots had a 10 point lead with a little over four minutes of gameplay. **Doug Bradfield ('18)** and **Trevor Gernaat ('17)** led the charge during this run, with everyone else contributing throughout. After Gernaat converted on a three, it was minutes until Calvin scored to inch closer to take the lead.

The Knights responded again with a run of their own, going on

a 19-5 run to capture the lead halfway through the first half. Their lead wasn't safe, with Alma taking the lead again to come out ahead at halftime, 46-39.

The Knights fought hard in the second half, getting within five points just two minutes into the second half. The Scots increased their lead and didn't look back.

Kevin Gamble ('18) and **Chase Fairchild ('17)** helped Alma go on their 9-0 run to increase the lead to 15 at the 13:22 mark. For the rest of the game, the Scots held a lead of 10 points or more to seal the victory.

Alma shot an impressive 52

percent from the field and also shot 54 percent from the three-point line. Alma's defense was also key in helping with the victory, as they held Calvin to 36 percent from the floor.

The Scots will continue their run on the road as they head to Indiana to battle against Trine University on Wednesday starting at 7:30 p.m. Alma is seeking their first win in the last five meetings with Trine. Alma will then come back home to play Albion on Saturday, looking to increase their home winning streak at 8:00 p.m in Art Smith Arena.

Sports Bulletin

Monday

Women's Basketball v. Siena Heights College @ Alma at 7 p.m.

Wednesday

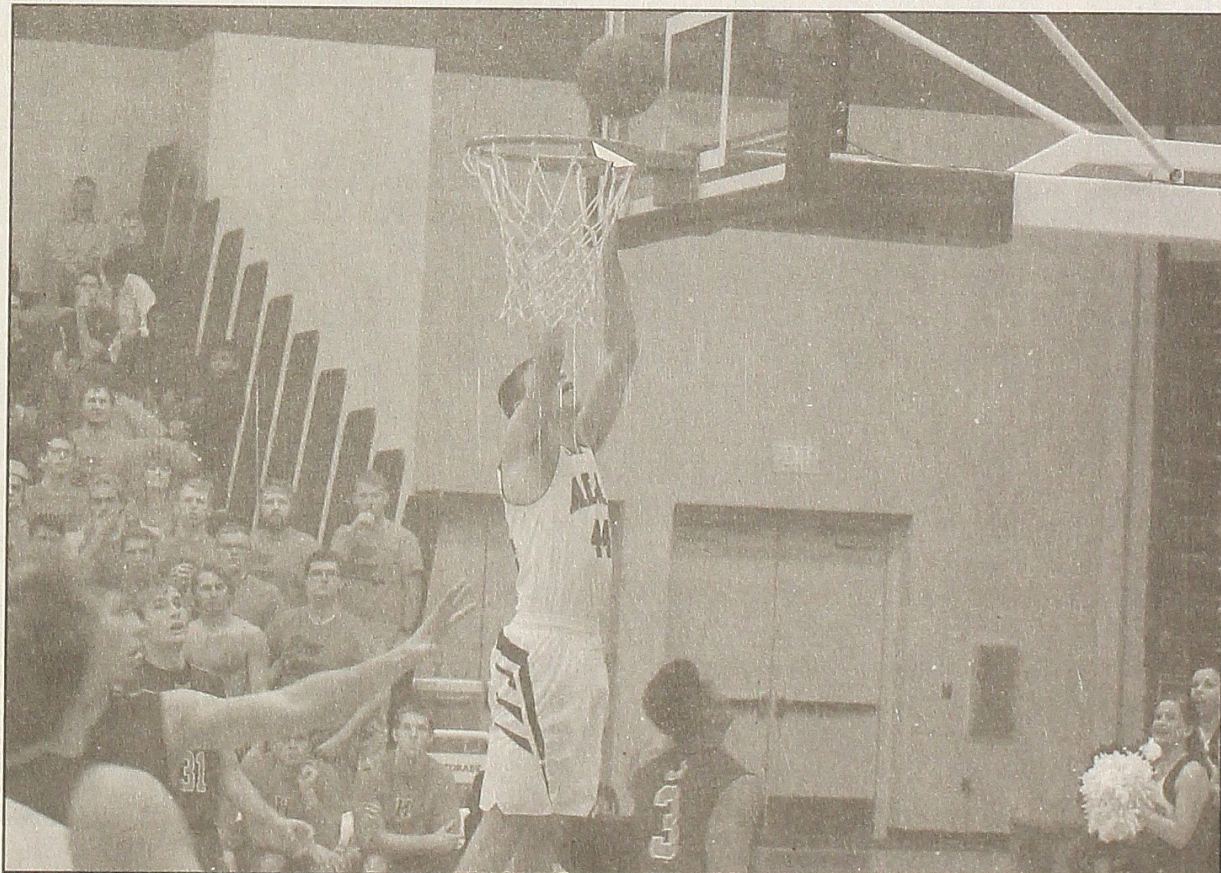
Women's Basketball v. Trine University @ Alma at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday

Wrestling 5th Annual Alma Open at 9 a.m.

Women's Basketball v. Adrian College @ Alma at 6 p.m.

Men's Basketball v. Albion College @ Alma at 8 p.m.



Doug Bradfield ('18) makes a basket during the game against Hope last week.

Brianna Yaroeh: Staff Photographer

Got a story idea or suggestion?
Send us an email at editor.almanian@gmail.com

Swim team falls in close battle with Olivet

By EMILY JODWAY
STAFF WRITER

The Scot's swim and dive team hosted their first MIAA duel meet of the season on January 16 against the Olivet Comets. Olivet took both wins, winning the women's events 89-85 and the men's events 92-44.

Team members have been pushing themselves harder than ever over Christmas break to prepare for the in-conference meets.

"We really started bringing the intensity up in practice, with more fast-paced yardage and sprint-focused sets," **Kate Lehman ('19)** said. Lehman won the 200-meter butterfly race on Saturday with a time of 2:20:07.

Other highlights include **Hannah Schroeder ('16)** winning the 100 freestyle with a mark of 56.84.

"I normally swim the 100 and 200 breaststroke but on Saturday swam the 200 IM and the 100 freestyle," Schroeder said. "Over Christmas break, I made sure I got adequate sleep and was practicing healthy eating habits to help me prepare." The team has continued to train very hard some even with injuries plaguing them.

On the men's side of things, **Eric Ferrara ('19)** won the 200 freestyle with a time of 1:54:78, and **Kurtis Smith ('16)** won his event, the 50 freestyle, in 23.78 seconds. Those two are the only boys on Alma's swim and dive team. The team does not have enough male members to compete in relay events.

MIAA duel meet season has just begun for the Scots. Next weekend, January 23, they will head to Kalamazoo College.

"I want to keep improving my times in the races that I swim



Courtesy of goalmascots.com

The Scots cheer on Kurtis Smith ('16) during Saturday's meet against Olivet College.

in," Schroeder said of her personal expectations in future meets.

Likewise, Lehman said, "I

am focusing on winning my individuals and posting good times."

"I would love to see all our hard work pay off this season," Schroeder said.

Women's basketball squad drops two to Olivet, Calvin

By MAXXTON JOLLS
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College women's basketball team played a strong game throughout three quarters, but fell short in the fourth to lose to Olivet 70-66 last Wednesday. They dropped to 0-6 in the MIAA and to 4-9 overall, while Olivet improved to 8-7 and 4-2 in the MIAA.

It was a back and forth battle between the two teams, as Alma outscored Olivet 36-32 going into halftime. The second half, however, was a different story. Even though the Scots outscored the Comets in the third, they came storming back in the fourth, shooting 61.5 percent, to steal the lead and the win.

Kassidy Blough ('19) led the team with 24 points (season high) and four assists, **Tara Padgett ('17)** added 11 points. **Kelsey**

Wolffis ('19) had a season high seven blocks and **Kaitlyn Kendall ('17)** finished with a career-high three steals.

The Scots then traveled to Calvin to take on the Knights, hoping to bounce back from their loss. However, throughout a hard fought battle, Alma lost 67-49. Calvin improved their record to 12-3 and 7-0 in the MIAA, while Alma dropped to 0-7 in the conference and 4-10 overall.

The first quarter was much like their game before, both teams not giving an inch, no team could break away. They finished the first with Alma on top, 15-16. In the second quarter, Calvin came storming back capturing the lead and increasing it to nine. Halftime score was 36-27.

In the third quarter, Alma came out of the gates to bring themselves within five, but the Knights kept finding a way to keep the Scots at bay. Alma ended the quarter with only a deficit of seven.



Courtesy of goalmascots.com

Allison Kinter ('19) defends during last Saturday's game against Calvin.

The fourth quarter was all Calvin's as they held Alma to eight points to end the game with the victory.

Raeanna Zink ('16) finished the night with 13 points and seven

rebounds, Wolffis added 12 points and four blocks.

The Scots will come home on Monday to play Siena Heights, tipoff scheduled for 7:00 p.m.

They stay at home for the next two games, playing Trine University on Wednesday and Adrian College on Saturday which is their annual pink game.

Wrestling dominates Adrian; prepares for tourneys

By EMILY JODWAY
STAFF WRITER

The Alma College wrestling team traveled to Adrian College in Adrian, Michigan on January 14 and won as a team, 27 to 11.

Going into the meet, Head Coach Tom Hibbs has been stressing the importance of the MIAA conference meets like this Adrian meet, as well as matches against Olivet and Trine.

"Even though the MIAA doesn't award a championship in wrestling, it's for the recruiting battles and bragging rights in our state," Hibbs said. "Our goal is to dominate in the matches in which we are favored, and to keep it close and give ourselves a chance to win the matches in which we are underdogs."

The 13th-ranked Alma wrestling Team met the Adrian Bulldogs at their campus for this duel-meet for the first time in 31 years.

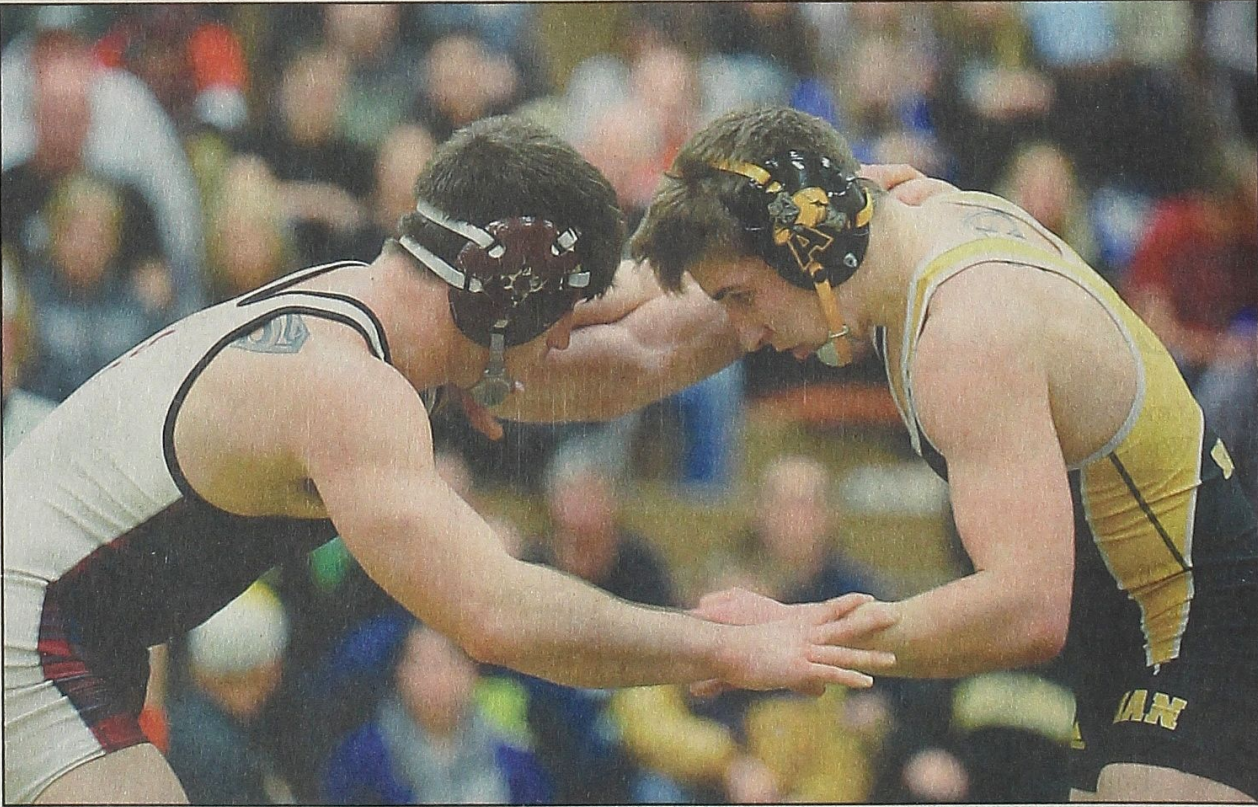
Highlights from the meet include **Victor Sosa-Sevilla ('17)** winning his match in the 125 weight division 7 to 1. **Shawn Brewer ('16)** ended

a three-match winning streak and winning his match in an overtime thriller. Sosa-Sevilla is now 10-13 this season in his weight class. **Taylor McPhail ('18)** also won his match 16 to 5, and **Trent Hullet ('18)** won 8 to 5 in his weight class. It was his 11th straight win, bringing him to 16-5 in his 165-pound weight class. **Trevor Marish ('16)** won his third straight, and is third in the nation with a 14-2 record.

"This is the dual-meet season in the MIAA now and our focus has to be on gaining bonus points when we win and limiting the bonus when we lose," Hibbs said. "That means never resting, regardless of the scoreboard."

The team has been busy this season so far, just recently returning from the NWCA National Duels in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The team left there with a 3-2 record. They defeated Merchant Marine, Coast Guard, and Wilkes and fell to Ithaca and SUNY-Cortland. Hibbs has been proud so far this season of the team's attitude and motivation to try their hardest.

"If we have a lead, we need



Courtesy of goalmascots.com; Mike Dickie, Adrian College Athletics

Shawn Brewer ('16) battling against Adrian's Connor McDill last week.

to win by even more to help our team. And even when one of us is losing, we have to keep it close so that our opponents don't get bonus team points," Hibbs said. "You could say that it's wrestling for the team more than for

yourself."

Looking toward the rest of the season, the team is preparing for more MIAA dual meets as well as two more tournaments: the Alma Open on January 23 and the Wheaton Invitational the

weekend of January 29.

"It's really about winning these MIAA duals and then getting ready for the postseason - the regionals and nationals," Hibbs said. "We need to maintain our current momentum."