

Blurred lines: Sexual misconduct, laws, colleges

By ABIGAIL FERGUS
CAMPUS EDITOR

News of an alleged sexual assault occurring in Newberry Hall has raised concerns on social media and among students.

An e-mail was sent on Wednesday, Nov. 4, from Nick Piccolo, vice president for student life and Title IX coordinator, which complied with The Clery Act mandate that a timely warning be issued when incidents occur that threaten student safety.

Rumors spread quickly. One on YikYak said a security guard was involved in the assault, but Piccolo said that was not the case.

Sam Gregoire ('19) said she had heard gossip between Newberry residents and other students. She expressed a desire for more information.

"I understand privacy but I'm a resident here [Newberry]. I don't need to know who it was, but I need to know what happened."

Gregoire said she wants the school to, "tell [students] what happened, how [they're] fixing it [and if they're] pressing charges. 'It's their job to take care of me and make me feel safe.'"

School vs. Authorities

"Whenever we hear from a victim, we see if changes need to be made," said Anne Lambrecht, director of counseling, referring to how the college handles sexual assault.

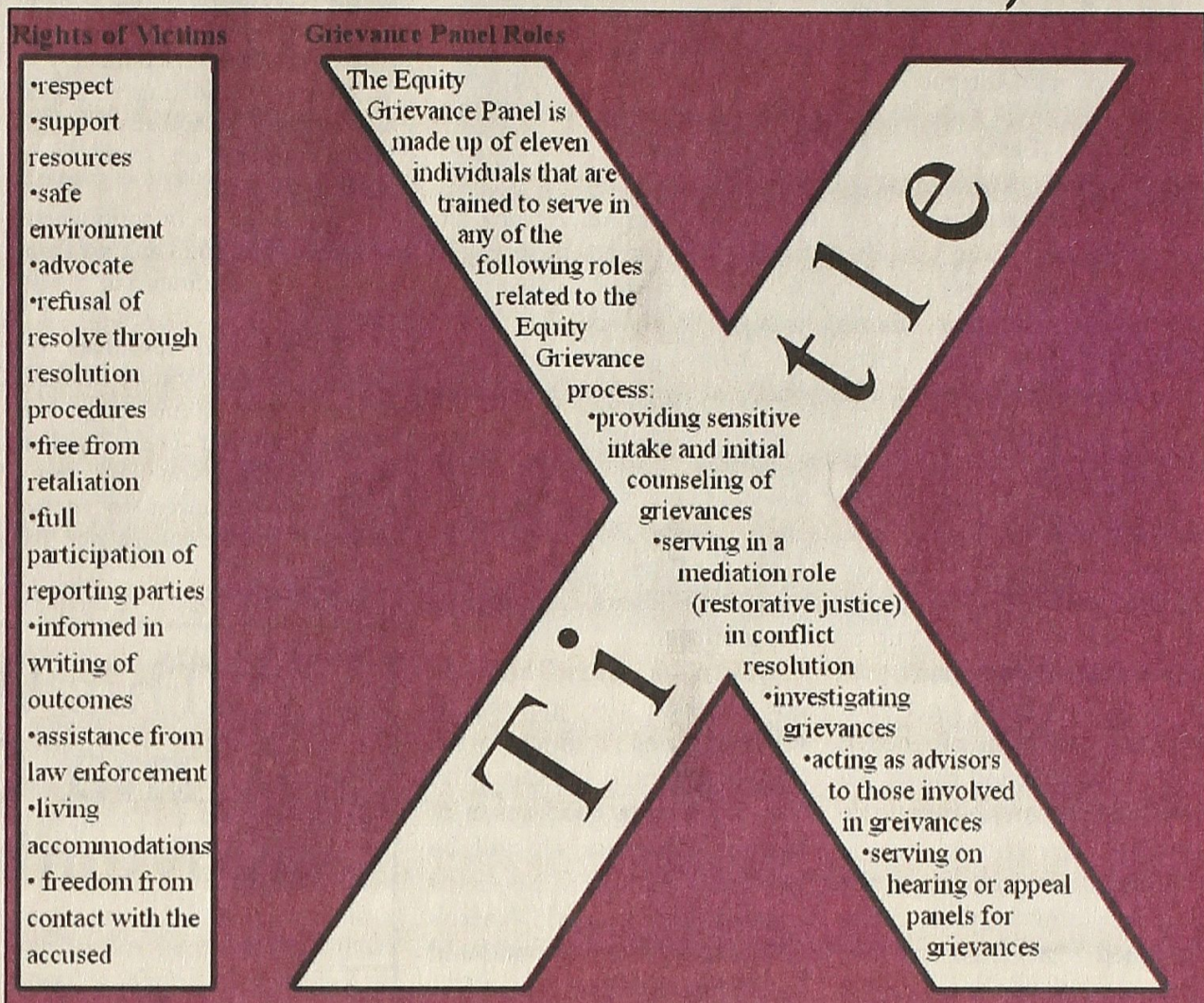
When a student becomes a victim of sexual misconduct the person can choose to report the case through the college, the local authorities, both, or neither.

If a student would rather disclose information anonymously, it can be done through Alma's website. This will contribute to the school's annual crime statistics, reveal patterns in assaults and encourage the college to conduct educational programs, according to Piccolo.

Each filing process has both benefits and areas for improvement, say experts.

"Sometimes, neither process is perfect," said Lambrecht. "Sometimes cases aren't taken [by courts] because [they have] more evidentiary standards."

The most power the college has in punishing those accused of assault is expulsion. While college investigations are more a matter of evaluating witness



Abigail Fergus: Campus Editor

The college's policy and procedures on sexual misconduct can be found at <https://www.alma.edu/title-ix/>

accounts, complying with the victim's desires and gathering information, according to Piccolo, there's no way to ensure guilty parties face jail time.

The two procedures both complement and impede each other. The Alma City Police Department shares crime statistics annually so the college can release its own each fall. Likewise, the two parties share information and process it in their separate investigations, according to Piccolo.

Title IX, an anti-discrimination law that also guides schools in processing sexual misconduct cases, suggests that colleges and universities should be timely and non-dependent on local police with their inquiries.

"A school may not wait for the conclusion of a criminal proceeding and should conclude its own investigation within a semester's time (the 2011 Office for Civil Rights Title IX guidance proposes 60 days as an appropriate time-frame)," according to knowyourix.org.

At the same time, police involvement can slow the college's information gathering and decision making as it has to wait for law enforcement reports, according to Piccolo. In one case,

the college gathered more than 100 pieces of evidence before a decision could be made for the accused's fate, said Piccolo.

The grievance panel, led by Piccolo and trained by Lambrecht, begins an intake interview, provides counseling, leads the investigation, practices conflict resolution, acts as advisors and serves on hearing and appeal panels.

While this panel is trained by a professional (Lambrecht), Piccolo pointed out that it's composed of faculty and staff as opposed to the trained investigators of law enforcement.

While interim action is available to student victims, expulsion of their attacker can't occur until after the hearing is conducted. At that point, students found guilty of sexual misconduct are immediately expelled with the option of submitting an appeal within three business days, according to Piccolo.

Legislation

Piccolo shared there's a lack of clarity on how to handle cases of sexual misconduct between legislation such as Title IX, the Clery Act and the Campus Accountability and Safety Act.

Deciding whether to notify

the campus community about Title IX violations requires careful consideration, according to Piccolo. He has to decide to "say something and create panic or not say something and protect privacy [and potentially] create panic."

Accused parties are able to leave their college while their case is still pending and before official suspension or expulsion occurs. Only New York and Virginia mandate that colleges and universities must note that such students were expelled or suspended on their transcript.

This means that even if a student is charged for sexual misconduct by one school, they are not impeded from transferring to another by their past crime.

If these circumstances were to happen at Alma College, Piccolo said the "[investigation] process will continue without them," but Michigan neither requires nor prevents colleges from marking transcripts with the final determination of the sexual misconduct case: responsible or not responsible.

Court cases and new legislation relating to sexual assault continue to crop up nationwide. Lambrecht said that in her free

time she strives to research new policies and legislation in order to keep Piccolo up-to-date and to provide more training on campus.

Retaliation

A sexual assault victim recently told the Almanian her story but later asked, and the Almanian granted, her wish not to be identified or tell her story. The survivor said she did not want to relive the attack through a story being published and "people will form judgments that I won't be able to defend."

Hesitation among sexual misconduct survivors to talk about their story or even report assault may be a common theme, say experts. Retaliation is any adverse action against someone undergoing or assisting with a Title IX investigation and is against college policy.

Despite this safeguard, the e-mail regarding the recent, alleged assault in Newberry sparked conversation on YikYak that included hostile comments and finger pointing. As one YikYak user pointed out, this could make victims feel intimidated and exposed: "I'm friends [with] who it happened to and I'm sure they don't like seeing posts all the time."

Lambrecht has been at Alma for five years and said she believes the way the college handles sexual assault has "drastically improved." She feels more students feel "comfortable coming forward."

"What I heard [from students] warms my heart," Lambrecht said, referring referred to the Greek Life Title IX training she conducted recently.

Be a True Scot

Incoming freshmen, athletic groups, Greek Life, resident assistants, first-year guides, coaches, faculty and staff are trained on Title IX regulations and how to prevent sexual misconduct.

The Counseling and Wellness Center has also drawn assistance from Women's Aid Service (a good resource for all gender identifications who suffer sexual misconduct, according to Piccolo and Lambrecht) to bring the annual Purple Tie Campaign to Alma during October.

Piccolo said trainings have

Continued on Page 2

Fresh chef, fresh SAGA cookies, fresh options

By SOPHIA RICHTER
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks ago, Alma's new-hired head chef arrived to take charge of Hamilton Commons.

Chef Spiro Andreopoulos grew up in Davison, Mich. Since receiving a degree in culinary arts and restaurant management, he has worked at a multitude of different venues including his own restaurant, Spiro's Downtown Restaurant in the Upper Peninsula, and in the kitchen of a private country club, which was his most recent job.

Andreopoulos is also looking into pursuing his Master Chef certificate which, though he says is a rigorous process, would ultimately improve the entire food service system at Alma.

"Improving leadership also improves service," said Andreopoulos in reference to the positive impact his certification would have on his employees and in turn the Alma community.

Some of Andreopoulos's long-term goals include utilizing more local and sustainable ingredients in food preparation. Already, he has been meeting with students on campus about starting a composting system to better alleviate food waste.

Andreopoulos described his vision of being able to make parts of Hamilton completely self-sustaining where food waste would be used in compost, which would then be used on a campus garden and greenhouse to grow herbs and some produce.

"These things take time,"

said Andreopoulos, but he is committed to a long-term plan of helping make Alma a more sustainable and responsible community.

This commitment can be seen in the improvements that have been witnessed in the few weeks that Andreopoulos has been on campus. As students may have noticed, stations such as the vegan/vegetarian and the salad bar have diversified and improved on the quality of choices.

Andreopoulos is introducing menus with more fresh options and foods cooked in simpler, yet tasteful ways. He explained efforts to minimize starchy foods and to replace them with foods seasoned in rubs and served in lighter gravies.

Since Andreopoulos has

arrived, sandwiches made on freshly baked breads are served regularly and the sauces at the Mongolian Grill are all made from scratch.

"It's challenging to balance meeting students' suggestions and the fiscal requirements of Sodexo," said Andreopoulos. But he's finding ways to compromise and optimize his resources.

"SAGA cookies seem to be all the rage," said Andreopoulos, and so, for every Tuesday, he decided to reintroduce the much loved rack of freshly baked cookies. Additionally, Andreopoulos and the food staff have made available gluten free options starting this past Monday. He said that it is really important to understand the inner workings of such ingredients as gluten and lactose

and to be able to provide foods that accommodate people with food allergies and sensitivities.

Andreopoulos shares that the most important role of being a chef and working in the culinary/food industry is to strive for quality service and proper technique, "no cutting corners" as he says. The key is to provide the best food possible for the students.

"You guys eat here potentially three times a day," he said.

Through the comment cards he has the opportunity to exchange ideas with the student body, but he is willing to go even further. Andreopoulos writes down his phone number on many comment cards and is more than willing to take time to meet with students personally.

Veteran's Day: lemons to lemonade Continued from page 1

By **MONICA KUNOVSKY**
STAFF WRITER

"This won't be a tragic story," retired staff Sergeant Bradley M. Lang, U.S. Marine Corps began, as he faced a partially-standing crowd for lack of seats.

"This is not the aspect my family holds onto. We've been able to make sweet lemonade out of the lemons we were given."

Lang referred to the events that occurred while serving in Afghanistan, resulting in the termination of his tour, bringing him home and the loss of both his legs below the femur.

Brad Lang spoke with his wife, Alyssa Lang last Thursday on topics regarding serving in the military as well as the ways they coped with the Lang's injuries.

Both spoke of the situations the family was given with the experiences and the journey they went through ranging from giving birth to their first child, 11 days before his deployment, losing his legs, and developing pneumonia in the hospital and almost losing his life.

Alyssa Lang was no stranger to piping in with comments.

"If Brad can survive not only losing his legs, but having his limbs basically fall out of his body, and pneumonia on top of that, we know for sure the way he's going out is going to be at the mercy of my hands."

Audience members noticed the light approach the Langs had.

Emily Hartman ('17) commented, "I loved the chemistry they had with one another, and how quick and witty they just spoke back and forth about these stories. They kept it light, and even made some jokes that I might have guessed would be a bit offensive, but the fact that they can step away from the negativity that their situation has left them, is truly inspiring."

Student's welcomed the approach the Langs had with this presentation.

Sydney Hooker ('17) said, "There were a few moments that I thought I would get

teary eyed, or even feel super sad, but the way his [Brad Lang] wife and him were able to interject with funny comments was definitely appreciated with a heavy topic."

Some students also had the opportunity to eat lunch with the Langs and interact with them.

Taylor Manfroni ('17) said, "I didn't know how to react at the lunch when she [Alyssa Lang] was making jokes. It caught me off guard."

Stories that the Langs brought with to the presentation emphasized the points that audience members had.

Alyssa Lang began, "there was a time I lost him at Old Navy. I couldn't see him over all the clothing racks. But next thing I know, he's rolling up to me wearing women's rain boots and says, 'Hey! Can I get your number?' and then proceeded to follow me around the whole store, begging me to buy those boots."

Snickers erupted from the audience and Alyssa Lang continued, "needless to say, I did not buy those boots for him."

Brad Lang was first deployed to Afghanistan in 2009, his injuries had occurred on July 24, 2011.

After finding two IED's (Improvised explosive device), Lang stepped on a third IED that dispersed nine pounds of explosives, throwing him in the air. He recalled looking down and not seeing his feet.

"I looked down and saw nothing, but it didn't hurt. It was weird."

Lang credits his initial on-site survival to an archaic training technique that is not longer used by the military. It involved sedating animals and giving them severe, life threatening injuries which the soldiers then had to learn to delay, keeping the victim alive as long as possible.

"It's controversial, but it saved my life."

The Langs offered a way to see how one couple dealt with situations that are uncommon for most.

Alyssa Lang commented, "Right after he got out of surgery, he kept writing down

my number on a napkin and insisted on being able to call me."

"It was against protocol for the hospital, but they let him do it anyway. On the phone call, he told me I could leave him because he had no legs."

"I told him to shut up. I didn't marry him for his legs. Besides, toenails really gross me out."

It was emphasized to the couple as well, during the recovery period that there was 100% chance they would never have any more children, and that Brad Lang would not be able to be full functioning.

Despite the slim odds, Alyssa Lang is pregnant with their second son, and Brad Lang is, "functioning at full capacity," as stated by Brad Lang himself.

When crediting how he got through the months of recovery, Lang credits his wife. She commented stating, "You have to have a good sense of humor, otherwise all will be lost."

Brad Lang added, "there's no point in sitting around and feeling down about yourself."

Because of this mindset, Brad Lang and a close friend of his during deployment, decided to start a company.

"Johnny and I decided we didn't want to sit on our couches feeling bad for ourselves," Brad Lang began, "We wanted to contribute back to society."

Thus, Stumpies Custom Guns was born.

"My wife jokingly gave us the name, since we've only got one good working leg between the two of us, but we ran with it."

Brad Lang continued, "Our slogan even matches up with it. 'We can't run, but we can shoot.'"

Overall, Brad and Alyssa Lang have become active in various veteran organizations and try to endorse the groups that have helped them out so much these past few years.

Brad Lang stated, "You learn during recovery about organizations and people who want to help, and it's a really humbling experience to realize how much support you can have."

increased since he became Alma's Title IX coordinator in 2012. He also highlighted the increase in presidential action (on behalf of the Clinton and the Obama administrations) and legislation regarding sexual misconduct.

When reporting sexual misconduct, Lambrecht and Piccolo agreed on some basic pointers.

"You can go from confidential to public, but you can't go from public to confidential," said Piccolo.

Confidential resources on campus are the Wilcox Medical Center, The Counseling and Wellness Center and Chaplain Noel Snyder. None of these parties are required to report incidents to the college nor the

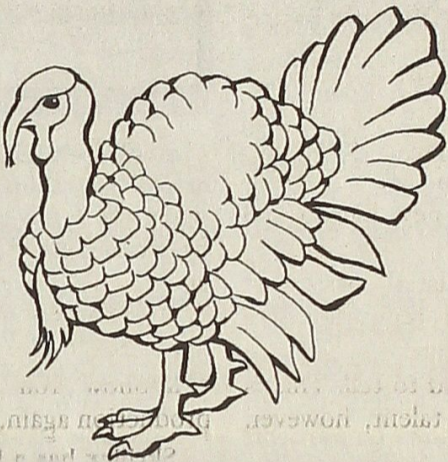
authorities. These resources help guide students in deciding whether to report their case and who to report it to.

Well-informed advocates and advisors are also important to students who undergo investigation, according to Piccolo and Lambrecht. Lambrecht has served as an advocate for victims and is professionally trained in the field.

"It's important to have support and a legal advocate," said Lambrecht. As far as what she's heard from students about the process, neither reporting through law enforcement or the school is better than the other.

"It's more comfortable [investigating] on campus, but both options are important."

This Week at Alma College November 16 - 22



M

Modern Language Movie Night
Clack Art Center
7:30 p.m.

T

History Club Civil War Panel
Library
SAC 110 7 p.m.

W

Theta Chi Blood Drive
Tyler-Van Dusen
1-6 p.m.

Th

Frenchgiving
Food sponsored by French club
Rotunda
7 p.m.

F

ACUB Songfest
Chapel
6 p.m.

Student Congress Executive Council Office Hours

Joanna Delpaz ('16), President- Joe's: Tuesday 10-11a.m.,
Wednesday 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Max Jones ('16), Vice President- Joe's: Monday and Friday 10-11 a.m.
Jared Jacob ('18), Treasurer- Library near Highland Java: Sunday 8-9
p.m.
Nicole Eccles ('16), Secretary- Library: Tuesday 3-4 p.m.



Alyssa Lang holds Brad Lang's arm as he addresses the Veteran's Day audience in the chapel.

Brianna Yaroch: Staff Photographer

Bieber is back with “Purpose”; Skrillex produced, inspired music

By PAIGE DANIEL
STAFF WRITER

Much can be said about Justin Bieber, so for the sake of this article I will forego what has been said previously about the Biebs and move right into what he's been doing lately. And what he's been doing lately is push out arguably fantastic singles leading up to the release of his fourth studio album, “Purpose”.

The media blitz surrounding his wild actions of yesteryear is mostly over, as he retreated out of the spotlight and did some serious thinking about what could redeem him in the eyes of the public.

The certifiable banger “Where Are Ü Now” featuring Bieber dominated the charts this summer, quashing some of the hatred people have harbored for him in the past and even making new fans out of unbelievers. In a New York Times interview, Bieber hinted at wanting to reach a more adult audience with “Where Are Ü Now,” as he was invited by Skrillex to feature on it and perhaps revive his career.

He also made a show (staged or real) of crying during his performance on MTV's Video Music Awards, new hairdo and all.

These calculated passes at establishing his reputation are questionable — are they genuine or not? It is hard to tell. This is where his true talent, however, gets murky.

Dubstep kingpin Skrillex helmed the production on most of Bieber's new singles, including “Where Are Ü Now.”

On his previous albums, Bieber fell into middle-of-the-road pop and faux-R&B, sailing on the popularity of huge singles and the dedication of his fans.

While a critical analysis of

his career is slightly unnecessary for fear of attributing too much credit where it isn't due, it is worth noting that his image has almost completely changed.

His singles this year have explored different sonic territory with the help of Skrillex, fresh EDM tropes that rely on more melody than usual.

There was something so unexpected about “What Do You Mean?” when it hit the radio in late August — the clock intro, the piano-tinged verses, the electronic pan flute chorus — all odd elements that seem like they wouldn't go together.

Skrillex didn't produce this song, but the influence of “Where Are Ü Now” is easily recognizable, the producers borrowing the formula. It now has almost 300 million listens on Spotify, so the elements worked and turned it into a bonafide hit.

Next came “Sorry” (produced by Skrillex), which features less unusual elements and yields an apologetic tone from Bieber.

A prominent air horn riff accompanies the minimal pulse of the verses, another example of Skrillex flipping the EDM formula on its head and having the melody become the main focus.

The chorus is a distorted vocal sample that matches the air horn, while the lyrics purvey Bieber to be vulnerable. Certainly this is apart of his reparation plan.

The final two singles are “I'll Show You” and “Love Yourself.” “I'll Show You” boasts Skrillex production again, which pays off.

Skrillex has a knack for sticky melodies; there's another preening vocal sample in the verses, and the chorus has an instrumental melody in the forefront — do you see the formula?

It should get old and it shouldn't sound so unique, but Bieber has seemingly become his test subject. Bieber writing the song is enough to say that it's his,

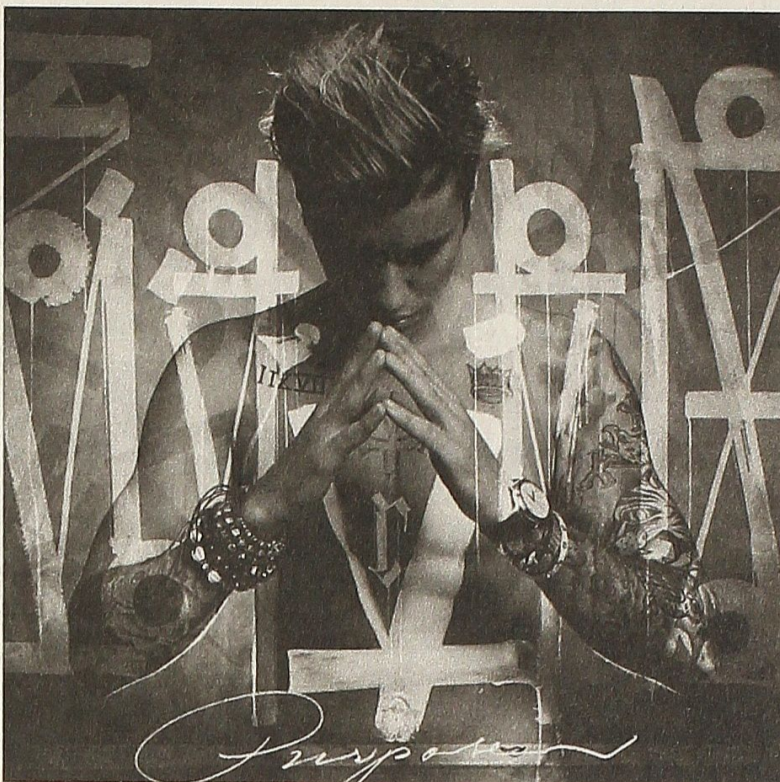


Image courtesy of hip-hopdx.com

yet his involvement in its actual success is questionable.

The lyrics don't stand out, and this is why much of what works in these singles can be connected to Skrillex. The lyrics in all of these singles have a way of saying nothing.

He never gets an answer in “What Do You Mean?” He doesn't explain what he's apologizing for in “Sorry.” And he doesn't really show us anything in “I'll Show You.” This is how the production saves him from deflating.

“Love Yourself” is a comparable scapegoat for the three tracks Skrillex produced. Here, the production can't save him, and his lyrics come to the forefront.

It's a sassy kiss-off, Bieber singing to an ex over subdued electric guitar. He co-wrote it with Ed Sheeran, and the vibe is taken straight from Sheeran's singer-songwriter rulebook.

Interestingly, there is a muted horn section at the end, making

it sound like a Macklemore and Ryan Lewis track, whom Sheeran has also worked with.

This is not to say it's bad, although it doesn't help the pervading speculation that when on his own without Skrillex, Bieber depends on oft-used techniques that aren't as fresh.

If anything, what these singles say the most about Bieber is that he is good at gathering the resources for reinvention — or at least lucky that Skrillex invited him to feature on “Where Are Ü Now” in the first place. The collaboration between them has given back Bieber his career.

That might sound harsh, but he is truly riding on the success of these Skrillex-produced and influenced songs.

Skrillex has been allowed to play around with his new EDM formula and generate hits, but where does Bieber stand? Somewhere in the midst of deliberate success and unsteady footing.

“Purpose” was released on Friday November 13.

Daily struggles of a college student: Episode Two

By ALEXANDRA BOURNE
COPY EDITOR

Beep! Beep! Beep!...Beep! Beep! Beep!

I begin blindly swatting around my bedside for the alarm on my phone until the obnoxious screeching ceases.

Ugh.

I do not want to get up. I do not want to face today. After two days in a row pulling all-nighters, no amount of sleep was enough. With the physical toll of the upcoming dance performance on top of that, I was not in good shape.

Work 9 a.m. to noon. Go to lunch. Meet with my group to work on our project (an eight page paper and PowerPoint presentation that I was pretty much doing on my own). History 2:30 to 3:20. Ballet 3:30 to 4:50.

Re-do my hair into a show bun (which also means gluing it in place with hairspray). Inhale dinner. Paint on my stage makeup—two layers of foundation, three layers of blush, three eyeshadows, glue on fake eyelashes, three kinds of eye liner, mascara, curl and comb my lashes, brow enhancer and lipstick.

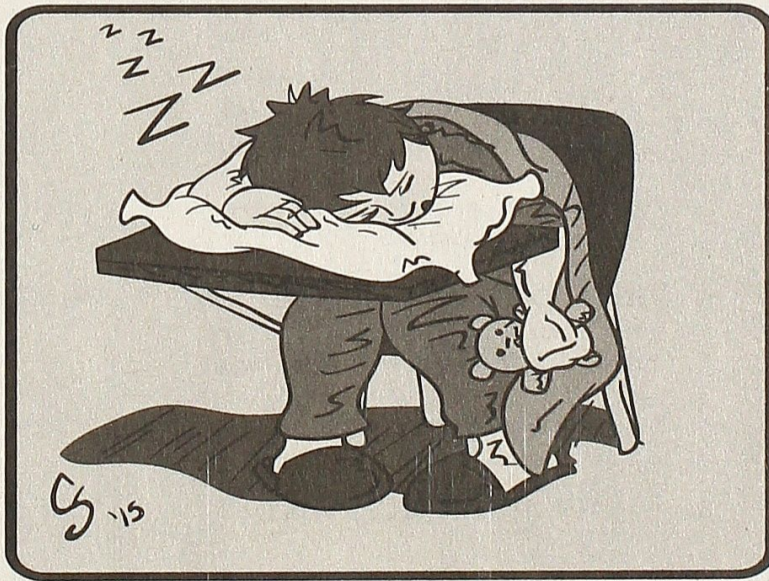
Warm-up class 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Opening night performance begins at 8 p.m. At 9:30, the show ends and I rush to change into formal wear and change my hair and makeup in five minutes for the opening night gala reception. I also must place my aching and blistered feet (bloody, bruised and missing a few toe nails) into high heels after an hour and a half in pointe shoes. Ew.

After the gala, go back to my room, eat again because I'll be starving, shower, prepare everything for the next day and do homework until I pass out.

Write a story for the newspaper. Work on my 10 page term paper for Greek history. Read 75 pages for Greek history. Read another 75 pages for choreography and write two journal entries.

Write a four-page paper for journalism and write 20 interview questions for the guest speaker. Read two short stories for fiction workshop. Memorize spelling and meaning of ballet terms for finals. Edit everyone else's stories for the newspaper.

Fix my resume and cover letter for the Chicago trip, research companies and schools, make a LinkedIn profile, and do all the other projects to prepare for the



Cassidy Shankelton: Staff Illustrator

trip. Answer emails for work and appointments. Record more events on my already-full calendar.

Sew pointe shoes. Do laundry. Clean my bedroom. Do my portion of bathroom chores. Go grocery shopping. Choreograph my dance for the Student Choreographer's Concert and find costumes.

Pay the deposit for Chicago. Drop \$500 for spring term.

I'll need sleep tonight, I can't do three all-nighters in a row, but I still probably won't get

much.

I don't know how I survive this schedule every day.

Bright lights. I hear the first strings of the orchestra as a spotlights swivels onto me. Suddenly the music crescendos and...

Oh my god. I don't know the choreography and...I'M NAKED!!! BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP! BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP!

Crap! I slept through the second alarm! I'm late for work!

College is a struggle.

VOLUME CX ISSUE V
THE ALMANIAN

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

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Alma stands in solidarity

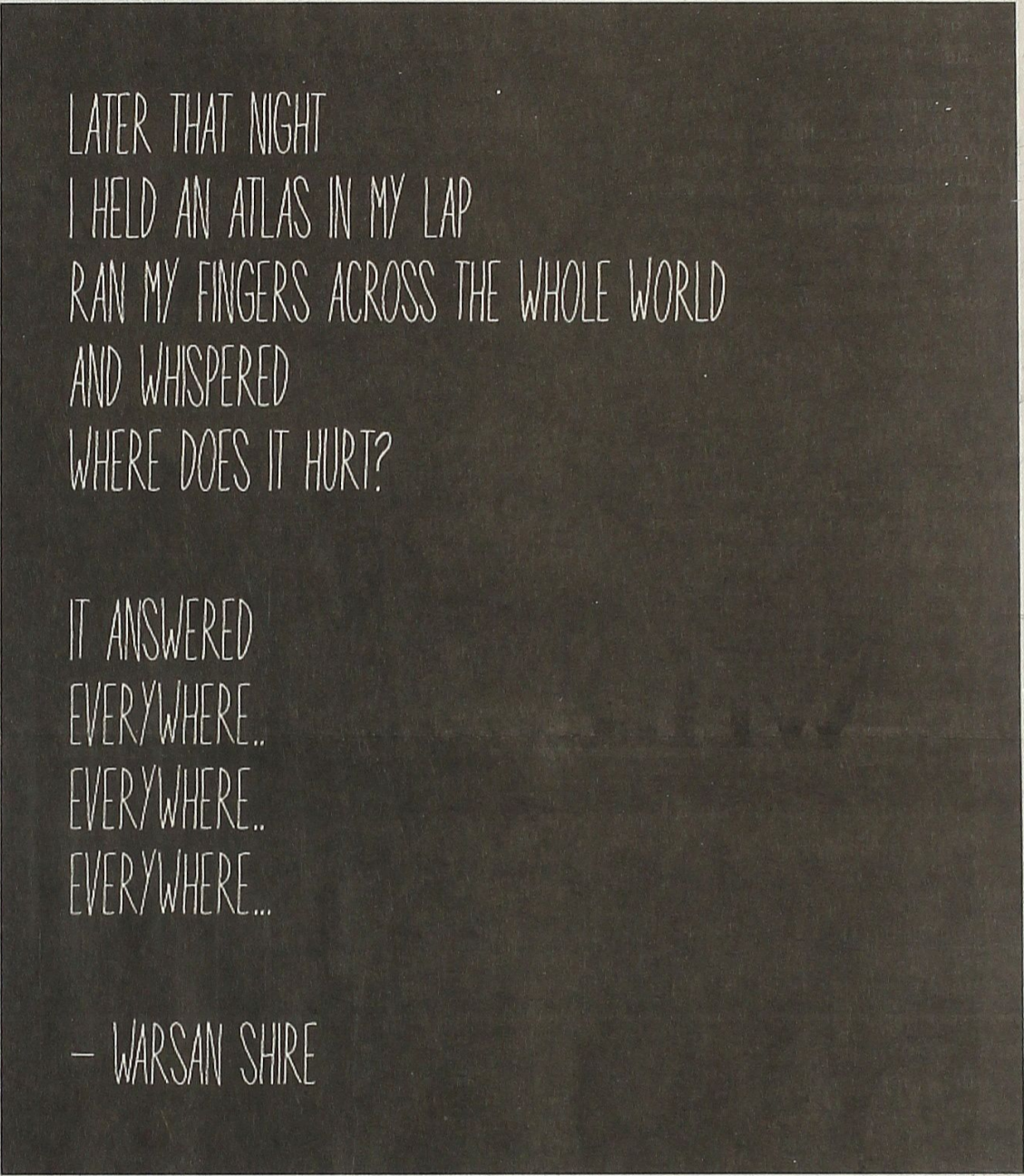
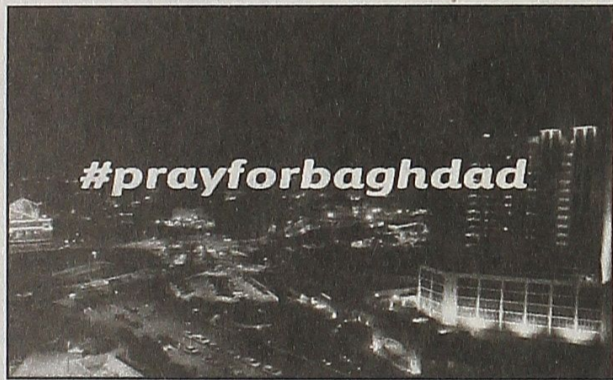
The Alma College community mourns and stands in solidarity with several communities around the world that experienced extreme tragedy this past week.

Paris, France: On Friday the 13th of November, 132 people died, 99 people are in cirtical condition out of 350 wounded. These deaths occured from six mass shooting and bombings at a rock concert, a soccer stadium, restaurants, and other locations. This is the worst terrorist attack in Europe in 11 years.

Beirut, Lebanon: Two suicide bombs went off at rush hour in a busy shopping district killing at least 43 people and wounding more than 200 on Thursday 12th of November.

Baghdad, Iraq: At least 18 people died and 41 wounded after a suicide bomber attacked a funeral being held for a pro-government Shiite Muslim fighter.

A lot of misinformation is currently circling the internet, it's important to research any article before sharing. These attacks will have many consequences such as increased Islamphobia and xenophobia in relation to the migrant crisis. Keep these places and people in your hearts, minds, and prayers. Use social media hastags such as #prayforparis, #prayforbeirut, #prayforworld. The most important thing to remember after these tradgedies is that we are all people, we all share this world, and we must be there for each other and protect one another. Stand in solidarity with these places.



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.

Key: *Italics: things the signs hate.* **Bold: The signs as “hot spots” around Alma.** Regular: The signs as “only one alma things.”

<p>LIBRA (Sept. 23- October 22)</p> <p><i>The library. Who wants to be that quiet????</i></p> <p>President Abernathy's house. They are the rulers of campus.</p> <p>Angel tears. Beloved by most (if not, all.)</p> <p>SCORPIO (Oct. 23- Nov. 21)</p> <p><i>Computers. Just all of them.</i></p> <p>Heritage Center/music building. Mysterious, no one really knows what goes on there OR with a scorpio...</p> <p>Mary Gelston. Both mysterious and creepy.</p> <p>SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22- Dec. 21)</p> <p><i>Running out of munch money the second week of school.</i></p> <p>Any Greek life house. Warm, inviting, family/home feel.</p> <p>Awkward turtle. Deceiving name because it's so damn good! One of those, don't judge a book by its cover situations.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN (Dec. 22- Jan. 19)</p> <p><i>Having a package and walking all the way to the mailroom.</i></p> <p>Hogan. Organized and secluded, not the main focus of campus, but very important to those who frequent it.</p> <p>SAGA cookies. Once in a while, they'll be at SAGA, still waiting for the return.</p> <p>AQUARIUS (Jan. 20- Feb. 18)</p> <p><i>Being hungry at 2 a.m. and not being able to go to Joes to get snacks.</i></p> <p>Clack Art building. Unique, artistic, calm and soothing environment.</p> <p>Tartan. Unique and uncommon.</p> <p>PISCES (February 19- March 20)</p> <p><i>Classes that don't allow creativity and space for free form thinking.</i></p> <p>Highland Java. Nestled in the library, it's a good distraction from library work, similar to the escapist mindset of Pisces.</p> <p>The rock. Vocal point of school, hidden away but once uncovered it makes bold statements.</p>	<p>ARIES (March 21- April 19)</p> <p><i>SLOW WALKERS WHEN TRYING TO GET TO CLASS!!</i></p> <p>Rec Center. MOVEMENT and hard work all in one!</p> <p>The Trail. Only few have conquered this path, and it's quite the challenge to do so.</p> <p>TAURUS (April 20- May 20)</p> <p><i>Not getting fresh SAGA cookies anymore...</i></p> <p>SAGA. Main food source, and no other sign loves food more than a Taurus.</p> <p>Bruske. Super complicated but for those who frequent more often, eventually figure it out with ease.</p> <p>GEMINI (May 21- June 20)</p> <p><i>Running out of toilet paper when in the communal bathrooms in the dorms.</i></p> <p>SAC. Everyone has classes here, so it's a hot spot on campus. Similar to a Gemini because both are popular places, and Gem's are very sociable!</p> <p>Bagpipes. They're not for everyone.</p>	<p>CANCER (June 21- July 22)</p> <p><i>Any morning class between 8:30-10:30</i></p> <p>Dow. The groovy and somewhat secluded building of campus. Like Cancer's, it takes special people to spend much time in there, it's not for everyone.</p> <p>Beer nuggets. A rare occurrence, but attention grabbing (and so good!)</p> <p>LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22)</p> <p><i>The lack of vegetarian options at SAGA. THEY JUST WANNA BE FULL!</i></p> <p>Joes. Anyone and everyone goes there, and it's always a constant flow, very popular place (like Leo's!)</p> <p>The rock wall.. Just hella cool wowza.</p> <p>Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)</p> <p><i>People who walk the opposite direction on the track in the rec center.</i></p> <p>Library. Quiet, methodical, very productive.</p> <p>Small class sizes. Good one on one interaction. Lots of individual attention.</p>
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Men's basketball preview; first game coverage

By MAXXTON JOLLS
STAFF WRITER

Fall sports have come and gone, and the cold, icy weather has started to creep its way in. The soccer and volleyball nets have been packed up for the year, and the football season has come to an end.

With that, the Alma men's basketball team starts its season, hoping to improve on their success last year.

Last season, the Scots ended their year on a high note, finishing fourth in the MIAA with a 12-14 overall record. This was the first time since the 2004-05 season that the team recorded more than 10 wins.

Aside from the overall record, Alma went 9-5 against the MIAA, which is the first time that the Scots had a winning record in the conference since 1978-79.

With almost every player returning to the team, Alma looks to have a strong roster going into this season. All-MIAA First Team selection **Scott Nikodemski ('16)** averaged 15.6 points/game and led the conference in assists and steals last year, while his counterpart, **DJ Beckman ('16)**, who was awarded All-MIAA Second Team honors, averaged

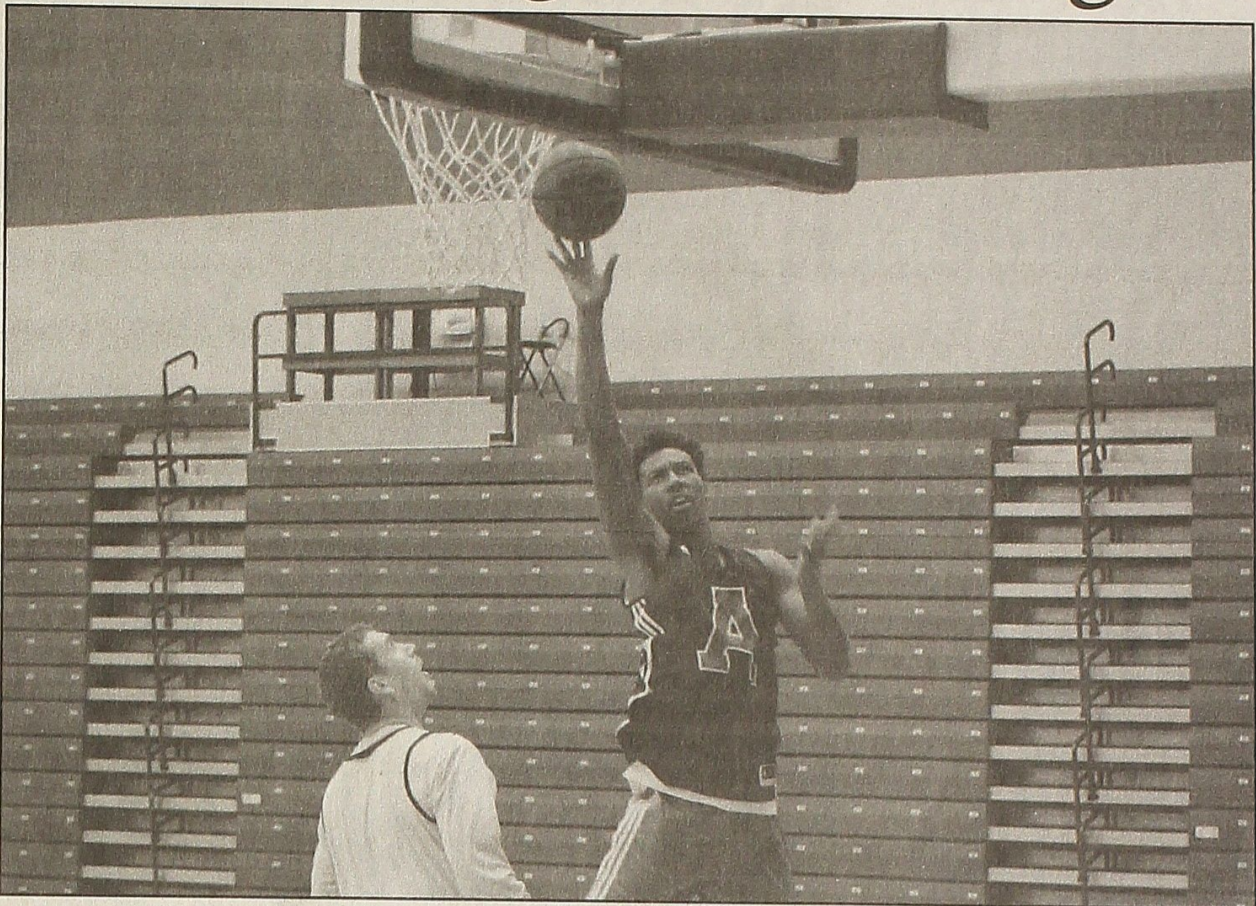
approximately 12 points/game, and was second in the league grabbing over five rebounds a game.

Coach Sam Hargraves talked about his players saying, "We have a group that enjoys being around each other and competing every day." He also added, "I'm not looking forward to" saying "goodbye to these seniors in March."

This is Hargraves' fifth year of coaching the Scots, being named to the position in 2011, and with the seniors he has now this would be his first recruiting class he brought to Alma.

With the success that he's had on this team, Alma has been picked to finish fourth in the MIAA this season. Hargraves sheds some light on this pre-season poll, "I think it shows the rest of the league has some respect for the players we have returning from last year...To me, it also says that we still have much to prove." Hope, Trine, and Calvin were picked just ahead of Alma in this year's poll.

With so many seniors leaving this year, each player has had a different experience in their four years of building the program. Four-year-starter Beckman talked about his confidence going into the season: "I feel a lot more



Kevin Gamble ('18) takes a shot during practice last week.

Emily Jodway: Staff Writer

confident going into senior year compared to entering as a freshman. We know the drill now, we have an idea of what to expect, and we're all much more prepared for the season, mentally and physically, than we were as freshman."

The Scots began their season on the road against Ohio Northern University last Saturday, and

Hargraves believes that this will be a "great early test" for the team. "They are a program with so much tradition and history. They were picked fourth as well, in one of the best conferences in D3. We will have a sense of how good we are and what we need to work on after this game."

In a heartbreaker, Alma lost

its season-opener to Ohio Northern University, 69-67. Nikodemski led the Scots with 17 points and three assists, while **Doug Bradfield ('18)** grabbed 12 rebounds.

The Scots play again Tuesday on the road at Central Michigan University with a started tip-off time of 7:00 pm.

Writer/athlete recaps career

By BRENT LUPLOW
SPORTS EDITOR

Three and a half years ago, I joined 60 other wide-eyed freshmen who entered the Alma College football program nervous, but excited to leave our own legacy.

Last Saturday, the inevitable happened and 12 of those 60 freshmen, walked off of Bahlke Field, as seniors for the very last time.

If you missed that, let me reiterate that for you, 20% of the incoming freshman class of 2012 completed all four years of college football.

There were five other seniors who finished their careers on Saturday too, but either transferred into the program or didn't play four straight years, and they deserve credit too.

Being a college athlete is tough. According to NCAA.com there are 1,093,234 high school football players in the United States. Only 6.5% of these go on to play college football. I would love to see the percentage of the 6.5 who make it all four years.

That's the problem we face in today's society. It is easy to quit. Too many times players come from high school programs where they don't have to work very hard to get on the field. They are "the guy" at their high school and don't have others pushing them to start.

Competing is just something done during games not constantly for playing time in practice. In college, competing is an everyday thing. Every workout and practice is a competition. Whether it is competing against

yourself or others, it's what drives some of us and leads others to end their careers.

No one tells you it's going to be easy. The countless morning workouts, meetings, practices, conditioning, and the constant negativity we heard from our classmates pushed us to our breaking points. For most of us, quitting was a legitimate thought at one time. We were pushed harder than we ever have been before.

But unlike the 80%, we stuck it out. After back-to-back one-win seasons and a two-win season, we kept pushing, and kept working to leave our legacy and change the landscape of Alma College football on this campus and in the community.

Last Saturday, we finished our season with five wins. Those five wins match the total of the last three years of total wins. That is something to be proud of.

These last four years have been

some of the best of my life. The twelve seniors left our legacy in the Alma College Football program. We helped finally turn the corner and let people know that this program can win games and compete for championships.

Alongside the wins, came the valuable lessons we each have learned in our college careers that will stick with us the rest of our lives. The lessons of teamwork, work ethic, time management, overcoming adversity, I could go

on and on. Every emotion you could think of I have felt these last four years. It has been a roller coaster but one I will always remember with teammates who are brothers that I will never forget. I know we will all be successful in our future careers and personal lives.

In the end, the wins and losses don't matter; the memories are what we will think about years from now.

It was all worth it.



Senior football players pose for a photo with the victory bell prior to last Saturday's final game.

Courtesy of Alma College Athletics

Scots fall to Comets in Senior Day game

By Emily Jodway
Staff Writer



Nick Sullivan ('17) rushes upfield in the Scots' game against Albion earlier this year.

Courtesy of Cinda Shumaker

a winning program.”

The Scots faced a tough team in this last game; the Olivet Comets are now the MIAA champions.

“They have a ton of experience and their quarterback is a fourth year starter,” Thelen said.

The seniors led the team in passing and receiving yards as well as tackles last Saturday.

Hines caught two of the four touchdowns of the game for Alma, and Johnson had 16 tackles. With around seven minutes left in the fourth quarter, several seniors went in to play the last game of their college career. Luplow threw for a touchdown late in the game, a 51-yard pass to Hines with a minute left in the game to bring the score up to 47-29, the final

touchdown and score of the game. Hines also caught a 70-yard pass from **Dylan Zaborowski ('18)**.

Other highlights include Zaborowski passing for 171 yards and two touchdowns, Luplow passing for 75 yards and one touchdown, and running back **Nick Sullivan ('17)** rushing for 67 yards and one touchdown.

The seniors lent a helping

hand and assisted the team in scoring two touchdowns in the fourth quarter. In the end, it was a loss, and the Scots end their season 5-5. It was an emotional afternoon for the seniors, as well as the players and coaches who have played alongside them through their four years of being Alma College football players.

Women's basketball team continues to rebuild

By Maxxton Jolls
Staff Writer



Kaitlyn Kendall ('17) goes up for a shot in a game against Saint Mary's last season.

Courtesy of goalmascots.com

After the addition of new head coach Kris Johnson last year, the Alma College women's basketball team went from a zero-win season to notching seven wins in just one season.

With a successful year behind them, the Scots saw their hard work pay off as they were picked to finish eighth in this year's season after being picked ninth the year before. With Calvin College projected to finish first in the conference, Alma moved ahead of Saint Mary's in the voting with a score of 16.

Johnson had some thoughts about the pre-season rankings: “I don't put much thought into pre-season polls, but I know it's for the excitement to get the season started, something to look forward to.”

She also recalls that it was the seniors who “put it into perspective” for her, being that it is “the first time they've not been picked last.” With the season right around the corner, Alma continues to rebuild around two key returning players, **Raeanna Zink ('16)** and **Lauren Higgins ('16)**.

Zink played in every game last season while averaging 11.5 points/game. Higgins, now a sophomore, pulled down 74 rebounds in 24 games. When asked about the upcoming season, Zink said: “We might be a younger team but I think we definitely have a chance to be competitive in the MIAA.”

In order to do that, Alma will have to improve upon the little things.

“We're looking to play smarter basketball,” Johnson says, “More disciplined basketball.” Aside from the mental aspect of the game, Johnson believes that there are a couple aspects of their game that will hopefully generate some success for them.

“We need to decrease our

turnovers. In the past we've been a turnover-prone team. We also have to not foul as much, [to] keep them off the free-throw line and [to] control the ball.”

This year's team consists of five seniors, three of whom are on the varsity team. This is Johnson's second season as head coach and her first recruiting class for the year. She shared her thoughts on

her recruits: “ I definitely have impact freshman who will see the floor a lot and I'm looking forward to their growth throughout they're four years. I think that their going to do a fantastic job.” She then spoke on behalf of her seniors saying, “I'm proud of our veteran leadership as well, right now you feel good, you feel excited going into the season so we're excited

for Sunday.”

Sunday marked the first game for the Scots, as they hosted University of Michigan-Dearborn. Going in, Zink expressed her feelings about the game, “I'm looking forward to it! The first game of the year is always exciting. If we play our game we should have a good chance of winning.”