

# Student Congress slowed by broken system

By ABIGAIL FERGUS  
STAFF WRITER

Student Congress made strides by installing water filters, trees and the Adventure Rec Program under the presidency of Alumnae **Lauren Engels ('15)** last year.

"I hope that the 2015-2016 Student Congress body was able to establish a sustainable recycling program," said Engels. "I hope that Student Congress will become increasingly more involved in the decisions made at the college. My 'dream' would be for Student Congress to accept larger tasks including demanding a change in the procedures [regarding] sexual misconduct and increasing tuition."

This year didn't result in a list of achievements, according to Student Congress President **Joanna Delpaz ('16)**.

"I didn't get [the school] to start building a fund to renovate the chapel, because the basement is crumbling. I didn't get them to redesign the recycling program to involve students. I didn't get them to set up forums for people to talk about alcohol and sexual assault policy."

Delpaz attributed the slower pace of the student government to a steep learning curve, her struggle in balancing the position with academics and a broken system.

"It took too long for me to understand how everything worked. Student Congress is a full time job. It's frustrating to administration that I email them one week asking about recycling and they email me the next week



Joanna Delpaz ('16) and Lauren Engels ('15) consult each other at a Model United Nations conference in New Delhi, India.

and maybe it takes me another two weeks to get back to them, but I'm a full time student. I hope I'm going to change the system and next year's administration of Student Congress will know everything I know."

Despite her hardships, Delpaz feels she succeeded in better allocation of funds. She noted Student Congress' contributions to funding a health conference,

assisting ACUB's event sponsoring and working with Alternative Breaks to ensure the program continues.

Dissatisfaction brought Engels and Delpaz to become president. Engels didn't think the length of meetings or the level that representatives were included in decision making was acceptable. Delpaz thought she'd be good at taking in student grievances and

helping to resolve them.

The start of a postive Student Congress legacy began with Alumnae **Maggie Peacock ('15)** when she was president in 2013-2014, according to Delpaz. Though it wasn't approved by the representatives, Peacock worked with Britt Cartrite, associate professor of political science, to redesign the functioning of the organization. Her plan would

have entailed sub-committees meeting regularly over campus issues as well as a greater time commitment.

Elections for a new year of Student Congress Executive Council members and class officials are approaching and the past presidents have learned what qualities those selected will need.

"Leaders come in many shapes and forms," said Engels, "A Student Congress President must be able to speak up, even in uncomfortable situations. Often students are very intimidated at the committee meetings, but the president must interject with the student body's opinion."

"They must be organized; the president must undergo a myriad of administrative tasks from sending emails to booking rooms."

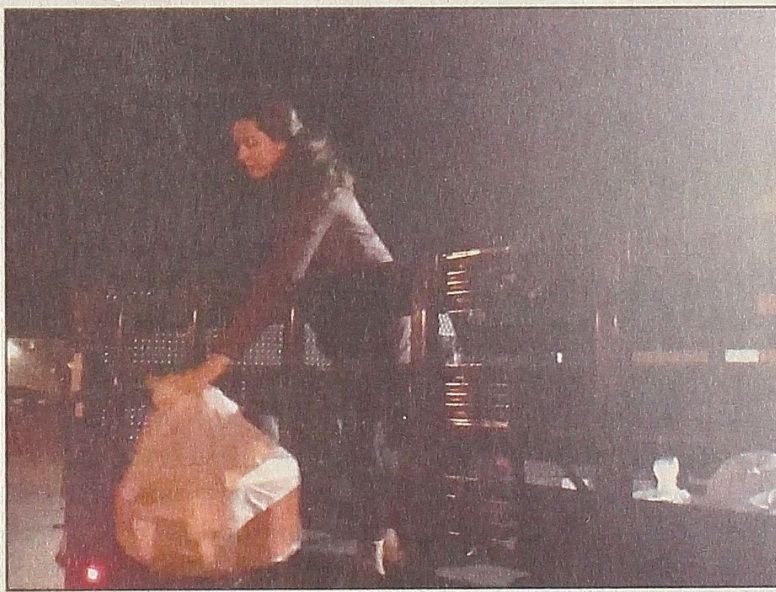
"They have to be brave, persistent and diligent," said Delpaz. "They have to be willing to put forth initiatives to get these things done."

"I hope they can get the system to work again. That's all I hope for, because if the system works, then other things will work out a lot better for students."

Delpaz is glad to have served as president and will continue pushing for change past graduation.

"My GPA isn't, but I'm really glad I did it. I'm excited to join the alumni association and put forth my efforts to influence administration. I'm not going away. I might be graduating, but I'll be back."

## The journey of your pizza boxes, moldy juice



Emily Price: Staff Photographer

**Annika Gurrola ('18) and Tyler Goerge ('17) work to sort and recycle contents of bags placed outside from the dorms, Dow and the library by the rest of the Climate Change Action Network volunteer recyclers. This takes place every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday night.**

By MARGARET RAUSCH  
STAFF WRITER

What happens to the towering piles of Pizza One boxes and your collection of empty water bottles after you throw them into the blue recycling bin?

The Climate Change Action Network (CCAN) makes sure that every can, box and piece of paper ends up in the right recycling bin in the facilities parking lot.

The process begins at around 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays. Each dorm and academic building has one or two people in charge of sorting and washing the recyclables before they set them out for collection.

"We find a substantial amount

of trash in the recycling bins," said **Krista Botting ('18)**. "[We also find items] we wish we could recycle but can't because they aren't the correct material or they aren't washed."

Botting is in charge of bagging the recyclables in Nisbet and Brazell halls. Once she has determined what can be kept and what has to be thrown away, she places the bags outside the dorm for pickup at 10 p.m.

CCAN is in charge of picking up recycling from every north and south dorm, the library, and Dow. The administration buildings, SAC, and SAGA have the designated blue bins as well, but CCAN is not responsible for their collection.

"We were told that administration is taking care of SAC [recycling]," said **Tyler Goerge ('17)**, president of

CCAN. When 10 p.m. rolls around, CCAN members borrow a large truck from facilities and drive around campus to pick up all the bags that were previously set out. They take all of the recyclables back to facilities where they place the items into the appropriate industrial-size bin.

"[Students] are getting better at sorting and washing [what they recycle]," said Goerge. "If we have ten bags, we only throw away about one bag [of trash]."

When the contents of the bags are sorted, there are bins for cardboard, white paper, newspaper, and one receptacle for cans, plastics, and glass. Colored paper, brown paper bags, or anything that has food or liquid inside cannot be recycled.

The entire process takes around one hour with two people,

but that does not include the bagging in the beginning. It requires several volunteers, but CCAN made an agreement with administration approximately six weeks ago that they would volunteer to recycle as long as a permanent program would be installed in the future. That was the last time CCAN met with administration, explained Goerge.

"The administration is working on getting a program up and running, however, the process is slower than the Climate Change Action Network would like," said Botting. "There is not [a lot of] good communication between the students who are pushing for a permanent program (mainly CCAN members) and the administration."

A recycling coordinator position was offered to the

student body, and a couple CCAN members applied for the position, but the organization is concerned about how much responsibility this individual will have.

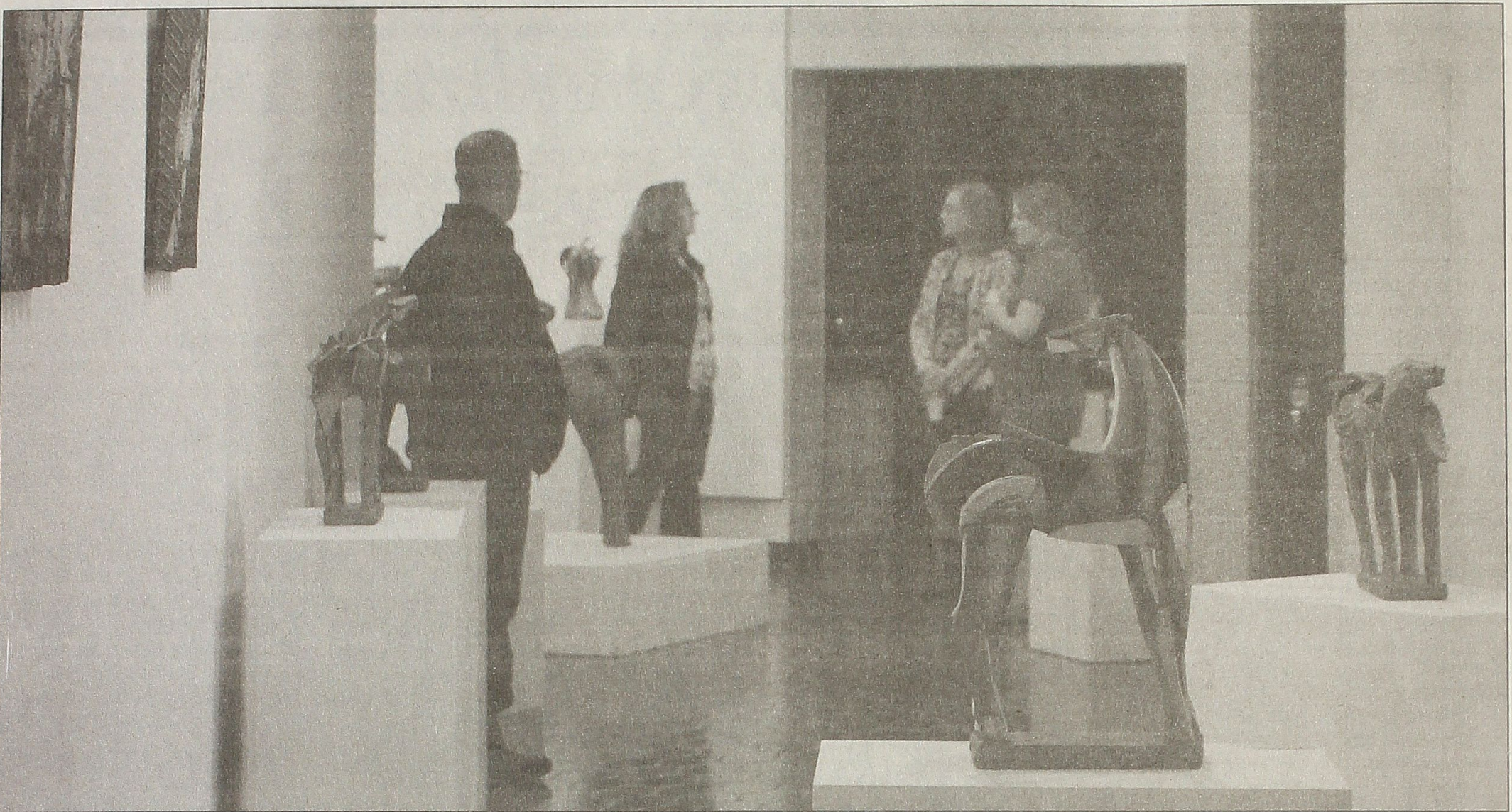
"That is lot of work [for one person] considering how many people are in CCAN who help with recycling," said **Justyne Weenink ('18)**.

CCAN is continuing to grow the recycling program and its organization. There are future plans for student education on what can and can't be placed into the blue bins and where they can be found.

"Students [should] know that having a permanent recycling program on campus is one way for Alma College to live up to its mission statement," said Botting. "We need to care for the environment; recycling is one step in the right direction."



# Artist's childhood horses trot off the page, into sculpture



Bri Yaroeh: Staff Photographer

**Top: Jeri Hollister, artist and professor of visual resources at the University of Michigan, mingles with gallery attendents. Bottom: Students study pieces of Hollister's work displayed in the Flora Kirsch Beck Art Gallery.**

**By MICHAEL BREWER-BERRES**  
STAFF WRITER

Despite horses being the focus of artist Jeri Hollister's artwork, she has never owned one herself. The artist, who lives in Ann Arbor, shared this during the closing reception of her gallery at the Flora Kirsch Beck Art Gallery last Thursday. Hollister grew up in rural southern Michigan, living in a farmhouse surrounded by her relatives. She has a close relationship with her family; her sister came to support her at the gallery reception. However, her interest in horses did not come from owning any, but rather from seeing drawings of them.

"I had a book called 'Art for Children' and I stared at the pictures a lot when I was younger," Hollister said. "There were a lot of pictures of horses that were bizarre and mysterious, especially for a child."

Hollister said that she became obsessed with horses, and started drawing them

herself. She even sent pictures of her horses to "Highlights" magazine, though she never got in. Now, she has won several awards for her artwork, including one at the Lansing Art Gallery.

Since falling in love with art during high school, Hollister has earned a B.A., a B.F.A. and M.A. from the University of Michigan. She's also studied and done artwork during a residency in France and taught at Eastern Michigan University. She currently teaches classes in visual resources at U of M.

"I really like taking single elements and combining them with each other to make a single creation," Hollister said about her technique. "It reminds me of paint-by-number."

When she started doing art in grad school, she focused on old ceramics, which she admitted was a passion of hers. She also liked to do sculptures of dance gestures. She said that she became interested in doing horses as a focus when she realized that some of her sculptures started to look like them. After doing some

drawings, she decided to make them 3-D.

Most of her art was done with earthenware, specifically clay. However, a couple of her newer pieces involve her making horses with holes in the body and putting lights inside them. Some of her pieces include "Winter Topiary Horse," "Bone-Yard Tile" and "Brick Wall III."

Most of her works are tributes to other artists, she mentioned. One of her favorite artists she honors is Picasso by making pitchers shaped like birds. In addition, she has paid tribute to artists like Betty Woodman and Marino Marini, who created horse statues in his time.

"What makes it so much fun is when there's a lot of cutting apart and creating base forms and then fitting it together," Hollister said about what she enjoys most about her work. "I like making decisions and building it, and then when it's finished it's kind of a surprise. It's really refreshing seeing it all put together."

Hollister added that she



prefers spending time in the studio with others rather than working alone. In fact, she is part of a co-op in Ann Arbor with other artists that share her same interest in sculpting and pottery.

However, she admitted that when offered the gallery space

at Alma, it seemed a little too much.

"The space here is really large and it felt kind of ambitious," Hollister said. "I didn't have big or enough sculptures to fill the space, so I borrowed pieces from others who I knew had my works to fill the space."

# McCullen fights ingrained sexism within the sciences

**By HALEY PARKER**  
STAFF WRITER

Last week, Megan McCullen, professor of anthropology, held the first of what she hopes to be a monthly luncheon devoted to new women in the sciences.

"One thing [that caused me to decide to do this] is that I like the idea of informal mentoring," said McCullen. "I like working with the students to mentor them [and] sometimes it is hard for someone to get mentoring, but it is an important part of moving on in the sciences."

The monthly lunch is to introduce faculty and students in the sciences with a more informal environment in order to foster mentoring relationships between staff and students, though there is a secondary motive.

"Obviously, everyone can use a mentor but there have been a lot

of studies [among other things] lately about the inequality in the sciences that found women are doing more of the labor, more of the grunt work, while men are doing the analysis and writing up of the research," said McCullen.

The written research means more of an opportunity to be published and more of a chance for advancement, though McCullen does not necessarily blame the men.

"It isn't something that is being done on purpose, but it's more like structural inequality."

This inequality shows itself in other ways as well.

According to an article published this February in "Science" magazine by Michael Balter, there have been several high profile cases of sexual harassment spanning over the last few years and through several disciplines. These disciplines are

as far apart as paleoanthropology (or the study of how human characteristics evolved and were formed, usually using things such as fossilized skeletal remains, footprints, and bone fragments) and astronomy, which may force the scientific community to ask important questions about the health of their colleagues.

The article suggests that these abuses had been happening for a while (as after the original accusation more women came out to admit such a thing) and corroborates the instance with a 2014 study.

In the study, Survey of Academic Field Experiences (SAFE), 666 participants were asked about sexual harassment and assault in field sciences. 139 of those surveyed experienced unwanted physical contact, but only 37 reported the sexual misconduct correctly and 12

more also attempted to report misconduct.

"When something like this happens, it becomes a question in anthropology [or any other science for that matter] about how to address the research fallout of academic investigation," said McCullen. "The researchers will not report sexual harassment due to not wanting to upset their research or the institution that they are working with, but it is a well-known situation within the female part of the scientific community."

The study also suggested that this harassment came mostly from positions of power over females who experienced sexual harassment or assault in the field, while their male counterparts were more likely to run into trouble within their peer group. Such prevalence of harassment from positions of power suggest

that if power was shared more equally between genders then there might not need to be as much hurt in the community.

Unfortunately, women rarely get the chance to get to that level.

"Women are more likely to leave the sciences after undergrad to pursue something unrelated to their major," said McCullen. "What I would like to do is to help more people get into research related fields."

The planned lunches have very little structure as of now, as the first was attended solely by faculty members.

"[What we talk about] depends on what people are interested in," said McCullen. "The group is open (or I've tried to make it open) for anyone who is a woman going into the sciences, who is interested in the sciences, or who is interested in learning about women who are in the sciences."



How I became a punny president

By Abigail Fergus  
Campus Editor

I'm raising 150,000 workers, drones and queens in three hives this summer. I'm also beginning to drip bee-themed puns that'd sting your ears.

Last year, I fell in love with the drone of my childhood summers. I knew that one day or another I'd fall out of a tree, have a worm crawl into my shoe or worst of all, step on a bee's stinger. I didn't even like honey.

Alumnus **Brendan Goethe ('15)** turned a senior research paper into a tangible reality on our campus with the help of Murray Borrello, department chair and instructor of environmental studies, and Mark Bartholmew, local beekeeper.

I found my juvenile distaste for honey and its producers had left me, so I hopped on the steep learning curve of beekeeping.

I've already learned a lot:

- Honey bees are little puppy dogs of the insect world
- Honey bees live in a matriarchal society
- Beekeepers think puns are sweet
- Beekeepers are generous with their time, supplies and knowledge
- You can get emotionally

attached to an insect

- You need self-control to avoid eating honey until your stomach hurts
- Varroa mites are the devil
- I'll never know it all

The Michigan Beekeepers Association Spring Conference set the third and last bullet in stone for me.

Every time a presenter said the word "be" they emphasized the word to sound more like "bee," they hit their audience over the head with their punniness. Taken out of context, beekeeping language sounds odd: "If the virgins aren't to your liking, drown them in alcohol."

Sales booths and informational sessions raised many strategies in rearing queens, treating varroa mites, winterizing hives and constructing supers. There's no one answer, just trial and error.

I attended with Mark to prepare and take over the beekeeping efforts. I'm "President Fergus" now in the over-flattering words of a Breckenridge beekeeper I've connected with.

My amount of my knowledge and experience is Donald Trump-level when it comes to being the "president of beekeeping," so I'll be humble and eager to listen to what Mark can teach me. Good beekeepers network with each other to teach and learn.

On Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in Dow 240, I'm hosting a meeting for those who'd like to join me in becoming a pun spewing, honey-



Photo courtesy of Mark Bartholmew

Abigail Fergus (r8) and Shelly Scribner ('16) pose next to one of Alma College's bee hives.

licking beekeeper.

I'll tell you more of my plans to experiment with different varroa mites this summer, jar the honey we extracted last fall and work to make beekeeping a sustainable and environmentally friendly project.

A common theme of the conference was our dependence on the honey bee and the honey bee's dependence on humans. One-third of our food crops and a vast amount of plants are pollinated by honey bees and solitary species such as bumble bees.

Giant bee farms, like any big agriculture, are susceptible to the spread of disease and loss of livestock.

We've turned the honey bee into a non-native livestock animal in North America. There were once feral colonies, but they can no longer survive in the wild that's infested with pesticides, crawling with parasites and dwindling from habitat loss.

Running small scale hives contributes to a community of scientists and hobbyists alike to answer questions in conserving bees from all that threaten them and in turn preventing us from relying on wheat and corn for our diets. So let's suit up and learn to keep bees.

Five Women Artists you should know

By Paige Daniel  
Staff Writer

In honor of it being Women's Month, I present to you a list of five women artists you should know. These women are on the rise—anarsenal of passion in their stockpile that only keeps growing and their talents becoming refined or blowing out into the greater atmosphere. Happy Women's Month!

**1. Empress Of**

Empress Of (Lorely Rodriguez) is a student of the socially conscious, smart pop school. Imbued with certain values that show themselves in her music, her debut album *Me* addressed topics such as living in poverty, self-reliance in the modern age and gendered pet names, all with the structure and energy of an electronic pop sensibility.

Rodriguez flaunts a crystalline voice that can mimic the very synths she employs, adorning her music with vocal samples and glossy house beats. Her finest talent lies in being able to create tension and tighten the atmosphere with just one synth line.

In her latest track "Woman is a Word," she turns the personal into the political.

"I'm only an image of what you see/You don't know me.../I'm only a woman if woman is a word/Bird to a bee.../I'm only a struggle if I get in your way/You made the road/Made the road one-way."

Empress Of is giving us the pop music we deserve – we can dance, but we can also think.

**2. The Internet**

The Internet is a six-piece band based in Los Angeles, helmed by Syd the Kyd (Sydney Bennett), a former member of Odd Future.

Although she is not a self-professed advocate for the LGBTQIAP+ community, her lyrics often feature expressions of love towards women, something that is hard to come across even in these modern times.

The Internet's instrumentals are an R&B/jazz/soul hybrid of smaller proportions, with a laid back and eyes to the sun kind of musicianship.

Bennett has a home studio and this lends itself to The Internet's homemade sound. On their most recent album, *Ego Death*, Bennett exudes suave determination.

Track "Get Away" finds her shrugging her shoulders, stating "it could be worse." Indeed, it could be. But Bennett found the sweet spot between overconfidence and just enough confidence.

**3. AURORA**

Nineteen-year-old Aurora Aksnes, known as AURORA, is an anomalous butterfly. Her debut album "All My Demons Greeting Me as a Friend" was released two weeks ago, with an interesting sonic landscape in play. She shares Florence and the Machine's penchant for whimsy and natural imagery.

Her instrumentals take a back seat to the real star of the show – her voice. There is a writerly instinct there, a literate inclination that decorates her music with wisdom beyond her years, not limited to the actual beauty of her tone, a wispy cadence that flits between octaves.

She worked with multiple electronic producers to achieve her sound, which is cohesive throughout the whole album, but it is when her songs are stripped down that their true value is revealed.

This multiplicity of abilities not only to write a good song, but to have it succeed in different formats is an underrated quality to possess.

There is an unrelenting stage



Courtesy of glassnotemusic.com

19 year-old artist AURORA from her new single "Runaway."

presence to AURORA, a nervous grace as she acts out the music with her body. Indie pop is rife with faux-emotiveness, but AURORA is doing it right.

**4. Mitski**

Mitski Miyawaki stands on her own amongst the rest with a fiery feminine soul that craftily weaves itself through her semi-punk, semi-indie rock music.

Her lyrics are more a manifesto than anything else, a mission statement for her mind, her body, her vulnerabilities and her beliefs. Performing at an NPR Tiny Desk concert, she wielded her guitar like a shield, her voice a messy form of its own poetry.

Her second and most recent album *Bury Me at Makeout Creek* is scathing yet soft – the irreducible power of Mitski. There is this duality to her music; she is able to sing sweetly or beseechingly over a fuzzed out, grunge guitar riff, and she is also able to write lullabies and laments.

There is not one note, one tone pitfall that so many indie bands waste away with. Her voice is not just her vocals; it's her intense and meditative core.

**5. Tinashe**

Self-made R&B artist Tinashe is best known for her hit "2 On," a prominent club banger for the 2015 crowd. While "2 On" certainly has its merits, her recent tracks leading up to the release of her sophomore album submit a fresh take on the classic R&B princess.

There is a sharper hint beneath her shimmering instrumentals, as new track "Ride Of Your Life" exemplifies.

Tinashe has previously produced almost all of her music (a noticeable feat for any artists), with "Ride Of Your Life" featuring production from Metro Boomin, who has produced tracks for rap royalty with the likes of Kanye West, Drake, Nicki Minaj, Young Thug and Future.

Tinashe lives with her parents in California, not the mark of a late bloomer, but an entrepreneur. She has her own studio where she wrote and produced four mixtapes and her debut album. She seems highly conscious of her production choices and her next move, every step of the way a bona fide talent.

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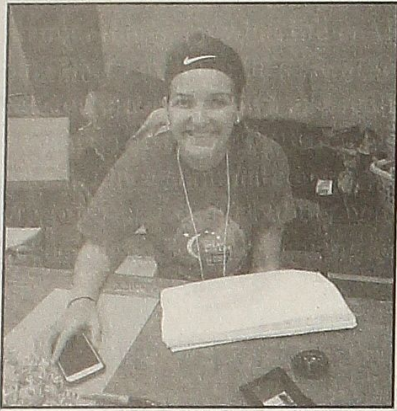
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Campus Comment

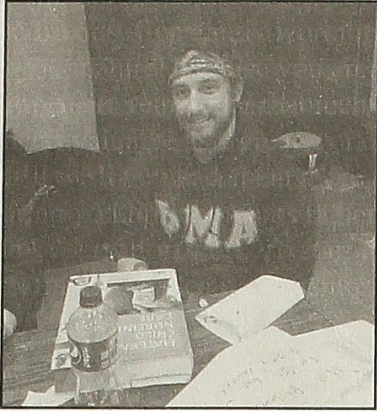
We asked you “Who do you Relay for and why?”

By MANDY MENOSKY  
STAFF WRITER



Lyndsey Malson, ('16) psychology major said:

“I do Relay for Life for my grandfather and for everyone that has ever heard the words “you have cancer.” I relay for a world of more birthdays.”



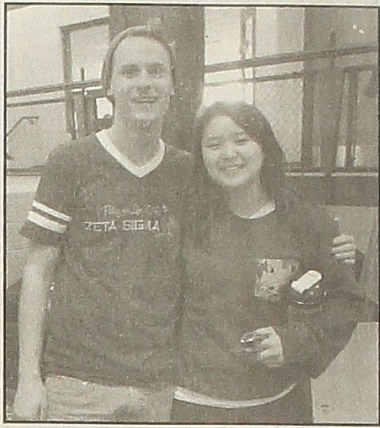
Alex Scully ('17), philosophy major said:

“I do Relay for Life for my grandma who passed away from terminal brain cancer, because I love her and miss her and she helped shape me into the person I am today.”



Maelin Wheeler ('18), athletic training major said:

“I do Relay for Life for a lot of my family members who all had many different types of cancers and also for myself, because it runs in my family.”



Eric Veurink ('17), IPHS major said:

“I do Relay for Life for my grandmother Nancy Miller. She was a huge influence on my life growing up. When she was diagnosed with cancer, it wasn't something my family was prepared for. However, she has been strong and resilient to her diagnosis every day since.”

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)



Social aspects of life are fun, but remember that's not what life is ALL about. Try to focus in these next few weeks on cracking down and really focusing on acing the last stretch of this year. Once summer comes, you can resort back to your bubbly nature and concentrate 100% on having fun!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)



Take time to spend moments with your close friends. Constantly working may be in your nature, because you are a high achiever, but remember that memories can be as valuable as a great work ethic. You'll wish you had spent more time savoring youthful moments rather than burying yourself in work, so start now by creating more gleaming memories.

ARIES (March 21- April 19)



You may have big plans for this upcoming summer, whether it be traveling all over or just going back home and cranking into some work to stack up on cash. Whichever it may be, remember to keep your eyes on that prize and think of that when the going gets tough.

CANCER (June 21- July 22)



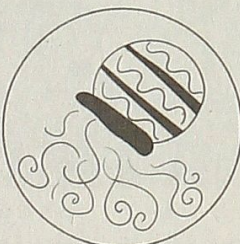
Your friends cherish the advice and love you have to give, so don't doubt your abilities or worth when it comes to how the world sees you. Remember to take time to make sure you yourself also realize how great you truly are.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)



Your spirit and nature is something many look up to. Use your wise advice and good listening skills to help others out, because there are those that need a good sense of positivity with honesty as well. Don't sugarcoat the truth, be your blunt self and others will appreciate it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)



Take an adventure and leave to somewhere far away. It'll be good for both you and the people around you to have a break from things. Try to see something new, travel to a place you've never been, or interact with those you would never even think of associating with.

TAURUS (April 20- May 20)



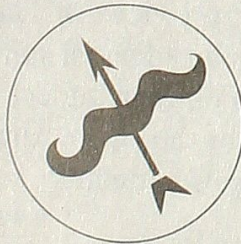
There may be some hardships and difficult times occurring right now, but it's best to take them in strides and find the silver lining in the situation. It may not always be easy, but it may be what you need to keep your head up and keep from drowning in your own sad thoughts.

LEO (July 23- August 22)



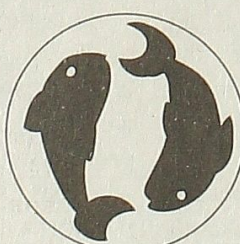
Feelings are rough, but they are a large part of our lives. We cannot just get rid of them, so learn to cope with them in responsible manners that aren't self destructive. Same goes to reacting to others that have hurt you. Don't focus on getting even, instead focus on moving past and going onwards to a better place without them.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)



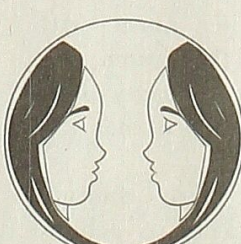
Try to keep your head from getting too far into the clouds of optimism. You do not want to be blind to the realities of the world. You may almost be done with school but it's not the end YET. So, recapture your focus and keep up a strong work ethic to stomp out any careless mistakes that may occur these next five weeks.

PISCES (February 19- March 20)



With only five weeks left of the school year, it's time to take any motivation you have and stick with it. Push through these next few weeks with fervor and perseverance, because the hard work WILL pay off.

GEMINI (May 21- June 20)



Juggling work, school and friends may be difficult, but if there is any sign that can multi-task, you would be near the top of the list. Make sure to plan out accordingly how to satisfy those needs, if it can't be done, take a step back and evaluate what needs to change in order for your life to be fulfilled and balanced.

VIRGO (Aug. 23- Sept. 22)



Your organization skills can come in handy this week. Prioritize things and excel in the nature of making order of chaos. Your fire sign friends will greatly appreciate this as well, so make sure that whoever seems to be struggling with organization gets the help they deserve.



Softball, baseball win doubleheaders in Ohio

ByEmily JODWAY  
STAFF WRITER

Softball sweeps in Ohio

The Alma College baseball and softball teams traveled to Ohio for doubleheaders against Muskingum and Bluffton Universities. Both teams won both games.

The softball team took on Bluffton University in Bluffton, Ohio on March 18, winning both games 8-4 and 11-1 and forwarding the girls to a four-game winning streak.

Anna Couture ('17) went two-for-two at bat in the first game, and Mary Brooks ('18) hit a home run. Morgan Stratton ('18) pitched four innings with only one hit allowed.

In the second game, Couture hit a team-high number of three RBI's and Kassidi Adams ('16) stole home to help the team score early. Stratton pitched again, this time for six innings, only allowing four hits and one earned run.

"The team played well today, especially since the group was fighting some illness earlier in the week," Head Coach Denny Griffin said. "Now we turn our focus to league play next weekend." The Scots' softball team next plays at home Friday, March 25 against Albion College.

Baseball battles in Ohio

The baseball team went up against Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio twice and won both games, 7-2 and 11-10. Adam Thoryk ('17) homered in the seventh inning, and pitcher Phil Jock ('16) struck out five and only allowed six hits.

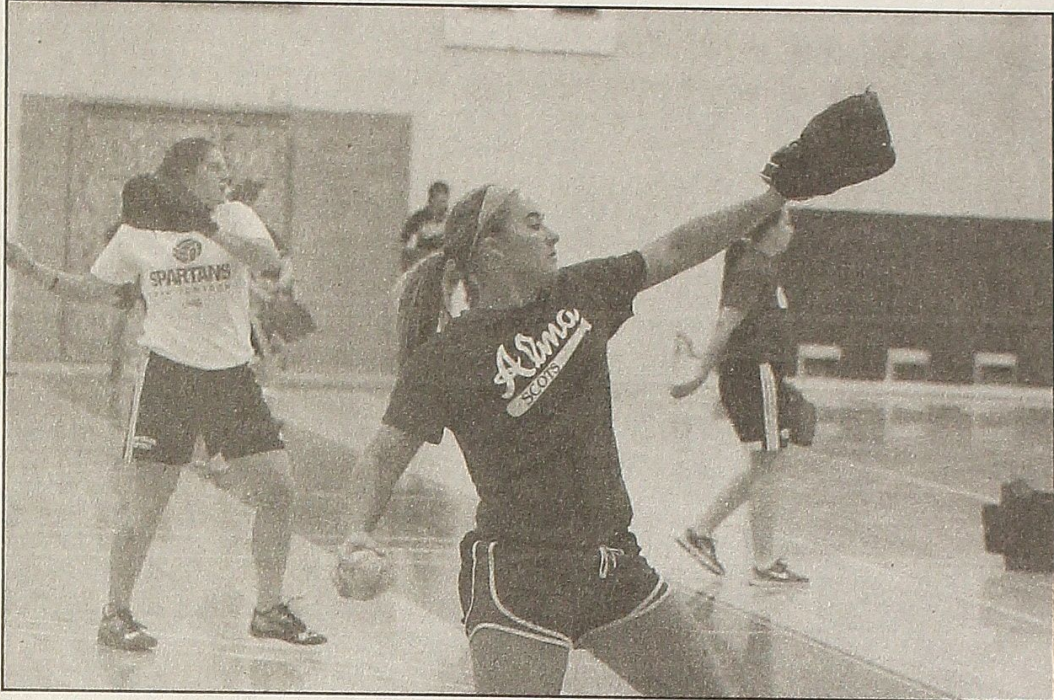
In game two, which went into extra innings, the Scots were

"Our guys never quit. Today was a great example of what happens when you stick to the process, try to win every inning, and battle until the final out."  
-Coach Jake Sabol

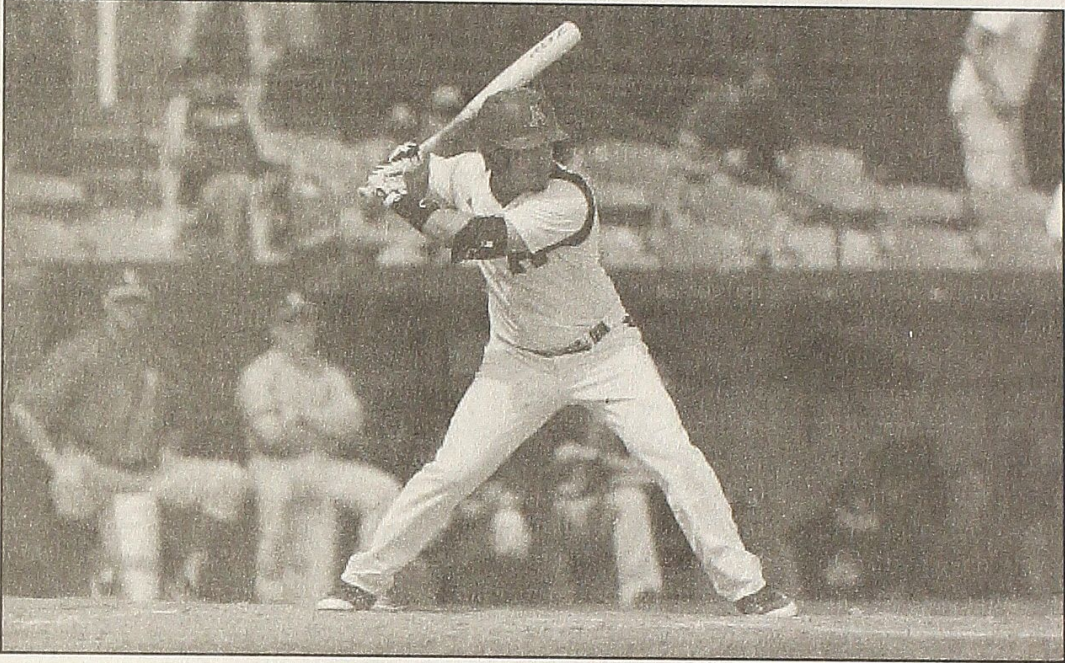
behind before batting in five runs in the top of the ninth to force the game into a tenth inning. Matthew Minaudo ('18) hit an RBI single to send in the eleventh run, helping to earn the Scots their victory.

"We had a very good team day overall," Head Coach Jake Sabol said. "Our guys never quit. Today was a great example of what happens when you stick to the process, try to win every inning, and battle until the final out. I am proud of the way we competed today."

The next Scots baseball game is the home opener, Wednesday March 23 against Cleary.



Hunter Hoogewind ('18) and Anna Couture ('17) pitch during a practice prior to March 18th's doubleheader. Brianna Yaroch: Staff Photographer



Yoan De La Rosa ('16) awaits a pitch during the winning doubleheader against Muskingum University. Courtesy of goalmascots.com

Men's basketball no longer the underdog

By BRENT LUPLOW  
SPORTS EDITOR

When Sam Hargraves took over the Alma College men's basketball program five years ago, the team was going through a downward spiral. Constantly finishing near the bottom of the MIAA conference and compiling just 13 wins in the three years prior to his arrival in 2011. It wasn't what you would call the ideal starting job for a first time head coach.

But no one told Hargraves that, and if they did, he didn't listen.

In just five short years Hargraves has taken the Scots from 9 wins in his first two years as head coach to 24 wins, a MIAA tournament championship and a

trip to the Elite 8 of the NCAA tournament in year five.

To add to the accolades, Hargraves was recently named the NABC Great Lakes region coach of the year and the d3hoops.com Great Lakes region coach of the year.

Student assistant coach, Ivy Johnson ('16) has been through it all but is extremely satisfied with the way things ended, "These last four years have meant everything. We came in as freshman with a vision that not many people believed in. We struggled our first two years and everyone doubted us, but we stayed confident in our vision. Credit goes to [Coach] Hargraves for constantly believing in his players, especially when no one else did."



Head Coach Sam Hargraves looks on at the winning men's basketball team during practice. Brianna Yaroch: Staff Photographer

Sports Bulletin

Wednesday

Baseball v. Cleary @ Alma at 2 p.m.

Friday

Softball v. Albion College @ Alma at 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Saturday

Softball v. Manchester College @ Alma at 2 p.m. and 5 p.m.



While coaching is important, so is recruiting players that fit your "system" and Hargraves first recruiting class will arguably go down as one of the best in school history.

Senior captains, Scott Nikodemski ('16) and DJ Beckman ('16), have been instrumental to the turnaround and success of the program, as they became the program's 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> career 1000-point scorers in school history this season. Nikodemski, the MIAA MVP and a 1<sup>st</sup> team d3hoops.com All-American, averaged 14.4 points and 5 assists per game this season. While Beckman averaged 12 points per game and 4 rebounds, while also setting the season record for three point field goals made in a season.

Along with Nikodemski and Beckman are four other seniors, JR James ('16), Ethan Woelke ('16), Gus Merriweather ('16), and Matt Launstein ('16) all who have seen the program come full-circle after struggling in the beginning part of their careers. All were instrumental in the turnaround of the Scots program

and will always be remembered in Scots athletics history.

A big turnaround in the program occurred midway through last year when the defensive philosophy switched from man-to-man defense to zone defense after a struggling start to the season. This proved to be another stepping-stone during the process of developing a winning culture at Alma.

The process was something that was difficult for some of the players to grasp, especially the ones that came from winning high school programs.

Jason Beckman ('18) has been here only two years and didn't see the total extent of the fixable damage, however, he credits starting out 0-8 last year as the driving force behind wanting so much success this year.

"I think the process has just been staying hungry and attacking everyday looking to improve as an individual and a unit. I do think this is the tip of the iceberg though. We need to keep making steps to where elite teams are as a program, and truly be that perennial powerhouse. I think

avoiding complacency will be vital, and we need to keep finding ways to improve daily."

Bryan Hines ('17), joined the team last year as a transfer and credits the competitiveness of his teammates and practices to the driving force for the turnaround,

"I think we took the next step this year, we did this by making each other better everyday. We had the most competitive practices I've ever been apart of. When each player is pushing the guy to him like we did everyday this year you get the best out of your team"

The Scots have a lot to look forward to next year. They return six players who played significant minutes this year, and have won 16 straight home basketball games in the Art Smith Arena, spanning over one calendar year. Alma basketball is no longer the underdog now.

Student Coach Ivy Johnson put it perfectly: "As of right now, we are considered an up-and-coming "elite" program- and I suspect the program to be elite for years to come."



## Relay for Life: A story behind each name



Rebekah Irani: Staff Photographer

Top: Cancer survivors take a lap around the Stone Rec Center to the applause of onlookers. Bottom: Students support survivors and participate in the relay by decorating luminaries and playing limbo.

BY MARGARET RAUSCH  
STAFF WRITER

The Alma community came together to join the fight against cancer in Relay for Life as participants walked hundreds of laps around a track lined with decorated white paper bags honoring those who have battled the disease. Enthusiasm was high throughout the day and into the night as students raised more than \$21,000 for the American Cancer Society.

"This organization is near and dear to me," said **Hannah Walls ('18)**. "So many of my family members have gone through this terrible disease."

Relay teams lined the track selling everything from pizza to musical tagalongs. The women's volleyball team sold material to make your own lei with a flower

for every lap walked. ACUB held several raffles throughout the night, and climbing club offered a chance to use the rock wall.

"Two people [in Climbing Club] volunteered to climb one mile," said **Aaron Parr-Besemer ('18)**. That is an equivalent to 176 times up the wall.

Every hour students participated in friendly competition. Tau Kappa Epsilon won the final round of Tug-of-War within seconds, which resulted in an eruption of cheering from the crowd.

The wing-eating contest resulted in a tie, but rather than carrying out a bonus round, the winner was decided when one contestant dropped out. Beanbag tosses and the life size Jenga were in constant use throughout the day and created a lively environment inside the track.

The survivor ceremony began with a speech from Dana Aspinall, associate professor of English, a leukemia survivor.

Silence filled the room as he shared his story and gave thanks to those who provided him with the strength to defeat cancer.

"It makes me realize how much we need each other," said Aspinall. "The medicine is one thing; the doctor's attention is one; the nurse's attentions is one thing, but love and kindness to someone you are close to [means] much more."

When his story came to a close, the survivors made a lap around the track and walked through a tunnel of applauding supporters on their way to dinner.

As they were eating, everyone gathered outside with white and purple balloons. They released them all at the same time to honor those who are celebrating more birthdays thanks to a successful fight. The crowd watched the sea of purple and white fade into sun as they slowly walked back inside.

The festivities started up again, and an hour later, a magician left his audience concerned and in a state of awe. Viewers could not tell

if his bloody hand was part of his act until the very end when he needed first aid, from cutting his thumb on the razors he swallowed and pulled back out of this throat on a string.

"He came over [to the PMA table] and did a card trick for some of us," said **Alexander Hall ('16)**. "There were people [familiar] with magic and their minds were blown."

When the sun went down, the lights were dimmed, and the white paper bags were illuminated with different colored glow sticks. The Luminaria Ceremony began. Everyone gathered in the middle of the track to remember those who have battled cancer and walked one lap around the dimly lit path as Amazing Grace echoed through the room and photos of cancer warriors flashed across the ceiling.

"It's always grounding to see how many lives are affected by cancer," said **Jacob Blazejewski ('16)**. "Behind every name there is an individual's story."

The crowd took about fifteen minutes to recover from the

emotional ceremony, but the positive energy returned with a performance by Telephony. Students danced and sang along with the band as they found their second wave of enthusiasm to finish out the night.

As midnight rolled around, everyone gathered for a final time inside the track for the Fighting Back Ceremony. Students shared how two out of three cancer patients are beating the disease, and that every penny raised contributes to the statistic that continues to rise. The night ended with a volleyball tournament that symbolized the physical fight against cancer.

When 2 a.m. finally arrived, everyone packed up and went home. The white paper bags were gathered up and put away, but the glow sticks continued to shine as brightly as the spirit of every cancer warrior that each bag stood for.

