Argentieri’s death still a mystery

Preliminary autopsy report shows interrupted blood flow may have been the cause of death, according to Parker.

By Jasmine Reese

The Monroe County Medical Examiners Office has released a preliminary autopsy report for Thomas Argentieri to the public.

Initial results reveal AU senior finance major Thomas Argentieri’s blood flow to his brain was interrupted, but the exact cause of Argentieri’s death is still pending, according to Allegany County District Attorney Terrence Parker.

Argentieri was pronounced dead at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell on Dec. 9 after police and ambulance responded to what police described as an altercation at a party on 57 N. Main St. in Alfred.

Parker, who spoke to The Fiat Lux in a recent telephone interview, repeated much of what he previously told the Hornell Evening Tribune. He referred to Argentieri’s death as a “strangulation type of death.”

Continued on page 5...

Glover shocks AU audience

By Thomas Fleming

Students filled seats March 2 to see Crispin Hel-lion Glover’s presentation of “What is It?,” part one of Glover’s “It” trilogy.

The film, written, directed and acted by Glover, received mixed reactions from the audience due to its graphic sexuality and choice cast of actors with Down syndrome, and one actor with cerebral palsy.

Glover wanted to show that casting actors with Down syndrome in regular acting roles is a “viable concept” for film.

“When I look into the face of someone who has Down syndrome, I see a history of someone who has lived outside of the culture,” Glover said.

Glover also added that each actor’s guardian not only gave permission for the actors to be in the film, but that the actors wanted to be a part of the project.

The show began after Glover gave a slide presenta-
tion of several books that he wrote, which added a sort of preface to the main event.

He acted out the narration for each surreally written book.

After the film’s 72-minute duration, Glover opened the floor for questions. Glover showed no surprise when answering the sometimes emotionally-charged ques-
tions about the film’s controversial content. The film included many taboo images such as blackface minstrel-show makeup, snail killing and graphic sexuality.

One complaint brought up by a student was regarding the killing of snails in the film. Many snails died in the film in several ways; salt, hacking, etc. Glover felt that killing the snails in the film presented some opportunity for moral discussion, but he didn’t feel the decision to kill the snails was an inappropri-
ate filmmaking decision. He argued that legally, in the U.S., snails are classified as pests, and the garden snails killed in the film would have been killed anyway.

In regard to the graphic sexuality, Glover talked about Steven C. Stewart, who was the subject of the graphic sexuality in the film Glover described Stewart as a man of regular intelligence, and that Stewart is presented.

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AUTV sees future in putting content online

By Jasmine Reese

Alfred University’s TV station may be finding its way again after about two years of struggling.

The club has faced various problems, including theft, technical difficulties and a lack of student involvement.

“Things are starting to move for-
ward,” sophomore communications and German major and AUTV Station Manager Thomas Fleming said. Fleming also is a copy editor and writer for The Fiat Lux.

AUTV was relatively success-
ful around 2003 when the club station manager, Kevin Berwald, ran the studio with proficiency, bringing in a lot of “hands-on” expertise to the AUTV team, Fleming said.

Also, a wealth of members and student involvement within the club helped to carry the station to higher achievements.

After Berwald left, a lack of knowledge about the broadcasting system, a diminished amount of student participation and some dying equipment eventually led to AUTV struggling to operate as efficiently.

The theft of a $3,000 camcorder last semester stunted AUTV’s members’ progress towards improving the station.

A report was filed with Alfred police and

Continued on page 4...

Student Senate vice presidential candidates discuss their visions

No candidates opposing Kisselburgh in his bid for re-election as Student Sen-
ate president.

By Thomas Fleming

Students had the chance to meet candidates running for the presidential and vice presidential positions on the Student Senate Executive Board Feb. 28 in Nevins Theater.

Presidential candidate Nathaniel Kisselburgh, whose position is not contested, and two of the three vice presidential candidates were in attendance. The three can-
didates for vice president are junior mathematics and phi-
osophy major Rebecca Jean “RJ” Cook, junior marketing major Yargurty Moreno and junior materials science and engineering major Eric Walton.

Walton was not able to attend the event due to class, but a statement was read to the present voters.

Students can read Walton’s statement and the statements of the other candidates on Blackboard.

Each candidate was asked a set of questions by psychology professor Gordon Atlas and Dean of Students Norm Pollard. After questions were asked, there was an intermission during which food was served and the Alfred Steppas gave a performance. The second part of the meeting was devoted to a question and answer forum.

Atlas asked candidates how they would define their leadership style. Moreno said she likes working with other people and Cook said she prefers to educate as many people as possible for increased efficiency.

One issue recently discussed at Student Senate was the fate of operational committees. The student body voted against dissolving operational committees, such as telecommunications and food committees, at the Feb. 27 meeting.

Pollard asked candidates what they thought about that issue.

Kisselburgh, who also responded to questions although he is unopposed, and Moreno agreed that the committees should be dissolved due to a lack of efficiency. Cook said that even though

Continued on page 5...
Editorial... The other side of the street

Alfred University has had a long-standing history of a campus whose students are active in all manners of clubs and activities. Despite this abundance of collegiate energy, most students currently attending AU know remarkably little about the college on the hill across the street: Alfred State College.

The two colleges have been around for a fair amount of time. As Alfred University was founded in 1836, AU is regarded as one of the first college institutions in the United States. Alfred State College began not as its own institution, but rather as New York State College of Agriculture at Alfred University. When New York started its State University of New York, ASC joined as the Alfred College of Agriculture and Technology in 1948.

Several clubs on both campuses have conducted and continue to conduct events together in an effort to develop a cross-campus community. Although there are several clubs that have grown students with similar interests coming together, such as the Alfred Step-nastics or the Tor Echo. These clubs are arguably among the most successful in town thanks to the efforts put in to combine the creativity of students from both schools.

Recently, the staff of The Fiat Lux met with members of the staff of Alfred State’s student newspaper, The Tor Echo. Members from both papers kicked back and talked shop about the various printers that are used, differences in style and difficulties of finding and training new staff members, all over pizza and orange soda. We discussed possible article swaps, forming collaborative teams and other ways to improve our newspapers.

Members from both organizations felt that, although there may be a fair amount of student groups that participate in cross-campus events, there still remains a considerable divide between the two schools.

We agreed that one of the best ways to build community between the schools would be for clubs with similar interest from both schools to meet and possibly work together. This idea was based off of our positive experience when meeting with The Tor Echo.

Given the size of the town the two colleges are centered around, and its relatively remote location, there should be a larger focus on building a sense of community, not only between the schools, but with the town of Alfred as well.

By opening up a channel to Alfred State, a wealth of opportunities could arise. Clubs could pool funding in order to bring more speakers of a wider variety to joint-campus events.

The two schools do occasionally combine with great results. One great example is Hot Dog Day. More interaction would probably only result in more fun times, and possibly two Hot Dog Days a year. Imagining that...

Regardless of why it is done, making strident efforts to forge a stronger community between Alfred University and Alfred State would better serve the students at both schools, providing for a richer college experience.

THE FIAT LUX

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The Fiat welcomes your opinion. Anyone may write a letter to the editor. Submissions must include name, address, phone number and class year (for students). Letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words; guest columns should be limited to 700 words. The Fiat Lux reserves the right to edit all letters for space, clarity, brevity and fair play. E-mail your thoughts to fiatlux@alfred.edu. Submissions should follow the rules of fair play (i.e. get the facts straight).

Letter to the editor

Is an AU branch campus in Turkey a good idea?

Dear editor:

Much has been made of whether female students at a planned AU campus in Turkey can wear headscarves, but has anyone considered what would happen if a student or professor there asserted the reality of the Armenian genocide? I find it intolerable that an integral part of our university community can be fined or imprisoned for exercising free speech and academic freedom.

Because of these and other human rights issues, an extension campus in Turkey — like Turkish admission to the European Union — may be an idea whose time has not yet come.

Sincerely,

Ian J. L. Atkins, B.A. ‘07

Lift weights to stimulate your body and grow

Do you have a friend who sits around all day and gulps down protein shakes, insisting that he will get buff? Do you know someone who is sedentary and consistently consumes calcium and vitamin D pills on a regular basis, hoping to prevent osteoporosis? If the above statements apply to you or to someone you know, then read on and get educated on the hard facts.

Consuming protein on a daily basis is vital for optimum health. Second to water, your body is made up of protein—that is how important it is! Often it is heard that all you need is large quantities of protein to get big and buff; this is true to some extent, but your body needs a stimulus to use this protein to improve your muscle tone. The stimulus that your body needs is exercise — anaerobic exercise to be exact.

Your body essentially is made up of two types of fibers: fast twitch and slow twitch. The fast twitch fibers allow us to make quick, powerful movements, while slow twitch fibers are associated with endurance-related activities. By nature, the fast twitch fibers have more potential to become larger. Consider the marathon runner and a high-end sprinter; the sprinter has considerable more muscle mass! During anaerobic exercise (anaerobic meaning without oxygen) a high-stress load causes micro-tears in skeletal muscle. As a consequence, the body adapts by increasing the size and therefore the efficiency of your muscle cells.

In order to build these cells up, you need protein — you can’t build a brick house without bricks! In the same respect, you can’t build up a brick house without a solid foundation of a solid exercise program.

Your body also needs a stimulus (and vitamin D) in order to effectively utilize calcium as well. Weight-bearing exercises, such as weight lifting and running, imposes a stress on your bones. These stresses occur as various forces on the bones throughout their length and at the attachment sites of the muscles. As a consequence, the body provides positive feedback for calcium deposition to prepare the body for future stresses. This additional calcium yields a stronger bone that is less likely to fracture.

Exercise of this nature is especially of importance to young women. Estrogen assists in bone formation — young women have higher levels of estrogen as compared to women who have undergone menopause. By performing weight-bearing exercise at a young age, women will have a solid bone foundation for life. Stimulation in the form of weight bearing is vital for body health; look at what happens to astronauts in zero gravity — the lack of stress, and therefore stimulus, on their muscles and bones result in a considerable reduction in their mass.

In conclusion, lift those weights and reap the rewards of those costly supplements: a strong, healthy body!

BY MATTHEW COHN
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
The demise of the New York Knicks

The New York Knickerbockers have always been my favorite team, but it is clear that they have not been able to play like they did in the 90s. The Knicks need a lot of change and it all starts with the owner Jim Dolan, and rollercoaster’s down to the general manager/coach Isiah Thomas, and then falls on the shoulders of some of the players. In the past two years the player who has been the most responsible for the chaos in the Knicks organization is the executive VP of the Toronto Raptors, and talent that does not match up. If the players on the team could some how play up to their potential the teams record would be a lot better than the Knicks putrid record of 18-39 as of Feb. 28. The Knicks have a lot of egos on the team and talent that does not match up. If the players on the team could some how play up to their potential the teams record would be a lot better than the Knicks putrid record of 18-39 as of Feb. 28.

Jerome James is a prime example of a Knick who is overpaid. Isiah gave him a seven year multi million contract for having one productive postseason series with Seattle. Unfortunately for Knicks fans, Jim Dolan is the Owner of the Knicks and Madison Square Garden, so some how he would have to buy him out for the Knicks to have a new owner. Jim Dolan, allows Isiah Thomas to make all personnel decisions, and Dolan has been willing to open up his vast checkbook to respectability is not as simple as paying for an overvalued player like Isiah Thomas. Isiah has taken some of the best guys on the team out of the playbook so we have over 10 people from various countries so we can have ethnic food and of course experience cultures. Last semesters we had a Spanish dinner, so we had a Spanish dinner together. The most impressive memory for me was when we joined the dodge-ball game as a team from the International House last semester. The costumes for that by ourselves and went crazy. All of us live far from our families, so we start to feel like family in the house. We can meet people who are in a place for a similar situation so we easily get along with each other. This house makes people from abroad feel comfortable and relaxed. But sometimes feel sad because I think the International House is kind of isolated from other dorms and a lot of American people. I see many American people who do not know where it is or even what it is. I know some people are interested in other cultures and different countries, so I want those people to feel free to come to the International House and talk to us. We also wish to be friends with American people, especially those who are interested in other cultures. This house is a good place for communication and developing relationships. I asked some people who have visited the International House before, and all of them say, “It is a cool place.” People can meet new friends from different countries and experience diversity themselves. At the same time, I know we should do something for the American people. So I think it might be great to have a night where we would watch international movies and eat ethnic food together. I really hope the International House will become a very nice place for American people and international students to get together and develop a sense of community.

The Fiat Lux has staff openings!

There are openings in the following areas:

- Staff writers
- Layout/design
- Copy editing

Meetings are at 5:30 p.m. Mondays in the SOS in Powell.

Get involved, and write articles that you want to read in the paper!

Come check it out, and bring a friend or two!
AU public safety, and the club cashed in on the camerorder’s insurance policy. A camerorder of the same value and type also was stolen in 2006. According to Director of Student Activities Dan Napolitano, the TV station is now back on track thanks to the insurance money and a small number of student participants. The club is now working to put its content online.

“Whatever is interesting to watch and see how they will make a transition to online,” Napolitano said.

Fleming and Nathaniel Clark, senior psychology major and studio manager of AUTV, plan to put most shows, such as news and features, online.

“Since TV is becoming more available online, AUTV will be joining the media revolution with new online features that clubs such as AUTV will provide,” Fleming said. “But students use the Internet a lot, so having AUTV available online will be more accessible for students, and it (AUTV) will increase in popularity.”

### Media makeover by Mary Cardaras

AU history professor Gary Ostrom speaks with Emmy award-winning CNN correspondent Mary Cardaras and AU Director of Communications Studies Robyn Goodman after Cardaras’s speech on media’s election coverage bias.

BY QUINN WONDERLING

Two-time Emmy winner and CNN correspondent Mary Cardaras told students, faculty and the public in AU’s Nevins Theater on Feb. 18 not to trust everything they see on TV or any other news medium, when trying to decide which candidate to vote for in the upcoming Democratic primaries and general presidential election.

“The news media has become a brazen political player and has wielded the power of its position to make judgments and evaluations about conditions and events and situations that we are capable of making on our own, given our characteristic of the candidates, the events they attend, and what they stand for,” Cardaras said.

Her lecture, entitled “From Hillary’s Tears to the Obama Mystique: How Media Coverage Shapes Our Perceptions and Vote,” explored and exposed the media’s effect on politics, focusing on television’s unfair coverage and bias against Sen. Hillary Clinton’s presidential campaign.

Cardaras, a Boston-based documentary producer and the chair of digital media and communications at the New England Institute of Art, has over 25 years of experience in journalism.

She began by discussing cultural stereotypes, how “we make judgments about people whether they’re based in reality or not,” and noting that the intent of her talk was not to detract from Sen. Barack Obama’s campaign, but to raise awareness on how to be more responsible, media-savvy consumers of news. We judge people by the way they are presented on TV or other media, forgetting that the editing process is serious and manipulative a person’s image. Cardaras explained that despite their obligation to present information as objectively as possible, many news providers such as CNN and Fox “certainly have lost their way.”

“Tough,” “divisive” and “calculating,” are words we often associate with Hillary, thanks to the press, Cardaras explained. However, a photographer who has covered the New Hampshire primaries for over 20 years reported that Hillary “flourishes in small groups. People reach for her, touch her, speak about personal issues in their lives, but this is not at all the impression the media gives us about Senator Clinton.”

She used the example of the notorious Hillary crying incident to further illustrate her point. A “package,” in newsroom jargon, is an edited piece of footage, usually a small fraction of the raw tape — unscrupulously, this is what the news networks aired, in order to depict Clinton as overly dramatic or emotionally weak. Cardaras then played the full-length, unedited version of the incident: a smiling Hillary being, casually talking and answering questions with a group of ladies in a small New Hampshire cafe, and was momentarily genuinely choked up when discussing how much she believes in our country.

Cardaras cited this as one of many instances of news programs improperly implying postures and opinions on viewers. On Obama and Clinton’s candidacies, Cardaras asserted that “both are capable of handling the job,” however, Clinton’s coverage has “not afforded her the same courtesy as her opponent.” Photographs of Hillary often show her alone and open-mouthed, as if she were raving, or in some other unflattering light. Obama, however, is frequently shown smiling, looking thoughtful, and shaking hands or engaging with people around him. The press has been consistently torturing, ridiculing and “even combative when questioning her,” Cardaras continued that while Obama is indeed a talented orator, many media critics maintain that there is an undeniable undercurrent of misogyny.

Cardaras quoted political commentator Craig Crawford, who said the American media’s “evidence-free bias borders on mental illness.” A big part of the problem is that news is a self-serving, profit-driven business with no real motivation to be fair. Because the motivation is for higher ratings, sensationalism and profit, many networks show people as, for example, Clinton shown as an “overly dramatic” woman, while also showing her as an “untrustworthy” woman.

Yet, by tolerating it, we consumers are also at fault for this type of attack journalism. Cardaras concluded by encouraging viewers and voters not to just watch TV but to find information from other credible sources — radio, newspapers, the Internet and BBC.

Cardaras advised her audience to do its best to make sure its voting decisions are based on the right reasons.

“Realize when you are being bought and sold — reject the news when you know it’s not serving you,” she said. “Research the candidates yourself, remove as many gatekeepers and filters as you can.”
“29” celebrates Black History Month

BY JILL BALZANO
MANAGING EDITOR

On Feb. 29, Alfred University students, faculty and staff presented a compilation of short vignettes titled “29” in honor of Black History Month in Holmes Auditorium. The vignettes focused around the main theme of “L.E.A.P.” (Let’s Explore African People), a clever host “29,” a show featuring 29 vignettes counting down the years of black history. The audience learned about Dred Scott, Alice Walker, Oprah and Toni Morrison among others, and Residence Life director Brenda Porter informed everyone about the many important inventions used daily, which, without the black community, would not exist. The show lasted for about two hours when at 4:30 p.m. on the wall behind the stage counted down from 29 to one. Each number represented a unique, creative expression of African-American culture.

Controversy builds around Student Senate committees

BY SAMEUL URBAN
STAFF WRITER

The Student Senate continued discussing committees and how to streamline their system. During the Feb. 20 Student Senate meeting, Vice President Laura Findlay proposed to discuss and to vote to dissolve committees the following week, beginning the necessary two-week process. This proposal required a three-fourths vote by the Student Senate. Findlay commented that “over the last several years they have been ineffective” and that the committees aren’t being taken seriously. Findlay continued her argument saying that it would be “easier for people to voice their opinion in open forum,” and “we can form operational committees if the need arises.” The vice president’s responsibilities would increase and students would deal directly with the vice president to deal with operational issues. The alternative to dissolving committees is returning committees that meet regularly. Findlay felt this would be retroactive and fees would be needed to remove a trend of inefficiency. The motion to discuss and vote on the dissolving of committees the following week passed.

Part two of the discussion proceeded following the week of the Feb. 27 meeting. Publicity Director Phil Feichtner began by stating we “should examine what makes a committee effective.” He said Student Senate should perhaps appoint more effective committee heads rather than dissolve them. Findlay reminded the Student Senate how committees can be formed when necessary, while a number of other senators and representatives suggested simply revising committees.

Discussion was brought to a close and the motion was voted on, although it did not pass. In open forum, Publicity Director Phil Feichtner proposed an ad hoc committee to examine the operational committee system and the constitution. The proposal passed and a committee of five students is scheduled to meet with Findlay the next Senate meeting, so that further proposal changes can be made during the March 5 Senate meeting.

The Student Senate President Nate Kisselburgh spoke to Director of Physical Plant Dave Peckham about complaints of incomplete plowing around campus. Kisselburgh says there are 5-6 guys removing snow as well as other projects. The team is doing their best and if there are troublesome spots just send a work order.

The Constitution Committee passed an amendment to Article II, although the changes sparked a 10-minute debate about whether sweeping changes to the constitution should be made at one forum.

There will be an advanced screening of Bachelor Party 2 in Nevins, March 5 from 8-11 p.m.

The Finances Chair Danielle Sayegh announced that April 19 is the budget hearing date.

Diversity Director Ed Rivera-Valenta proposed a diverse partnership grant is available for two clubs working together with different mission statements. The diversity director position is also open. Apply now.

The Political Science Club meets Wednesdays at 6 p.m. in Li’l Alf Café for those who wish to debate and get involved with this growing organization.

Student Senate meets Wednesdays at 8 p.m. in Nevins Theater for all those who wish to attend.

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Senate vice presidential candidates ... continued from front page.

she voted in favor of dissolving committees, she thought the vote to keep committees said something about what the committees mean to students, and she would support a revised committee system.

Porkall asked the candidates about how they would get the student body’s voice heard by administrators on campus.

Kisselburgh said that deans and other directors already ask the Student Senate for opinions before making decisions. According to Kisselburgh, the Student Senate represents students who are the most active on campus and therefore administrators view it as a valuable resource for making decisions.

Cook said she thinks Student Senate representatives do not have a clear understanding of the Student Senate’s purpose, and so the student voice is not used. She wants to enlighten students of their voice on campus.

Porkall asked the candidates what they would think about elected student representatives coming to meetings instead of the current system of requiring club representatives to attend. Moreno disagreed with the idea, saying that participation would decline. Cook, however, said, “I’m all for it.” She also expressed her support for a senator training program teaching representatives how to be effective.

Atlass asked the candidates what they would like Student Senate to be like a year from now.

Kisselburgh said he would like it to provide services and other initiatives. He wants Student Senate to be “active, not reactive.”

Cook said she wants to see a surge of student participation, or at least an increase. She also said she wants to improve student ideas.

Moreno said she would like to instill more enthusiasm at meetings.

Voting tables will be set up around Powell Campus Center to inform students of the March 5 election deadline. According to senior communication studies and marketing major Jessica Henderson, who organized the event, any student can vote for Student Senate president and vice president on AU’s Blackboard Web site. Candidate statements also are available on Blackboard. Voting ends Wednesday.

Argenti... continued from front page.

“Not hands around the neck kind of strangulation,” Parker said. “There are different ways one can be strangled. What we mean here is that his blood flow was cut off or interrupted in some way.”

Despite one small piece of the puzzle coming together about what might have happened to Argeniti, investigators are still waiting for conclusive results.

Argenti’s autopsy was done by the Monroe County Medical Examiner in Rochester. According to Parker, there are two parts of the examination.

“The first part is called ‘gross findings,’ which is basically a physical examination,” Parker said. “It usually takes a couple of days after the examination to get those results back. The second part is a chemical analysis — what is called ‘toxicology.’ I am used to the second part, toxicology, taking quite a bit of time, but to not have the first back by now is a little unusual. I am guessing it is because the medical examiner is waiting to put the two together to be perfectly sure that what they find is accurate.”

However, Parker reinforced that there is no official reason as to why the results are taking so long to come back. “We’re just speculating,” Parker said.

In regard to the student allegedly involved in the fight with Argenti, Parker and Alfred Police Chief Timothy O’Grady both could not release the identity. Parker made it clear, however, that the student is a “person of interest,” but not a suspect, since the investigation has not been completed.

According to Parker, the “person of interest” is no longer on the AU campus.

“It’s my understanding that the person of interest has transferred to another school,” Parker said.

As the investigation pushes forward, Parker urged students who might know anything or who might have seen anything on the night of Argenti’s death to contact Sergeant Investigator Paul Griffith at the Alfred Police station.
BY CONRADO O. BOWEN  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

International super powers like the United States of America, Great Britain or what once was the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are homogenous in that they all connote a sense of raw masculinity, a feeling of innate superiority. Then we speak of Cuba: that simple four-letter combination that sneaks itself into the political consciousness of millions of U.S. Nationals whenever our foreign policy is topic of discussion. How does it do it? After living there for three-and-a-half months, I still don’t know. All I know is that this one-island nation, geographically no bigger than the state of Pennsylvania, has survived a tremendous history—a history ridden with colonial warfare, imperial struggle and revolution. A history that has on several occasions propelled it to the forefront of the world and that has often earned it the title of “Public Enemy Number One” for the U.S.

Since returning from Cuba, I have been trying to wrap my head around the experience. I’ve tried to condense those three-and-a-half months into entertaining anecdotes that I could readily share with family and friends. But no anecdote can express a visit to Cuba. Its impact is too forceful and too lasting to be broken down into highlights… hence this column. Consider it Conrado’s 101 crash course guide to contemporary Cuba.

BEING AMERICAN IN CUBA

Most Americans don’t realize that the embargo we have against Cuba is not a cultural embargo, but an economic embargo. Therefore, it is not illegal for a U.S. national to travel to Cuba; it is illegal to spend money in Cuba. However, it is impossible for one to travel without spending money. So, the common understanding is that travel is altogether restricted.

There are several educational programs that travel to Cuba. Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, Sara Lawrence and SUNY Buffalo are amongst them. I got to Cuba through SUNY Buffalo’s program. The program’s directors received my student visa through the U.S. Treasurer’s Office for study at the University of Havana, and we traveled through Canada to Cuba.

During my time in Cuba, I encountered several Americans who had arrived both legally and illegally through third countries. The Cuban government invites all tourists to Cuba, including U.S. nationals. In fact, if you are from the U.S., Cuban Customs assume that you do not want your passport stamped, and they will let you enter without grief. I, in fact, had to ask to have my passport stamped; I wanted it especially as a cool exclusive keepsake.

The legal American tourists in Cuba who were not students were usually journalists or performers granted special government permission for their craft. The “illegal” were just adventure seekers who were banking on getting it by U.S. custom officials that they had acquired two points of entry stamps on their passports before ever returning home to the U.S. If it is discovered that they have in fact traveled to Cuba, they could face hefty fines from the Treasury Department. The U.S. nationals in Cuba are perceived no differently than other international tourists. Cubans are welcoming to all, especially those with lots of money. Many Cubans are unfavorable towards the Bush administration and U.S. foreign policy, but they separate the government from the citizens.

When I let nationals know I was from the U.S., I was bombarded with questions regarding politics and the U.S. perception of Cubans. This got annoying eventually, and I would try my best to keep my true nationality anonymous in casual conversation, but besides the persistent questions, I never had any problems proclaiming my U.S. citizenship. Authorities are cautious with their treatment of U.S. citizens, and, in many cases, being from the U.S. helped me get out of sticky situations.

POLITICS AND ECONOMY

It is absolutely imperative to understand that the view of Fidel Castro and Cuba outside of the U.S. is starkly different than anything most of us have been told in our history and political science courses. For many African and European countries (and for Canadians) Cuba is treated as the only country in the western hemisphere to be courageous enough to stand up to the “big, bad Yankees” to the North. Fidel Castro is honored profusely for many of his national initiatives and

his international benevolence and general foreign policy. Castro is credited for having played a major role in the elimination of apartheid in South Africa. Cuba’s role in the Congo and Angola continues to be esteemed rather highly in spite of the fact that these conflicts were civil wars, often considered off limits for the international community.

Before going to Cuba, I was actually warned not to engage in political conversations with nationals. This was poor advice. Cuba is a very political country; Cubans wear politics on their sleeves. Here in the U.S. many claim to be devout nationalists, but I doubt that most graduating college seniors can even name the first five presidents of the United States. I can barely keep up with the 2008 elections. In Cuba, political conversation can be considered small talk. Cubans would be very impressed to learn that we Americans actually show interest in political systems other than our own, and Americans can gain perspective from understanding the Cuban point of view of their current regime and world politics.

After living in Cuba, my understanding of socialism versus capitalism is not as complicated as anything I have found in textbooks. In capitalism, there are winners and losers. The losers are the backbone of the state. They are the workers that support the economy. The winners are the rich who benefit from the work of the lower class. The system is sustained by the lower class’s desire to become winners; the pursuit of wealth is motive to continue to work. In socialism, the goal is to make everyone a winner in order to eliminate lower class status. However, in order to make everyone a winner, there has to be adequate and equal resources to support the entire population. History has shown us that it is very difficult for a state to accomplish pure socialist status. Unfortunately, Cuba is no exception.
Since its departure from the sugar industry, Cuba has not adopted another export strong enough to support its economy. In fact, the only consistently lucrative export of the current Cuban regime is tourism. Tourism in itself is a capitalist industry, and when implemented within a socialist regime, there are adverse cultural ramifications. Cuba has become a paradise island for tourists. There are laws in place that restrict Cuban nationals from entering beaches and hotels reserved for tourists.

There are two currencies circulated in Cuba: pesos conversibles (CUC) and pesos cubanos. Pesos cubanos are considered the national currency. Cubans are paid in pesos cubanos, and most products sold outside of tourist areas are exchanged with this currency. Pesos conversibles are essentially for tourists. One peso conversible is worth 24 pesos cubanos. This dual currency system places Cuban nationals at a perpetual disadvantage because all quality products and almost all services are exchanged in CUC. The value of the tourist dollar in Cuba is astonishing. It is not uncommon for Cuban doctors and scholars to leave their practice to become taxi drivers or translators in order to obtain more access to tourist dollars.

The Cuban political system is very controlled. Most Cubans regard their regime in terms of socialism; Cuba is a socialist state. Education and health insurance are completely free, and there is no free enterprise. There are many welfare programs in place to ensure the well being of nationals. There are community clinics; there are programs in place to protect and care for the elderly and pregnant women; the government even provides refrigerators to its citizens. In theory, the construction of the political system in Cuba is rather idealistic, but in practice things fall apart because there are not enough resources, and the standard of living cannot be increased.

Most Cubans are frustrated with the level of poverty. Despite popular belief, not all Cubans are waiting in line to escape the island, but most are anxious for some serious change. The older generation remains loyal to the revolutionary movement, and they believe in all the revolutionary rhetoric, but they too are growing impatient with the current pace of progress. The younger generation is disconnected from the revolution and views the government as a barrier from first world development. They, like us, have fallen victim to the false images of western media. The material world has enraptured them, and they are obsessed with their lack of access to the cars, jewels and riches of modern western society.

Both young and old alike are very nervous about the immediate future of the island. Although there are major problems, Castro has been the glue that has kept it all together for the past 59 years. They are apprehensive of a Cuba under Raul Castro, as he is deemed more volatile and much less charismatic than his brother. They are also very concerned with the actions of the international community, in particular, the United States. As President Bush has mentioned on several occasions, there is a plan of action for when Fidel Castro dies.

Now that Castro has resigned, and Raul has been officially inaugurated as the standing president of the Council of State of Cuba, the future of the island nation is as unclear as ever. Raul, five years Fidel’s junior, is the youngest of the three Castro brothers and has fought faithfully behind his older brother since the revolution of 1959. He has held top military rank in much of post-revolutionary Cuba and has been a staple to Castro’s administration. Although the transition of power calls for a degree of apprehension amongst Cuban nationals, it is doubtful for much of the Cuban public that Raul’s term as president will bring about much change. The Cuban schools and culture that I left Cuba is that under a Castro, Cuba will continue to be Cuba.

**Race**

If you were to ask a white Cuban if racism existed in present-day Cuba, you would most likely be told that racism ended with the ousting of the Batista administration. However, members of non-white ethnic groups in Cuba are not as optimistic, and rightfully so. Cuba enjoys a rich racial makeup. Cubans come in all colors and have all hair textures and facial features. This racial diversity, not unlike most other Latin American countries, results from the mixture of Native American, African and European blood. The current racial composition of Cuba is roughly 51 percent mulatto (of African and European ancestry), 37 percent white, 11 percent black and 1 percent Chinese. All Latin countries have regional racial classifications; those of Cuba were much more extensive and stratified. Moreno, trigueno, jaba, negro, mesto, mulatto and more were all terms used to classify different racial mixtures.

It is very interesting to explore Cuban ideology in regards to race. Cuba is very critical of the U.S. in its historic mistreatment of ethnic minorities. However, it should be noted that in 1886 Cuba was the last country in the Caribbean to emancipate its slaves.

In present-day Cuba, although there is an overwhelming sense of commonality of status amongst all Cubans due to national identity, the old-age mentality of “whiter is better” is still very much alive. What exists in Cuba is an internal racism. As in the times of slavery when lighter skin translated to better social position, current standards of aesthetic beauty and social mobility are closely associated with lighter complexion. The idea of good hair versus bad hair is commonplace. In fact, in Cuba, it is not unusual to hear black Cubans refer to their hair textures as “bad” because of its coarseness in comparison to that of their white counterparts. I would go as far as to assume the dominance of the mulatto category in the racial composition of Cuba to the several efforts made to push the white population over 80 percent since the Haitian Revolution of the 18th century. European forces present in Cuba after the Haitian Revolution of 1791 rigorously worked towards pushing the percentage of white Cuban settlers past the 50 percent mark in an effort to try and offset the likelihood of another successful slave rebellion. I argue this effort to whiten the population out of fear of a dominant black society continues to play a role in the racial construction of Cuba.

During my time in Cuba, my color and fluency in Spanish allowed me to blend in rather easily. Very often, Cubans assumed that I was Cuban. However, I compiled a list of all the nationalities to which I was accused of sharing kinship during my time there: Angolan, Nigerian, Trinidadian, Jamaican, Central American, Haitian, French, Bahamian and English—many didn’t make the list but these were top contenders.

Racial profiling amongst Cuban authorities is a cultural commonplace, and I was stopped and questioned by police on several occasions. They would interrogate me for no apparent reason at all, and would only let me go when they discovered I was not Cuban.

**Conclusion**

Cuba is a gem in a 21st century world preoccupied with materialism and excess. I left the island-nation a wiser person than when I arrived. Politically, I cannot proclaim that either system is better than the other. As North Americans, we clearly enjoy much greater wealth materialistically, but Cubans enjoy a spiritual and cultural wealth that we have not yet obtained. In the end, I am eager to see who will win, but I am more curious to see how winning will be defined.
That loud, scary noise coming from the Physical Plant

By Jessica Barnthouse

This is from Fiat Lux Managing Editor Jill Balzano’s family cookbook.

This recipe makes an appalling amount of food, but Balzano insists that “Italians make and eat insane amounts of food. If you’re going to that “Italians make and eat insane amounts of food, but Balzano insists that Eggplant Parmigiana!!!

Ingredients:
3 medium eggplants, sliced and sprinkled with salt
3 cups of breadcrumbs
5 eggs
1 jar of pasta sauce
2 blocks of mozzarella cheese cut into rectangular slices

Directions:
Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Place the sliced, salted eggplant on a plate and let it sit for at least 20 minutes. Next, mix the breadcrumbs and eggs together until they resemble a paste. When the eggplant is ready, pat the slices with a paper towel to get the salt off and fry the slices in olive oil.

While the eggplant is frying, spread a layer of pasta sauce over the bottom of the pan. Next, place a layer of the breadcrumb paste, then a layer of pasta sauce and finally a layer of sliced mozzarella. Repeat. According to Balzano, this dish is best enjoyed with some hearty Italian bread, and should be eaten “until you can’t move.”

Call (607) 587-4015 to register today!
alfredstate.edu/summer

Hit the ground running®...
GreenAlfred increases recycling opportunities

BY AVAKA JOSE
STAFF WRITER

GreenAlfred is helping AU improve its recycling record by installing additional recycling bins around campus.

“I heard someone say ‘I can’t find a place to throw my bottle or whatever away,’” 2007 graduate Sarah Donohue recently said in an e-mail. That was the moment she decided to found GreenAlfred, a student-run organization established during the spring of 2007, to deal with environmental issues, she said.

Recycling is an essential way to save energy and resources. For example, recycling one aluminum can will save enough energy to run a TV set for three hours, according to Oberlin College’s recycling program’s Web site.

At AU there are some recycling bins on campus, such as at the libraries and L’aff Cafe. However, it still seems difficult to find recycling bins around campus, according to Arianna Carini, a first-year art major and a member of GreenAlfred.

“I am shocked that there is so little recycling on cam- pus,” Carini said.

GreenAlfred president Andrew Ivovich, a junior materials science and engineering major, said he hopes GreenAlfred’s new bins will make it easier for students to recycle.

Donohue founded GreenAlfred as her senior on-cam- pus recycling project. Currently, more than 20 students belong to GreenAlfred, and they are working to improve AU’s recycling environment.

At its meeting on Feb. 24, GreenAlfred made its recycling bins out of 14 large blue barrels, which were themselves recycled. The students creatively painted each barrel with yellow and green colors to attract attention.

The new recycling bins will soon be placed at 10 places around campus, such as in front of Powell Campus Center and Ade Hall. These bins will be used to recycle plastic, glass and metal. They will make it much easier for students to find recycling bins and encourage them to recycle, Ivovich said.

Once a week, GreenAlfred will collect the recyclables from each bin and transfer them to a recycling plant at Alfred Station, he said.

Ivovich concluded that next time he overhears a student talking about AU’s recycling bins he hopes they’ll be saying, “Since bins are everywhere, why not recycle?”

AU and Alfred State work to ‘Focus the Nation’

BY AVAKA JOSE
STAFF WRITER

Alfred University and Alfred State College hope to become greener by actively participating in Focus the Nation’s environmental educational initiative.

Focus the Nation is a non-profit organization consisting of 1,400 groups nationwide that are interested in working toward solving environmental problems. These groups include college and university students, businesses and civic organizations.

Both schools were involved in Focus the Nation’s first event on Jan. 31, when they participated in a national teach-in on how to limit global warming.

AU and ASC decided last summer to become involved in Focus the Nation’s initiative. This decision was made on the recommen- dation of Michelle Hluchy, an AU environmental studies professor, who, after attending an environmental conference where the Focus the Nation was introduced, was impressed with its approach to raising awareness about global warming. Because of her initia- tive, AU, ASC and other interest- ed environmentalists are working together.

Kathryn Hilfinger, AU library secretary and GreenAlfred staff adviser, said Focus the Nation has been an excellent catalyst for get- ting both schools and their facult- y and students to work towards solutions for global warming.

AU and ASC promised to do something to raise awareness on Jan. 31, when the initiative started. On that day, both schools held global warming educational events across their campuses, including lectures and workshops. Although that day is over, the efforts are still ongoing.

AU and ASC are continuing to localize Focus the Nation initia- ives, such as programs to limit waste on campus. For example, at AU, dining halls have gone tray-less.

Also, GreenAlfred, a student organization that promotes sustainability, is working toward increasing recycling on campus.

GreenAlfred president Andrew Ivovich, a junior Materials Science and Engineering major, says he is supporting Focus the Nation because the groups involved help motivate one another to become more actively involved in trying to save the environment.

GreenAlfred isn’t the only orga- nization inspired by both schools’ support of Focus the Nation.

The faculty, staff, students and community members who organized events on Jan. 31 call themselves Focus Alfred, and they intend to continue raising awareness and to work toward decreasing energy use and carbon emissions in Alfred. They see Jan. 31 as just the beginning of their efforts.

In the near future, AU and ASC will host more environmental fairs and lectures, Hluchy says. In addition, they will continue working toward energy and waste reduction.

For example, Hluchy says she would like to see more energy-saving appliances at the university and for it to do a better job of controlling the temperature in classrooms. She says the class- rooms are often too warm or too cold.

She also hopes the simple things we can do will help reduce energy usage. For example, if you see the light on in empty room, turn it off. If you see a recycling box, use it, she said.

When asked about fancy solu- tions, she replied, “As for big dreams, I think it would be great if someday we had some wind generators on campus.”

Bowen Discusses Cuba at GAR

BY YUMIKO NISHIO
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 25, Conrado Bowen, an AU senior Spanish major who just returned from studying abroad, discussed his experiences in Cuba during the monthly Global Awareness Roundtable in Nevins Theater.

The Global Awareness Roundtable is an event in which people from other countries or people who have been to other coun- tries share their cultural experiences with the AU community.

Glover ... continued from front page.

in more graphically sexual scenes in the sequel to “What is It?” The sequel, entitled “It is Fine! Everything is Fine,” was written by Stewart, not Glover.

Glover said these films are his reaction to a corporate film industry that is afraid to make films for adults and confront taboo topics for fear of being sued.

In order to see or receive more information about the film, its newly released sequel and the upcoming final part of the It trilogy, students can go to www.cringingglover.com.
Ten awesome road trip songs (plus one)

BY JILL BALZANO & QUINN WONDERLING
MANAGING EDITOR, A&E EDITOR

In preparation for our long drives to our spring break locations we compiled a list of awesome songs to rock out to in the car. It’s necessary to survive our journeys from Alfred to Miami and South Carolina, respectively. So, if you’re driving anywhere, even if it’s just home, add these songs to your play lists!

1. Shiny Toy Guns – “Le Disko” – it’s impossible to be grumpy listening to this, which is more elegant part of the piece.
2. Prince – “Little Red Corvette” – a sexy little song from a sexy little man. We like Prince because he’s kind of short.
3. S. Carey – “Ignition” – freaky, dirty love in the car. If you’re driving for long enough, everyone thinks about it. Thanks, R!
4. Neil Diamond – “Sweet Caroline” – when you’re sing- ing along, feel free to change the chorus to “space bag of wine” – it fits the tune perfectly.
5. The Beatles – “Magical Mystery Tour” – for when your journey inevitably starts to feel like a traveling freak show.
6. Will Oldham – “Miami” – be- cause I’m going to party in the city where the heat is on, all night on the beach ’til the break of dawn,” says Jill.
7. Sublime – “Wrong Way” – it’s about a young lady from the wrong side of the tracks. A tad depressing, but fun to sing and everyone knows it.
8. Melissa Etheridge – “Come to My Window” – ah, what to ex- plains and the best part is that this tune just gets the old blood ‘a Flowin’.
9. Cat Stevens – “Another Satur- day Night” – it’s impossible to be grumpy singing to this, which is important if you’ve been in a car with six of your most annoying friends for 10 hours.
10. Jimmy Buffett – “Escape” – We’re into pina coladas and getting caught in the rain… together.
11. The Offspring – “Pretty Fly for a White Guy” – we just couldn’t leave this (possibly the most obvious song ever writ- ten) off the list. Imagine rolling into your destination blasting this fine jam…beautiful.

‘An Evening of Dance:’ An ecletic display of talent

BY ERIN PARADIS
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A look at Fletcher’s ‘Some People’

BY BECKY HOLT
STAFF WRITER

You’ve most likely heard about Harrell Fletcher’s exhibit in some respect these past few weeks whether you are participating in the show, or you’ve heard that your friend’s friend is interview- ing your teacher’s mother’s cousin.

We can all agree that word of mouth is a powerful tool especial- ly when used to invoke feelings of connectivity and commu- nity. “Some People” is a project brought about to do exactly that: build new relationships within a community.

Harrell Fletcher, an interdisci- plinary artist interested in the dynamics of social spaces and communities came to Alfred to give a four-day workshop. The re- sult was a collaborative exhibition with 19 graduate and undergradu- ate students from the School of Art and Design at Alfred Uni- versity, along with 130 first-year Foundation Program students. Participants of the group selected a person from the Alfred community and over the course of several weeks built a relationship with that person by sharing their stories with one another. These 19 documentaries of different Alfred community members sought to illuminate their interests and uniqueness. The documentaries both honor the individual they represent and create a dialogue that paints a portrait of Alfred.

When talking with some of the participants of the exhibit, the feedback of working with Fletcher was somewhat mixed. “When Harrell Fletcher first introduced himself to my soft works class he spoke about his life and work,” first-year BFA student Shawn Baker said. “In order to direct my class for the upcoming assign- ment, he elaborated on concepts he has been exploring throughout his career. I don’t feel as though I personally worked with Harrell so much as I was prompted by him.”

“After submitting my work and installing ‘Some People: Alfred’ with the rest of the Fosdick-Nel- son crew, it became very clear how little Harrell was actually in- volved with what we were doing; there was barely any trace of him. The show was entirely created by the people of Alfred and I am still debating on whether or not Har-rell removed himself in order for this to happen.”

Other viewers and participants felt relieved that the show was left completely up to the community, and for once the stereotypical role of the “fussy artist” didn’t apply. Whether you believe that this “removal of initiator” was the perfect springboard or the perfect cop out, there is no denying that this is not your typical show. By prompting the people of Alfred and letting them run with their ideas in any form of media they chose, the show added an exciting edge to the finished exhibit, and I can guarantee that you will learn something new about the person you pass on Main Street everyday.

The exhibition will be up in the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery through March 28 and the documentaries will be displayed on Fletcher’s “Some People” Web site at www. harrellfletcher.com. Visitors to the site are encouraged to submit their own documentaries as part of an ongoing mission to transform strangers into neighbors.
Men’s track and field competes with States in mind

BY NATHAN WEISER  STAFF WRITER

The men’s outdoor track and field team will be starting its season shortly, and have a nearly-never-empty roster that will lead to a representative finish at States.

The head coach of the team is Andrew Olivieri, who currently a full-time graduate student, has a lot on his plate. He does, however, want members of the team to improve on their previous times and enjoy the whole experience. “Also, (I would like) to have multiple athletes place at the state meet (in the top eight) and qualify for the ECAC championships,” said Crawford. The indoor season offered some highlights that the team surely hopes to replicate in the outdoor season.

“In the indoor season the throwers, freshman Shawn Ross and junior Ryan Squillacioti, did really well – making states. Sophomore Lee Conolo is doing really well as well,” said senior co-captain Dan Ohart. Ohart also hopes a lot of members of the team can go to States.

Work ethic can always make the difference between a good team and an ordinary team, too.

Amongst the entire league, or at least only a handful of dominant teams. But for the last few seasons in the, all of the teams west of the Mississippi have shown their might at one another, playing some intramural basketball and owning the head to head competition against their Eastern counterparts.

With the exception of the lowly Memphis Grizzlies and Los Angeles Clippers, and the extremely youthful Seattle SuperSonics and Minnesota Timberwolves, all of the Western conference teams have legitimate chances of making the post season, even though they have been making major trades like the Westerners haven’t. The only problem with this is that there will be three very good Western teams who will not be able to part of the playoff picture. On the flip side, if the playoff started today, five teams out of the East with losing records would be in the “second season.”

Now, as if trying to add insult to injury, some of the teams have a higher profile and, most respected, players made a leap from the Western conference to the WesternContenders. Mr. Shaquille “The Big Aristotle” O’Neal of the Miami Heat (9-42), and Jason Kidd of the New York Nets (23-30), went to the Phoenix Suns (37-16) and Dallav Mariners (35-18), respectively.

Not only do these deals bolster already solid franchises, but they also bring in a higher power scale, leaving barely a handful of household names left in the East. So far this season, as the season continues into its later half, we will have to keep watch on all of the teams with “Melos A.L.S,” Dirks and Billy Bob’s and Gasols, Diesels and Nashs, Duncans and Parkers, even Chris Paul and West, and decide that the professional sports world is making an impressive buzz with their New Orleans Hornets.

So let LeBron, Gilbert, D-Wade and Vince, the only team with a prayer in the East is the Celtics, with their Boston Three Party. So, despite all the chatter and buzz, they don’t feel too bad Eastern conference lovers; if the playoffs started today, my 28-23 Toronto Raptors (a four seed in the East) wouldn’t even be invited in the West either.

Swim team ... continued from back page.

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Second semester intramurals ready to spring on Alfred

BY TOM HAYDEN  STAFF WRITER

Spring intramurals are almost ready to start on campus; teams are being formed and will include men’s six-on-six soccer, five-on-five basketball, coed six-on-six soccer, volleyball and field hockey.

“Over 200 students participate in intramurals,” said men’s soccer coach Scott Miller, who also runs the intramural program for the Athletic Department.

Alfred has a strong tradition of intramural rivalry. These rivalries existed between dorms as well as girls who have played sports.

“I like to participate in intramurals because it is fun time with my friends where we can run the table against lesser talents in basketball,” said sophomore communication studies major Jeff Murray.

Students play intramurals for a variety of reasons. “I specifically play for the fun of it,” said senior Scott Van Pelt. “There’s no pressure, and sometimes you perform at a higher level when you are relaxed,” said sophomore communication studies major Jereny Juhaz.

“Intramurals allow you to trash talk your opponent as well as it is all about fun and enjoyment.”

Students may register teams by dropping off completed rosters to the office of the Intramural Bulletin board in the lower level of the McLane Center. Blank

Olivieri: Bringing winning to Alfred

BY JON WORDENGRAM  SPORTS EDITOR

AU softball Head Coach Gina Olivieri has made a career of being successful in athletics, and not just on the diamond. “I’ve always been accustomed to winning, I’ve been fortunate to be on winning teams wherever I’ve been,” said Oliveiri. “I have a very competitive nature.”

Olivieri grew up in Batavia where he burglarized into a championships. He rugby, running back. He continued to play in college at the University of Delaware, a Division IAA powerhouse. He played there for four years the Blue Hens were national runners-up in 1978 and national champions in 1979.

Following his illustrious collegiate career, Olivieri was contacted by several NFL teams and was offered a tryout with the Detroit Lions and Head Coach Monte Clark. Although he was not first on the depth chart as running back (former Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims started in front of him in 1981). He found out that life in the professional sports world is not the same. “When you get that pay check and it says ‘Detroit Lions Inc.’, you realize it’s a business,” he said.

They assigned (me) a single season record for wins (19-14). He puts a lot of effort into his team. “I expect all around improvement. The team is probably looking for players who are more ideal for running coordination,” he said. “That is what we are looking for this team and expects us to as well.”

All athletes are encouraged to compete, as the games are every weekend 6-10 p.m. The schedule of play is: Monday: soccer Tuesday: basketball Wednesday: coed soccer Thursday: volleyball Friday: floor hockey.

Olivieri is a man with a prayer in the East, He realized that the professional sports world is making an impressive buzz with their New Orleans Hornets.

One of those players is sophomore outfielder and captain, Jessica Figallo, a player who wasn’t even sure if she wanted to play soccer or softball in college before she met Olivieri.

Gino was in contact with me before I arrived to Alfred,” she said. “He always made me feel wanted and that I could make a difference for the team.”

Although recruiting is a major part of the college game, Olivieri’s influence far exceeds recruiting. His pension for excellence rubs off on his athletes every day in practice and games. “To be on this (team) you need to be a complete athlete. He is forgiving when you slip up on a throw or any errors that you make, unless they are mental errors. He puts a lot of effort into this team and expects us to as well.”

His standards have proven successful so far as the softball team set a single season record for wins in 2007.
Christmas arrives two months late for NHL fans

For hockey fanatics one of the most anticipated dates on the schedule was this past Feb. 26: Trade Deadline 2008. Transactions aside, the day had a Christmas day atmosphere in which fans got to wish for presents delivered under their tree. For some franchises, however, this day had the potential to bring disappointment. Take, for example, the Montreal Canadiens. Unfortunately for the Canadians, coal appeared in their stocking. General Manager Bob Gainey announced publicly that he wanted to strike a deal by adding an “impact player.” Instead, Montreal subtracted from its thrust, trading away Cristobal Huet, its goaltender, to Washington for a future second round draft pick in 2009. (I suppose this would be similar to receiving that gift you didn’t want). It’s a goofy call to depend on a former top-five draft selection for the rest of the season, but obviously management feels that Carey Price can burden the load. Indeed, the unfulfilled promise brought sorrow to Habs nation, but I give that franchise credit. Sitting in a playoff position in the Eastern Conference, Montreal’s season has been spectacular with its current roster. Guy Carbonneau requested management not to break up an offense that ranks in the top five in the NHL this season. Also, you can guarantee that Gainey wouldn’t mortgage his team’s future for a rent-a-player.

Rumored to be heading to Montreal was Marian Hossa.

Alfred hockey’s leader, Amoroso: AU’s Clark Kent

BY JEREMY JUHASZ STAFF WRITER

When it comes to Jake Amoroso, you shouldn’t judge a book by its cover. Behind his thick black wire-framed glasses he seems to live the contemplative life of a graduate student, but, Amoroso, in actuality, isn’t content with only his studies. “Jake has a lot of interests,” associate professor of physics Robert Holtzapple said. “He’s a good engineer, but Jake also remains active outside of class.”

Amoroso was born in Victorville, Calif., and is 26 years old. During his infancy his family moved to Denver. In high school, Amoroso found information about Alfred University’s science and art programs from a basic college computer search. Amoroso graduated from AU as an undergrad in the spring of 2003. After earning his bachelor’s degree in material science engineering, Amoroso traveled to Washington, D.C., to work for Conservations Solutions Incorporated. The company allowed him to preserve historical artifacts. “For example, I worked on artifacts from the Titanic and preserved them to make them look nice for museums,” Amoroso said. “I would see plates still stacked as if never been used, perfumes, money and clothes that were all brought up from the ocean.” Amoroso returned to Alfred in 2005 as a graduate student. He currently is pursuing a doctorate degree in material science engineering, which he hopes to earn by the spring of 2009.

Beyond the grueling course work, Amoroso still finds time to brew beer and, during the spring, pick dandelions for making wine. He also enjoys fixing older cars. The proof is parked outside his Main Street apartment where a restored teal 1960 Volkswagen Beetle is parked. He restored the vehicle with his brothers. Teammate and friend Dan Gaede said Amoroso’s car fits his personality perfectly. “Jake is laid back,” Gaede said. “He is able to go with the flow and take the bumps as they come.” And Gaede says that when it comes to hockey, Amoroso leads by example. He can handle both player and coach roles effectively. Gaede stressed that Amoroso has the ability during games to stand back and command the players’ attention on the bench. During play, Amoroso is able to give advice and conduct line changes on the fly with ease.

After stepping foot on campus for the first time, Amoroso admired the quantity of clubs. From his early exposure to club life as a DJ for Alfred’s WALF radio, Amoroso took over organizing the hockey team as an undergrad. After his two year absence in Washington, D.C., he was chosen by his teammates to, again, be their president.

Amoroso’s teammates say that... Continued on page 11...

Sweep team victory at state championship meet caps off perfect season

BY JEREMY JUHASZ STAFF WRITER

Having just completed a very successful and dominant regular season by defeating St. Lawrence University 127-99, the boys in blinding finished their second consecutive perfect season with a victory at the state championship meet over the weekend.

The least East versus the best West

Ah, the National Basketball Association: the land of very athletic, very skilled, very big, giants. The only problem with this high-octane league, however, is that half of the league seems to be collecting and building an army of these basketball gods. While being broken into two conferences, the East and the Western, the NBA has always had one conference usually dominate the league. This year, that conference will be the mighty West. Despite losing to the East in the 2008 All-star game on Feb. 17, the West really has had no trouble dispatching the over matched Eastern conference teams. As of Feb. 19, 10 of the 15 Western conference teams had winning records, while only five of the 15 in the East had a .500 record or better. If the playoffs started today, only two teams from the East (the rebuilt Boston Celtics and the always solid Detroit Pistons) would qualify for post-season play in the West. Only two!

In the other major market sports leagues, (NFL, MLB, NHL) there is usually parity Continued on page 11...