

College responds to student concerns

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
CAMPUS EDITOR

Student concerns have come to a head this semester. The Almanian met with several administrators to discuss issues that have been expressed in a past article and throughout campus. This was done with the intent to open up dialogue between the student body and administration.

Danielle Brandreth on Greek Life

The Tau Kappa Epsilon house burned down in the winter of 2012. After a party at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house, a student died in the winter of 2014. Since these occurrences, Greek Life has changed, say students and college officials.

Danielle Brandreth is the first Greek Life advisor at Alma College. The position was created following the TKE fire.

"One of the [pieces] of feedback that administration got from the Greek students is they really needed a person they could come to on a regular basis with their issues," Brandreth explained. "[Someone] who oversaw the governing boards more closely."

Brandreth shared that alcohol policies and fire safety policies changed when she took the position. She conducts fire safety checks in Greek housing with Toby Pickleman, head of security.

Checks are conducted randomly once a month. Pickleman and Brandreth may conduct additional searches, she said, if they are led to believe student safety is at risk.

"If there is a safety concern, we need to go through the house again," said Brandreth.

"Sometimes we hear something's going on in a house and we go into the house to make sure things are OK. It can be alcohol related. It can be student safety related."

Brandreth described the procedure for fire safety checks: "We knock on the front door. If no one answers, we have keys. We let ourselves in; we announce ourselves. We go through all the

main rooms and the individual bedrooms to look for fire safety violations, make sure all the fire extinguishers have the proper pressure and Toby checks the carbon monoxide sensors and also tests the fire alarms."

In bedrooms, Brandreth stated they ensure smoke detectors and fire exits are not blocked or covered.

"When we go into the individual bedrooms what we're mostly looking for is any student handbook violations."

Brandreth said she believes Greek Life has changed in her three years as advisor. She attributes some alterations to National Panhellenic policies that aim to make Greek students safer.

On campus, Brandreth feels that Greek Life has become better.

"We are stronger organizations. Most of our chapters have grown over the three years. More have been focusing on philanthropy and scholarship. Greek Life has done more activities with other organizations and offices on campus. Greek GPA has either stayed the same as the average college GPA or been above it."

Brandreth addressed the Two Strike Policy. The switch from a Three Strike Policy occurred as a result of the Task Force on Student Safety, a group comprised of both Greek and non-Greek students as well as faculty and staff.

"It was actually suggested by some of the students to switch to a Two Strike Policy," she said. "They didn't think the three strike was working. We consulted Alma College's lawyer. We consulted our board of trustees. We thought that switching to a Two Strike Policy would be beneficial."

The rule punishes violations such as having open alcohol containers in common spaces of small housing. Brandreth advised that Greek houses should have student security at non-alcoholic events to cut down on bottles and cans being left behind. She clarified that an organization won't necessarily get a strike over one container.

"The Greek houses would meet with Dave Blandford, the [Greek house] president and the house manager and we would have a discussion. I'm not saying that, because we found one beer can in their living room, we're going to give them strike one. It would start off by having a conversation. Why is this happening? Who was bringing this into your house?"

Brandreth attended Northern Michigan University and was a sister of Phi Sigma Sigma.

She attributes her success in networking, leadership and membership in additional organizations to Phi Sig's influence.

To Greek members at Alma, Brandreth said she has an open door for comments and concerns.

She also endorsed attendance at Panhellenic and Interfraternity council meetings.

Dave Blandford on Alcohol

Binge drinking has increased at Alma, according to Director of Campus Life Dave Blandford.

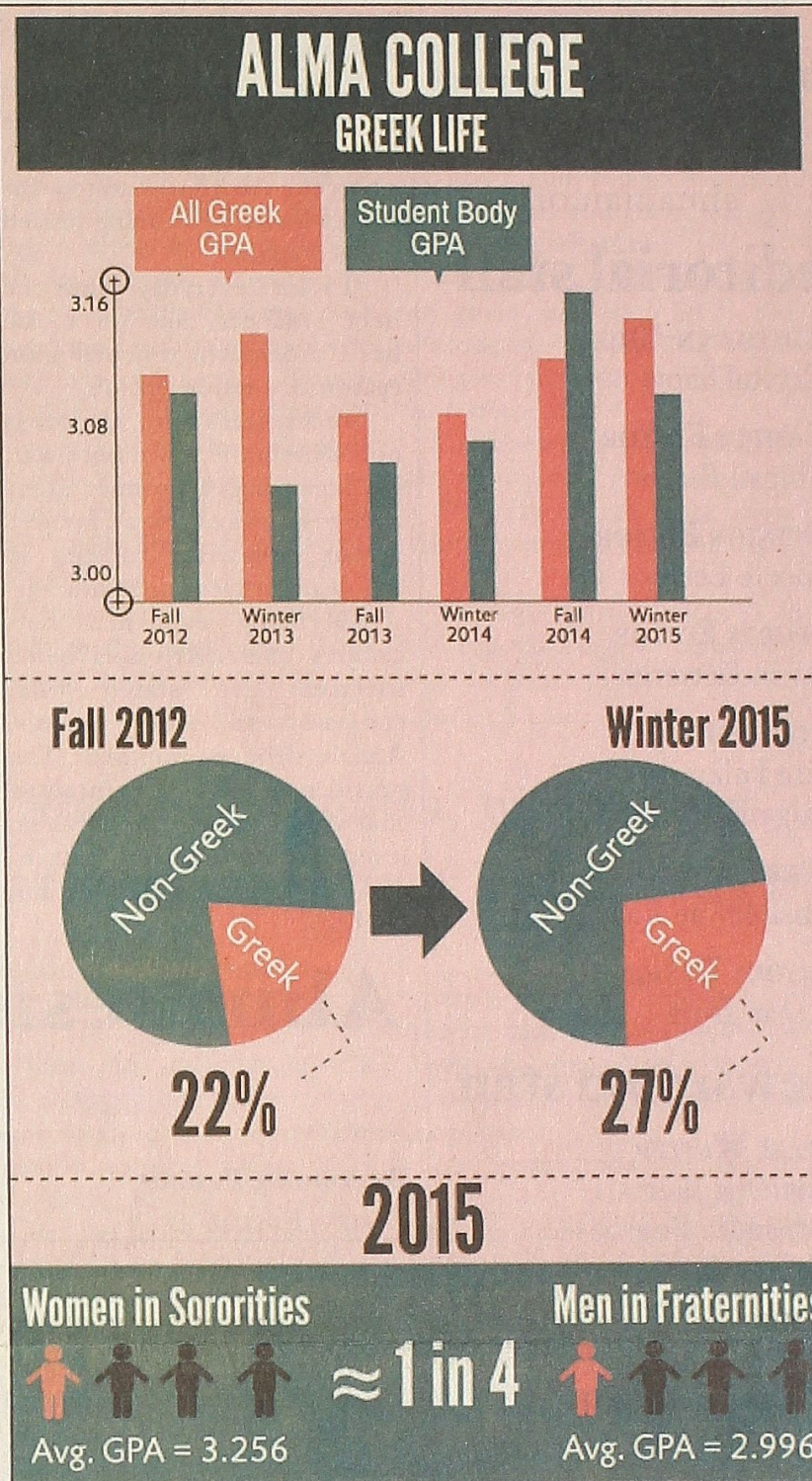
Blandford came to campus as the Bruske Hall director in 2000. Now, he works, in part, to address student safety concerns. He said he believes hard liquor is posing a threat to the campus.

"It seems to be easier for students to get ahold of the types of drinks with a much higher concentration of alcohol," he said. Blandford adds he has seen this trend over the past 10 years.

He said he helped to revise the alcohol policy with Danielle Brandreth and Willard Korson in order to make it more understandable and to address safety concerns. The group established guidelines for handling alcohol poisoning and trained over 200 Greeks in the new policy.

Blandford said he wishes to work with students to ensure safety.

"If you guys are proactive and you call us because you need



Greek Life GPA and Greek Life participation going into next semester has risen since Fall 2012.

help in a situation, we're not going to get you in trouble."

Violations of the alcohol policy will be reviewed case by case, according to Blandford.

When addressing a situation Blandford said he will consider, "Was it a bottle that was laying on the ground? Was it 100 people pouring out of a house? Does what happened warrant a strike or does it warrant some other preventative sanction?"

Policies have been evolving rather than changing, according to Blandford. He adjusted searches to be conducted by a male and female, one from

security and one from his office.

Students are welcome to share their thoughts, he adds. "My door is always open and I encourage dialogue. I have had a number of students over the years who have built that relationship with me."

He said he wants students to be proactive about problem solving. "We're talking about a judicial matter, but when you leave here that doesn't mean my door is closed. If you come to me with a problem, bring a

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Theta Chi house to be torn down

By ALEXANDRA BOURNE
STAFF WRITER

Theta Chi's house will be demolished this summer.

"The house is being torn down, along with the Delta Gamma Tau house, to make room for a new Delta Gamma Tau built with the Tau Kappa Epsilon model," said **Evan Masley ('17)**, president of Theta Chi.

"The current house is at the end of its useful life and we look forward to finding more suitable housing in the future," said President Jeff Abernathy.

The alumni of Theta Chi are in the beginning stages of fundraising for a new home.

Theta Chi will stay in the present dwelling until the end of Spring Term, with the promise from the school to have a temporary house next year.

"Most of the options they

are looking at are on Mechanic Street and only fit four or fewer people," said Masley.

Dr. Nicholas Piccolo, vice president of student life, explained that this is in accordance with city requirements, which say that a house cannot be rented to more than four unrelated people without a special use permit.

Each year the college must attain a special use permit for Greek housing. In order to receive this permit, the house has to be inspected by the city to ensure that it meets living standards.

"We are working with the alumni of the fraternity, who have reached out to suggest that they might be interested in a campaign to raise funds for a new or renovated house," added Abernathy.

Members plan on taking pictures and collecting pieces of the house that have

sentimental value for some of the brothers to take home.

"All of my best memories and closest friendships in the last two years found root in that place, so I'm going to try my best to make my limited time left really special," said **Christopher Vest ('17)**.

"I would love to go through the house and take a crazy big amount of pictures," said Theta Chi Sister **Aubri McEachern ('17)**. "I think it would make a great photo album for anyone who loves Theta as much as I do."

Brothers and sisters look forward to the prospect of new housing, but are saddened by the loss of their current home.

"I'm not gonna lie, I'm probably going to cry a bit," continued McEachern. "I mean, it's my home."

"But I won't be sad forever, we're getting a fancy new house. As long as the brothers are still their crazy, beautiful selves,

then I know that it doesn't matter where our rumps rest."

"Honestly, I'm heartbroken," said Vest. "I knew it would happen relatively soon, but [I didn't think it would be] during my time at Alma College."

Theta Chi did not know this change would be coming so soon.

"I really wish the school had warned us of this decision much sooner," said Vest. "We've recently been working on repainting and renovating the house, and it's pretty disheartening to find out that all that time, effort, and money were wasted."

In the face of the upcoming razing of the house, the brothers and sisters soon reminisced.

"The amount of memories that sit in that house are infinite," said McEachern. "Out of all the moments that I spent there, my favorite types were the 'too early in

the morning' or 'too late at night' kind where someone was always there to talk."

"I fell in love with those moments where I felt accepted. A home isn't just a building with four walls, it's a place you can feel welcome. Theta is a home, a place that feels like a warm hug in my heart. I don't think I would be the same person without it."

Many years of the house's existence, numerous brothers, sisters, and friends have caused many memories.

"Limiting my experiences in that place to a few key memories would be difficult to say the least," said Vest.

"I suppose the night I took my Theta bid would top that list." Vest continued that he enjoyed "the feeling of being surrounded by activities and alumni who were all beyond ecstatic to get to know me and let me know that they hoped the best for me."

VOLUME CIX ISSUE XXI

THE ALMANIAN

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

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Publication Policy:

The Almanian is distributed to Alma College's campus on Monday morning and is sent to subscribers that day. The paper is published weekly with the exception of academic recesses.

Staff Editorial Policy:

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

Letter Policy:

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. Email letters to the editor to editor.almanian@gmail.com

Administration on finances, Title IX

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President Jeff Abernathy on Finances

The entire country is asking why tuition is rising, according to President Jeff Abernathy. In 2009, tuition started rising annually by 5 percent.

Alma's fighting rising tuition, he maintained. Last year, the hike was 3.9 percent rather than 5 percent. Abernathy stated this means less cost is being passed on to students.

"I worry everyday about the debt students take on to be here," Abernathy touched upon reasons for rising tuition.

"Federal and state support is not there in the way it once was. Michigan had a promise grant that went away in 2007. Society is not supporting colleges to the degree that it once did."

Abernathy explained how campus construction is being financed. He stated that, compared to other schools, Alma's debt is minimal. The president also maintained that debt is a way in which to leverage an institution forward and pay for new buildings and facilities.

Costs for the renovations of Gelston and construction of buildings such as the TKE house are not raising student tuition, according to Abernathy. He attributed most of the funding to donations from alumni. A board member promised approximately a quarter of a million dollars if the school found the funds to continue remodeling Gelston this summer.

E-mails are sent out regularly about Abernathy's open office hours. He said he wants to hear what students have to say and encourages them to attend.

Nick Piccolo on Title IX

The Title IX policy at the college is undergoing change, according to Vice President for Student Life Nick Piccolo. Title IX is a nondiscrimination policy enforced by the federal government.

Piccolo explained that a violation of the regulation can be "anything that might interfere with [a student's] education experience." He cited harassment, assault, bullying and cyberbullying as examples.

Such a violation can

be committed by another student or "any member of the community," according to Piccolo.

When a Title IX violation occurs at Alma, the situation is dealt with in a "dynamic," case-by-case way, according to Piccolo. He believes the process of addressing incidents such as sexual assault can't be "etched in stone."

In all cases, "anybody who works [at Alma] is a mandatory reporter," said Piccolo. If employees suspect the policy is broken, they are required to report to the Student Life office, he remarked.

The office immediately extends support to sufferers of violations, according to Piccolo. He wants them to know they're "not in trouble" and know "where the support is."

For each case, Piccolo said he gathers an "intake on what kind of action [the victim would] like to see." He said he strives to make the student "understand the door is always open." There is no deadline in which Title IX offenses must be reported.

Students may request action through educational or legal

channels. "[Victims] always have the option to work with the police department, work with the office of civil rights, worth with us, or all three," said Piccolo.

When asked if authorities are always involved in sexual assault cases, Piccolo said "usually the complaint will involve the police. We might recommend that, but they may not want that."

Even if the victim does not want police involvement, Piccolo confirmed that the school can contact authorities. "I don't know what the police would do if [the student] isn't willing."

Ultimately, Piccolo said he focuses on how he can get the student "empowered enough to be ready" to contact police. With or without legal involvement, the school will process cases and expel students if it is deemed they are guilty of sexual assault.

Upcoming changes to the school's Title IX policy will involve training more administrative investigators. This may speed the processing of cases, according to Piccolo.

Alma resident brightens the weight room

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
CAMPUS EDITOR

group's website. Forest began working with Arnett in Sep.

"He's a really sweet guy," Arnett described of his caregiver. Forest brings Arnett to the rec center three days a week. They perform a workout routine designed by Arnett's cousin who is a personal trainer. Arnett said he likes throwing the medicine ball around and running on the treadmill the most.

Arnett is a 23-year-old Alma resident and attends Westgate Gratiot County Community Based Education for classes. He also works cutting wires at Mid-Michigan Industries. Some of his wages go to toys, he's had his eye on an Optimus Prime action figure.

Forest used to work in graphic design: he never expected to be in this line of work. "I started working with BHS out of necessity. I am an artist by trade; I went to

CMU for it. But after leaving my previous graphic design job, because the workload wasn't available, I applied for several odd jobs that I had little interest in. Having said that, I love my job and haven't felt as happy in a while.

"I heard about BHS and I have always had a love and passion for helping people. So when I was offered the job at BHS, I was more than happy to take up the reins and see where it took me and I absolutely enjoy it.

He participates in Special Olympics soccer, hockey, track, baseball and basketball teams.

"Patrick does all the Special Olympics games. He also plays unified basketball with Central Michigan University," said Forest.

When basketball was mentioned, Arnett explained that he watches "High School Musical" starring Zac Efron as Troy Bolton the basketball player. Other

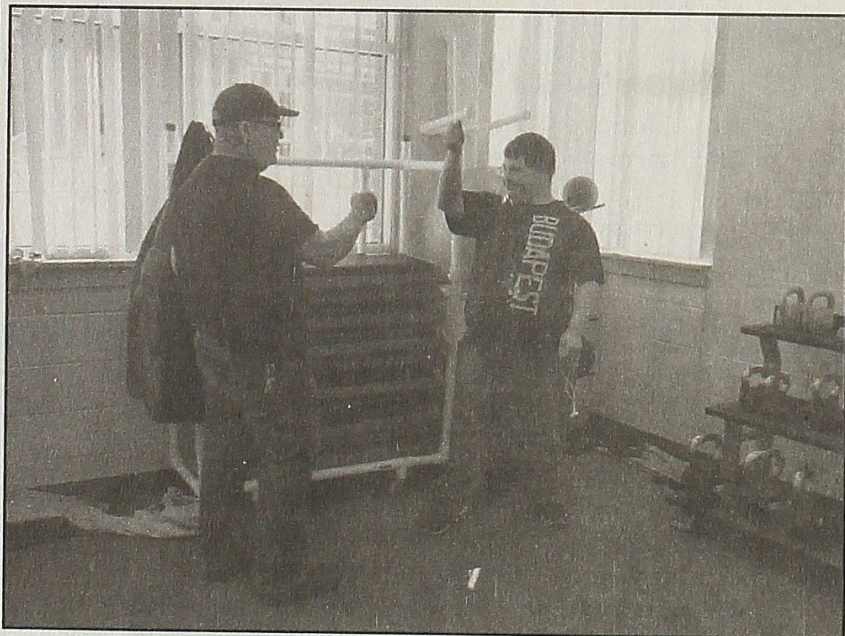
important aspects of Arnett's life are the spicy foods he enjoys, jalapenos are the spiciest he's ever had, and his big brother Jacob.

Jacob lives in Florida and has a wedding this summer. Arnett is to stand in it and wants his workouts to make him look good in his tux, according to Forest.

Forest has seen improvement in Arnett since he started his new workout routine about two months ago.

Patrick has learned to not be such a wild thrower of the weighted ball. His dexterity and motor skills seem to be improving. He also has increased his speed on the treadmill. His sit-ups are far superior to when we started.

"Patrick is making great progress in his routine losing both weight and inches. We also have extended the amount of reps and raised the weight of his workout tools. I'm very proud of him."



Alma resident Patrick Arnett uses the Stone Rec Center in order to do his workout regime.

Abigail Fergus: Campus Editor

New email system rollout to begin

By SAM COYKENDALL
BUSINESS MANAGER

Not only will changes be made to the college's outdoor campus atmosphere, but students can also expect to see new technological changes when returning in the Fall.

During the summer months, the college will be replacing the current Zimbra email system with a more robust and high-functioning version Microsoft Office 365 as the campus email service provider. The transition and roll-out is scheduled to occur in June.

Microsoft Office 365 utilizes a completely web-based interface referred to as Outlook Web Access. Outlook Web Access has four main areas of use that will be of use and importance to the college campus. These four areas include: communication, organization, tracking and teamwork.

Outlook provides a greater range of user customization options and as well as multi-calendar organization and meeting set-up.

As the college transitions to Microsoft Outlook, both faculty and staff will see a seamless transition and will still be able to log-in to their email accounts using the same username and password that was utilized with the Zimbra email system. Alma email addresses will not change as a result of the transition.

In addition to a new email service provider, each account holder will have available one terabyte of online storage through Microsoft Outlook. Current students, faculty and staff will also have the option and availability to download Microsoft Office Suite for free on up to five personal devices such as tablets and smartphones.

Students, faculty and staff are advised to watch their Zimbra email for more details as implementation of the new system draws closer.

Things I wish I learned sooner: a senior reflects

By **RAY VISSER**
STAFF WRITER

With graduation a single-digit number of weeks away, college seniors worldwide are staring headfirst into the uncertainty of the future. It's at this critical juncture that I want to pause and reflect on the things I wish I had learned much earlier in my life.

Some are meaningful, others mundane. They span the spectrum from Alma-specific to universal.

Remember that nobody knows exactly what to do at all times. Some people just hide their uncertainty more effectively. Use this as a comforting thought in times of strife.

Notice corners, alcoves, walls, paths, details, and features you've never considered before. Walk around and in them, sit down, maybe study there. Ignore weird glances from people who see

you there—they're just surprised they've never noticed the space before.

Take two SAGA cookies. Scoop some ice cream between them. Optionally, drizzle chocolate syrup on top. You'll thank me later.

Try closed doors if you're wandering a building. Don't be afraid to explore. If you're not allowed somewhere, people will most likely tell you. Follow the rules of archaeology: take nothing but photos; leave nothing but footprints. Don't be an Indiana Jones.

Say no sometimes. Go to bed at 10 p.m. even if you don't have to.

Go to music performances, plays, and concerts. They're free. Your friends are in them. They love seeing you in the audience and talking afterward.

On a clear day, take a drive (or walk) off campus, into the fields

and farms. Make split-second navigation decisions. Find your way back using landmarks and street names. If you get truly lost, remember that all the streets are right angles and geometry's not so bad after all.

Go upstairs in the library for some actual, real quiet. The stacks feel like a museum sometimes. One of the best spots on campus is the curved-window upstairs room. Just be sure to stake it out before busting through the door into someone else's intense study session.

Join some clubs and organizations. If you want, after a year or two or three you can find yourself in an influential position. Do that sooner rather than later, so you can see the difference you make.

Try to start an organization. Make changes for the better. Gather a group of like-minded people and start meeting regularly.

Go to Student Congress meetings so they know you're serious when you petition to become an official club.

Travel. I didn't do this nearly enough, and regret it now. There are ways to have most of the cost covered, and even when it's not, it's drastically cheaper than through other means.

Make close friends with a professor or two. It seems weird, especially if you have a friend at a bigger college whose professors don't know your friend exists. Make a personal and professional connection. And for anyone who gives you trouble about it... I think (I hope) we're long past the point in our lives where the concept of a "teacher's pet" exists.

Hold the door. Say "thank you." These are not specific to Alma College.

If you must have a meal plan, switch to the block plan. Three times as much Munch Money,

plus the ability to share meals, shouldn't be passed up.

Learn to cook. Or even to make some pasta that's not Easy Mac. I suggest starting with eggs, grilled cheese, and stir fry. Mostly because that sums up my current repertoire.

Share food with your friends. Humans have been doing it for thousands of years. Just because you have a mini-fridge to yourself doesn't mean you get to change that in one generation.

Go bowling. Wrangle up a big group and see who is the unexpected professional who blows everyone else's score out of the water.

Don't be afraid to do something just because your friends don't do it. If you're on the fence about whether you should do something, do it.

Because this is life, and it makes us do things. If you can, try to make those things memorable.

Alternative rock band Twenty One Pilots release first single in two years

By **PAIGE DANIEL**
STAFF WRITER

The only reason I started listening to Twenty One Pilots was to impress a crush. Isn't that how all great love affairs with a band begin?

Even though now the crush is no more, Twenty One Pilots still occupy the same old dusty place in my heart.

Twenty One Pilots is an alternative band from Columbus, Ohio that defies all genre categorizations. The group is comprised of frontman Tyler Joseph and drummer Josh Dun, whose indie pop sound mixes rap, ukulele, spoken word poetry, piano, and synthesizer — commonly referred to as "schizoid pop."

It's hard to explain their unexpected and unique sound to outsiders, but a quick listen to their newest release, "Fairly Local," offers a summation of both their signature aural and visual aesthetic, as well as their mission statement. Their fourth album, "Blurryface", is expected out May 19th, 2015 from Fueled By Ramen Records.

In "Fairly Local," Joseph acknowledges the grassroots effort put in by fans that has sparked sold out shows in venues across the nation, when just three

years ago they were playing to crowds of ten. "It's the few, the proud, and the emotional," he sings, recognizing the dedication of their fans.

As a sufferer of mental illness, Joseph's lyrics generally deal with mental entrapment, internal struggle and conflict, emotionally visceral concepts, and confessions of dark thoughts.

At first, his vocal style is a punch to the gut; if you can get over the hump of his semi-screamo approach, along with his spasmodic instrumental compositions, you can start to notice the inherent message of hope.

His advocacy for youth with mental illnesses has fostered a close and impassioned bond with fans. Joseph's continual attempt at inner peace is easily self-identified by listeners.

Don't let their seemingly hardcore output fool you, though: their ski masks and skeleton motifs are the stylized tough shell around a soft and mushy core.

Joseph and his drummer in crime, Dun, have an incredible stage presence. Videos of their live performances might just be the tipping point for people who aren't convinced by their studio recordings. Their two-man band setup is as playful as it is inspiring. Dun resembles a windup toy on the drum set, while Joseph pecks

away at an upright piano with fervor and endearingly paces the stage during his rap verses.

As a die-hard fan of Twenty One Pilots, it is difficult to present an unbiased and objective take on their new single. But perhaps that shows how deeply personal their band can become to you.

Their capability to produce music that can be defined by the audience itself (even warranting lyrics in "Fairly Local" about how much of an impact their fans have had on their growing success) is something worth praising and cherishing in the landscape of bland upstart indie bands.

It cannot be denied that Twenty One Pilots unknowingly cater to a specific demographic — their angsty tone has gotten them a specially sanctioned spot in Hot Topic for their merchandise.

However, the complete genuineness of Joseph and Dun is somewhat off-putting and captivating. They actively elude any label or box that tries to corner them off.

I think the most apt characterization of Twenty One Pilots is their Instagram bio: "Stay strong. Live on. Pass on these songs."

Indeed, people passing on their songs has gotten them this far. Hopefully Blurryface's impending reign will prove to be as fruitful as the last.

Summer trends, magazines negatively affect body image

By **MONICA KUNOVSKY**
STAFF WRITER

With the summer months just rolling around the corner, there comes a wave of articles aimed at women: "What NOT to wear this summer," "10 beauty trends you HAVE to try this July," "The 5 week beach bod diet," and numerous other badly titled articles, just sopping with oppressive and shallow-minded advice.

Although possibly aiming towards creating better self-image for women (because there comes a time occasionally when looking and feeling good are synonymous with beauty trends) this overall scope of thinking can be detrimental to not only the entirety of the female population, but to individuals' self-esteem as well.

A problem that comes up often is the age-old summer edition of your favorite magazine. Even as a child I can remember getting excited to receive the latest monthly issue of Teen Vogue or Seventeen magazine, just to see what was in for that season. Often times, the magazines contained full length, pull out

charts, showing examples of certain bathing suits that fit each body type, what colors to wear for makeup and what hairdos for your face shape.

I was always slightly disappointed by the suits and patterns they offered for any other body shape besides petite. The plus size models were always given ugly one-pieces, which seemed to be unflattering and highly monotone. There was no character and they were made as if to shame the wearer of that item.

Women of color always seemed to be given the smallest amount of space given on the makeup charts, and not even mentioned on the hair style charts.

There's an obvious bias in these magazines, shifted towards the fit and white, and it's disgustingly unfair. Of course magazines need ideas and concepts to come up with to attract readers, and what's cooler than having a personalized chart in your favorite magazine, tailored to what you look like and made to help you look the best during summer? Such an innocent idea, yet laden with discrepancies.

Read the full article online at
www.almanian.org

'Smashed' explores alcoholism recovery; deserves A-

By **DAN MURAWSKE**
STAFF WRITER

I never knew I could get so emotional while watching two people play croquet. But I did while watching the independent film, "Smashed."

The movie focuses on a married couple, Kate and Charlie Hannah (Mary Elizabeth Winstead, Aaron Paul).

We get the impression that this has not caused too many problems for them in the past. In the opening moments, the two of them are pretty happy.

The term "functioning alcoholic," as some people are dubbed, comes to my mind when

I think of Kate and Charlie, as the film showcases their love for alcohol.

That is, until Kate stops functioning. Not physically, mind you; but she starts saying and doing things she is not proud of.

Consider the first scene when we see her at school, teaching her elementary students. She comes to work with a hangover and ends up vomiting in front of her class while trying to teach math.

And when one of the children asks her if she is pregnant, she lies and says that she is. Kate continues this lie throughout much of the film, and it eats away at her.

She decides to take her co-worker, Dave's (Nick Offerman) suggestion of attending an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

Dave, who sees Kate drinking in her car the morning that she threw up in front of her students, is revealed to be a recovering alcoholic; he helpfully offers to take her to a meeting if she decides AA is something worth exploring.

"Um, I'm Kate. I'm an... alcoholic?" she tentatively says when she introduces herself to the AA group. She struggles to come to grips with the idea of being an alcoholic. "I don't know if I'm an alcoholic. I just drink. I drink a lot," she says.

The film continues to focus on her path to sobriety. Meanwhile, we see what kind of effect her journey has on her marriage.

Charlie is very conflicted. He loves Kate, and he clearly wants what's best for her. But he is also

selfish at times, pining to recreate the fun times they had before while drunk.

He swings from saying "I'll help you" and "I hate AA." He is torn between wanting what is best for his wife and his own desires.

After all, Charlie feels no need to get sober. He can't fully understand where Kate is coming from because he has not gone through as many hardships as she has as a result of excessive drinking.

The two begin drifting apart, and questions about their future come to the surface.

With a character driven plot structure like this, the filmmakers have to make you care about the people. I definitely did. Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Aaron Paul provide great performances as

they embody Kate and Charlie.

I have never cared about the outcome of two characters in a fictional piece of work as I did in "Smashed." My heart was racing at the end as I waited to find out what would happen to Kate and Charlie. It was the same feeling one might get while watching a good action movie.

And, while I cannot say for sure because I have never battled alcoholism, the film felt extraordinarily real. The characters became my friends, and I wanted to help them with their problems.

Not many films have that kind of affect on me.

I give "Smashed" an "A-"

The film is rated "R" for alcohol abuse, language, some sexual content and brief drug use.

Lady Scots softball looks to extend winning ways with 4 upcoming MIAA games

By Tony Knop
Staff Writer

The Alma College softball squad (8-8) competed in a doubleheader against Aquinas College (8-8) on Wednesday afternoon. The Scots swept the Saints at their home opener with some potent offense.

In the first game, the Lady Scots demolished Aquinas 9-1 in six innings, with the help of two home runs and a big double.

In the top of the first, Aquinas took a one run lead with an RBI single. The lead would be short lived and Alma would storm back to enact the mercy rule in the sixth.

Morgan Stratton ('17) pitched the complete game to earn the victory on the mound. In six innings of work, Stratton allowed one run on five hits and added seven strikeouts. She improved her record to 5-2 on the year.

The Lady Scots offense clicked the whole game, racking up 13 hits over the course of the game. **Sarah Collier ('16)** went three for four in the game with a homer and three RBIs. **Kassidi Adams ('16)** and **Kayla Merice ('16)** would also chip in two RBIs a piece.

The nightcap would prove to be a different story, where both teams battled all game for control. Ultimately, it would be the Lady Scots who claimed a 9-8 victory.



Marcella Flury: Staff Photographer

Lea Lusk ('15) squares up with the ball and prepares for the pitch. Alma hosts Hope in a doubleheader Thursday.

It did not look good for the Lady Scots to begin the game, as Aquinas would score three runs in the first two innings and hold a 3-0 lead going into the fourth. Alma would have three cross the plate in the fourth, but saw the lead slip away after allowing two Saints runs to give them a 5-3 lead.

In the fifth, Alma's fortunes would change. A five run explosion would propel them to an 8-5 lead after the top of the fifth. The Lady Scots would

hold on to win the game and earn the sweep.

Breu Olling ('15) would earn the win, pitching the last half of the inning and only allowing one hit. **Samantha Pierce ('15)** came into the seventh and pitched a solid inning to earn her first save of the year.

The Alma offense was paced by **Devan Olah ('15)** and Collier. Olah went 2-4 with a home run and a double. She also tacked on two RBIs. Collier

went 2-3 with a homer and three RBIs.

With the sweep of Aquinas behind them, the Lady Scots look to continue their solid campaign and make a run deep into the MIAA tournament.

"I believe we have all the talent we need to go far. The first few games, we were putting a lot of pressure on ourselves because we knew how good we could be," said Olling.

"We just need to clear our heads, relax, and play with

heart. As long as we do that the remaining of the season, we should have a good year," she added.

The Lady Scots looked to continue their winning ways, playing a doubleheader at Scots Park against Bluffton University (OH) on Saturday.

The Scots will have four MIAA games this week, hosting Hope in a doubleheader at home Thursday, and traveling to Calvin Saturday for two contests.

Grant Hill ('17): MIAA Player of the Week

By TONY KNOP
STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2012, an Alma Scots tennis player was named the MIAA Player of the Week. For his effort against his Division II opponent from Lake Superior State, **Grant Hill ('17)** earned the award after two incredibly hard fought victories on March 14.

In the third doubles, Hill and teammate **Damien Arthur ('17)** would play a tough match and earn a tight 9-8 victory. The Hill/Arthur tandem was the only Scots doubles to defeat the Lakers.

"In our doubles match we stuck to our game plan, which was to control the net and keep

the other team guessing as to where we were going. Grant and I work very well together and have great chemistry," said Arthur.

At third singles, Hill found himself dropping the first set

to win the set 7-6. He would then dominate the final set 10-7 to take home the win.

"Against Lake Superior State University, I was two points from losing the match, but won two consecutive tiebreaks to

trained so hard for this," Hill added.

"In his singles match he played how Grant plays; he grinds. Grant grinds out every point and kept himself in the singles match against a tough

Hill knows this is just the beginning and that he still has a large portion of the season yet to continue improving and make some noise in the MIAA.

"The season has had its ups and downs, with good wins and bad losses, but it's been improving along the way," said Hill. "I hope to get healthy the rest of the season, as I had mono, and keep improving as a team."

"His Player of the Week recognition was well deserved as he was able to beat a Division II school not only in singles but in doubles as well, which is a very tough task to achieve," said Arthur.

Alma (3-5) will open up the MIAA schedule with a road match on Thursday to face Adrian College (13-2).

"His Player of the Week recognition was well deserved as he was able to beat a Division II school not only in singles, but in doubles as well, which is a very tough task to achieve."

-Damien Arthur ('17)

1-6, then went down into a 5-2 hole in the second. With the pressure on, Hill started an unbelievable rally, coming back

win the match," said Hill.

"It was about knowing we needed the win as a team, and delivering for the guys who

opponent," said Arthur. "He earned that victory by staying within himself, but yet staying aggressive at the same time."

Spotlight: Ashley Halm ('15) finishes strong

By JUSTIN KETTERER
SPORTS EDITOR

Ashley Halm ('15) is the first indoor track and field All-American in Alma College history. Her fourth place finish at the national meet on March 14 in the 400-meter dash earned her the honor.

"It was a whirlwind experience," Coach Matt Chovance said. "We found out she was

racing the Monday before at 9:00 a.m."

With a week to get ready, it makes sense that Halm was feeling some nerves going into the race. Going through the preliminary round the nerves were high for both Chovance and Halm.

"They treat the athletes very well at the national meet," Chovance said. "It was one of the best experiences running for her."

Halm ran a 57.31 second-time in the preliminary round, which seeded her at fourth for the final.

"She finished where she was seeded," Chovance said. "I think that says a lot to how she prepared for the race and how she ran it, she ran very well in the finals."

Halm was seeded at 10 coming in and the improvement six spots was due to a great preliminary race and continuing that

into the final, according to her coach.

With the multiple All-Americans that Alma track and field has had over the years, this one is special being that it is the first one during the indoor season.

"It's a great experience to talk about," Chovance said. "We want to get our kids there in other years and continue the success."

Halm, her coach and her

teammates hope to piggy back on this success and carry it into the outdoor season this spring.

Halm will look to add another outdoor track All-American honor in the outdoor season that started last Saturday with the Rhodes College Invite in Memphis, Tenn. The results of that invite were not available at press time.

The first MIAA event will be the league jamboree at Adrian College on April 11.