

How does college's grievance panel work?

By **ABIGAIL FERGUS**
CAMPUS EDITOR

Prosecutors receive three years of legal education in their field after undergraduate school. Police detectives are specially trained in gathering information and evidence when handling potential crimes.

Victims of sexual abuse on college campuses generally have two choices following the alleged crime – they can go to the police and start traditional judicial proceedings or allow the college to handle the matter.

If the college is selected, the investigation and potential punishment falls under the federal Title IX laws.

How does Alma's grievance panel, formed in the spring of 2014, investigate the same cases as the legal system? The handling of these issues has come to the forefront after the college reported two incidents of sexual assault in Newberry Hall this year. The most recent was reported Jan. 28 by Nick Piccolo, vice president for student life and Title IX coordinator, through an email from his assistant Roxann Harrington.

"Nearly 30 years after the Department of Education mandated that school districts and colleges designate Title IX coordinators, we're still not entirely sure what the appropriate role, functions and expectations of Coordinators are," according to the Association of Title IX Administrators website.

According to this Title IX law consulting organization, "The April 4th, 2011 Dear Colleague Letter on campus sexual violence nation wide gave us some insight that the role and responsibilities of the Coordinator are a lot broader and deeper than we thought."

Piccolo oversees the grievance panel and works closely with Anne Lambrecht, director of counseling, health and wellness services and licensed professional counselor, in cases of discrimination and assault. Piccolo did not share requested data on the number of grievances raised in the past three to four years.

The greatest punishment a student can receive from the school over Title IX violations is expulsion and a record on their transcript, according to past interviews with Piccolo. When students have safety concerns, such as a recent student desire for more female security personnel, Piccolo gets involved.

"We talk with [security] about that a lot," said Piccolo. "[Hiring female guards] depends on who applies."

Cases of Title IX violations that are brought to Piccolo or



Cassidy Shankleton: Illustrator

An infographic on rights that responding and reporting parties have when a Title IX investigation is occurring.

any staff member aside from confidential parties such as a counselor, the chaplain or a medical center worker must be investigated by the college's Equity Grievance Panel under mandatory reporting requirements.

In the legal process, a defendant is innocent until proven guilty.

"Here, [cases] start on a scale," said Lambrecht, about the college process.

The panel gathers evidence such as statements from witnesses and involved parties, screenshots of texts and emails, recordings of conversations, physical evidence of bruises or other medical issues and I.D. swipes into dorms.

When the police department is conducting an investigation simultaneously, a Freedom of Information Act request can be submitted for evidence that law officials may have and the school doesn't.

"There have been cases where we had more evidence than the court and legal process," said Piccolo.

He explained that decisions are made based on a "preponderance standard required by [Title IX] law. [Meaning] is it more likely than not?"

Investigations can become long lasting; the panel follows

one piece of evidence as it leads to another source and additional evidence, according to Piccolo.

There's a ceaseless tap of information for Title IX investigations. "It's not like you look at one place for guidance," said Lambrecht.

Dear colleague letters, sent by government bodies regarding topics such as sexual assault, urge others to comply with or support certain bills. These memos contradict each other at times, according to Piccolo.

In these cases, he looks to the trainers he employs.

"Association of Title IX Administrators weigh in on legislation and ways to respond [to it]," said Piccolo. "There's a lot of apps coming out for victim/survivors to document their abuse. [The organization] came out with a warning; they think someone's trying to make a profit and worry about security. They say, 'here's some things to consider.'"

After reading legislation and the association's comment, it's a judgment call on what guidelines Alma ought to follow, according to Piccolo.

Alma has hosted about 18 training sessions this academic year, which reached about 2,146 faculty and students.

Employees are required to go

through online training before they start at Alma. Freshman experienced sexual misconduct training during orientation week and alcohol and consent training the following week.

The nine public safety employees didn't receive training until Jan. 8 of 2016, because they had a large turnover of workers during the beginning of the academic year, according to Piccolo.

Lambrecht helps host many of the sessions that take place on campus. She draws experience from her past with the Women's Aid Services of Gratiot County, her certification in Title IX investigator training and her familiarity with the latest professional literature on the subject.

The Title IX grievance panel requires more intensive training done by Association of Title IX Administrators through a two-day training, a thick binder of information and access to lawyers as cases are being explored.

Alma Police Department Officer Kim Powell assisted in training the grievance panel to provide perspective on what it looks like to report Title IX cases through law enforcement.

Providing Association of Title IX Administrators training for students would look very similar

to the Be A True Scot sessions, except with a high price tag, according to Lambrecht. She provides Title IX and sexual misconduct training throughout the year lasting one to two hours and can organize customized sessions for college organizations upon request.

Students have raised concerns on a lack of information and communication from administration concerning assault cases this year. Alma's campus is small enough that if the school announced a student had been expelled for discrimination or sexual assault, others would be able to tell who left, according to Piccolo.

Lambrecht and Piccolo were receptive to the idea of a campus forum on Title IX issues, including the presence of administrators, that students like **Sabrina DeGroot ('18)** and **Bergen Jome ('18)** have requested.

Students could go about the organization in a few ways such as proposing that administrators conduct the event or gathering peers to arrange the forum and inviting administrators to speak.

"It's good that students are passionate about this," said Piccolo. "Institutions change, because they're irritated in some way."

M 2/15

Kitten Fun Night

6:30 p.m.

Stone Rec Center

T 2/16

Personal Branding Workshop

4 p.m.

CSO

W 2/17

Senior Photos

5 - 7:30 p.m.

Student Services Conference Room, Lower Level Hamilton

TH 2/18

AC Rock the Vote Mock Debate

9 p.m.

DOW L1

F 2/19

Student play "Censored on Final Approach"

8 p.m.

Strosacker Theatre, Heritage Center

Closing reception held for couple’s art gallery show

By HALEY PARKER
STAFF WRITER

Valerie Allen and Armin Mersmann’s show that ended last Thursday brought together the art of the married couple.

“I really liked the eyes,” said **Jessica Mayne (’19)**. “But my favorite piece was ‘Accidental Angel,’ because my first thought was that he didn’t look like an angel, accidental or otherwise.”

Mersmann, second generation artist and German native who immigrated with his father to help paint pictures in Frankenmuth, Mich., draws more realistically with the focus on difficult subjects such as eyes, hair, and trees, with a fair degree of mastery.

“I was an only child, and I used drawing as my sanctuary,” said Mersmann. “I’ve always liked to express things, and expressing them through art creates sanctuary.”

His work began at age 10 when he helped his father with the backgrounds of his paintings for \$50 per painting, and it evolved to the point where, by the age of 14, he was teaching 20-year-olds how to draw. Except for a brief stint

as a veterinary technician, he has spent his life in some connection with the arts as museum coordinator, portrait maker, and art instructor.

“If I’d grown up with video games, I wouldn’t be an artist,” said Mersmann. “I would be a 60 year-old who liked shooting aliens on the couch.”

Which makes sense, as the man has a very long and involved process to make his art. He has notebooks full of ideas that he then sketches and finds objects that the sketch reminds him of before taking over 200 photos of the subject. Then he begins the long process of translating, transforming, and transcribing the photographs of his subject onto paper.

“The thing I’m working on now was started in January and won’t be done until next July,” said Mersmann. “And I’ve still got ideas for the one after that. I probably have more ideas than I have hours in my life.”

Allen on the other hand has a very different way of working. Hers is more organic.

“I just imagine a story when I’m painting,” said Allen. “[For one of her series] I imagined I was the goddess Athena and trying to put together the world.

“For a while, I wanted to be a window dresser. You know how there used to be people who



Marcella Flury; Photo Editor

A snapshot of just a small portion of the Mersmann’s work on display in the gallery.

would put together the things you see in shop windows?” said Allen. “I wanted to be one of those, or a fashion designer. Then I went to a small college, kind of like this I imagine, and I switched my first semester into the fine arts program.”

Some of her work has a basis in her interest in architecture and music.

“I spent a [seminal] year in Greece to soak up the culture when I was younger, and since then Grecian columns keep

popping up in my work,” said Allen.

She has a series of works that are based on train stations (one of which was in attendance) and the life of travel.

“I’m extremely interested in the passage of time,” said Allen. “So it appears often in my work and in how my work evolves. If it’s there when I finish one night, I can almost guarantee that it will be gone the next. But when it’s finished you can sometimes see the

marks of earlier days.”

“She works like a swirling dervish,” said Mersmann. “It’s one of the reasons we can’t share a studio.”

Despite how different their two styles look, both claim to have interest in the abstract. Mersmann’s precise realism mixes with it when the small details of the work—such as wrinkles, hair, and branches—are looked at quite closely, whereas Allen’s work is more obvious.

Faculty present work at “Writers Under the Radar”

By MARGARET RAUSCH
STAFF WRITER

For some faculty and staff, creative writing defines their career. For others, it is a private endeavor.

In an attempt to bring their work into the spotlight, four poets and novelists will be presenting their creations as “Writers Under the Radar.”

“Before my parents started buying me journals, I totally loved making them out of construction paper, notebook paper, tape, yarn, or whatever I could find

around,” said Rhonda Linn of the CSO.

Linn writes poetry and creative nonfiction, and she will be presenting pieces that relate to her career and experiences in her “writing life.” She has never had any of her work published; at the end of the day, it is not important to her, explained Linn.

“I really see writing, and art in general, as a special lens to the world—a way that we can be fully present to our experiences, as well as explore and appreciate the complexities we face,” said Linn.

Assistant Professor of English Prathim-Maya Dora-Laskey will also be sharing her poetry. She has published some of her

work in small journals such as “Cerebrations,” “Yemassee,” “Litro,” and “Firewords.”

“There are some poems I work and rework, but there are some that are like journal entries of that day’s sparks and embers,” said Dora-Laskey.

She began writing when she was 6 years old, and now focuses her writing on the various forms of love.

“I imagine my writing feels like me—invested in relationships and a bit word-nerdy,” said Dora-Laskey.

Poetry will not be the only outlet for the presenters. Associate Professor of Religious Studies Kathryn Blanchard will

be reading an excerpt from her novel about a college community that she based on George Eliot’s “Middlemarch.”

“Late last winter I told (English Professor) Bob Vivian that I had an idea for a novel and he said, ‘Do it. Don’t wait.’ So I got up at 5:30 the next morning and started writing, and it was a blast. Anyone who wants can do that too,” said Blanchard.

Blanchard is currently working on the novel and several short stories, but she has never published any of her fiction. She used to write and draw as a child, but gave up the practice later in life.

“I can’t remember exactly

why or when I stopped, but somewhere along the way I apparently decided I wasn’t good at writing and drawing, or that it wasn’t worth my time,” said Blanchard.

A lot of the characters in her novel and short stories are associated with college life.

“I’m interested in figuring out why people act the way they do, especially if they’re the kinds of people who make me angry or confused,” said Blanchard.

Custodian Lynn Rather will also be presenting her poetry, but she was not able to be reached.

The event will take place today in the library from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. with a reception to follow.

Mock debate hopes to spark interest in student voters

By MARGARET RAUSCH
STAFF WRITER

Michiganders will be head to the polls on March 8 to vote for their favorite presidential candidate during the primary. In order to increase student participation, professors step into the shoes of the front-running candidates for a mock debate.

“The whole [reason] behind it is to get people to fulfill their civic duty,” said **Madison Kranning (’18)**.

“It seems like there is a lot of student interest in the election on one level, but on the other the data shows [that] the younger voters [participate the least],” said Edward Lorenz, professor of history. “The 18 to 24 age group votes much less than any other group.”

The low percentages can be explained by a lack of experience

and the complicated voting process, explained Lorenz. After assembling a Canadian ballot box, he explained how Michigan’s system is more complex than Canada’s technology-free approach.

“There is no high-tech intimidation [in Canada],” said Lorenz.

Lorenz will play Donald Trump during the debate. With phrases like “Keep America Great” and “This is Huge” on hand, his preparations are almost complete.

“I don’t even know if I will prepare,” said Lorenz. “I have a candidate who probably doesn’t prepare, so why should I be unrealistic?”

The topics of the debate are unknown, but because there will be Republican and Democratic candidates, it will not play out like a typical party-segregated discussion.

“All of the debate questions are so different between the Democrats and the Republicans,” said **Jacob Judd (’16)**.

Although the debate is going to lean more on the comical side, the goal is to get students to take the primary more seriously.

“After the debate, we are going to have around 10 students talk about why they want to vote and who inspired them to vote,” said Kranning.

Apart from Donald Trump, Bernie Sanders, played by Associate Professor of Political Science Britt Cartrite, and Hillary Clinton, portrayed by Instructor of Geology Murray Borrello, are the only other candidates who have been secured. Others may be present, but the information has not been solidified.

“The only way we are going to get people to vote is if we try and engage everyone, let everyone know [the primary] is coming up,

and get them excited,” said Judd.

Students will also run registration booths this semester. One will be set up during the debate and others will be in Hamilton Commons from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and SAC from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on March 10 and

April 14, however, these dates are tentative.

AC Rock the Vote will take place Thursday, Feb. 18, at 9 p.m. in Dow Li. There is also a Facebook page, AC Rock the Vote, with voter registration information.

Have something you want to say?

*Write a letter to editor and get your
voiced heard!*

*Submit letters to: editor.almanian@
gmail.com*

*Deadline for publication is the Saturday
prior to desired publication, depending
on the schedule of publication.*

Boys vs girls; gender bias forces “girl groups” to work harder for less fame

By MICHAEL BREWER-BERRES
STAFF WRITER

There's a popular idea that a woman must work twice as hard as a man to get to his position. Because of the society we live in, men are inherently viewed as better than women at something, and, therefore, have nothing to prove.

We can see this in the pop music industry, and the way girl groups have to put immensely more effort into their songs and performances than boy bands do.

Looking at the differences between the bands One Direction and Fifth Harmony, in particular, it is obvious how this double standard plays out.

Despite getting the same start through the show “X Factor,” Fifth Harmony has had to work much harder to have nearly as much success as One Direction.

Within a year of One Direction becoming a band they had already become international stars. By their second headlining tour, they were already touring the world and selling out arenas.

Throughout five years as a band, One Direction has made five albums and has had multiple chart-topping singles.

Fifth Harmony, on the other hand, still has not been able to

reach the same level of fame as One Direction even four years after becoming a group. Within four years, Fifth Harmony has only produced an EP (extended play) and one album, with only one major chart-topping hit, “Worth It.”

If both One Direction and Fifth Harmony have had the same humble beginnings, then why has it been so hard for Fifth Harmony to become just as popular as One Direction? I believe it is because of the society we live in, in which we put boys on a pedestal and throw girls on the ground for the same amount of work.

While One Direction has no choreography while performing, Fifth Harmony and other girl groups such as Little Mix (also formed on “X Factor”) have to make sure their choreography, outfits and voices are top notch in order for people to get them to take them seriously.

In addition, popularity has a lot to do with the fan bases. When One Direction started, they were a group of cute boys singing pop songs, and that enticed a lot of girls.

With Fifth Harmony, they are pretty girls, which should attract boys. But boys typically do not like to listen to “bubblegum pop.” So their fans are mostly girls, but there are still a lot of girls who dislike them because they have been taught to believe that all girls are competition.

Something else that bothers



Cassidy Shankleton: Staff Illustrator

me when we compare boy bands and girl groups is the way in which people view them as sexual objects. Fifth Harmony tends to get a lot of backlash when they wear outfits that are short and low-cut, such as in the video for their song “BO\$\$.”

They have responded to these comments many times, saying that they choose what they wear and those are the types of clothes that they feel confident in.

But when it comes to boy bands, people respond to their bodies in a very different way. The best example does not have to do with One Direction, but rather the band they made

popular, 5 Seconds of Summer (or 5SOS).

In 2014, 5SOS made an acceptance video for the Teen Choice Awards that year wearing nothing but towels and using a surfboard to cover up. People went crazy for it, saying things like they wish they removed the surfboard.

Girls have to wear clothes, guys do not. Girls have to work hard to make sure they earn their fame and fans, guys can be lazy in comparison.

In a world where it's much harder for women to achieve the same amount of success as men, we need to appreciate female musicians and girl groups for their hard work and effort.

Music recap : Beyoncé, Bruno, Coldplay perform at Super Bowl, Kanye drops “The Life of Pablo”

By PAIGE DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Last week showed that the momentum of 2015's releases and happenings will only be built upon in 2016. Keeping up with all of it is a task, so I've summarized some of it here for your reading pleasure.

Superbowl Halftime Show

Coldplay was the headliners for Super Bowl 50 performing a medley of it's greatest hits including, “Viva La Vida,” “Fix You,” “Paradise” and “Adventure of a Lifetime.” The rainbow-themed show was, as some would say, stolen by Beyoncé and Bruno Mars, who joined Marti and company for the event.

Beyoncé has just released the music video for her new song “Formation,” a racially politicized single that she performed part of during the halftime show.

Mars chimed in with the Mark Ronson hit “Uptown Funk,” but the blaze that Beyoncé delivered in a Michael Jackson-inspired costume (more like battle gear) provoked national conversation surrounding pro-Blackness in what is considered a “post-racial” America.

It also, on a more trivial note, increased sales at Red Lobster, due to the mention of the seafood restaurant in her lyrics.

Yeezy Season 3

Kanye West has renamed his upcoming album four times, finally landing on The Life of Pablo right before his Yeezy Season 3 show at Madison Square Garden last Thursday.

The show was live-streamed on Tidal (Jay Z's streaming service), featuring fashion looks from West's clothing line and the premiere of his aforementioned album in full.

The rules for the models wearing his clothing consisted of such Kanye-isms as “Do not act cool,” “Behave as if no one was in the room” and “You are a picture.”

The Kardashians and his crew of rapper friends were in attendance, as was the fleeting Frank Ocean, who made a surprise appearance on the new version of West's song “Wolves.”

Other album tracks include: “Ultra Light Beams” (feat. Chance the Rapper), “Father Stretch My Hands, Pt. 1 & Pt. 2” (feat. Future) and “Famous” (feat. Rihanna).

Early Friday morning, West released a second track listing for the album, adding more tracks and one not on the album, “30 Hours.”

This messy album release process rivals, Rihanna's ANTI, only outdoing it with the amount of social media interaction, with West controversially tweeting and saying that Bill Cosby is innocent in light of Cosby's recent rape charges.



Courtesy of: idolator.com

Beyoncé and her backup dancers paid tribute to Michael Jackson and the Black Panthers in their Super Bowl 50 performance

Clickbait abounds with talk of West's credibility and problematic nature, but The Life of Pablo is surely making waves.

New Singles and Music Videos

After rumors that the Justin Vernon-fronted project Bon Iver was on hiatus, bonus track “Haven, Mass” was released, along with the news that Bon Iver is not taking a break and is working on new music.

Fellow folk-rock musician, Andrew Bird, announced new music as well. His album “Are You Serious?” is due out in April, as he released its lead single “Capsized.”

Vernon has also worked with electronic artist James Blake,

who hinted at new music when he premiered his song “Modern Soul” on Apple Radio.

Other releases include albums from relatively new bands Diiv (Is the Is Are), Porches (Pool) and Pinegrove (Cardinal).

Splitting from One Direction worked out in Zayn Malik's favor, as he won the charts last week with his number one single, “Pillowtalk,” cheesy music video notwithstanding.

In other music videos, Lana del Rey released her video for “Freak” with Father John Misty. The late Jeff Buckley posthumously released a music video for his cover of the Smiths' “I Know It's Over,” which will be on “You and I,” an upcoming compilation album of his unreleased tracks.

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

THE ALMANIAN
ALMA COLLEGE
614 W. SUPERIOR ST.
ALMA, MICHIGAN 48801
TELEPHONE: (989) 463-7161
EMAIL: Email letters to the editor to:
editor.almanian@gmail.com

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Campus Comment

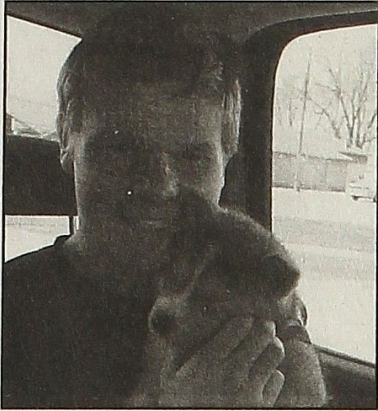
We asked you “What are you doing for Valentine’s Day?”

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR



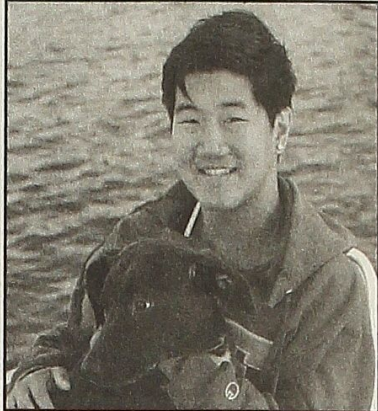
Brooke Mason, '19 biochemistry major said:

“I am going home to see my Grandpa and going to see a Lacrosse game with my friends.”



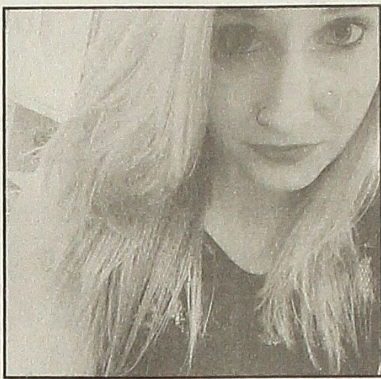
Sam Falardeau ('18), environmental studies major said:

“I will be spending Valentine’s day with my beautiful girlfriend.”



Richard Demarois ('17), accounting major said:

“This Valentine’s Day I will be recovering from a night of watching Grey’s Anatomy.”



Danielle Dufon('17), psychology and educational studies major said:

“I am going to the Lacrosse game with a few friends. Otherwise, I was just gonna continue my day like any other day, except I will stay off all social media sites, because I do not want to see all the 'love' posts; they become slightly obnoxious.”

HOROSCOPES

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.

By MONICA KUNOVSKY
WEB EDITOR

LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)



This week is still Valentine’s Day for you, so SPREAD THE LOVE. KEEP GOING, MAKE SURE PEOPLE KNOW THEY ARE CARED FOR!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



Winter is almost over. Hang in there dude. The groundhog has seen his shadow, so there isn’t much longer left in this freezing hell.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



Fun fact, fish can cough. With that being said, the lesson to learn this week is to keep light on your feet and expect the unexpected!!!

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



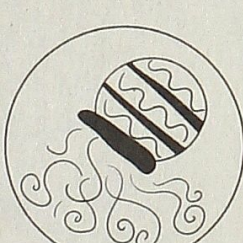
Don’t keep cooped up inside, take a moment to go for a cold walk. Just keep bundled and bring snacks. Nature will do the rest with helping you breathe easy and take a second to enjoy the small beauties in life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



Flu season is here, so make sure that you prevent yourself from getting sick. IF YOU ALREADY ARE make sure to rest up and keep yourself on the right track towards recovery.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



After Valentine’s Day, all the chocolates will be one sale. Head on to the stores and buy ALL THE CANDY!!!

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



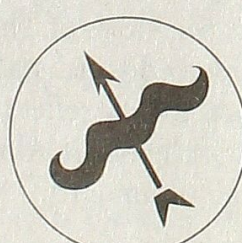
This week you will lose an important item, so be on constant alert the next coming days.

LEO (July 23- August 22)



Alone time is good time. It may be your chance this week to take a step back and learn to be independent. Make your self happy instead of relying on others-- who may eventually disappoint and not meet your expectations.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



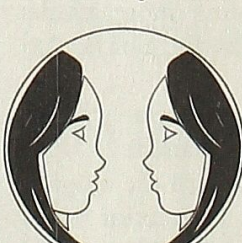
Get all your pent up aggression out this week, in a healthy way! Try kick boxing, or going for a longer run than usual, or lighting something on fire? (We don’t endorse pyrotechnics and dangerous fires though so please just be CAREFUL!)

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



I suggest watching copious amounts of television this week, just so you can take a break from a hectic week and chill out. Plus Cartoon Network is always rad to watch.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



Take small strides this week when reaching for your goals. It’s a treacherous time and you don’t want to burn yourself out right before midterms.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



Your weeks have been looking up for you, so keep up with that trend. Relish in the positive vibes and take in these good moments while they’re still here.

Mid-season sports round-up

Men's Tennis

By Emily Jodway
Staff Writer

Track & Field

The indoor track season is halfway done, and the men and women's teams have been hard at work, setting school and personal records along the way.

Kaitlyn Arnold ('17) was named MIAA women's indoor track athlete of the week, for the week of Feb. 2, for the second time this season. She recently earned a best personal time for her 5000 meter run with a clocking of 17:54.66.

The team has traveled to the Saginaw Valley State University Fieldhouse three times so far this season, as well as Defiance College, Aquinas College, and Grand Valley State University for indoor meets.

For the men, **James Taylor ('18)** and **Dakota Gogolowski ('16)** both threw personal records for their shot put throws, Taylor with 11.07 meters and Gogolowski with 11.86. **Kyle Kraus ('19)** set a personal best for his pole vault with a height of 12'6".

The team will travel to Angola, Indiana, on Saturday for the MIAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, and the NCAA DIII Indoor Championships in Iowa on March 11 to finish off the season.

The men's tennis team began its spring season this weekend in the bitter cold of February. The team is hard-focused this season; it did not bring in any new freshmen, but only lost one senior last year.

"Seniors bring so much experience to the team," **Jared Guy ('16)** said. "Whenever there is a question or issue I'm typically the one the guys go to. Other than that, just bringing energy to practice day to day and keeping guys motivated is about all we can do."

The team had its first match last Saturday at Lawrence Tech University (lost, 9-0), and will play Tuesday at Spring Arbor University and Friday against Manchester College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

"Every conference match is important because every single one affects if you qualify for the conference tournament or not," Guy said. "The biggest match for us this year will be against Hope. It's a home match, we feel we never should have lost to them last year and let's face it, it always feels great beating Hope."

Guy hopes to see his team finish second or third this season after ending in fourth last year.

"My main individual goal is to do whatever I can to help the team get better and win, whether that be by winning matches, being a great doubles partner, keeping guys motivated, or just being a good cheerleader when my matches are done."



Kaitlyn Arnold ('17) runs during an early February meet at Saginaw Valley State University. Courtesy of goalmascots.com



Jared Guy ('16) competes in a previous match. The men's tennis team is hopeful for a successful year despite a loss to Lawrence Tech in the season opener. Courtesy of goalmascots.com

Women's basketball wins two matches

By Brent Luplow
Sports Editor

The Scots looked to avenge two losses from last week as they welcomed Kalamazoo and Olivet College to the Art Smith Arena this week.

The Scots got off to a hot start last Wednesday against Kalamazoo and never looked back, collecting the win 67-55.

Tara Padgett's ('17) three pointer in the first quarter was the start of a 12-2 run as Alma held a 22-10 lead after the first quarter.

It was more of the same in the second as Alma pushed its lead to 40-21 at halftime, while shooting close to 50 percent.

However, Kalamazoo came out strong in the third quarter thanks to three straight three-pointers, that cut the lead to 46-40 with one quarter to play.

The Scots were able to hold on in the fourth while shooting 16-18 from the free throw line for the game to seal the victory.

Sophie Guzman ('19) led the way for the Scots with 17 points and 11 rebounds, her first double-double of her career, and Padgett came off the bench to score 21 points in the win. With the win the Scots moved to 8-13 overall and 3-10 in the MIAA.

After a big win over Kalamazoo, the Scots turned their attention to Olivet College on Saturday.

Alma honored five seniors for the contributions to the program as they played their last games in the Maroon and Cream: **Alissa Clink ('16)**, **Rae Zink ('16)**, **Kassi Adams ('16)**, **Hannah Frappolly ('16)**, and **Alex**

Barnwell ('16).

Zink said, "Alma College Women's Basketball has meant so much to me, I met my best friends here and made great memories on and off the court."

It was a back and forth defensive effort for the first two quarters as the teams headed into the locker room at halftime deadlocked at 25.

A 10-0 run to start the third quarter sparked the Scots and they were able to push the lead to 44-32.

Olivet was able to push back and with only two minutes to play Alma held a 50-49 advantage.

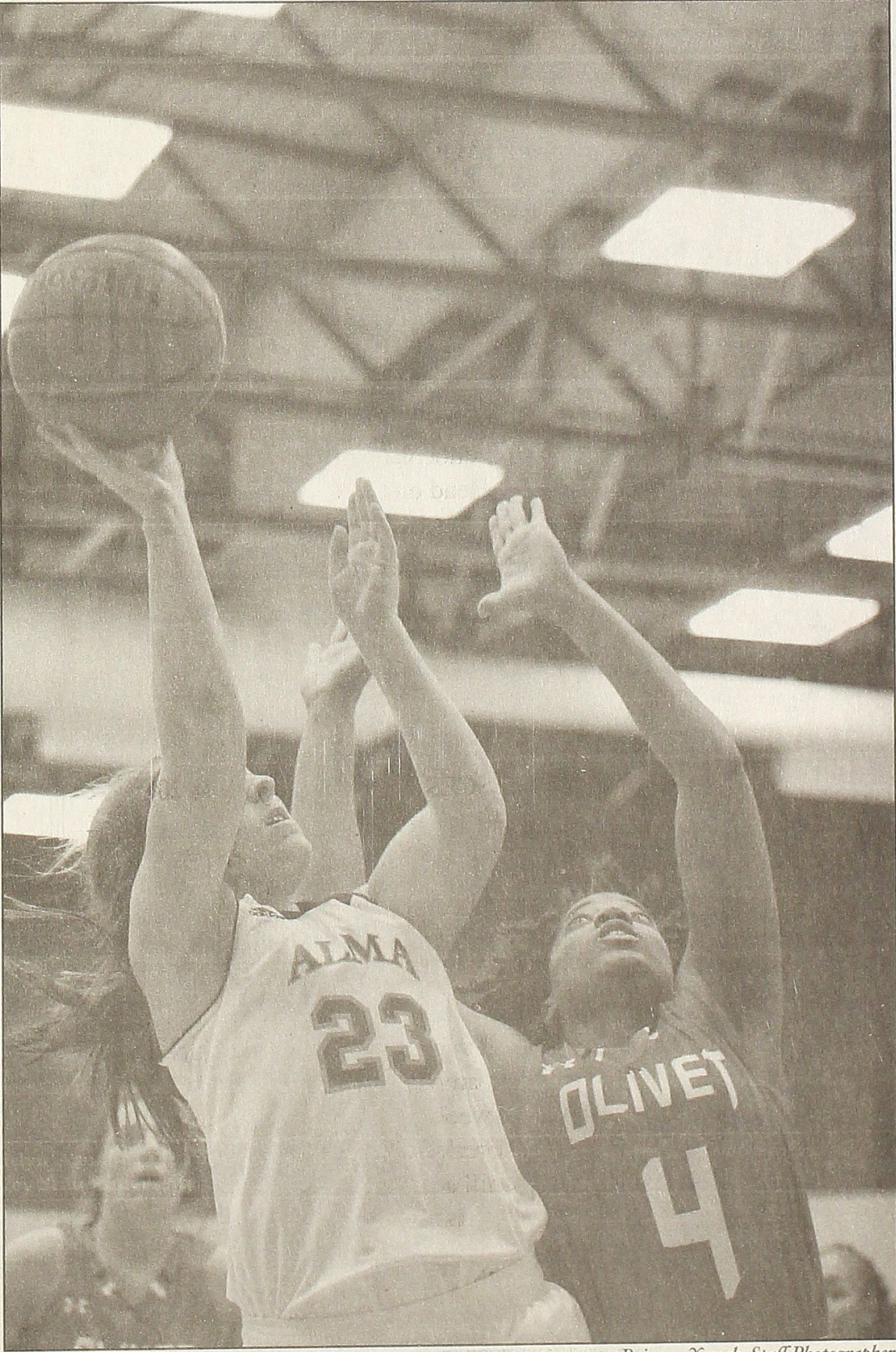
The Scots were able to hit their free throws down the stretch to collect the victory, 58-52.

Padgett had 17 points in the win, while **Kassidy Blough ('19)** had 14 points.

With the win the Scots improved to 9-13 overall and 4-10 in the MIAA. The nine victories are the most for the Scots since the 2008-2009 season.

Alma returns to action today, as the Scots travel to Rochester College for a make up game.

Tara Padgett ('17) evades an Olivet player and makes a shot during last Saturday's win, 58-52.



Brianna Yaroch: Staff Photographer

Scots sweep Calvin, beat Trine on Senior Night

By MAXXTON JOLLS
STAFF WRITER

The Scots defeated the Knights of Calvin last Wednesday, 91-79, continuing their impressive streak at Art Smith Arena.

Alma increased its overall record to 17-5 and 10-1 in the MIAA. The Scots are tied for first-place with seventh-ranked Hope College.

"Even though they're down a little this year in talent and size, it's still Calvin," **DJ Beckman ('16)** said about sweeping them—"one of the greatest, most historic basketball programs in Division III. So being able to stand toe to toe with a team like that and come out with two victories is certainly an accomplishment."

Scott Nikodemski ('16) scored 21 points, and with that he surpassed the 1,000 career mark, becoming the 11th player in Alma College history to do so. **Doug Bradfield ('18)** chipped in 17 points and four blocks, **Jason Beckman ('18)** notched 16 points, while Beckman finished the night with 14. The Scots also shot 54 percent from the field and 41 percent from long range.

After building a comfortable lead throughout most of the second half, the Knights fought their way back to bring themselves within seven points. Alma held down the stretch, to

capture its 17th win on the season, which is the most since the 1988-89 season.

"I think the key for us was just getting back to our game on both ends of the floor," Beckman added, "playing solid defense, rebounding and getting out in transition. Offensively, we were aggressive and were able to get all the shots we wanted."

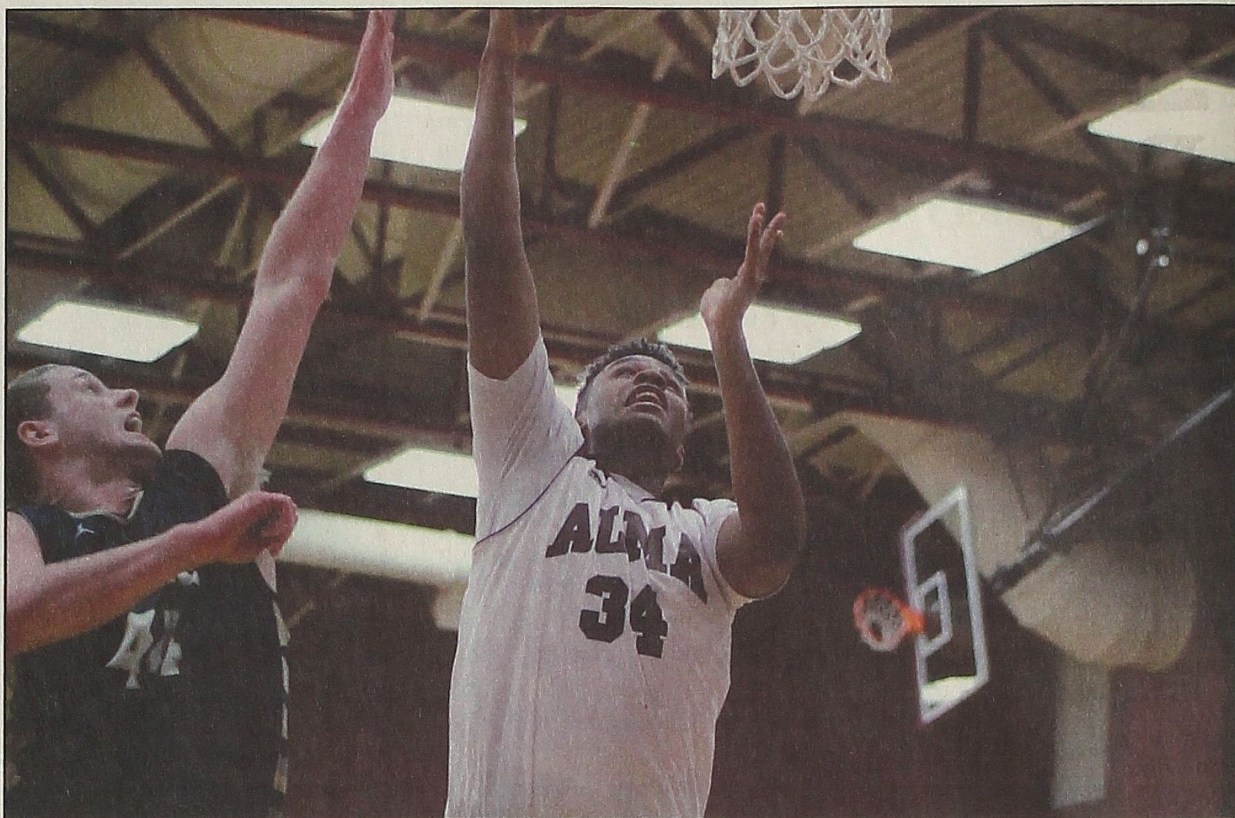
The streak at Art Smith Arena continued last Saturday on Senior Night, when the Scots won their 16th consecutive game against Trine University, 69-50.

With the win, Alma improved to 18-5, which is the most since the 1941-42 season, and 11-1 in the MIAA, which is a school-record for conference wins.

Nikodemski and Beckman each led the team with 13 points; they were two of six seniors, and two senior student assistant coaches, honored prior to the game. Bradfield added 10 and two blocks, and **Kevin Gamble ('18)** added 10 of his own.

Nikodemski was perfect from the field, 6-for-6, and helped the Scots pull away in the second half, by scoring their first 11 points. The hot start built an 18-point advantage for the Scots and they never looked back.

For the final two games of the season, Alma is on the road against Albion on Wednesday and Olivet on Saturday.



Brianna Yaroeh: Staff Photographer

Kevin Gamble ('18) makes a shot during the Trine match. Gamble scored 10 points throughout the game.



Brianna Yaroeh: Staff Photographer

DJ Beckman ('16) makes a basket during last Saturday's 91-76 victory against Trine.

Sports Bulletin

Monday 2/15

Women's Basketball v. Rochester College
@ Rochester High School at 7 p.m.

Tuesday 2/16

Men's Tennis v. Spring Arbor University
@ Alma at 4 p.m.

Wednesday 2/17

Swimming & Diving at MIAA
Championships @ Calvin College

Women's Tennis v. Spring Arbor
University @ Alma at 4 p.m.

Women's Basketball @ Calvin College
at 6 p.m.

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

Thursday 2/18

Swimming & Diving at MIAA
Championships @ Calvin College

Friday 2/19

Swimming & Diving at MIAA
Championships @ Calvin College



Men's lacrosse preview

By BRENT LUPLOW
SPORTS EDITOR

After an impressive 11-5 season last year for the Alma College men's lacrosse team, expectations are high this year as Coach Michael Kinney enters his second season at the helm.

The Scots were selected to finish third in the league in the preseason conference poll and now are a legitimate contender for the MIAA championship just five years after the start of the program.

After the debut season in 2012 the Scots have continually gotten better each year, going from 1 win in 2012, to 3 in 2013, to 6 in 2014, and then 11 last year.

"We're no longer the surprise team in the conference, we're picked third in the preseason conference [poll], and the guys know that comes with a lot

expectation," said Kinney.

The strength of the team this year will be on the defensive side of the ball as the Scots return four four-year starters in goalie, **Al Lesperance ('16)**, and defensemen **Sam Korbel ('16)**, **Jason Traub ('16)**, and **Justin Saxman ('16)**.

Plus, the Scots return **Tanner Diment ('18)** who was the 13th best face-off guy in all divisions of the NCAA last year.

Kinney said, "I think we are going to be really good at getting the ball, and forcing teams to make mistakes on the defensive end of the field."

Some of the top newcomers this spring will be **Jared Nycz ('19)** and **Jake Ellens ('19)** as they both look to make immediate impacts on the field.

The Scots started their season yesterday as they held a scrimmage against Michigan State and Central Michigan on Bahlke Field, but open with their first official contest

Saturday at Elmhurst College in Chicago.

The Scots will travel to Columbus, Ohio, and then North Carolina for their spring break trip in two weeks to play four games during that time.

With high expectations come lofty goals and the Scots have many little goals that will hopefully lead up to the ultimate one of winning the conference. These include, hosting a home conference tournament game, beating teams the program has never topped, and improving on their win total from a year ago.

Kinney added, "Lots and lots of little goals add up that ultimate big goal at the end of the season and we focus on those everyday."

The Scots host Hiram College on March 12 for their first home game of the season.