

# The Pleiad



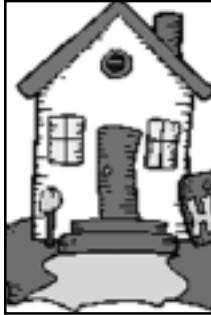
## ALBION COLLEGE WEEKLY

www.albion.edu/pleiad

### IN THE NEWS

#### Is your dorm room cramping your style?

Student Senate is currently working on a plan that, if adopted, will grant all juniors and seniors the right to live off-campus.



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### OPINIONS

#### Albert Camus and Erin Laidlaw team up for a writing How to...

Here at *The Pleiad* we share with you the good, the bad and the ugly.

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### HAPPENINGS

#### Native American Indian Heritage Month...

Lasting all throughout November, NAIHM will be observed with drummers, panels and speakers.

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### FEATURES

#### Workin' on our night moves.

In an effort to assuage the omnipresent level of boredom here on campus *The Pleiad* staff braves the wild west Michigan night.

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### SPORTS

Albion 'deer' Albion Rifle season opens Nov. 15. Many Albion students plan to skip class to go hunting. *Pleiad* Features Editor Erin Laidlaw looks inside this camouflaged culture.

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## Albion's historical connection to Detroit's infamous Purple Gang attracts attention of filmmaker

By ERIN LAIDLAW  
Features editor

This just in, notorious Chicago gangland kingpin Al Capone was caught sitting in the balcony of the Bohm Theatre. Other reports also placed him at a booth in Cascarelli's and in a car traveling north on Elizabeth Street.

Capone was caught not by the police but by cameras, as hoodlum characters shot not guns but a film in Albion on Oct. 26 and 27.

*Turn Left on Hastings Street* is an independent film about Detroit's infamous Purple Gang, which was known for, among other allegations, safe robberies, the conspiracy to murder Senator Hooper (who is buried in Albion's Riverside Cemetery) and the distribution of bootleg liquor during Prohibition.

A mid-point between Detroit and Chicago, Albion was an ideal



**OHIO NICK (actor Jeffrey Stetson) STANDS NEXT TO A 1931 DODGE.** Independent filmmaker Cliff Lance featured several downtown Albion locations to add to the historical correctness of his independent film entitled "*Turn Left on Hastings Street*."

place for gangster dealings. According to Albion historian Frank Passic, the highly involved Fleisher brothers—Louis, Sam and Harry—later took residence in Albion. With Sam "Stone" Bernstein, they operated a business called Riverside Iron and Metal Company (where

Thompson's Brakes and the Leisure Hour Club stand near the marketplace today) as a front for their criminal activity. The Purples frequented the Streetcar Tavern on the west end of town for homemade liquor and stayed at the Parker Inn on Michigan Avenue (now Burnham Brook

Senior Center) when traveling between Chicago and Detroit.

"Over the course of studying Albion history I've come across particular persons in Albion that had some 'inside information' or personal recollections of the Purple Gang," Passic wrote in one of his articles about the gang. "Some know about things they don't dare talk about—even 60 years later. An aura of mystery, intrigue and folklore about the Purple Gang in Albion has developed over the years," Passic said.

Filmmaker Cliff Lance acknowledged this aura when he signed the AlbionMich.com guest book, introducing *Turn Left on Hastings Street*, crediting Passic's articles and expressing interest in interviewing him for a documentary DVD to accompany the feature.

Please See **FILM** Page 2

## Economic summit addresses 'Town and gown' concerns

By AUTUMN DODGE  
Staff Reporter

"Town and gown" is a phrase used to describe the relationship between a college and the community in which it is located. Often the phrase has negative connotations because most towns think college students are not good citizens. President Peter Mitchell said the relationship between the college and the town has run the gamut from good to fair to bad.

On Oct. 5, a meeting was held between college and community leaders to discuss economic development. Held in Bellemont Manor, representatives from both the college and the town met to discuss and identify future interactions between the two.

The economic summit hosted by the college on Oct. 5 is one example of positive town and gown relations. The attendants included 36 community representatives and Albion College alumni, friends, students

and staff.

The main goals of the summit were to discuss economic development and to suggest different ways of approaching it. Participants discussed Albion's economic strengths, weaknesses, and economic opportunities.

Ideally, all these issues could be handled with full cooperation between the community and the college. As things stand now a complete cooperation seems unlikely.

The town is suffering economically and trying to rebuild. "The college is the key to its future but we must be careful in the way we try to rebuild," said Mitchell. "It's all in the way it's handled. The town doesn't want to be dominated by the college."

Tensions and disagreements between the faculty and the administration create confusion within the community. "To the town, differences of opinion among members of the campus community make it unclear what the college wants," Mitchell said.

Please See **SUMMIT** Page 2



Photo courtesy of Annie Lerev

**WHILE DIGGING INTO A PLATE OF TANDOORI CHICKEN, CHANA MASALA, RAITA AND RICE PULLAO,** Miya Dunham, daughter of Drew Dunham, director of the first-year experience, and Jake Weber, of Albion's Office of Institutional Advancement, takes time out to embrace Jasen Erbeznik, son of Luti Erbeznik, assistant professor of biology, at last week's Diwali dinner. "It was great to have it in the stack this year; it's just cozier than Kresge Commons," said Donna Eng, Saline senior. In years past the event's entertainment was provided by outside professionals. This year the merry making was put in the hands of Albion College students. "Students were able to share their heritage and give an inside perspective," Eng said.

Every year the event attracts families from as far away as Battle Creek and Jackson. This year's dinner was no exception. All 150 tickets were sold out. "There are no Indian restaurants in Jackson or Battle Creek," Weber said. "This event attracts people who are more adventurous. Most are not Hindu; they are simply interested in something different."

NEWS PAGE

# Student Senate currently working on proposal that will grant juniors and seniors the right to live off-campus

By AMBER BUCK  
Staff Reporter

Student Senate has developed a proposal that may open up off-campus housing to juniors and seniors.

Under the senate's plan, the office of residential life would have a listing of landlords in Albion on file, including the descriptions of houses and apartments available for rent. Students would be able to consult these files and work with residential life when beginning a housing search. All contracts and financial arrangements would be made directly between the student and the landlord but residential life could act as a mediator if a dispute occurred.

The project is designed by Adam Plunk, Canton, Texas, senior and Student Senate vice president, who modeled it after



Julie Esh/The Pleiad

**AFTER A HARD DAYS NIGHT WITH THE PLEIAD**, Adam Stanfel, Royal Oak senior, lounges in his expansive off-campus living quarters. If Student Senate passes newly proposed legislation, all juniors and seniors would have the option to live off-campus.

a housing program at the University of Michigan. Plunk is working with the senate cabinet to finalize specifics and write up a formal proposal. Senate hopes to submit its project to the administration for approval by early January.

Senate's first step was to

gauge student interest in living off-campus in the form of an e-mail poll. Of the 648 people responding to the survey, 629 were in favor of investigating off-campus housing and 19 against. The response to the poll was the largest in senate's history according to Evan

Hawker, Brighton senior and president of Student Senate.

Plunk believes that having off-campus living options available to students will help retention rates and will give juniors and seniors the independence that they want. "A lot of students want freedoms as they get older that they didn't want as first-years," Plunk said.

Hawker stated that off-campus housing would also give students a much-needed connection to the city of Albion. "By the time people are juniors and seniors they want to have more of a connection to the place that they're living, not just to the campus," Hawker said.

Plunk stated that students living within the community are more likely to buy groceries and other necessities, change their

oil or have a car fixed within Albion. These students will develop a closer affiliation to the community and also help local businesses. "If something doesn't change and the college keeps all the students here and the students spend their money in Marshall and Jackson the town is going to die," Plunk said.

He also cited increased property values as a positive result of students living off-campus.

The senate cabinet hopes to enter into talks with the administration about the plan next semester. The program might start with a small number of seniors living off-campus. Senate hopes to have 250-300 students living in the city of Albion.

Campus Safety Incident Log

Editor's Note: The Campus Safety incident logs are available to the public on the college's website at: <http://www.albion.edu/campusafety/incidentlogs.asp>

Oct. 24, 1:50 a.m.

There was an alcohol violation in the Kellogg Center.

Oct. 28, 6:48 p.m.

A window in the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity building was broken out.

Oct. 30, 12:43 p.m.

Someone stole a student's car from campus. The vehicle was later found in Van Buren County.

Oct. 30, 8:40 p.m.

Someone broke into and attempted to steal four vehicles in lot number four.

Oct. 30, 10:30 p.m.

Someone broke into and attempted to steal a vehicle in lot number eight.

Oct. 30, 11:30 p.m.

Someone broke into and attempted to steal a vehicle in lot number one.

Oct. 31, 2:10 a.m.

A wallet was stolen from Alpha Tau Omega fraternity.



Photo Courtesy of Ben Engelter / Albion College Communications

**THE DONATION OF THREE WHEELCHAIRS BY ROY KARRO WILL INCREASE HANDICAP ACCESSIBILITY ON CAMPUS.** Mike Sequite, '75, director of development; President Peter Mitchell, '67; Jim Whitehouse, '69, associate vice president -- major gifts; Alison Whyte, Clinton Township senior; Maggie Keller, Vicksburg junior; and Kristina Cole, Houghton first-year, pose with Karro's generous donation.

During Karro's Briton Bash visit he inquired about the availability of wheelchairs on campus. After learning the campus did not have any wheelchairs he offered to purchase three. All three chairs will be available for guests, students and other members of the campus community for short-term use. The wheelchairs are located in the athletic training department, student health services and the Ferguson building.

"Roy is such a fine and thoughtful person and he certainly cares about everyone at Albion. Mitchell said. His compassion and genuine interest in Albion College prompted him to buy the wheelchairs to make sure no one will be denied the opportunity to visit the campus because of a handicapping condition."

Cont. from SUMMIT, Page 1

community make it unclear what the college wants," Mitchell said.

A current source of tension is the proposed re-routing of Erie Street. The people who live near Erie Street don't want the street to be moved, but the college believes moving it will be safer, save money for the city and allow an attractive parking lot near the Mae and the fraternity houses. "The Michigan Department of Transportation and the railroad suggested the change, and we are simply looking into it further," Mitchell said.

Sue Klepper, Albion city council member, opposes the project. "For six to seven people [Albion residents] this is a quality of life issue," Klepper said. The lives of those six to seven people would be changed so that the college can build a small parking lot.

A second area of disagreement is the proposal for landlord and rental certification. The college favors better quality housing for everybody and believes substandard housing is not the way to improve the town's economy, Mitchell said.

## No end in sight for campus-wide busy signals

By T. JULIANO  
Staff Reporter

Did you miss getting a date with that cutie from psych class because the phone call couldn't go through? Have you been trying to find help with homework but are getting a busy signal? Well, you're not alone and this is a problem that the college is trying to remedy as quickly as possible.

Albion College's commercial phone system is different from a private line on which incoming and outgoing calls use the same line. Commercial phone systems have trunks. There are trunks for cards. With the recent surge in calling card popularity those trunks have been tied up as well. In the meantime there is nothing that can be done about the situation.

Brit phone offers an alternative. Because Brit phone has separate trunks for the plan, students using it would experience fewer problems making or receiving calls. Some plans are as



Julie Esh/The Pleiad

**KIRSTIN LIBEY, WOODGATE JUNIOR,** navigates Albion's trunks.

inexpensive as seven cents per minute.

The good news is that the phone system will not interfere with campus safety. According to Ken Snyder, director of campus safety, "It's been inconvenient and my staff has to handle a lot of complaints, but it hasn't been a safety issue as we have a separate outside line at campus safety."

Cont. from FILM, Page 1

However, after talking with Passic and coming to town, Lance decided to feature 45 minutes to Albion and give it five to six minutes in the actual film. "The Albion connection is quite extensive and the Bohm Theatre, the cobblestone street and the historic homes make the locale quite fitting," Lance said.

To assist with the filming, Albion Public Safety blocked off Superior Street, a local man lent the use of his vintage car, Albion Community Theatre members dressed in 1930's era clothing and acted as extras and Young's Menswear supplied the fedoras. On Saturday a

scene was shot in which a fight breaks out in front of the Bohm. According to Passic, late Albion resident Helen Sharp was a ticket-taker at the Bohm and recalled that the Purples would frequent the theatre on Sunday nights, not to watch a movie but to conduct business. They would come with a woman called "Flapper Susie" and a small Italian lookout man named Joe.

Although "Turn Left on Hastings Street" is an independent film, Canduit Productions of Los Angeles will distribute it nationally on Dec. 20. The Bohm Theatre will have its own gala premiere around the same time.

# AS WE SEE IT

Apathy is defined as a lack of concern or interest; its effects can range from being merely detrimental to being downright dangerous. Apathy, at times, is much too prevalent for our own good. There are plenty of situations in which it is simply undesirable — being unprepared for class because the reading never got done or continuing to avoid planning for one's life after graduation despite frequent requests, not to mention the prizes and accolades that excellent letters would receive (yes, a shameless plug).

However, there are plenty more situations in which apathy is potentially dangerous. Midterm elections were held Tuesday. Frequently, these elections have been mocked as mere formalities, with the consistently low voter turnout demonstrating that citizens often don't care. Democracy truly suffers when people don't take advantage of their ability to effect change in their government. However, simply voting on Tuesday mornings does not completely solve the problem. Worse than not voting at all is voting without conscious thought or research. It does no good to simply go and vote based on names you nize.

In general, an uninformed opinion is perhaps the worst form of apathy owe it to ourselves to be as informed as we can on issues. To not do so is an insult to the resources and freedoms we have access to and it goes against the whole reason we are in college. You don't need to have an opinion on all subjects necessarily, but more is better than less, as long as you've thoughtfully considered what they are.

Note: An unsigned "As We See It" reflects a general consensus of the editorial staff.

## From the Office of... Student Senate

By: EVAN HAWKER  
Student Senate President

Who among us can say they are house maintenance — instead, we are an Albion townie? I, for one, can proudly proclaim a connection to the community attached to our humble college. Allow me to explain; in my past semesters here, I'd been ignorant to the nuances of the community. Now, through the summer FURSCA program and this semester's internship at the Albion Economic Development Corporation (EDC), I have come to appreciate many aspects outside the bounds of "the citadel" known as Albion College.

I am sad that now in my final year in Albion I am finally beginning to understand the community to which our college is connected. In fact, this year I now notice that many of us are shielded from the community. We are not encouraged to fully interact with the town, only to periodically support them with service efforts. We are even allowed to enjoy the exciting experience of living on our own. We are not allowed to live up to responsibilities such as rent, utility payments and

# "Write"-eous Indignation

By: ERIN LAIDLAW  
Features Editor

I don't know if it's due to the Lavigne's brilliantly rhymed "He was the skater boy; she said see you later boy;" (Granted there is a certain guilty pleasure that comes along with getting such "jingles" stuck in your head). Anyone who's gotten a love letter has felt the effects of good writing, and anyone who has written a letter or application essay has had laughter in my friends' experiences off-campus, but recently I've come to realize the value of good writing. Perhaps the appreciation has simply emerged in response to some confrontations I've had with bad writers. As a staff member of this humble publication, I have grown to not only anticipate — but also to appreciate a form of comic relief — a regular exchange of Pleiad bloopers among the ones that either have something profound to say or reveal an ordinary idea in an extraordinary way.

So when I refer to the "good" writer, I am recalling more than a Bedford Handbook bidder. Good writing very much includes, yet goes far beyond, structure and grammar to express the heartfelt, profound, clever idea. It will not be the perfect placement of punctuation, the subject-verb agreement or the parallelism of your cover letter that wins you a job, but rather the content of character that those mechanics accessorize.

A few summers ago while skinning the bookshelves in the basement at home, I came across a hardback titled "How to Write A Letter for Every Occasion." Even then, before I was awakened with this revelation, I remember vowing to myself to never treat writing a letter so casually that I would enlist the help of such a book — self-help for the thoughtless. Good writing is also a real and genuine articulation of exactly what you and only you feel and mean to say.

Good writing rises above clichés and uses an identifiable and characteristic language that can be not just read by the mind but also heard by the heart. So for all of you yet to take the writing competency exam on Nov. 16, do not denounce it but rather welcome it as a reminder of all the liberal arts education has to instill in us, one of which is to write good well.

The place of good writing is universal; it is extrapolated beyond the discourse of literature, journalism, poetry or prose. Good writing is what distinguishes the poetic lyrics of Bob Dylan, Joni Mitchell or even Dave Matthews from something like Nelly's proficiencies this liberal arts education has to instill in us, one of which is to write good well.

OPINIONS PAGE

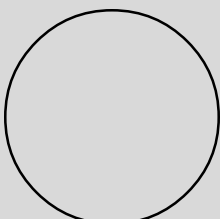
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### LETTERS WHAT?

Hopefully you took the subtle hint from this week's "As We See It" to file your Pleiad wants letters with an unabating passion. Letters should be no more than 300 words in length and may be submitted to jas10@albion.edu. Letters received by Sunday evenings for consideration in the following week's issue. And don't forget the fame, honor and FABULOUS PRIZE that you'll get if your letter is picked as our Letter of the Week!

### Liberal Minds at Work...

We're in the midst of hunting season. What are you hunting?



"My little brother's candy stash."  
- Amy Esh, Whitehall first-year



"Sobriety."  
- Kim Shannon, Flint senior



"If it's brown, it's down."  
- Chad Beers, Sutton's Bay senior



"Hot men! Extension 1271, boys!"  
- Andrea Hailey, Cassopolis first-year