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Fiat Lux



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Senate results delayed

BY JAY WEISBERGER
 MANAGING EDITOR

The Feb. 16 meeting of Student Senate started early so that candidates for Senate President and Vice President could face the student body and answer their questions at "Meet the Candidates Night."

At the time, no one figured that a week later, a fictitious character would have as much impact on election results as any of the four candidates who spoke.

The results of the Student Senate elections for its two top positions are scheduled to be announced tonight, a week late, because neither vice presidential candidate received a majority of student votes.

This is because six percent of the votes went to "Bill the Cat," a cartoon character. Other names, including some names of people graduating, also made their way into the write-in category.

The Senate constitution mandates that a student has to have a majority to be elected, a provision created in the past when five students ran for president.

Monday there was a runoff between candidates Chris Stawiarz and Rachael Downey. Both candidates were on the first ballot.

Many senators at the meeting voiced their protest to the action, some suggesting that write-in votes for non-existent people/things should be discarded.

Members of the election committee who were presenting the run-off news to the Senate noted that, even if those votes were thrown out, neither candidate would have a majority.

Thus, no write-ins were permitted in Monday's runoff.

However, there is a widely held belief that the vice presidential race is already extremely close, supported by the fact that even eliminating Bill the Cat still would not allow one candidate to take the majority of votes.

There was actually concern that the runoff would result in a tie, leading to another runoff.

Some were frustrated further when it was announced that the winner of the presidential election would not be announced until the VP race is decided. This is in accordance with a 1997 precedent.

For a number of reasons, including that the outcome of one election could affect another, this is the case. Whatever frustrations were there, no senator moved to announce the presidential winner anyway.

SEE SENATE, PAGE 3

Edmondson to take AU prez post

BY JAY WEISBERGER
 MANAGING EDITOR

AU's question of the year was answered last Wednesday when it was announced that Charles M. Edmondson will succeed Edward G. Coll Jr. as the next president of AU.

Edmondson will leave his position as vice president for academic affairs and provost at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. He plans to take office as the 13th president of Alfred University July 1.

"I was delighted," Edmondson said over the phone from Winter Park last Wednesday afternoon, describing his first reaction to the news.

The news was broken to the bulk of the AU community by way of a memo from Chair of the AU Board of Trustees Gene Bernstein.

Referring to Edmondson as an "inspiring leader" in his statement to the campus, Bernstein highlighted Edmondson's experience at Rollins.

The statement also noted that the decision to hire Edmondson over AU Provost W. Richard Ott was difficult.

"Both candidates forwarded to

us by the Presidential Search Committee were eminently qualified to be president of Alfred University," the memo stated. "Dr. W. Richard Ott's long association with, and outstanding contributions to, the University made the decision even more difficult.

Nevertheless, the Executive Committee [of the Board of Trustees] is highly confident that we have made the right choice."

"It's always tough to narrow down and try selecting candidates among such a strong pool," said Senior Mike Pellicciotti, the student representative on the search committee.

The search committee recommended candidates to the board, but did not make the actual selection.

Edmondson noted that he had been invited to New York last week to meet with the executive committee, but he had no idea how many other people he was up against.

In an interview, Bernstein wanted to ensure that the campus

knew he alone was not responsible for the hiring of Edmondson.

However, Bernstein said he had been impressed by AU's new president-elect.

"I was extremely impressed with his thoughtfulness about higher education in general and his passion for educating the whole person, both of which were articulated in a very genuine and exciting way," Bernstein said.

Edmondson's faculty-escorted trips through the campus center weeks ago left a big impression on Bernstein as well, he said.

"(Edmondson) noticed that, every time he was being taken to a meeting, the faculty member invariably stopped to talk with students in the campus center," Bernstein said.

Bernstein said that Edmondson had commented that this told him the faculty had their priorities straight — they focus on the students, not on the administrators.

"That Edmondson was pleased rather than offended by this behavior was very telling to me," Bernstein said.

Edmondson had been impressed by the students of Alfred, too.

"They were very clear-minded and articulate," Edmondson said,

adding that he had jokingly asked where the administration had the real AU students locked up.

Edmondson said that, despite the news coming earlier in the afternoon, by the time of the interview, he had already received over 100 e-mail messages congratulating him from his colleagues at Rollins.

"I'm going to miss the friends I've made," Edmondson said of leaving Rollins, a university he has been a part of since 1970.

"Surprisingly," he added, "I'm not going to miss the weather [in Florida]."

Edmondson is looking to make a trip back to Alfred in the coming months. He mentioned that his 11-year-old daughter, Erica, had yet to see the area. Laura Greyson, Edmondson's wife and a professor at Rollins for the last 18 years, will also be making the move to Western New York.

After he takes office, Edmondson said he is not planning on changing anything immediately.

Bernstein praised this notion. "He impresses me as a person who cares deeply about other people and respects what we have

SEE EDMONDSON, PAGE 3

AU looks to improve endowment value

BY MIKE PELLICCIOTTI
 STAFF WRITER

Many students do not know about AU's financial endowment, nor do they realize its importance to the campus.

"I don't know much about the endowment, but I'm thankful for the opportunities it provides," said Jakob Watson, a senior. Initially, Watson did not know that AU had an endowment or its impact on student services.

AU's endowment is an accumulation of financial gifts from alumni and other university support-

ers.

"Any endowment represents a multiplier of student tuition dollars," said Mike Hyde, vice president for University relations. "Schools with large endowments are able to spend more money on their students," he explained.

Hyde said that a large portion of the income generated from the endowment is dedicated for financial aid, special projects and endowed faculty chairs.

Other area schools compare differently to AU in the size of their endowments.

Hyde said that some regional

schools like St. Bonaventure University have smaller endowments than AU, while St. Lawrence University has a larger one.

He said that the University of Rochester's endowment recently reached \$1 billion.

"It's the only major weakness the University has," said President Edward G. Coll Jr. "We're at 76 million [dollars] and we should be at double that."

Coll feels that the next campaign to increase the endowment will allow the University to gain the financial resources it needs.

Coll said that the University Trustee Investment Committee invests the endowment.

The committee invests the endowment in large equity markets and the balance of funds in bonds, he said.

"We try for growth in the market and the minimum growth we look for is 12 percent," said Coll. "In recent years we have exceeded that by [a] substantial margin."

Coll said that the Trustees

SEE ENDOWMENT, PAGE 5

Students back after fight

From the AU News Bureau

Five Alfred University students charged in an alleged assault Feb. 12 have been removed from interim suspension.

The University is still conducting its own investigation into the incident. Meanwhile, the students may return to classes. The students, all members of the men's lacrosse team, remain suspended by the team.

The students charged with first-degree gang assault and second-degree assault are seniors Thomas Bailey, Bradley Morrison, Adam Olmstead, Brian Pilliod and Michael Pilliod.

Vice President for Student Affairs Jerry Brody emphasized that AU is not looking at the situation as a "team" event, meaning the lacrosse team itself is not being implicated by AU in any way. □



PHOTO BY JAY WEISBERGER
 The raging waters of the Kanakadea? After last week's warm weather, the creek swelled with ice and snow melt. No flooding was reported.



Fiat Lux

Edmondson a good choice

We would like to commend the presidential search committee and the Board of Trustees for their selection of Dr. Charles M. Edmondson as Alfred University's next president.

We were impressed with Edmondson when he visited the campus a few weeks ago.

It was then that he presented himself as an energetic leader. He seemed to genuinely like AU. At the same time, he did not seem to be trying to get on the "good side" of students, faculty and administrators.

In fact, he voiced a few concerns, including the size of the University's endowment.

It is encouraging that our next president has expressed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in AU but has a realistic view of what needs to be done in the future.

Edmondson has already shown that he is approachable. Edmondson stuck around after a community meeting during his visit and answered more questions. After just handling pointed questions for an hour, this showed a real interest in the people and concerns of AU.

Edmondson has intimated that he will allow student organizations to continue with the freedom that they have had.

We, at the *Fiat Lux*, especially liked his point at the community meeting that even though the administration does not like something that has been reported, if the story is true, it should be allowed to stand.

This is an exciting time for AU. The period of growth we have had under President Coll looks as though it will continue under Edmondson's leadership. □

Messages need to be communicated

Perhaps the most irritating thing about the "disruption" of the Student Senate elections last week wasn't that someone wanted to protest, but that no one seems to know what was being protested.

It seems like common sense; if you want to have a demonstration, make sure people know what you're demonstrating against.

Here, all that most students saw were randomly placed signs reading "Vote Bill the Cat for President or die."

Why? What's the point? What issues should we be upset with that warrant voting for a fictitious candidate?

Imagine a group of striking workers. They're picketing in front of a building's entrance. Now imagine they are carrying blank placards and not informing anyone as to what their reasons for striking are.

This seems to be a fair analogy for last week's Senate mess.

In addition, there are more than enough avenues, such as writing the *Fiat* a letter, the use of the campus e-mail system or flyers, to get your viewpoint out to the campus.

Because none of these routes were taken — as mentioned, the flyers were vague at best — we wonder if the whole purpose of this protest was only to disrupt Senate elections for the sake of disruption.

Even if there was a legitimate point to argue, the fact that few students are aware of it makes this protest more of an annoyance.

It's difficult to take such a protest seriously. In fact, the Senate reaction shows they could care less about these unstated views. □

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

AU still not a diverse campus

Dear Editor:

I commend Stephanie Webster for saying what so many members of the Alfred community seem unable to.

The liberal education we all are receiving has been naively founded on the premise that Alfred provides us with a diversity of people, experiences and thoughts. Alfred's web site even claims that we are one of the most diverse small universities in America.

How exactly has our administration defined diversity? In academic majors, athletic teams and special interest housing?

It's time we all try and grasp the overwhelming fact that Alfred is not a diverse campus.

As an openly gay freshman, each day I experience the bigotry, intolerance, and ignorance

that pervades this campus. I chose to be "out" in our supposedly mature and intellectual setting and have since discovered the ramifications for that decision: ostracism, patronization, hostility, and discomfort.

Our lack of diversity and its negative side effects almost always surface in the most silent, discreet ways - unseen by those in the majority.

I will venture to guess that Alfred is an uncomfortable place for many minority students. Not only because of the lack of support structures but also because so often the diverse minority that does exist at AU is patronized for the benefit of the majority.

While I do have wonderful friends at Alfred, a supportive family, and an amazing boyfriend, my experience contin-

ues to be marred by Alfred's lack of diversity and understanding. I'm hoping to transfer next fall, but not merely to jump ship.

Despite attempts to educate others, I'm tired of ignorant people unwilling and unable to open their eyes. Besides, it's not my duty to teach each and every student about diversity. We each need to bear that responsibility for ourselves. More programming, more discussions, and more focus on diversity in admissions and staffing are all needed.

Hopefully one day Alfred will truly be a diverse place with a wide range of people, thoughts, experiences, and programs. Then, perhaps, we will be receiving a liberal education.

Sebastian White
Class of 2003

COLUMN

Voting only first step in being heard

BY EMILIE HARDMAN
STAFF WRITER

In our campus center mailboxes last week NY State voter registration cards appeared.

All over the campus in past weeks, flashy neon signs ordered students to "meet the candidates" for the Student Senate elections.

Alfred radio, WALF 89.7, asked DJs to use taped station identifications from Senate candidates every hour to give voting more media attention on campus.

Certainly, encouraging Alfred students to vote in campus, local, state and national elections is on the agenda of many.

All of this worries me.

Yes, I am concerned with the stress that is placed on voting — you read me right. Now, some might be wondering what part of "participation in democracy" I do not understand, but allow me to explain.

My concern is not with voting in particular. To be a part of a society that offers the opportunity to pull a lever or check off a box that says, "this candidate is who I, Jane Q. Public, want to represent me," is important. Voting itself is a pretty powerful act ideologically speaking. In practice, the power of one person's vote is perhaps negligible, but that's the way with democracy, majority rules.

This is all common knowledge and most of it, with the exception of the ultimate lack of

power in one person's vote, forms the backbone of the "get out there and vote" arguments. So, what the heck is my problem?

My problem is that voting is held up as the only way to make your concerns known. Electing a candidate who will speak of behalf of issues is understood to be the only way that you will have a voice in policy making. The attitude is that those who do not vote are apathetic, but I would argue that those who do vote and then lean back with a sense of accomplishment and do nothing more are also apathetic.

We seem to think that voting is the only way to get things done. "Let's get someone in there who will take care of issues and make life generally better" is the gist of what I hear over and over again when people talk about voting. In fact, if I had a dime for every person who has told me during my years in activism, "Oh, I don't really feel the need to get involved with issue X because I voted for Senator Whoever and she's in support of it" I could take every *Fiat* reader with me on a luxury cruise.

As a participant in a democratic system to feel that your freedom is fully exercised because you voted is wasteful and unhelpful. The candidate who is elected may work on some good issues and then again, he or she may not.

This is all common knowledge and most of it, with the exception of the ultimate lack of

end all of freedom and to start thinking about how we participate in our democracy everyday.

There's a philosophy that you might not hear about in your humanities classes, but that we should start putting in practice. It's called DIY, or "do it yourself," and it's what makes things happen. Name a social movement and I almost guarantee that before it was picked up by elected officials, and before there were clubs and organizations, there was one person or maybe even a few people staying up late and writing articles, papers, books, making flyers, posters, pamphlets, organizing events, wheatpasting, protesting, tabling, getting out there, talking to people, working hard to get the issue attention.

That work is what gets other people to notice the issue at hand. Groups of people taking notice makes politicians take notice. Let's be aware that individual people practicing DIY is what brings issues to the forefront so candidates can support them.

Your real freedom is in working for things you believe in everyday, not just voting for a candidate and expecting them to do all the work. We need to participate in more than the casting of a ballot. We need to participate in our campus and in our society if our issues are to be addressed, things are to be changed and our freedom is to be fully expressed. □



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The *Fiat Lux*

would like to wish everyone a fun, safe spring break.



PHOTO BY JAY WEISBERGER

Seth Mulligan, left, and Steve Tedone try to share a laugh after Tedone found out his tenure as Senate Vice President had been extended by a week.

...Elections

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

All of the results should be announced at Senate tonight at 8 p.m. in Nevins Theatre. President

Carlos Pearce and Vice President Steve Tedone will still preside.

This came as a surprise to them, as both delivered thanks and commendations to the Senate executive board and body, as well as many others.

Pearce actually gave a speech highlighting the past year of Senate. Dean of Students and Vice President for Student

Affairs Jerry Brody also had words of praise for the outgoing Senate executive members.

All the thank-yous and good-byes, however, were quickly overshadowed by the news of the elections.

Before that, nominations were taken for the remaining executive board positions, except for finance chair.

That was taken care of a week earlier when the Senate approved the appointment of Jalal Clemens, a freshman, to the position. Clemens was approved by an overwhelming majority.

Nominations for the other executive positions will continue tonight.

Few people who left Senate last week had committee reports on their mind when they left, but the committees did present their semi-weekly reports.

Four new organizations were welcomed to Senate last week as well.

All of the proceedings were overshadowed by the election announcement, though. At one point during the controversy, some senators contemplated moving to suspend use of the constitution, a motion that is not permitted.

There was a motion to amend the constitution so as to avoid a similar scenario in the future.

An ad-hoc committee has been created to do so. □

Littleton hit with tragedy again Two teens found dead in local restaurant

BY JULIE WOHLBERG
STAFF WRITER

For a community still trying to recover from the "worst school shooting in U.S. history," the Valentine's Day massacre of two Littleton, Colo. sweethearts brings back painful memories that were just beginning to fade.

"This senseless tragedy has reopened the wounds," said Pastor Bill Epperhart, who conducted the services for four of the victims of the Columbine massacre.

The two Columbine High sophomores, identified as Nicholas Kenseman, 15, and Stephanie Hart, 16, were found at a Subway Sandwich shop located two blocks from the high school. A composite sketch has been made of the main suspect, who has been described as a white male between the ages of 16 and 18.

At the funeral, Epperhart said, "I have stood here five times in the past few months. I can tell you these have been the saddest moments of my life."

Many Columbine students and faculty members attended the service. Others left flowers at the site of the murders, and they have created a memorial to the two slain.

This tragedy is the latest in a string of tragedies that have struck Littleton since April 20, 1999, when 12 Columbine students and one teacher were killed

before the two gunmen, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, turned the guns on themselves.

In October, the mother of a student paralyzed during the massacre entered a gun store, asked to see a gun, and shot herself. On Feb. 1, the body of an 11-year-old boy was found in a trash bin within blocks of the school.

A reporter asked Pastor Gino Geraci of Littleton if he believed that Littleton and Columbine were cursed. In response, he said, "The curse is not on Columbine. The curse is on the world that is not isolated from brutality and hatred and commitment to violence."

What then, can be done to ease this ever-growing problem? Some say the answer may lie in a combination of two efforts: improved school safety and better education.

Octavio Visiedo is the chief education officer and co-founder of Cambridge Academies, a group at the forefront of work toward designing safe and efficient schools. He and his co-workers believe that excessive security as a safety measure does not work.

"You can have five or six security guards in a traditional middle school with 1,500 kids. But if you have constant traffic in and out of the building without supervision, you can't question everybody."

Cambridge Academies has already built two schools with "self-sufficient classrooms," that are said to be more effective

against outside dangers than traditional security measures. Each classroom would be designed with a restroom, sink, water fountain, TV/VCR, telephone and emergency call button. Between each two classrooms would be a basic library and media resource center with computers. These rooms would have windows large enough so that they are completely visible to teachers at all times.

While these schools sound extravagant, founders of these establishments claim that they are more cost-effective and much safer than traditional schools.

"In public schools, the cost is \$11,000 per student station," claimed Visiedo. "We did it for \$8,900 per student station."

While these measures may be too costly for existing schools, there are other measures that can be taken to reduce the risks to students during their daily routine. Teachers and faculty play a very important role in these measures.

"We've treated schools too much like factories," said Alan Olkes, chief school operations officer of Cambridge Academies and former superintendent for Dade County schools. "We've got to train teachers to talk with children individually, so that when a kid is being bullied, they're comfortable telling the teacher about it. Teachers need to say these are my students, not 'this is my class.'" □



WORLDNOTES

LOCAL

Spring Break begins after classes Friday. All residence halls will close, meaning students must leave, at 10 a.m. Saturday. Classes are scheduled to resume March 13.

- Alfred Village hall is slated for renovations. State money has been allocated for the project, which will include restoration of the clock.
- Fiat staffer Jay Weisberger had his name appear in the masthead slogan of the Alfred Sun last week. No one could confirm whether or not this caused a drop in readership of the Sun.
- Alfred brightened up with the arrival of near-record temperatures last week.
- The New York state primary election is one of many important primaries taking place March 7. California is also holding its primary that day. Many believe that the results Tuesday could make it much more clear who will receive the nominations for president.

NATIONAL

Fifteen people were arrested for disorderly conduct during angry protests in New York City after four NYPD officers were acquitted for the killing of unarmed immigrant Amadou Diallo.

Police fired 41 shots at Diallo, 19 of which hit him. The Albany jury acquitted the four officers, supporting the defense's claim that the officers thought Diallo had a gun.

The protests back in New York City were non-violent, one of which involved a march from Diallo's apartment to a police precinct with candles.

The Justice Department has announced that it is going to review the evidence in the case.

- Carlos Santana cleaned up at the recent Grammy awards.
- The man who made his name at the original Woodstock took home eight awards, all of them related to his work on last year's *Supernatural*.

Christina Aguilera also took home a Grammy for best new artist.

INTERNATIONAL

Andrei Babitsky, a Russian radio journalist from the United States-funded Radio Liberty, was taken into custody in Dagestan, a country bordering Chechnya.

Babitsky was allegedly carrying a false passport. He could face up to two years in jail.

Babitsky has helped to report about possible human rights violations committed by Russia while fighting Chechen rebels.

- President Clinton referred to the situation as "very troubling."
- Almost 50,000 people have been evacuated in the Philippines as the Mayon volcano erupted last week.

One explosion sent an ash cloud two kilometers into the sky, though no injuries were reported as of press time.

The last time the nearly perfect cone-shaped volcano erupted was 1993, when an eruption killed 70 people.

- Canada is planning on doing away with the \$1000 bill. The bill, worth about \$690 in American currency, allows Canadian criminals to carry light loads of their thefts.

The next largest bill in Canada is the \$100 bill. If the switch goes through, a bank robber's load could be up to 10 times as heavy.

...Edmondson

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

already accomplished at the University, so when he takes office I expect him to move slowly in terms of any changes," Bernstein said.

"He said at one point, only insecure people come into a new situation and make wholesale changes; secure ones take the time to study the situation," Bernstein added.

Indeed, Edmondson noted that students need not worry about any drastic changes in the coming year.

"I want to preserve the won-

derful qualities that make Alfred what it is," Edmondson said.

Edmondson added that he wants to continue the trend of "energetic leadership" that students have become accustomed to.

Bernstein noted this is an exciting time for the University.

Noting that Edmondson's tenure will follow a great period of growth for the University, he wondered what lies ahead.

"Imagine if Edmondson is as successful in his presidency as Ed Coll has been in his," Bernstein said. "It's very exciting, to say the least." □

Check out the Fiat online at:
fiatlux.alfred.edu

Students up for Fulbrights

BY JAY WEISBERGER
MANAGING EDITOR

Two AU students have been named finalists for Fulbright Scholarships, and a professor believes they have an excellent shot at winning the award.

"People at this stage almost always win," said Paul Strong, professor of English. Strong heads up the Fulbright application process at AU.

He was quick to add, however, that "there are no guarantees."

The Institute of International Education requests that the names of the finalists remain under wraps to the public until the awards are announced.

The idea behind the scholarships, Strong explained, is to allow a student to study for a year in a foreign country.

It sounds like a simple idea, but Strong noted that there is much more involved with Fulbrights.

"Students who want to apply have to see me in the spring," Strong said, adding that the deadline to get started is the end of the spring semester of a student's junior year.

He said students need to start the application process at that point so as to be able to get everything needed to apply together.

"First, you need a proposal of what to study and why you need to go to that country," Strong said.

Usually students will pick a very specialized school or artist's studio for their project, Strong said.

In fact, that school/studio must write a letter indicating it wants the student to come and study there.

Also required is something "verifiable that you have a background" in the area you want to study, Strong said. This means the appropriate classes and, sometimes, proper language training.

Two essays must be written, Strong said. One is a personal biographical statement. The other is the actual proposal of study. Three letters of recommendation are also needed.

Strong provided an application for example's sake. It is as thick as this newspaper folded up.

Despite all the work, many students are attracted to the idea of studying overseas.

"What could be better than studying overseas at someone else's expense?" Strong asked.

This year's results continue a trend of AU faring well in the world of Fulbright Scholarships. Strong noted that six applicants have reached this

point in the last three years.

Of those six, five have won their scholarships. The one who didn't, Joel Salesky, was told by the school he wanted to attend that they would fund his trip if the scholarship didn't come through.

Of course, AU can use these numbers to tout itself. Over the same three years, AU has had more winners than Ithaca College, RIT and SUNY Geneseo combined.

Strong also mentioned that Syracuse, the University of Rochester and the University of Buffalo have received seven scholarships each over the same time period.

Strong characterized these relatively low numbers as "ridiculous" because the schools have such large student bodies.

Thus, AU does pretty well in the Fulbright department.

Strong expressed his hope that the students win their scholarships.

He did note that some students turn down their scholarships, however.

"[The students who are at this level] are absolutely top people," Strong said.

He added that they have lots of choices of what to do and where to go — the scholarship may not be the best choice in the end. □

Tunisia the topic at Global talk

BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

The speakers at the Feb. 16 Global Awareness Roundtable indicated that more people should be aware of Tunisia's long, influential history.

"Many people confuse Indonesia with Tunisia. It's not a rich country, but it has a lot to offer as far as women's liberation and history. It goes back to the Stone Age," assistant professor of French Zakia Robana said, emphasizing how important it is for people to realize this.

Robana was one of the speakers in the Knight Club, sponsored by the division of modern languages. Her husband, Abderrahman Robana, who is a professor of business, and freshman Meriam Djelidi also spoke.

Zakia indicated that Tunisia had a rich history. The ancient Romans contributed amphitheaters and aqueducts to Tunisia, while both the Romans and Phoenicians established ports, and the ancient Christians left temples and cathedrals.

Djelidi, who lived in Tunisia from the age of two to four, discussed an even earlier historical period: the legend behind the founding of Carthage, one of the earliest cities in Tunisia.

The legend says that Queen Alyssa paid a lot of gold to the

Berber chieftain in exchange for an area the size of an ox-skin, which is no bigger than a typical residence hall room. Djelidi revealed that Alyssa cleverly cut the skin into long, thin strips and sewed them together until it circled an area big enough to be an entire city.

"Carthage was not just a city, but a whole empire," Djelidi explained.

Abderrahman, who came from Tunisia to America in 1960, indicated that presently, Tunisia has a strong economy, which has significantly reduced poverty over the years.

"There used to be [a] 56 percent poverty [rate]; now there is only 6.2 percent. Like America, there is a real middle class in Tunisia," Abderrahman explained.

He also indicated that the economy is good as Tunisia has no debt.

Both Zakia and Abderrahman expressed their pride in Tunisia.

Furthermore, Abderrahman especially felt that going abroad is the best way to learn about a country. In 1992, he took the Alfred University Jazz Ensemble to Tunisia.

"Students are the best ambassadors to go to other countries," he said.

Abderrahman, Zakia and Djelidi indicated that another country would be discussed in the near future. □

Web team works to improve AU site

BY ELIZABETH GOETSCHUS
STAFF WRITER

Anyone surfing onto Alfred University's website within the next few months will discover some innovative changes. A new team of six students is working hard to generate updated and changing material for the site.

A new student web team has been created and charged with updating the site. Jasmine Lellock, Jesse Martin, Jen Buttarro, Justin Morton, Beth Swarecki and Travis Rimel have been hired as content creators for the website. Rimel is the new web graphic designer.

The group was created, said advisor Abby Brody, because "we [Students for Technological Assistance and the AU Web team] wanted to make the AU website a more fun place to visit, a place that better communicates the personality of AU and one that offers

much more student-generated material."

The team will write short articles, how-to features, quizzes, charts and polls for the website. Other duties include strategic planning and development of some of the site's important webpages. STA's web engineers do the actual building of the pages the new team designs.

"Our content team is turning into a great sounding board for all our web-related efforts. They have critiqued the existing site and proposed changes that are going to happen," said Brody.

Some new features soon to be showcased on the site include an "Alfred People" page, revamped "Community Pages," and a "Rooms of AU" page. These features, along with future ideas, will spice up the site, making people want to visit it again and again.

The "Alfred People" page will profile campus and community

members. This page will give site visitors insight about the character of Alfred and its inhabitants.

"I am really interested in including really fun and unique facts about Alfred people," said Lellock.

Right now, the "Community Pages" consist of little more than a directory of links to community resources. These pages are being reworked to include more information about Alfred.

The "Rooms of AU" page is an innovative idea that will feature some of the "coolest" residence hall rooms on campus and their residents.

Currently, the members of the web team are attending seminars on the technology necessary for their jobs. They are learning about the style of web writing, navigational design and interactive design, use of images and the basics of marketing higher education institutions on the Internet.

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Union steps up campus presence

BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks ago, students may have noticed an e-mail from the Art Union offering free photography lessons in Harder Hall.

Senior Ben Ellcome, a photography major, has been an active member in the Union since his sophomore year. He explained that this idea was a good way to bridge the gap between the private and public sectors of Alfred University.

"Cameras are empowering for many reasons. Learning very simple things [about the camera] can give that little bit of extra knowledge, which gives people an advantage," Ellcome explained.

Sophomore Lindsay Sampson, the president of the Union, agreed that Ellcome's idea was a good way to bring the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Art and Design together.

"The ... Senate doesn't know how to deal with problems that come from the art school. If these two were united, there would be one voice for the entire student body," Sampson emphasized.

Both Sampson and freshman Betsy Barnhart, also an active member in the Union, indicated that the Union changed a lot this year because so many members graduated.

"We still do what (the previous members) did, but we needed to make it ours. It's important for freshmen to get

involved, or the group might not survive," Barnhart said.

Sampson and Barnhart are glad that the group is primarily comprised of freshmen at this point.

Ellcome indicated that the Union was created so those students could have a voice on matters affecting them.

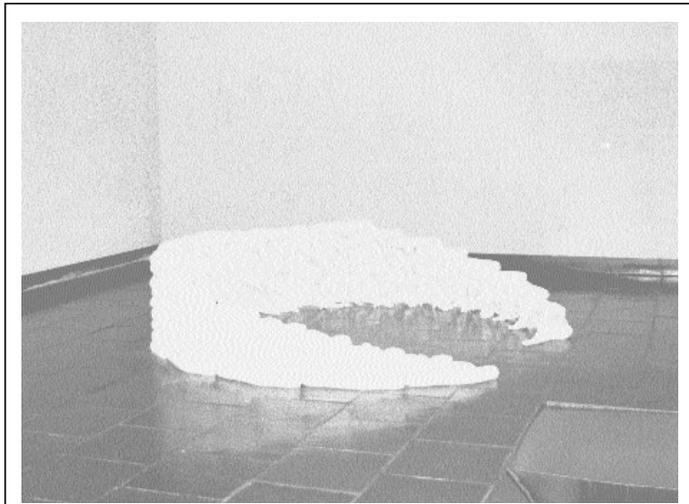
When Binns-Merrill Hall closed down, many art students swarmed to Senate because they were furious about losing the space. Sampson indicated that ideas for alternative space, mainly out in the community at the Town Hall or in Wellsville, resulted from this.

"A union is a more organized manner to deal with authority. We can give authority more respect this way," Sampson revealed.

Ellcome, Sampson and Barnhart all agreed, however, that the Union turned into much more than just dealing with problems.

Getting the general community involved in activities, like the Veg Out which took place Feb. 23, is very important, they noted. The \$640 that was made in this event will be donated to a local charity and art organizations in need of funding.

The Union holds their meetings at 9:15 p.m. on Wednesdays in Harder Hall at the Moka Joka. Students who want to be heard and are interested in reaching out to the general community are encouraged to attend. □



A piece of art stands in Harder Hall as part of last week's faculty art show. Both three and two dimensional pieces were shown. PHOTO BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN

REVIEW

Student directed *Vanities* well done

The show entertains as Furniss finishes senior project

BY LUKE JACOBS
STAFF WRITER

From Feb. 17-19, senior Marnie Furniss completed her senior project in theater with a production of *Vanities*.

The play, which was performed in the Rod Brown Acting Studio of the Miller Performing Arts Center, was a wonderful example of student-directed theater here at AU.

The plot follows three women from high school in 1963 to college, and finally to a reunion in 1973. As the play progresses, the characters change and grow apart. All three actresses did a wonderful job of keeping the core of their characters intact throughout the play. The characters were well fleshed out and believable, making it easy for the audience to suspend their

disbelief and go along for the ride.

The character of Joanne was played by senior Jasmine Lellock, who mastered Joanne's perky facade while still allowing the audience glimpses of her internal hysteria and self-doubt.

Sophomore theater major Ashley Long, played Kathy. Long played the part splendidly, showing a progression throughout the play from youthful ignorance, to a hard won maturity.

The part of Mary was played by sophomore English and communication studies major Laura Randall. Randall skillfully portrayed Mary's internal struggle between the bonds of friendship and the freedom of hedonism.

None of these fine performances would have been possi-

ble, of course, without the skillful direction of Furniss. From beginning to end, the show was filled with powerful moments and images, sometimes earning gasps from the audience.

The set, designed by junior theater major Earl Stephens, was simple yet elegant, subtly drawing attention to center stage.

Sophomore theater major Jason Shattuck did a fine job as costume designer. The costumes were all well-suited to the characters during each scene.

Overall, *Vanities* was a powerful production filled with laughter and tears. Everyone involved should be proud of the skilled and talented work they have done. If you missed it, I'm sorry. Should you be kicking yourself now for not going to see it? Yes. Definitely. □

...Endowment

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

limit the University's endowment spending to six percent each year. He said that the remaining interest goes back into the endowment.

Hyde credits AU's recent

endowment growth to Coll. He said that Coll has increased the endowment ten times during his tenure while also building the school's infrastructure.

"I think that if more students realized the impact the growth of the endowment has in affecting student services, they would care more about it," said Watson. □

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REVIEW

A little bit of everything at dance concert

BY JUDY TSANG
COPY MANAGER

"You touched me, Lucas"
Susan Roebuck, associate professor of dance, was not the only one touched after the division of performing arts' dance concert, *All About Love*, Feb. 24-27.

Directed by Roebuck, this year's dance concert brought another smorgasbord of dance entertainment that catered to every taste, especially the sentimental.

"Legacy," the sixth number of the concert, was Roebuck's memorial dance to her mentor and friend, Lucas Hoving, who passed away recently.

The concert began as Roebuck announced five senior dancers' "last time to grace Alfred's stage." These seniors are Elizabeth Connell, Jennifer Hertzler, Ann Jones, Joy Spatuzzi and Morgan Weinrich.

Despite the bold and jazzy beats of En Vogue's "Free Your Mind," Spatuzzi opened the concert displaying the poses and techniques of a ballerina. Her flexibility awed the audience.

Though the audience could not interpret nor understand the tribal chanting of the second number, they could not help but tap along to the raw beat of the music. Draped with tapestry wraps, the "Aweemowet" dancers gave the audience a taste of African tribal dancing.

With woody green lighting, "Mantis" created the perfectly mysterious forest setting for a mantis, Hannah Lash, dressed in a green body-fitting unitard, to travel through.

"In My Other World" was the featured dance in the advertisements for *All About Love*. A duet between Holly Louis, a junior, and Weinrich, the piece touched lovers' hearts. Weinrich proved that the floor

did not have to exist for her, with lifts, jumps and support from Louis.

Traditionally, AU dance concerts lack the strong presence of ballet. "Due Intermezzi" solved that.

Choreographed by Linda Mitchell, professor of history and adjunct ballet professor, "Due Intermezzi" was dedicated to the memory of Gary Parks, reviews editor of *Dance Magazine*. This ballet piece was strong in its elegance and feathered grace in both the choreography and the dancers.

"Legacy," Roebuck's homage to Hoving, crossed over dance boundaries in utilizing only the body to perform by using vocals. Throughout the piece, Roebuck spoke the sentiments Hoving left behind, "Choreographic offerings," "Hoving technique," "Dance is a hard life, Susan." Regardless of how much the audience knew

about dance, it was not hard to see the heartwarming gestures of Roebuck's hands placed at her chest and her fingers pulling from above to her head. As Roebuck walked off stage, the members of the dance company improvised out onto the stage, as though a legacy of dancers is left behind despite the exit of the instructional figure.

After intermission, "Together We Dance" asserted once again the ballet theme running through the night. Connell, Hertzler and Spatuzzi, wearing flowing white circle skirts over sequined leotards, did their share of arabesques gracefully.

Lash and Weinrich proved their amazing ability to work with each other in "Insectum," literally. The two, imitating the motions of insects, climbed and interwove through each other.

"There Is No Meaning To This Dance But It Might Be Visually Pleasing" proved to be interesting despite its self-condemning title.

The piece worked with acting boxes as props and seemed to imply the worshipping of a Buddha.

Hertzler's moves proved to be just as seductive as the sultry jazz club music in "Take Five." Most impressive was Hertzler dancing in silhouette

against the blue backdrop. Catecalls came from the audience.

The winner of the night as judged by the audience had to have been "A Kiss to Build A Dream on."

The four-part dance began with Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World." The soft colors of the silk costumes, the smooth movements of the dancers and the innocent looks on the dancers' faces convinced even the hardest heart to smile. Chuckles came from the audience as the second section imitated two young children play-fighting.

If you're in the school of "dance is just in the body," the sultry facial expressions of the dancers in the third section proved you wrong. As the dancers puckered their lips, wishfully thinking of kisses, laughter rippled through the audience and catecalls were even made.

Boxing gloves completed the comedic dance.

The dancers shook the boxing gloves in frustration to inform the audience that "It Takes Two to Tango."

With a cleansed palate, this concert should have filled you well. Maybe a dinner mint could top it off. □

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“Little Elian” focus of international furor

BY JULIE WOHLBERG
STAFF WRITER

In what seems like a remote area of the country with a very different social climate, a heated debate is going on over the guardianship of a little boy named Elian Gonzalez.

This debate seems to have little impact on the lives of many people in the northern United States. However, the repercussions of the final decision in this struggle may, in fact, have a large impact on our lives.

On a November morning last year, a group of 14 refugees gathered to board a small tugboat in Cuba.

They were fleeing what they considered to be intolerable oppression. Their destination: America.

These refugees are protected under the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966, which says that if they get into American waters they are guaranteed the right to stay in America as political prisoners.

One year after their arrival, they can apply for permanent citizenship.

In the rough waters of the Florida Straits, the overcrowded boat capsized. Of the original 14 passengers, 11 died.

The only child on the boat, Elian, was given the sole life preserver, to which his mother tied him before she herself drowned.

On Nov. 25, 1999, 5-year-old Elian was found tied to a life raft. He was brought ashore and treated for hypothermia and dehydration. Elian's father allegedly called his uncle, Lazaro Gonzalez, after the boy was recovered and hospitalized.

During this alleged conversation, Elian's father asked his uncle to care for the boy now that he was in America.

Once released from the hospital, temporary custody of Elian was granted to his family in America, until the Immigration and Naturalization Services could make a permanent custody ruling.

The other two survivors were granted permission to stay, and are currently residing in Miami. The female survivor is currently asking Cuban officials for custody of the daughter she left in Cuba. These pleas have gone unheard in the media, and her requests have been denied.

The media, however, picked up on the story of “Little Elian,” tracking his every movement, much to the embarrassment of Cuban officials.

Fidel Castro, the leader of the last remaining Communist country in the Western Hemisphere, became personally involved, criticizing the Gonzalez family in America and demanding Elian's return. Elian's father has denied ever making any phone calls to Lazaro Gonzalez, and claims that he desperately wants his

son back with him in Cuba.

INS officials went to Cuba to interview the father and determine whether or not he was an able father for Elian. Elian's mother, Elisbet, had custody of Elian until her death, and although his father did have visitation rights, it has been alleged that he was not an active member of Elian's life in Cuba.

The INS determined that he was, in fact, a fit father, and plans were made to return Elian to Cuba.

INS officials asked Elian's father to come to America to claim his son. He, however, refused. Instead, Elian's grandmothers came to America, and engaged in what some believe to be very suspicious behavior.

When interviewed by a *Fiat Lux* staffer, Elian's other great-uncle, Delfin Gonzalez, who currently lives with Elian, commented on the grandmothers' visit.

“Don't you think it's a little strange that when Elisbet's own mother came to America, she never once thanked the fishermen who saved Elian's life, didn't ask if her daughter's body had been found, and never inquired as to her daughter's funeral arrangements? Instead, she simply voiced political opinions that I do not think are her own, and repeatedly said that Elian had to ‘be saved.’ Saved from what? From democracy?” Gonzalez asked.

Protests by Cuban-American refugees and action by various politicians called attention to his cause, and Elian was subpoenaed to testify in court as to where he wants to live.

Thus, Elian was granted a temporary stay in America. The INS told the *Fiat Lux* that it was “still in the process of reviewing the subpoena to see what, if any, impact it would have on their decision to return Elian to Cuba.”

United States Attorney General Janet Reno strongly upholds Elian's return to Cuba, but her office would offer “no comment” on her position regarding the subpoena.

Elian's family in America said, “if we were sending Elian back to his father in a free country, a country where life was happy and democracy ruled, we wouldn't have hesitated to return him. However, we were sending him back to Cuba, a country where human rights don't exist, and there is a terrible quality of life. We only want what's best for him, and that can be found in America. It cannot be found in Cuba.”

Cuba, once the recipient of billions of dollars in annual financial help, now has one of the lowest qualities of life of any Hispanic nation.

These are only some of the conditions about which Delfin expresses concern. He also fears that Elian's psychological healing over his mother's loss

will be severely inhibited if he is returned to Cuba.

“How will he be able to heal his wounds if he returns to Cuba and hears the people there call his mother a traitor? And why would she be called a traitor? Because she died trying to provide a better life for her son,” Delfin said.

Some American officials, however, believe that Elian does belong back in Cuba. His father has been declared a fit father, and American law grants custody to a surviving parent unless he or she is deemed unfit.

Why should the students of Alfred University care about this little boy?

If the INS decides to keep Elian in America, it could make recovering American children who have been abducted to foreign countries more difficult to reclaim.

The United States has used the argument of precedent in these cases, an argument that they will lose if Elian remains in America.

In closing, Delfin Gonzalez said, “Thank you for taking an interest in something that many up North don't consider as important as we who are caught in the middle of it. But it does affect you. Either way, it will affect you. It is important for everyone to form an opinion and get involved, and hopefully we can stir up some interest up North.” □



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12:00 - 2:00	sommer x f psychobilly garage	ed j ska + hard-core	abbi a dart gun radio punk rock	emilie h political punk	christian m, ally b classic rock christian	jalal c, jamie k, sarah g rock alternative	safanov s techno + dance
2:00 - 4:00	david s metal + noise	brianna p industrial + goth	sean s, meriam d classical metal	ethan k non-wuss rock	jonathan b folk + love	mike s, bill h, abe m classic rock oldies	shelby b, julie b techno + dance

REVIEW

Band makes splash at AU

BY JASON PILARZ
BILLING MANAGER

A taste of the modern rock music of the future was on display recently in the Knight Club, as Boston-based Splashdown played a short but high-energy show.

Following a recorded moon-landing intro, the band hit the stage and never looked back. Before the band even began playing, its appearance was noted to be chic and futuristic, a portent of the music to come. Vinyl pants, shiny silver jackets and the blue hair of guitarist Adam Buhler showed that Splashdown was no ordinary band.

The band itself consists of three members: singer and songwriter Melissa Kaplan, guitarist/bassist Adam Buhler, and Kasson Crooker on drum beats, keyboards, and other sound effects. In order to recreate their sound live, the band brings along guitarist/bassist Trevor Shand and drummer Jason Sakos on tour.

The band's sound is complex and layered, with keyboards and electronic effects a large part of the music. No single instrument is overpowering; each melts together into a tight melody. The drums were strong and meshed well with the other rhythm

instruments, and Buhler's guitar style was clean and powerful.

In general, the sound was similar to progressive rock styles, containing electronic sounds while also employing strong bass and guitar, but with a definite modern sound.

One interesting aspect of Splashdown's sound is the sharing of guitar and bass duties. Buhler began on bass, but switched for the next song with Shand on guitar. This trend continued for the rest of the show.

Kaplan appeared dressed all in black, a compliment to her long dark hair. Her voice was a bit reminiscent of Fiona Apple, with an added Middle Eastern inflection. Indeed, at times the entire sound was somewhat Middle Eastern, especially the songs "Karma Slave" from the upcoming movie *Titan A.E.* and "Deserter."

Other songs included "Pro-Creation Chick" which featured Crooker's keyboard skills, "Pandora," and "Ironspy." A song about a bad roommate, "50%," proved that for all the progressive and futuristic aspects of the band, Splashdown was still a rock band at heart.

Splashdown indeed may be a band of the future. The music and lyrics more than stand on their

own, the band's live show is powerful and polished, and the band has the connections to make it to the top. Currently, they are signed to the Java label of Capitol records and played six shows on the past summer's Lilitz Fair tour.

Not bad for a band that is still relatively young. Splashdown was formed in 1996 after Cynthia Buhler, Adam's wife, introduced the members to each other. That same year the band released "Pandora/Deserter" a seven-inch vinyl single on Castle von Buhler records, a small indie label out of Boston co-owned by the Buhlers.

Also in 1996, Splashdown released their only full-length album *Stars and Garters*. "Halfworld," an EP, was released in 1998 and represented the band's final release on the CVB label, as they were soon signed to Java/Capitol. On that label the EP "Redshift" was released in 1999. April of this year will see the band's second full-length album, *Blueshift*. Songs have also appeared on numerous compilations.

Alfred students may also have another opportunity to see Splashdown again soon, as the band plays in Rochester relatively often — three shows in the past year. □

Faculty awards under scrutiny

BY JUDY TSANG
COPY MANAGER

Since its inception in the 1970s, the Excellence in Teaching Award has been a result of direct vote of juniors and seniors. About three to five years ago, faculty members were also allowed to vote, said Robert Pipal, professor of chemistry and chair of the Faculty Development Committee.

However, faculty members found flaws in the current system.

"There was very poor participation in the students. In a typical year, only about 10-15 percent of the eligible students vote," Pipal counted off. "The end result of this [is that] we feel it is not at all a good representation."

"I'm very involved in campus activities and I don't even know much about it," Ann Jones, a senior communication studies student, said. "I can barely remember last year's [process of voting]."

Pipal was also worried about those that who vote. "What are they voting for?" he asked. The award is for excellence in teaching, not the faculty's involvement as an advisor and in student organizations.

Some also say the lack of peer review also does not fairly consider all the abilities of a teacher.

The Faculty Senate gave the FDC the approval to make a change, on principle, of how students can participate, Louis Greiff, professor of English and president of the Faculty Senate said.

The FDC spent "an enormous amount of time [in] changing the procedure," Pipal stressed.

The proposed system was designed to still have direct stu-

dent involvement and peer review. Faculty could be nominated by direct student vote and by deans of the colleges. After nomination, faculty members need to compose a portfolio of supporting evidence. Pipal felt this was "an eminently fair system."

The portfolio would require several letters, a statement of teaching philosophy and reasons for being an eligible candidate for the award, and a summary of course evaluations. The FDC and two students would then evaluate and review the candidates.

This proposed process "would still have extensive student participation in nominations and student presence in reviewing portfolios," Pipal stressed.

The proposed system was not met with agreement. Some felt that change in the system was complicated and even burdensome. It was also important to note that even those that spoke against the revised outline realized that "not a shoddy job was done," Greiff pointed out.

"The alternate ideas suggested have already been considered at length and rejected," Pipal said.

"I like the popular vote, personally," Greiff commented. He even suggested opening the eligible voter to freshmen and sophomores as well. "I just wish students would participate more. They don't realize [the nomination's] importance and that it is meaningful to the faculty."

Pipal said he feels that voters should be restricted to juniors and seniors.

The proposed outline is now back to the FDC for further consideration, said Pipal. □

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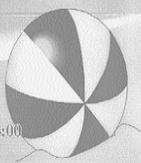


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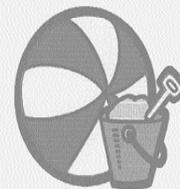
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Speaker addresses AIDS Six students get funds for internships

BY JENNIFER KAHN
STAFF WRITER

"Imagine your own memorial service" began singer/songwriter Steve Schalchlin when he came to Alfred two weeks ago Thursday as a featured speaker for Sexual Responsibility Week. Schalchlin presented a program in Holmes Auditorium that was adapted from his musical, "The Last Session," about a songwriter with AIDS.

In his first song, "Save Me A Seat," Schalchlin introduced audience members to the world of AIDS with lyrics about a memorial service for someone who has died. His program progressed with a

song devoted to his parents and growing up gay in Texas.

"It wasn't easy growing up Baptist and gay," Schalchlin said. "They don't like that kind of stuff." Ultimately, because he felt left out, he began to engage in self-destructive behaviors that led him to contract HIV.

"There is not a single person in this room who has to contract HIV," said Schalchlin. He pointed out that AIDS is hard to miss and easy to prevent.

Songs such as "Going It Alone," about the experience of finally meeting young people like himself who had AIDS and "Friendly Fire," with lyrics about the med-

ications used to treat AIDS and their effects on his body, added insight for audience members about some of the problems AIDS patients face.

Schalchlin became very sick shortly after he finished his musical in 1996. In that year he also started an online diary at www.bonusround.com, where people could read about his experiences with AIDS.

Schalchlin was sponsored by Alfred Working Actively for a Responsible Environment.

Schalchlin added again that, "No one has to get AIDS. You have a responsibility to protect the person you are with." □

BY JASON PILARZ
STAFF WRITER

Last fall, due to the generosity of AU Trustee Gloria Spivak, Alfred University instituted the International Internship Award. The award provides a grant of \$2,000 to each recipient to secure an overseas internship.

Recently, Alfred announced that six students had been chosen to receive the inaugural awards.

After a committee reviewed all applications, Briony Evans, Caitlin Foley, Melissa Pritchard, Gwen McShea, Amy Garbark and Ji Yeon Woo were chosen as winners, according to an Alfred University press release.

The award is also sponsored through a joint effort between the Career Development Center and the Study Abroad Program; students ultimately are responsible for securing an internship on their own.

One of the recipients, Melissa Pritchard, is currently overseas in England, and plans to utilize her award to work in Spain. Currently a junior majoring in Fine Arts, she will be living in Toledo, Spain for six weeks and working with an artist specializing in metal work.

Known as damasquinando in Spanish, Pritchard described it as "an art practice typical to ... the inlaying of fine metals." While there, she will also be taking classes and living with a Spanish family.

Qualifications for being considered for the award include a GPA of at least 3.0, at least second-semester sophomore standing at the time of the internship, and parental consent. Upon returning from overseas, recipients must present a report and portfolio to the Scholarship Committee.

A five-member committee reviewed the applications and selected the winners. The com-

mittee looked at academic performance, motivation, effect on career goals, and activity involvement when considering applications.

Amy Garbark, also a junior majoring in fine arts, noted that she is still looking for an internship.

"Ideally, I would like to work as an artist assistant, but I am looking into gallery and museum work as well," Garbark said.

In addition to helping students find internships if needed, Stephanie Spackman, coordinator of experiential education at the CDC, also reviews the students' internship proposals and helps to set up the internship between student and employer.

Although she has not confirmed anything yet, Gwen McShea stated that she is looking to work in Ireland for her internship. A senior business and fine arts double major, McShea's areas of interest include web design, film, television and publishing.

Ji Yeon Woo hopes that her internship will allow her to combine Korean and American cultures in work that focuses on graphic design and marketing. At Alfred, she is currently a sophomore art and design major.

Collaboration with other artists is a goal Caitlin Foley hopes to accomplish through her international internship. Through this collaboration, she expects to learn how both others work and how she herself works. Foley is a sophomore in the fine arts program here at AU.

Briony Evans is a sophomore majoring in art and design. She has received an award for excellence in multi-media art.

The International Internship Award program was created due to a grant from Spivak, who had initially remained anonymous. The awards are expected to be given each year. □



PHOTO BY JAY WEISBERGER
Sisters of Sigma Chi Nu keep track of who bid on who at the "Sigma for Sale" auction. The sorority raised \$250 which will be split between the house and ACCORD, a domestic violence advocacy group.

Abortion rights center of Roundtable discussion



BY EMILIE HARDMAN
STAFF WRITER

It has been 27 years since the Roe v. Wade decision was passed in the Supreme Court, making it legal for women to obtain abortions in the United States. So why, after all these years, is everyone still talking about it?

That's what Randi Hewitt, this month's speaker for the Women's Studies Roundtable series, wants to know.

Hewitt is the public affairs coordinator for the Southern Tier area Planned Parenthood, the nation's oldest and largest family planning organization.

"What's the big deal? We are talking about a medical procedure. Why are people so concerned? I can tell you why," said Hewitt.

Even though the Roe v. Wade decision was made years before most current college students were born, abortion has continued to be a hot topic all this time, mostly because of the fervent efforts of those who disagree with the ruling that supported women's ability to choose.

"We have always heard the anti-choice movement," said Hewitt. "We've heard their bombs, their guns, their terrorism of young women and doctors."

Hewitt identified two different sides to the anti-choice movement. The least dangerous to the pro-choice movement are those who believe that "a child is not a choice," said Hewitt. She pointed out that religious concerns and belief in "fetal rights" generally prompt these people.

The other position in the anti-choice movement is one that is fueled by patriarchal beliefs. Hewitt said that while perhaps they do not participate in a conspiracy, white male politicians work against abortion rights as an indirect means of oppressing women.

"It's easier for a politician to say, 'I'm against abortion' than it is to say 'I want to keep women pregnant and out of the way so that our good old white boys can stay in power,'" said Hewitt.

Hewitt drew a clear parallel between the denial of reproductive freedom and women's lack of power. She imagined the economics of a society without the choice of abortion as one very similar to the family unit-based economy that existed hundreds of years ago. Because of the population explosion she hypothesized would occur without abortion, women would be drawn out of their jobs and pulled away from pursuit of higher education to care for their children.

Hewitt said that the United States already lacks daycare. So what would happen if there were more children to be cared for?

It's not something Hewitt wants to find out.

"I'm here to tell you that we are getting very close to living with-

out legal abortion," she soberly told the crowd of 54 students and faculty members that had gathered. That's why Hewitt is talking about choice issues 27 years after Roe v. Wade. That's why she is encouraging people everywhere to get involved now, before, as she said, it is too late.

"Reproductive freedom is not like freedom of speech," Hewitt explained, "it's not a part of the Bill of Rights. The decision to allow legal abortion is one that can be overturned at anytime."

To stress how close the government is to reversing Roe v. Wade, making abortion illegal and destroying Title 10, which also provides the national funding for birth control, Hewitt offered some numbers.

The United States is only three votes away in the Supreme Court from overturning Roe v. Wade.

In the United States Senate, 49 percent of senators say that they would get rid of legal abortion.

"Our generation had always lived in a time with reproductive freedom, but the time could be coming when we won't be," said Hewitt.

Hewitt urged the audience to get involved in the pro-choice movement. Historically a quiet group, pro-choicers need to start speaking up, Hewitt stressed. The easiest way to do that is to vote for pro-choice candidates and pro-choice legislation.

"Don't let George W. Bush and John McCain fool you, they are anti-choice and have already admitted that they are committed to appointing anti-choice Justices to the Supreme Court," said

...Swimming

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

McAllister, Martin, Junker and DeMay was tenth with a time of 3:52.44 in the relay events.

In individual events, Ohlson finished eighth in the 100 breaststroke, DeMay finished

...Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

Chapman hopes that this season the Saxons will fare better than their 7-7 record from last

Hewitt of the Republican candidates for the Presidency.

Al Gore and Bill Bradley both have pro-choice platforms.

"Bradley is the most pro-choice. Gore has a history of anti-choice voting, but claims to be pro-choice now," said Hewitt.

"Voting however, is the absolute minimum level of activism," Hewitt stressed.

Those interested in pro-choice issues should also sign up for the Planned Parenthood e-mail alert system that sends out notice of issues concerning the choice movement. This way, said Hewitt,

fourteenth in the 50 freestyle (25.85) and Gretchen Jettler and Katie Ernst finished twelfth and fourteenth in the 3-meter diving competition.

Hamilton College won the event with a score of 1,477.5 points. Alfred scored 377.5 points. □

year. Chapman thinks that the team is more athletic overall in the midfield, which should help out the young defense.

The Saxons were ranked 25th in the Faceoff 2000 preseason Division III poll. □

people can keep in touch with what is happening and write letters to their representatives in support of pro-choice issues. Interested people can register at www.plannedparenthood.org/rhoic.

"Also, March 10 is national abortion provider appreciation day, that's a tough job to have, and I know they would love to get a letter of thanks," said Hewitt.

Talk as students filed out the doors was of activism on campus in place of the consciousness raising groups that exist and changing the world. □



Riders work hard

BY CHARLIE CASPARIUS
WEB MANAGER

Becky Backer, coach of the Alfred University Equestrian team, has been around horses for more than 40 years.

She bought her first horse when she was 13, and she was bribed by her father to stay in college with a promise of riding school after she graduated. According to Backer, her father is still waiting for her to grow out of her love for horses.

Out of the 21 riders on the team, only two are men. Dan Dickmann, a freshman, said "it is a very good break to come to practice, getting away from all the school hassles."

Dickmann was also very well informed about his sport. According to him, although equestrian is not a NCAA sport, the international horse show association is a very strict governing body, which makes the sport very competitive.

Dickmann also mentioned that equestrian is an all year sport with three horse shows in the fall semester and at least six during the spring semester. The horse shows are held on the weekends and are strictly held in indoor arenas. The home teams provide 20 or more horses that the riders are assigned to.

According to Backer, the horses are new to the riders and they have no time to warm up, they must go out into the arena with their horse and do the show with no prior practice.

Backer also described the point system for equestrian — a very different system from other sports.

In each horse show there are about six divisions based on difficulty that allows even the most inexperienced riders to participate in the horse shows.

Each time a rider places they get a certain number of points the most points being awarded to first place. If a rider accumulates 35 points, they qualify for regionals. The postseason moves to zones and then nationals. If a rider accumulates enough points to make the postseason they are also elevated to the next division, and

continue to compete there until they are elevated to the next division and so on.

The interesting thing about the point system in equestrian, according to Backer, is that the points carry over into the next season, so eventually a rider is bound to make the playoffs and move up a division in their collegiate career.

Practices are a whole different ballgame though. The van picks up the riders at 5:30 p.m. and makes the half-hour trip out to Belmont where they meet Backer and maybe run into Willy, the friendly stable goat.

The preparation for practice is quite rigorous with riders doing chores to help out Backer and her stables, and getting ready to ride the horses. The hardest part of preparation is the boots. The riding boots are long boots that cover almost all of the calf, and are made so that the calf is smaller than a person's ankle.

The attire for horseback riding originated from the military, in which the long boots were used to protect the infantrymen's legs from getting sore from the horse.

When the arena is set up and the horses and riders are ready to go, the riders start by jogging their horses around in circles, practicing basic riding form. Backer shouts commands that to the untrained eye do not seem to make a difference, but they do.

Jen Brown and Heather O'Riordan, team captains, seemed to do pretty well on their own, but only an hour into practice O'Riordan had fallen off of her horse. Unfazed, she got right back on and started riding again.

According to Dickmann, falling does not hurt that much. People can fall and hurt themselves if they try to stay on the horse, he reported. If a person allows him or herself to fall off the horse, it is usually a non-painful fall into the dirt only about four or five feet below.

The concentration of practice in equestrian, according to Backer, is the art of riding a horse. Backer makes her commands to the riders so that they are able to control a

Basketball

Basketball standings and individual leaders of the NCAA Division III Empire 8 Conference as of Feb. 25:

MEN						
Conference						Overall
Team	W	L	GB	PCT.	W	L PCT.
RIT	12	3		.857	20	4 .833
Fisher	11	3		.786	17	7 .708
Ithaca	8	6		.571	15	9 .625
Elmira	7	7		.500	13	11 .542
Hartwick	6	8		.429	13	11 .542
Utica	5	9		.357	10	14 .417
ALFRED	4	10	7.5	.286	10	14 .417
Nazareth	3	11		.214	8	17 .320

WOMEN						
Conference						Overall
Team	W	L	GB	PCT.	W	L PCT.
Fisher	11	3		.786	20	4 .833
Ithaca	11	3		.786	16	7 .696
Hartwick	9	5		.643	17	7 .708
Nazareth	9	5		.643	17	7 .708
Elmira	8	6		.571	14	9 .609
Utica	5	9		.357	12	12 .500
RIT	2	12		.143	4	20 .167
ALFRED	1	13	10	.071	4	20 .167



PHOTO BY KENDRA STRATTON
E.J. Docteur, 00, passes to Saxon guard Brian Roegiers last week against Keuka.

Swimmers hit States AU women break records

BY ANDY BERMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

The AU women's swimming and diving team finished ninth out of 16 teams at the New York State Swimming and Diving Championships.

The team also set three new AU records at states. The 200 freestyle relay of Katy Gaydos, Melissa McAllister, Anne Martin and Carrie DeMay broke the old record with a time of 1:44.52. The record-setting performance was good enough for eighth place in the event.

McAllister also set a new school record in the 100 back-

stroke with a time of 1:03.45 during the first leg of the 400-medley relay.

Freshman Cheryl Junker set the final new record while finishing twelfth in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:18.68.

The team had 10 top 15 finishes at the meet. McAllister, Danielle Ohlson, Gaydos and DeMay had the sixth best time in the 200 medley relay, the 800 meter freestyle relay team of Junker, Becky Cochran, Kristin Cary and Becky Francy took twelfth place, and the 400 freestyle relay team of

SEE SWIMMING, PAGE 9

Men's LAXers get ready Team's tough schedule will bring a challenge

BY ANDY BERMAN
SPORTS EDITOR

Despite having no returning players from last year's team on defense and the ninth hardest schedule in all of Division III, the AU Men's lacrosse team is optimistic about making the playoffs this season.

The team will be playing three teams in the top 10 in the Division III pre-season poll (Nazareth, R.I.T. and Ohio Wesleyan) and four others who will contend to be top 25 teams (Ithaca, Hartwick, Cortland and Whittier [Calif.]).

That does not frighten coach Preston Chapman, though.

"If we catch some breaks, things will come together," Chapman said.

The team will be led by senior captain Jamie Pierce this season. Pierce scored 18 points in the first three games of the season last year, before missing most of the

season with an ankle injury.

"He is a great leader that leads by example," Chapman said. "He makes players around him better." Other leaders on attack this year will be R.J. Dawson and Travis Brown.

The biggest question to come up will be how well the young defense will play. Transfer student Andy Reeve will try to lead the team in the back, while freshmen Jeff Podolak and Adam Jwaskiewicz will try to stifle opponents. Last season, defense was the team's biggest weakness allowing almost 11 goals a game.

Last season Josh Dunn played most of the season as goalie for the Saxons, however fellow sophomores Patrick Campbell and Kevin Kazmierczak have been battling very hard for the starting spot according to Chapman.

SEE LACROSSE, PAGE 9



PHOTO BY LEO NEALON
AU skier Jennifer Titus storms down the mountain during a recent ski meet. The men's and women's ski team were both competing in regionals at Mountain Creek in Vernon, N.J. over the weekend.