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# Fiat Lux

The Student Newspaper of Alfred University

The Fiat Lux now has comics! Check out F.Y.E. in this issue. p. 6

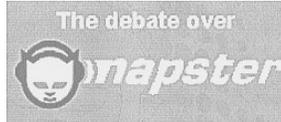
## Napster, network problems take center stage

BY JASON PILARZ  
FEATURES EDITOR

Bandwidth problems caused by Napster and other file sharing programs need to be dealt with, according to a panel discussion on the problem last Thursday in the Knight Club.

"Something has to change," declared Adrian Morling, assistant director of Information Technology Services.

The discussion, co-sponsored by ITS and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, was moderated by Joe Gow, associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and director of the communication studies program, and included Morling and five student participants.



In opening, Gow explained that over one-half of U.S. homes have personal computers, with the majority of these having Internet access. This prevalence of online households explains the popularity of Napster and other file sharing programs, which allow users to share music and other files between each user's computers.

The popularity of trading music files comes from the fact that they are digital,

noted Gow, and can be easily copied and transmitted without any degradation of the sound quality.

He further explained that their legality is still in question. Some claim their right to download songs based on fair use doctrines of copyright laws, and say downloading songs is equivalent to borrowing a friend's compact disc. Others, such as record companies and artists, claim that the creators have intellectual property rights over their music.

The major issue regarding these file-sharing programs on the Alfred campus is their use of University computing resources, noted Morling. Bandwidth, the "pipes" through which data flow, is limited. Network access within the University has been slug-

gish this year, due to the fact that there is more data being transferred than bandwidth will allow.

Morling stated that he has spent a good deal of time examining the campus bandwidth problems to determine their cause. What he discovered was that of all outgoing data, typically "75 percent is attributed to file sharing" programs.

The problem is that, in general, these programs are used send out much more data than is received. In a one-hour test time frame, about 50 percent of outgoing data was from Napster, while only 10 to 20 percent of incoming data was Napster related, according to Morling.

SEE PANEL, PAGE 3

## Issues not focus for campaign



BY KRISTOFER  
STACHOWIAK  
STAFF WRITER

Believe it or not, the chief interests of campaigning politicians' are not the important issues that they continually highlight in their speeches and TV advertisements.

Instead, their main concern is to gain the support, financial and otherwise, of corporations and organizations, said Gary Ostrower, mayor of the Village of Alfred and professor of history, at last week's Bergen Forum.

Ostrower is somewhat of a political figure himself, joked Stuart Campbell, professor of history, as he introduced the mayor. This point was comically supported in Ostrower's opening remarks when he informed all members of the press that "everything is off the record."

Even though his speech was laced with humor, Ostrower made some very serious points about campaign fundraising.

"Just because it's legal, [it] doesn't mean it isn't corrupt," said Ostrower.

Only 25 percent of a politician's time is spent on "the people's business," while the other 75 percent is spent on fundraising activities, Ostrower said. While large corporate donations have the most influence, rally parties and lobby groups can also affect the way politicians vote.

During his speech, Ostrower implied that campaign funds command a lot of influence. For example, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) has been lobbying to lower the blood alcohol limit from .10 to .08 for approximately a decade. From 1987 to 1998 the alcohol industry gave over \$19 million to congressional campaigns. Presumably, the law did not pass because of the influence of the money being donated, but the law finally was passed a few months

SEE OSTROWER, PAGE 4

## Qing works for people in China

BY JUDY TSANG  
MANAGING EDITOR

"Just take out the bread and butter, don't get too involved with politics. It's too complicated," an attorney friend of Chinese People's Deputy Wu Qing told her.

Sixteen years in the government has proved that Wu Qing disregarded her friend's warning. In fact, she not only got complicatedly involved, Wu Qing stirred up much controversy by being the first person to cast an 'against' vote in Congress — two to be exact, among other things.

Wu Qing, the deputy of the Beijing Municipal People's Congress and deputy of the Haidian District People's Congress, spoke at Susan Howell Hall last Tuesday. Wu Qing is a close friend of Robyn Goodman, assistant professor of communication studies, who introduced Wu Qing.

After she was elected to be a

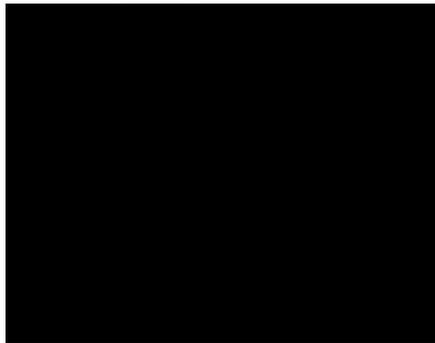


PHOTO BY AMY KLEIN

Wu Qing addresses those gathered at Susan Howell Hall.

people's deputy on June 4, 1984, Wu Qing studied the Constitution of the People's Republic of China.

"It [the Constitution] is set in black and white but no one knows about it," Wu Qing exclaimed.

She then went on quoting the constitution, "No organization or individual should go beyond the Constitution," which

includes the Communist Party. Regardless, it was still difficult to enforce laws and it was important that the constitution be enforced, Wu Qing said.

A contributing factor to this difficulty in enforcement, according to Wu Qing are the ideas most people have about what a people's deputy should do: "just agree with every-

SEE QING, PAGE 5

## DJ show brings new sounds to Knight Club

BY SARAH GUARIGLIA  
A & E EDITOR  
AND CATHERINE KEVETT  
PHOTO EDITOR

"If it's done correctly, turntable spinning is an art, just like a collage," said Jason Hendricks.

Or it can be just like graffiti, which is how the DJ Spinoff began on Saturday, Oct. 7. The cold weather forced the party inside, but that didn't stop many people from tagging makeshift graffiti walls outside the Knight Club. The show opened with a set by DJ Danny The Wildchild, followed by DJ Faust and DJ Shortee.

Aside from the Rahzel performance last semester, this type of show is relatively new to Alfred's campus.

According to Student Activities Board Vice President and station manager of WALF, Kris Stachowiak, "The music is just fun. I don't really look for

SEE SPINNING, PAGE 4

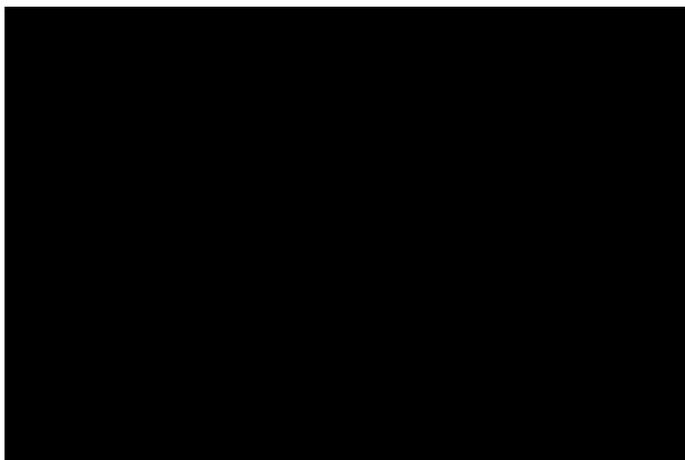


PHOTO BY AMY KLEIN

A student performs a head spin on the temporary dance floor in the Knight Club during the recent DJ concert. The show featured DJ Shortee and DJ Faust.

## AU Prez explains his roles

BY JASON PILARZ  
FEATURES EDITOR

The job of a university president is a challenging one that defies clear definition, according to Charles Edmondson, president of Alfred University.

The job duties are unlimited — they can encompass virtually anything connected with Alfred University, noted Edmondson. The challenge, he said, is to know how to play such a varied role.

The job of university president is the "most elastic you can imagine," explained Edmondson. Among other things, he is responsible for the overall direction of the University and the main strategic decisions.

One of the roles is balancing the different groups with interests in the University. He noted that the University is not the equivalent of a corporation; it is

SEE EDMONDSON, PAGE 6



## Fiat Lux

# The time is now to look at network

It may be time for us to finally ask ourselves if our lives will be the same without file sharing.

Well, the courts may be doing that for us over the next few weeks, ruling on the legality of programs like Napster. If Napster goes, then the recording industry will probably start to discuss the evils of CD burners and whatnot.

Whatever decision is made in the case, there is little doubt it will affect students, at least indirectly.

College campuses have become the center for computer culture in America. So much of what we do depend on computers, and also the commodity we've just started hearing more about: available bandwidth.

We're looking at a situation where if Napster goes, similar file-sharing programs are going to be quelled as well. It shouldn't take a genius to figure that mp3 trading will continue — much to the chagrin of record companies — but bandwidth would end up being freed.

However, if Napster manages to somehow remain legal, college students are going to have to examine their computer usage habits. Certainly, if Napster and its clones get to stay, major changes are going to have to be made.

First of all, if Napster stays there will no real way for schools to ban its use without looking like the technology police.

This means that schools across the country are going to eventually have to come up with massive amounts of money to fund network upgrades just to be able to offer reliable, fast Internet connections. Remember: the Internet is a resource that students and faculty use every day for more than the new U2 song.

Of course, these upgrades will be separate from the usual need to bring systems up to speed as a result of new technology. Ask graduating seniors how their computers stack up next to the ones brought by this year's freshmen. Things change that quickly.

Where is this money going to come from? Endowments? Not a chance. Expect tuition to go up across the board, at every college.

Does this mean that by being "old-fashioned" and taping songs off your friends' CD's is helping you pay for your yet-to-be-conceived children's college fees? Maybe.

This isn't to say that downloading mp3 files is evil, either. It's just important to realize just how large scale this file sharing issue could become. Better to think on it now than reflect when it's too late.

AU offered that opportunity last week at a forum in the Knight Club. However, no more than 20 people showed up.

It is rare that we go through a day without hearing at least one person complain about the delay in the Internet or some comment about Napster.

Yet, no one took the time out to voice their opinions as to how the University should deal with the situation, nor did many people try to comprehend the situation the University needs to deal with.

No, instead the student body continues to cast complaints and disappointment in the University.

Visiting speaker Wu Qing last week declared herself a verb, an active verb. The only way to get things done is to do it, not talk about it.

The campus needs to follow her lead and at least attempt to be a part of the way the University does things. If we do not help the University to move forward then we have no right to complain.

The less than 20 audience members that showed up at the Napster forum last week got their viewpoints out and learned about the University's plans.

If only that 20 was a better percentage of our student body. ○

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Greeks not against safety

Dear Editor:

I feel that the your article, "Village, Greeks see two sides to housing codes" inaccurately portrays the general consensus of how the Greeks of Alfred University feel.

I don't know any person, Greek or non-Greek, who would say that having fire codes and inspections are a bad thing. We need the extra help making sure our houses are safe so that the accidents that have happened at other schools do not happen here in Alfred. I am glad that the Village and the University also support these safety measures.

Many of our houses are quite old so it is not the easiest project to renovate our houses. It takes time and energy to find trustworthy contractors. At Kappa Psi Upsilon two years ago, when Robinson's Contracting took money to fix our gutters and soffets, the work that was done was

completely unsatisfactory because the workers had biased opinions that work done at a Greek house can be sub-standard. In fact, the soffets and gutters were quoted as one of the problems we have to fix to bring the house up to general codes.

My fears are that the Greek houses are being targeted as a solution for a larger problem. If the Village and University are so worried about the living conditions of their students, I recommend that ALL off-campus apartments, Greek houses and rental houses should be held accountable to the same standards.

When you walk inside the front doors of Kappa Psi, look up and to the right. We now have our lighted exit signs and emergency lighting. We had not budgeted any money for this project, but we understood that it was an essential life-saving device. We put our other house improve-

ment projects — remodeling our kitchen and wiring the house up for high-speed Internet connections — on hold so that we could put all of our resources into this project. Just last week, we got our fire inspections completed and are in compliance with these new codes and regulations.

All Greeks are college students, worrying about classes, homework, quizzes and tests. Our houses are not only places where we hold social events for ourselves and our friends, these are the houses that we eat, sleep and talk to our parents on the phone at. Again, Greeks feel that these new inspections and fire codes are not a bad thing, we just wish that every piece of property should be held accountable to similar standards.

Sincerely,  
Andy Berman  
President, Kappa Psi Upsilon

### COLUMN

## What messages *do* youths get?

BY JUDY TSANG  
MANAGING EDITOR



Are we training our youth to be porn stars?

Think I sound a little extreme? Try this situation out for size.

My younger cousins, ages 5, 8 and 10, and I were watching television and we caught a glimpse of the MTV Music Awards show recently when I returned home for break.

I didn't think too much of Britney Spears infamous — or very famous — strip tease.

But then my sweet little cousins got up and started dancing, claiming they wanted to be Britney for Halloween.

The immediate image that came to my mind was three little girls strutting very nakedly around the neighborhood asking for "Baby, one more treat."

Maybe I was misinformed and flesh-tone is the new color of the season — think of it as this fall's perfect steel gray.

Now let me confess. I am actually one of the very few college-aged females to admit to listening to

Britney Spears. In fact, the AU Dance Team has even studied and reenacted her dance moves in the past. Giving her some credit, Spears is an excellent performer.

But, mind you, the Dance Team and I are college-aged. We're pretty set in our mindframes and are not as impressionable as most modern pop artists' target market.

I have already formulated my personal ethics and what I feel makes me comfortable. Young children cannot even grasp the concept of ethics. Adolescents are incredibly vulnerable and susceptible to group-think and pressures to be popular.

Today's pop artist palette encompasses a rather naked group. Mariah Carey decided to strip down after she found being old and married to an older man too concealing. Exposure is key now.

Whatever happened to old-school Mariah, when she really did care about making music and funding her charity. Instead, she is now figuring her newest outfit from the scarves collection.

So what's next for the pop music

scene? Maybe we'll rub the genie in the bottle and Christina Aguilera can explain it to us.

Some of the hip hop and R&B artists are just as eager to share their bodies with us. Lil Kim is one that comes to my mind immediately, as she struts with her nipple patches.

I know most artists' bodies before I can even figure out what their music is all about.

Recently, on *The View*, the hosts of the show put up an Internet poll asking parents if they would let their daughters dress up as Britney Spears for Halloween. An overwhelming 73 percent were dead-set against that.

I commend and applaud entertainers on what they do and the audience they have already attracted. But I'm hoping they would have enough sense to realize what message they are conveying to their target market.

Britney Spears has been known to say that she is an entertainer and what she wears is merely her costume. Do young girls know that?

That, I am afraid to ask. ○

### COLUMN

## More late night options are possible

BY JAY WEISBERGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Everybody loves a good party. Be it an off-campus affair at someone's house, or something thrown in the Knight Club, a good party will always go over well.

However, after three and a half years on campus, I am amazed that we have not seen more late night options on campus.

Late Night at McLane is a great idea. It should not, however, be the end-all of on-campus late night options.

By "late night," I specifically mean events that end closer to sunrise than most coffeehouses, concerts and the like.

We have plenty of options off-campus, but everyone needs a break from that scene every now and then.

The resources on this campus are amazing in many respects. The Knight Club is arguably the most versatile room on campus.

To turn the Knight Club into a night club would take very little effort on the part of the University.

Certainly there are organizations that would help sponsor late night events in the Knight Club.

It would be a perfect venue for dancing — after all, there is a DJ booth in there.

Also, it would not be that hard to actually serve alcohol in the Knight Club. This University knows how old its students are —

they can check. Fake IDs are suddenly out of the picture.

The Knight Club would attract a crowd tired of the smoky bar atmosphere in town — as fun as that can be.

And, even better for the University, money could be charged for this sort of event. Believe me, people would show.

Yes, there is a liability issue here. Before anything like this were to happen, much would need to be done to ensure that no accidents happen.

But, that alone should not kill the idea. Students would support this type of move. It wouldn't have to be more than a monthly event, even.

We have the resources to try this sort of thing. Why not give it a go? ○



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## STUDENT SENATE UPDATE

## Business, Loneliness at Senate

BY JUDY TSANG  
MANAGING EDITOR

If you didn't know beforehand, by the end of last week's Student Senate meeting you know that members of Senate, the executive board and committee members are very lonely.

Vice President Rachael Downey asked that people visit her during her new office hours, "because I get lonely."

She also asked that senators call upon committees with problems and issues, because they too, "get lonely."

During his report, President Seth Mulligan invited senators to visit him on his night off to watch Monday Night Football in Norwood A. "Visit me, I'm lonely," he admitted.

Certainly the Trustees who visited Alfred University two week-ends ago couldn't be lonely. President Mulligan thanked several students who participated in making the Trustees' visit a good one.

In unfinished business, the Rules Committee went over five sections in Article II of the Senate

Constitution. This included policies on attendance requirements, the process new organizations need to take in order to be a part of Senate and voting rights.

While discussing the voting rights procedure, conflict emerged over the funding policies. Currently, new organizations must attend Senate for two years before they can receive funding. Many students felt that this was too long of a period and many could have graduated without even seeing any of the money. Others argued that organizations do need to prove their strength and endurance for two years before they can receive funding. The Rules Committee will look into this.

Student Senate advisor Tricia Debertolis announced that applications for office space renewal or request are available at the Information Desk and are due Nov. 17.

If any organizations are interested in helping to set up or entertain the "Winter Holiday Party" for Alfred and Almond children on Dec. 3, contact Debertolis.

With all the complaints and con-

flicts students have been experiencing with parking availability, President Mulligan suggested a parking forum. This forum, however, is not set up for complaints. Rather, it is set up to find ways to solve the parking problem. Members from the Faculty Senate and Pat Schwartz, director of safety, security and telecommunications are being looked into as guest representatives. Senators voted for the forum to be held before winter break.

The Senate passed junior Angie Young's Special Allocations request for \$200 to bring Keegan Cox, an active member of the Green Party to AU last night, Oct. 31 in the Knight Club.

Expect Senate tonight to be short — really short. Senate will be sponsoring "Powelleen" tonight so that "college kids can trick-or-treat," Downey said. Organizations will set up tables or decorate their office space and give out candy to trick-or-treaters beginning at 8:30.

"That means, if you do the math, Senate has to be over real soon," Downey said with a smile. ○



## WORLDNOTES

### LOCAL

The National Science Foundations awarded Michele Hluchy, professor of geology and environmental studies, a \$713,803 grant. This grant will be used to organize and present 20 national and regional workshops for college-level faculty throughout the nation for the next five years.

Hluchy, along with her co-principal investigator, Jamey Haynes, professor of biological sciences at SUNY Brockport, will be presenting techniques and strategies used in environmental studies programs and other related disciplines.

• Jacki Apple, a Los Angeles artist, will be giving a public lecture today at 4:30 p.m. in Susan Howell Hall on "Art in the Public Realm." She will be holding a follow-up discussion with two classes at 11:20 a.m. in the Brick tomorrow.

Apple has organized many public art projects and worked in public broadcasting for 14 years.

### NATIONAL

The New York Yankees triumphed over the New York Mets to win the World Series for the 26th time. This is the team's third consecutive win.

Much hype was brought to this Subway Series considering the last Subway matchup was 44 years ago between the Yankees and the Brooklyn Dodgers.

• About 21,000 members of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers launched a "work stoppage" last Friday.

This affects not only parents who need to look for day care for their children but should it go on long enough, voting may be greatly influenced. On Election Day, nearly 25 percent of the city's polling stations are located in public schools.

Some people may not want to cross picket lines just to vote, Union spokesman Bob Bedard said.

• "You should get to know your coffin before you're buried in it," declared Brad Miller, co-owner of Your Coffin Company, an online company operating in Indiana.

Aside from the usual purpose, the company has come up with 101 uses for the average wooden coffin: as a coffee table, wine rack, bookshelf and more.

A basic, no-frills oak or maple wood coffin starts at \$389.

### INTERNATIONAL

After several days of relatively low-level violence, intense fighting broke out last Friday in Palestinian cities throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip. These protests injured more than 150 Palestinians and four Israeli troops.

Palestinian gunmen fired on Gilo, a Jewish settlement in Southern Jerusalem, damaging nine Jewish apartments and a school building. The violence has become an almost nightly ritual.

• Across an open field in a forest on the edge of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, at least 55 young male corpses were found piled grotesquely on top of one another, most of them only partially clothed or naked.

Ivory Coast's newly installed civilian government officials vowed last Saturday to track down the killer and punish them.

• Almost 1,500 Italian and foreign nationals have been charged by Italian prosecutor Alfredo Ormanni in connection with an investigation into child pornography on the Internet.

Authorities trapped these people, mainly from Italy, Russia, France and Malaysia, by setting up a fake pedophile Internet website.

## ENS speaker explains career

BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Although the process of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data entry can become tedious, the result makes it worthwhile.

Lisa Matthies, who is currently a GIS analyst with the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District said that gathering data does require grunt work, but it "is exciting when the end result is immediately applicable to users."

Matthies graduated from AU in 1994 with a BA in environmental studies and a minor in geology despite entering as an art and design student. She is currently enrolled in the University of Buffalo to obtain an MA in geography, with concentration in GIS. She spoke of her experiences on Oct. 13 for the Environmental Studies Speaker Series.

Matthies defined GIS as "the process of mapping and managing"

information for purposes such as "analyzing environmental damage," detecting criminal patterns, and helping people looking to start a business find "the best location for a new store."

Although GIS data entry requires a person to spend many hours in front of a computer, Matthies found the resulting information helpful and useful for the public.

While working for the Erie County Soil and Water Conservation District on a project titled Community Based Environmental Management, Matthies discovered while analyzing environmental damage that raw sewage was dumping into a creek that flows to Lake Erie, which is a source of drinking water for many people. Although sanitary sewer overflows are permitted by the government, there is increased public awareness of the problem.

Besides GIS's ability to help people with environmental prob-

lems, it can also help people by increasing their safety. In Buffalo, GIS coordinators are mapping police department calls in order to determine where more patrol cars are necessary. This will make everyone in the area safer.

For people looking to start or expand a business in Buffalo, an economic database development plan through an interactive mapping website can be helpful by telling them which buildings are available.

Matthies is excited about the future of GIS because soon 3-D imaging will be included, instead of just 2-D. GIS systems will also be available through wireless technology in the future.

Matthies encouraged AU students who are thinking of a future career in GIS to become familiar with the computer systems in order to design sites that people can "easily walk through."

For more information, Matthies can be reached at [matthies@acsu.buffalo.edu](mailto:matthies@acsu.buffalo.edu). ○

data to non-University members.

Gow stated that a good deal of Napster's popularity is due to current practices of the record companies. He noted that the Department of Justice has found evidence of price collusion among the five largest companies, and programs like Napster are "empowering the consumer to just pick the songs she or he wants."

Panel member Walter Julius noted that he often does not want to buy a whole compact disc for one song, and that Napster allows him to get just the songs he wants.

David Yu stated that digital protections should have been put in place to prevent digital copying and that the "record companies are a little bit behind." He further explained that he sometimes downloads music for "convenience's sake."

However, someone will always find a way around any protections built in, stated Morling. He noted that people work to create cracks

for \$10 shareware rather than pay for it. "The underlying issue is the mp3's are free," he said, and that people will not pay for something when they can get it for free.

When finding a solution to problems with bandwidth, Morling stated that an outright block of Napster would probably not solve the problem. The main issue, he explained, is how the Internet is used in general. The problem now is that the data sent out is much greater than what is sent in.

He further explained, however, that it is not up to ITS alone to find a solution to the problem, stating, "It's for everyone to decide." ITS has the means to solve the problem, including blocking or limiting outgoing data.

Meissner noted that a committee of herself, Morling, two students and two faculty members will meet to discuss the problem. She noted that the network is "a community resource, we need community input." ○

## ...Panel

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Thus, University resources are being used to supply outside users with data. Morling likened this to owning a cellular phone which charged for incoming calls. "Imagine if everyone in the world called you, and you had to pay the bill."

Cost should be a consideration when discussing the bandwidth problem, according to Lana Meissner, assistant vice president for information services, who was an audience member at the discussion. The problem, she stated, is to determine how the University can best manage limited resources to meet the University's mission and students needs.

A quick-fix solution is to simply purchase more bandwidth, but this is impractical, she noted, considering that much of the current bandwidth is being used to transmit

The *Fiat Lux* wants your help! If you like to write and want to beef up your resume, please attend our general meetings — 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays in the SOS.

...Spinning

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
 meaning in it, I just want to have a good time. It's great to diversify the kind of music that comes in ... Rock gets boring after a while; we wanted to mix it up. We're trying to get [bands] on the verge of them being really big."

Apparently, their efforts are not going unnoticed. Student Tom McCabe said, "It was really cool to have someone new and so well-known come to AU."

Techno and hip-hop styles sometimes go head to head and may not blend well, but these DJs pulled together the styles and made the sounds cohesive.

"What I took in is that it was the perfect blend of everything — sound, dance and styles — and the perfect blend of students. People who wouldn't normally attend concerts came to this one," said Student Senate President Seth Mulligan.

The concert, sponsored by Student Activities Board, ALANA and WALE, took some unusual preparation.

"We put down 12 square feet of linoleum [for a break dance floor] and coated it with three bottles of Pledge to make it slippery," said Dan Napolitano, director of student activities.

These efforts were well appreciated by the awesome break-

dancers and their many onlookers. While most of the audience didn't quite know how to react to the jungle-beat style of the first set, they started to become more involved later in the show.

Another student mentioned the fact that one of the DJs was a female.

"We were really excited to see a female DJ [DJ Shortee],

because it's pretty rare," said Amy Garbark.

"[What attracted me to the show] was the enjoyment of it. The dancing was cool, too ... I'd like to see that once or twice a year," said Rodger Emmanuel, and that seems to be SAB's intention. Napolitano said he's planning to have a similar show next year, and every year after,

in the early fall behind Harder that would include DJs of the styles students requested.

After the DJs were done, the excitement rang on. As Jake Amoroso described the evening's end, "The doors went swinging back and forth and the [students] slowly crept away into the night to make it home before the moon came out." ○



DJ Faust checks his turntables and awaits DJ Shortee as the DJ show rolled on. Concertgoers were also able to "tag" a graffiti wall at the show.

PHOTO BY JARED BRANFMAN

...Ostrower

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
 ago, and Ostrower speculated that it was only to gain favor among women voters, a crucial demographic for this election year.

Ostrower added that not all gifts are in the form of money giving. It is common practice for large corporations to hold parties with political candidates as the guests of honor. These parties usually cost between \$300,000 to \$400,000. As an added bonus, these parties don't have to be reported as donations to the candidate.

Corporate fundraising efforts are not the only influences on the government. Since 1960, there has been an explosion of political lobbying groups. Over 100,000 people were working in lobbying offices in Washington, D.C. alone at the beginning of Clinton's first term.

Even lobbyists have lobby groups now, Ostrower said. In addition to increased lobbying, Congress receives five times more lobbying mail than it did in 1970.

Ostrower pointed out that while political decisions are influenced by large financial donations, expensive rally parties and lobbyists, the public shouldn't negate the power of their vote.

"In a democracy we get the government we deserve," he stated. He warned that if we are not observant, we may get one someone else thinks we deserve. ○

Foreign film fest set to conclude

BY SARAH GUARIGLIA  
 A & E EDITOR

Would you think to search for the "true meaning of life" on a motorcycle, or on an island off the coast of Italy?

The main character of Italian director Nanni Moretti's comedy *Caro Diario* (1994) did exactly that. Moretti both directed and starred in this film, which played at Nevins Theater on Oct. 12 as part of AU's Foreign Film Festival.

*Caro Diario* unfolds from the main character's diary, the first chapter of which tells of what he sees as he travels through Italy on his motorcycle. He tries to make sense of why people live where and how they live, and his ques-

tions are often met with quirky answers.

The second chapter of the diary portrays the journey of the main character and a friend to several Italian islands. Each island seems to offer a peaceful setting in which the men hope to find time to work on the books and screenplays they're writing.

Upon reaching their destination, however, they find something about each island that repels them. One island is virtually ruled by children; on another, the citizens are concerned with nothing but social affairs. The rest prove to be just strange enough to send the men running for the next departing boat.

In the final part of the film, Moretti's story chronicles months

of doctors' visits. The main character spends large amounts of time and money on various treatments at prestigious clinics before discovering that his mysterious symptoms are a result of cancer. His treatment is successful, and the film concludes with the wry feeling of nothing being quite what it seems. While not a comedy in the traditional sense of the word, the film offers an odd but true look at one man's search for meaning in his life.

AU's Foreign Film Festival began Sept. 25 and concludes tomorrow, and includes films from a broad range of countries. Films included *Midway Alley*, by Mexican director Jorge Fons; and *Lone Star*, a 1996 film by American director John Sayles about a mystery in a Texas border town.

The Division of Modern Languages sponsors works from France, Africa, Japan, Russia, Spain and Cuba. The series is free and open to the public. ○

REVIEW

Paul good at coffeehouse

BY KRISTINA BEAULAC  
 STAFF WRITER

The Oct. 21 Student Activities Board Coffeehouse in the Knight Club was one not to be missed.

Gregory Paul, on guitar, was accompanied by Aaron Boucher ("The Bald Guy") on drums. The duo is based in Rochester.

Their songs sound like something that you would play on a Friday afternoon while driving home after a long day; it's lively and upbeat. If you listen carefully to the lyrics, you'll understand that they have a deeper meaning.

When asked about where his lyrics came from, Paul said, "I keep a journal — constantly. I will usually be playing around with my guitar and look for something that I've written that fits the rhythms and melodies."

The performance opened with "Auguries," the Gregory Paul song featured on this semester's CD, *Faces in the Crowd*.

The band did two covers,

"Bittersweet Symphony" by The Verve and "Blue Flower" by Mazzy Star, as well as many original songs.

Paul furnished the concert with anecdotes as well as wonderful playing. He talked about being a caterer at Lillith Fair in Canandaigua, and what it was like to be around so many stars.

While pushing a cart of ice upstairs, he came up with the lyric "Brush shoulders with stars, climb endless stairs." Paul turned that line into the song "Sisyphus."

Boucher also provided a few stories about cats, which became a running gag throughout the show.

During the final song of the set, Paul switched to a bongo drum, turning the ending into a stunning percussion jam.

Paul has produced three CDs. The first is his solo album, *Tales of Transcendelia*.

The second is called *Factotum* and the third, which should be out soon, is titled *The Sea Is Rough*. ○

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...Qing

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
thing.”

This was not what Wu Qing had in mind. The people needed a “deputy of the people, for the people, by the people,” she said. And with that Wu Qing started a series of changes.

Wu Qing set up meeting hours on Tuesday afternoons from 4 to 5:30 p.m., allowing for constituents to speak to her about issues they confront. As simple and common as this act is to Americans, Wu Qing is one of the few that sets up these hours in China.

Another step she did to reach out to her constituents was to hold public meetings to let people know what she has been doing, to ask what they wanted and to ask if they agreed with her decisions. If they agreed to it, this will then be her criterion for her people.

But most importantly, Wu Qing educated her constituents of their rights. She acknowledged that the system “can be very democratic if people know and exercised their rights.”

In fact, in the 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstration, Wu Qing persuaded the students to return to school, emphasizing the fact that China could not change if students just sat there for a couple of days. However, by teaching future leaders, changes can occur.

“It can be raining cats and dogs, and that will just wash away the top soil. But if it drizzles, the water will irrigate and seep into the earth,” Wu Qing explained in the poetic style she used in her presentation.

Wu Qing was concerned with representation in the government, as well.

“These old guys walk in and they’re carrying oxygen tanks!” she said. “They cannot represent me.” With that, the audience burst into laughter. And so, she cast abstention votes against the old men.

Wu Qing continued, she walked out and “people were grabbing my hand and saying we’re so happy; there is democracy in China.” Her response? “I said, ‘How come you didn’t do it?’”

The theme of Wu Qing’s presentation switched over to women’s rights. She explained that reform in rural areas in China didn’t really begin until about 1983-1984.

At that time, there was an increase in the number of latchkey children since mothers were beginning to work, and because of that increase, the crime rate rose as well. To solve this problem, many people thought sending woman back into the homes would help. Wu Qing said that was not fair.

Around the same time, another professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University, Marilyn Young planned on writing a book about Chinese women. After profound research, a women’s studies group was formed in 1985 at the University.

Wu Qing is also the director of the Rural Women Knowing All Practical Skills Training Center. This center teaches the different values between urban and rural cultures, constituents’ rights, how to make sure employers don’t sexually abuse women and other practical skills, Wu Qing said. Although the center does not offer degrees, it is the only place that teaches such life skills.

Another project Wu Qing works on is acting as advisor to the only magazine for rural women in China. She continued to stress how important it was to let women’s voices be heard and how there should be more female representation in the government.

“People consider me successful — but if only a few women are successful but others are not, then we still need a change,” Wu Qing explained. “If one flower blossoms, it’s not spring, but if all flowers blossom in the garden, that’s spring.”

Wu Qing worked without a set speech and ended her presentation when time deemed it necessary. Questions followed her presentation and the crowded Susan Howell Hall audience showed Wu Qing their appreciation with a standing ovation.

“I am fighting for human rights, not just women ... no matter men or women, I fight for justice,” she said. ○

# Qing tells of motivations

BY JASON PILARZ  
FEATURES EDITOR

People’s rights in China are usually championed by dissidents outside the government. Wu Qing is one of the few who chooses to change China from within.

“I consider myself a verb — an active verb,” explained Wu Qing, a people’s deputy in the Chinese People’s Congress, who noted that actions are more important than words.

Famous in China for her role as an English teacher on national television, Wu Qing was a professor at Beijing Foreign Studies University for 40 years before retiring last year.

It was her position as a university professor that gave her the opportunity to serve in the People’s Congress.

In 1984, Beijing Foreign Studies University received a seat in the Congress because it contained 5,000 people. Wu Qing and one other woman fit the criteria of being a female middle-aged, non-party member who was a teacher.

Wu Qing won the ensuing election, and became a deputy representing the Haidian District.

Later, her work on the district level allowed to her serve also on the municipal level in the Congress. The only higher level in the Congress is the national level, usually reserved only for members of the Communist Party.

One of Wu Qing’s concentrations has been working for the rights of her constituents.

Her aim is to educate others about the Chinese constitution

and to push for its enforcement. The constitution gives individuals democratic rights, but is rarely followed.

She stated that currently there exists a “rule of man, not rule of law.” Citizenship is important, she said, and people must understand their rights and responsibilities.

Her way of affecting these changes is from within the government. When her students joined demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in 1989, she urged them back to their class-

“I consider myself a verb — an active verb.”

—Wu Qing

rooms.

She stated that China cannot be changed in a few days, and that the way to bring change is to work with the government, rather than against it.

Women’s rights are another area of interest for Wu Qing. She stated that women are second class citizens all over the world and that she wants to work for “those people who have been marginalized.”

The biggest problem with women’s rights is in the rural areas, she noted, where China’s traditionally patriarchal society still holds strong.

Wu Qing stated that women in such areas often have no

identity outside of their husband or father. Some women are even without names because their parents felt that they are not significant enough.

Wu Qing provided an example of this: she went to pay someone a visit and asked if anyone was home. A woman came to the door answering, “No one is home,” despite her own presence. Even she felt that she wasn’t important enough.

Wu Qing wants to help women to discover their identity as individuals.

Problems also exist in urban areas, she noted. Often, women who migrate to cities to work have no skills to enable to find jobs.

It is for this reason that Wu Qing helped found a practical skills training center for women who have come from rural areas to work in cities.

Another organization that she works with to advance the cause of all women in China is the Women’s Federation. This organization was set up by the government to provide education for women.

Wu Qing noted that she receives a great deal of personal satisfaction from her work for the rights of others. She sees it as her duty and responsibility to help those whose voices are not heard.

She stated that pursuit of money in a career is not enough. “We should have goals and a mission,” said Wu Qing, and for her, working for the rights of others is her mission.

“If I don’t raise my voice, who is going to speak for the people?” she asked. ○

*The staff of the Fiat Lux reminds the student body to vote in Tuesday’s presidential election.*

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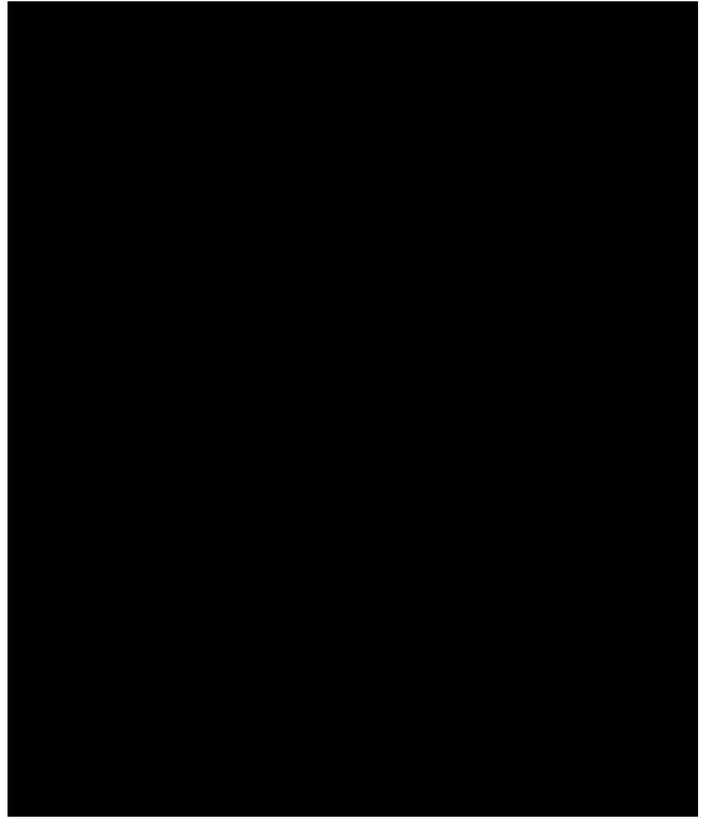
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## ...Edmondson

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE more like a community. As such, the views of the various stakeholders — students, faculty, staff, alumni and trustees — must be taken into account when making decisions.

"The hardest part," said Edmondson, "is finding a way to listen to all of these groups."

On a daily basis, Edmondson noted that he could deal with any number of things, from problems with campus construction to the relationship between the New York State College of Ceramics and state government to the campus alcohol policy to asking benefactors and alumni for donations.

Something that may surprise people, stated Edmondson, is that he spends a good deal of time dealing with state politics and government, due to the College of Ceramics. In general, his job duties can "run the gamut" of almost anything.

One thing that differentiates the presidency from other university positions is that nearly everything is "largely public," Edmondson acknowledged. As president, it is up to him to represent the University to the outside world.

Such a role could take the form of speaking with angry parents, alumni or trustees who call with problems. It is up to him, he said, to "in a manner of speaking, take responsibility" when they call with concerns. Edmondson noted that he also has a "big responsibility for fundraising" for the University.

Edmondson admitted that his role as Alfred University ambassador has been an important one since he became president July 1. He noted that there has not been a change in presidents in a long time and he is following the "strong personality" of former president Edward G. Coll Jr.

As a result, Edmondson has spent a good deal of time meeting with various friends of the University — alumni, benefactors and those whose opinions of Alfred University influence the public's perceptions of Alfred. He said that he wants to make sure these people do not lose touch with Alfred, and are kept informed of the direction of the University.

Edmondson also said that he

has numerous goals to accomplish here at Alfred. "The top goal I have is to try to sharpen the focus of Alfred's identity" in the world, he explained. Outside of the most well-known programs, such as ceramics, Alfred University is largely a "black box" to the outside world.

The University does not get the recognition it deserves, he noted. He hopes to refocus its identity so that the University can explain itself to the outside world in a "consistent and effective way."

Another goal of Edmondson is to clarify the role of graduate study at Alfred University. He explained that Alfred will "always be chiefly undergraduate," but that it still is a university. It is graduate programs, he noted, which bring outside renown and respect and show the distinctiveness of the University.

The objective, said Edmondson, is to have selected programs of national distinction. Included in this are deciding what programs to concentrate on and what kind of degrees to offer — master's level or terminal. Potential options include expanding current programs and, he added cautiously, possibly new programs.

When dealing with graduate study, the important consideration is deciding what size Alfred University should be, stated Edmondson. It will never be a large university, he said, but even an increase in students from 2,300 to 2,800 makes a large difference.

Identifying the educational strengths and weaknesses of students is an additional goal of Edmondson. Specifically, he stated that he sees a need to connect experiential and academic learning, concentrating on personal growth as well as the intellectual growth. He noted that the University has an "obligation to support the personal development of students."

Part of this is increasing international learning opportunities for students. The main consideration here, Edmondson explained, is that such programs are hard to pay for and that it is a matter of finding money for international programs.

Stabilizing and strengthening the University's financial position is another of Edmondson's goals. He stated that Coll did a great job in this area and thinks that it is important to continue. His ultimate goal is to eventually achieve the financial strength of the elite Ivy League universities. ○



Edmondson

# Robana receives fellowship

BY JASON PILARZ  
FEATURES EDITOR

Extracurricular work has brought honors for Abderrahman Robana, professor of finance, who has been named a Sam M. Walton Free Enterprise Fellow for his work with Students in Free Enterprise.

"My role as a Sam Walton Fellow is to motivate," noted Robana who received the award for his participation in the activities of the Alfred University chapter of SIFE.

The goal of SIFE is to inspire students to be entrepreneurs of tomorrow, explained Robana. This takes the form of outreach programs that teach students the value of free enterprise and community work.

"The essence is to prepare students to be leaders," stated Robana. This is achieved through teamwork and placing students in the role of teachers. The main outreach of SIFE involves going to area high schools to teach students about the debt problem and the role of free enterprise in society.

As a Sam Walton Fellow, Robana explained that he is responsible for getting students involved, and for referring them for jobs. He noted that career net-

working is an important aspect of the SIFE experience.

SIFE also hopes to teach its members the virtues of free enterprise and small business. Robana believes that small business is important as it serves as a job creator and innovator in the business world.

"The idea of small business is a dynamic element in this society," acknowledged Robana.

Robana explained that he believes SIFE helps students get experience that is valuable for their future. His personal motto, he stated is "tell me and I will forget, show me and I might remember, involve me and I will understand."

Other honors received by Robana include an award from Beta Gamma Sigma, a national business student honor society, an award that he describes as his greatest honor. He also has a scholarship named after him through Delta Mu Delta, a national business administration honor society.

Extracurricular activities are important to Robana, who recounted taking a group of students to Tunisia for ten days to play jazz.

"I get the most fun out of AU through these non-class interac-

tions with my students," noted Robana.

Additionally, he spent one year as a visiting fellow at Harvard University. About Alfred's reputation abroad, he stated "while it is not Harvard, it has a good name at Cambridge among scholars."

SIFE is an international organization founded 25 years ago, and now boasts 700 chapters. The award was named for Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton and recognizes exceptional service by SIFE advisors. This is the third time Robana has been named a Sam Walton Free Enterprise Fellow.

Locally, Robana credits former professor of economics Savo Jevromovic and late trustee William T. Tredennick for establishing SIFE as a prominent organization on the Alfred campus. Other events of SIFE include a community week and national leadership conference.

Next year, Robana will celebrate his thirtieth year teaching at Alfred University. He noted that "I'm proud to see this place grow" qualitatively, and that he sees the University entering a new era due to changing technologies.

"I definitely expect a new, brighter outlook and a new chapter" at Alfred, he explained. ○

## Speaker explodes myths of Islam

BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

To dispel myths about the Islamic religion, some Westerners should gather more information before passing judgment, Abderrahman Robana indicated.

"Quick judgements have to be reconsidered," said Robana.

Robana, professor of finance, spoke at the Bergen Forum on Oct. 12 in Nevins Theater. He indicated that Muslims make up 16 percent of the world population, second only to Christians, who make up 32 percent of the population.

The five pillars of Islam are emphasized in the Islamic religion and include: profession of faith

(acknowledgement that there is one God), prayer five times a day, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, giving alms (money) to the poor and making the pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca.

"I want to dispel some of the stereotypes and myths of this great religion," said Robana.

Robana indicated that some people have the common misconception that most Muslims are Arabs. But, there are 50 million Muslims in China and 200 million in Indonesia, which contains the largest Muslim population in the world. There are also Muslims in democratic African countries such as Madagascar and Nigeria.

Robana pointed out that although some Westerners believe that the

Qur'an, which is the central book for Islamic religion, serves only religious purposes, it also contains scientific references. The Shi'ites, who compose one division of the Islamic religion, endlessly debate scientific issues. He also indicated that the "original medical book extended from Muslim thinking."

He emphasized strongly that most Muslims are not terrorists. Robana pointed out that around 400 million Muslims live in the world and it is not fair to generalize that the whole population is involved in acts of terrorism.

"There are extremists in every religion," he said.

"Religion doesn't teach evil," Robana said as he indicated how important God is in his life. ○

### From the Editor

Yes, those are comics over there. The *Fiat Lux* thanks the College Comic Illustrators for their work here. To subscribe to national strips can be very expensive. For that reason, this newspaper has not run comic strips for several years.

With the creation of the College Comics Illustrators, the *Fiat* finds itself on one side of a win-win situation. We get to run comics for the campus to enjoy and the CCI gets an outlet for their work.

Publication of comics has opened the door for this newspaper to bring back the "Fiat Fun Page" that last appeared over five years ago. Comics will be a regular feature of the page which will debut next issue.

Another part of the page we are excited about is our new advice column — yes, really, an advice column.

Junior David Fogelman will offer his advice to students in a regular feature. Of course, questions he answers will be on an anonymous basis. If you need advice, or just want to give Dave a shot with a question, please send an anonymous letter to Dave's Powell box (#759).

There will be other features of the page as well. All of it should be taken as light-heartedly as possible. After all, we can't take life too seriously all the time, right?

—Jay Weisberger

## Fiat Funnies

F.Y.E

By Makito Naro, College Comic Illustrators

