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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ALFRED UNIVERSITY

January 31, 2011

FREE (additional copies \$.50)

www.thefiatlux.com

McGee Pavilion Progresses through 'rain, snow and cold'

Nickelina Noel
Features Editor

Dean Leslie Bellavance of the School of Art and Design describes the McGee Pavilion's progression as being "remarkable" and mentions that she is amazed at the skill of the dedicated construction workers. McGee Pavilion, an addition to Harder Hall, is funded by the State of New York. Ikon.5 architects from Princeton, New Jersey are the designers for the project. "It is funded through a New York State legislature

Strategic Initiative for an expansion of the School of Art and Design that was successfully promoted by Alfred University's President, Dr. Charles Edmondson," Bellavance stated via email. McGee Pavilion is a two-story building with the above-ground display made entirely out of glass. It boasts three levels, one below ground and two above. The designing of the project began roughly in 2007, according to Michael Neiderbach, executive director of capital operations

and legal affairs. The Pavilion promises new studios for sonic, video and electronics arts, an "Immersive Gallery" for interactive electronic art, a two story gallery for student work, flexible studios and liberal arts studios. The new addition is named in honor of the late New York State Assemblywoman, Senator Patricia "Pat" McGee. McGee was a registered Republican from Franklinville, New York. Prior to her political career, McGee served as a secretary and

administrative assistant at Franklinville Central School and the Olean Community College. The State provided AU with a \$10 million dollar award. Senate President Joseph Bruno asked that we commemorate Senator McGee with these funds due to her many supportive acts in the Alfred community. Various member officials as well as faculty members gladly approved. "There will be many benefits to the campus community when the new addition is complete. The

students will have easier access to the building and the public programs of the School of Art and Design," stated Bellavance. "The addition will provide new state-of-the-art teaching facilities for the Division of Expanded Media. The School will also be able to offer ceramics courses to non-art majors, as had been the practice in previous years before the School's enrollment grew," she continued. According to Neiderbach, the purpose of the McGee Pavilion is to provide

exhibition space for its users. As of now, the project is on schedule. "Most of the requests for the space came from faculty," Neiderbach stated after mentioning the overcrowded student work spaces present throughout Harder Hall, which will soon change due to the amount of studio space currently being constructed. The completion of the 19,600 square foot Pavilion will be expected in summer

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Progress made for lighting efficiency on campus

Evelyn Porter
Contributing Writer

Lighting on campus is efficient, according to Mike Neiderbach, executive director of capital projects for the university. Neiderbach explained that lighting efficiency is accomplished through a combination of luminous efficiency, lighting intensity and hours of operation tests. The most difficult variable to control is cited as luminous efficiency. LEDs, fluorescents and sodium vapor lighting overlap when comparing cost to energy saved. In efforts to increase efficiency, the lighting around campus is kept at a "modest

level," and large areas are controlled by an energy management system or occupancy sensors, such as the McLane Gymnasium, which was rewarded with a grant from NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research Development Authority) to cover half the cost. Neiderbach foresees an increase in lighting efficiency over time. Gradually, as the budget allows and new technologies become better proven, the use of LEDs, T5 fluorescents and T8 fluorescents will be integrated. LEDs will most likely be placed in Alumni Hall, the recessed lighting in apartments, and on campus streets. The

reason for emphasis on LEDs is that there is labor required when maintaining the lighting. These changes will take time however as the campus streets light replacements will cost more than \$120,000. Although work is being done to increase efficiency through campus lighting, energy use by students has increased due to large televisions, PS3s and Xboxs, using on average 111 watts, 197 watts and 187 watts respectively.



Photo provided by Jericho Shackelford

College Learning Assessment Test draws criticism from AU professors

Eric Hudack
Managing Editor

A study of over 2,300 undergraduate students from 24 different universities found that 45 percent of students show no significant improvement in critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing from the span of their freshman to sophomore years. However, the study did show more significant improvement over four years than two. The objective of the College Learning Assessment Test (CLA) is to measure the critical thinking and writing ability of college students. But is the CLA an accurate representation of what it is trying to assess? Findings in Richard

Roksa and Josipa Arum's study also found that half of students did not take a single course requiring 20 pages of writing during the prior semester and one-third did not take a single course requiring 40 pages of reading per week. Chad Harriss, assistant professor of media studies at AU, asked the question "40 pages of what?" "Reading is happening, but whether or not it's the right reading is the question." Professors can assign 40-plus pages of reading a week, but how much would be gained, Harriss joked, if he were to assign 40 pages of comic books a week? Last year, Alfred University administered the CLA test to first year

students in the CLAS First Year Experience program, students taking "Foundations" in the art school, and first years in Business and Engineering seminars in their respective schools. Faculty then encouraged seniors to take the test as well in order to provide a potential comparison. According to senior English majors, the CLA required them to choose one of two topics and attempt to "create" a compelling argument for or against it without having any facts or research at their disposal. Students claimed "it is not what we are trained to do." Another glaring flaw is

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Spectrum proposes gender neutral bathroom

Gillian Lichter
Copy Editor

Spectrum, AU's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender organization on campus, petitioned on Nov. 15 for a gender-neutral restroom to be built in Powell Campus Center. "The point of the day was to make people aware that the men's and women's restrooms could be a risky or unsafe environment for some students, regardless of gender," stated Kevin Carr, president of Spectrum. "I think it's important to show that our campus is transgender-friendly. We talk about how gender equality is such a big thing here. But when we boil it down to women and men, we leave out other genders," he continued. Throughout the semester, Spectrum continually

held educational and entertaining events revolving around the GLBT community. Newly acknowledged this year was Transgender Awareness Week, which occurred the week of Nov. 15 - Nov. 20. One of the projects that week included the signing of a petition for a gender-neutral restroom to be built in Powell. Anyone on campus, regardless of sex, gender, race and religion would be able to use the facility. It would be a one-person restroom with a lock on the door for safety and general privacy purposes. "In terms of politics, it would probably be labeled as a family or public restroom," commented Craig Arno, coordinator of diversity programming. To avoid any misconceptions, some fundamental

terminology should be clarified. Sex refers to one's biology, in which case one may be male or female, whereas gender is a social construct, and one may be masculine or feminine, or both. According to the Spectrum Transgender Group of Western New York website, transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity, expression, or behavior is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth, including but not limited to transsexuals, cross-dressers, androgynous people, genderqueers and gender non-conforming people. Transsexual is a term for people whose gender identity is different

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AU and friends turned on by Natural Wood

Melanie Baker

A & E Editor

This weekend I sat down with Alfred's own witty and extremely talented comedy music duo, Natural Wood. The band consists of Sam "Moss" Mamel, junior, (mandolin, harmonica and vocals) and David "Ash" Torrey, 2010 alumni, (vocals and guitar). We covered everything from musical influences to the guys' favorite sandwiches in this exclusive interview.

Melanie: When did you guys decide to form Natural Wood?

Ash: It was the spring semester of 2009.

How did you come up with your band name?

Moss: It was Ash's idea. Ash: To be fair, we'd been joking about starting a band for a while.

Moss: It was one of his shower ideas.

Ash: Yeah, most of my great ideas happen when I'm in the shower. So I went to Moss one day and was like, hey, I know what our band should be called, Natural Wood (coincidentally the term "natural wood" is a lyric in one of their songs about Live Action Role Playing). And we hadn't even written a song yet.

Moss: At that point it was just pipe dreams.

What was the first song you wrote together? What inspired you to write that particular song?

Ash: The first song was "Good Bondage."

Moss: We have a friend named Jeff, who's an alum and an engineering major and eventually he

got really into photo and specifically fetish photography. He's also a really good...

Ash: Well, he made rope corsets.

Moss: And he did chain-mail too. So when we heard about this we were like, "well, that's interesting."

Ash: So one day I was talking to him and he asked me, "Do you know if there's any girls who'd like to be tied up?"

Moss: So, uhh, we were like, "Bondage?...But it's good bondage. It's taste-fully done."

Ash: And that's how we wrote "Good Bondage."

What was your previous musical experience? Had you been in bands before?

Moss: Yes.

Ash: Yes.

Moss: My first band was in high school. I learned to play guitar when I was 13. I started a band in high school because I wanted to play in this fall concert. We played Purple Haze and Iron Man in that band. It was super cool as freshmen in high school. After that they kicked me out of my own band because I wasn't showing up to practice, so I started a Ska band called Dalai and the Llamas, and that was fun, and I'd also play at coffee shops and play covers...piss off old folks with punk songs.

Ash: Oh, so my history. The first band I was in was when I was 14, I played bass. I was in that band for a year and we wrote almost all original music. There was another kid in the band, he was 16 and had a car. That band fell apart and

I was in a bunch of small crappy bands until my senior year of high school. Then I started playing in a grunge alternative band called Fall of Eve. That was fun though and I played bass for them till I graduated. After that I had one other band prior to Natural Wood called the Fire Hose Connection - rock comedy but not nearly as good.

Can you describe the process of recording your music? What compelled you to put out an album and sell it on iTunes?

Moss: We had written about 10 or 11 songs and were like, this is about the length of an album.

Ash: And we decided, what the hell, let's try and do this.

Moss: So we found this guy in Cheektowaga (near Buffalo), he actually recorded one of Eminem's albums. So we worked with him on the album, titled "Self Titled." He did the keyboards you hear on the album and some backup vocals.

Ash: Leading up to recording the album we wrote two more songs so we replaced two of the original ones we were going to record.

Moss: We had already done some recording on Garageband.

Ash: But we wanted more professional recording.

Ash: It took about two collective weekends to record. Immediately put it on iTunes. We went to a company called Disc Makers to make the CD and put it through to CDBaby, a company that distributes



Photo provided by Melanie Baker

our album pretty much everywhere...except Sweden.

How would you describe your fan base?

Moss: I'd like to imagine we have fans. Friends and family don't count.

Moss: We played at a Fetish convention in Ithaca. They loved it!

Ash: So we'd say anyone at Fetish conventions to your typical nerd would cover our fan base.

What's coming up next?

Ash: Scheduling shows across the general Western New York area. And into Maine. We're playing some comedy clubs, working on gigs all over. We're also thinking about recording a second album.

Moss: We've never denied that we wanna make money out of this.

Ash: Yeah we wanna make money so we can keep doing this.

Favorite sandwich?

Moss: I like a super mighty from Mighty Taco. A burrito definitely counts as a sandwich. So yeah, a super might with lettuce, no sauce, sour cream, guacamole and onions.

Ash: Anytime I go to Subway I get Italian herb and cheese bread, turkey, provolone, lettuce, green peppers, onion, spinach, honey mustard, oil and vinegar.

Favorite superhero?

Ash: I'm gonna say Batman. He's one of the only superheroes that doesn't need superpowers to win. He just needs gadgets!

Moss: I'm gonna go with the Comedian from Watchmen. He's a great vice character. He represents the cynical side of life and still laughs about it.

What's your favorite song to play and why?

Ash: Whatever the newest

song is that we've written because we're not sick of it yet.

Do you guys have any notable musical inspirations?

Ash: I'd say Moxy Fruvous is an inspiration musically. The Smothers Brothers for comedic style.

Final question, if you could time travel, what time period or year would you go back to and why?

Moss: Victorian England. They dressed so much better than. They were snazzy!

Ash: The Middle Ages, because I want to be a wizard.

Be sure to check out Natural Wood's album, "Self Titled," currently available on iTunes and look for posters for upcoming local live shows.

Drink Up Buttercup plays Alfred

Sonya Ellison & Eric Hudack

Staff Writer & Managing Editor

Philadelphia-based band Drink Up Buttercup played the Knight Club with all the songs from their latest album, "Born and Thrown on a Hook" that was released in March of 2010.

Borrowing psychedelic sounds of the 1960s, they play songs that are vaguely reminiscent of something from the Beatles' Sgt. Pepper. "Young Ladies" has a catchy piano melody that builds into the inviting sing-along chorus, "Come on, ladies enjoy your drinks..."

Advertised as Sgt. Pepper meets Flaming Lips, I find it more accurate (however more obscure) to say lead singer James Harvey's song writing and vocal style occupies that ambiguous middle ground between Jim James (My Morning Jacket) and Robin Pecknold (Fleet Foxes). It's too moody at times to be purely My Morning Jacket-influenced, too jam-rock to be purely Fleet

Foxes.

There's also a dash of disorder in their sound. They are known to use garbage can lids for percussion in some songs.

Despite what numerous posters around campus implied, there is no stunningly attractive female fronting this band. Those posters, in fact, feature the cover art to the band's debut album "Born and Thrown on a Hook."

The show was part of a three-show, three day small tour for the album, the other two shows played in Pennsylvania.

Drummer Mike Cammarata was by far the most captivating musician at the show Saturday night and he did it with a pretty sparse drum kit. Cammarata provided a strong foundation that allowed Harvey and keyboardist Farzad Houshiarnejad a chance to experiment and jam with their sound throughout the show.

When asked about their biggest influence, drummer Mike

cited Lewis C.K. "...even though he's a comedian."

Drink Up Buttercup varied between dark, moody slow jams that exploded with sound. Harvey's vocals featured an intense reverb echo that had a tendency to get lost in the mix. At times, the effect was frustrating and leaned towards annoying. However, at other times it really added to the construction and atmosphere of the songs.

The band would counteract the ethereal feeling they created with edgier pop-punk pieces that, like a shot of adrenaline to the heart of Uma Thurman, injected life into depressed crowd. The balance of highs and lows, as well as some real haunting harmonies, made for a really entertaining, albeit brief, night.

Iron & Wine tries out a new sound



Melanie Baker

A & E Editor

Sam Beam, the one-man, mega-bearded soul behind Iron & Wine is going through a sound evolution in his most recent release, "Kiss Each Other Clean." What could be viewed as an artistic crisis in one vein can equally be viewed as a brilliant new endeavor for Beam. Ultimately it's up to listeners whether they like the newfound flavor or desire a return to Iron & Wine's original soft-spoken, quiet guitar and emotionally stunner lyrics.

The lyrics are still phenomenal on "Kiss Each Other Clean." No matter what Sam Beam does, his past albums and most recent release prove that he is quite incapable of

writing bad lyrics. What sets this new venture apart from his previous albums is the almost schizophrenic instrumental qualities that create a framework for the album. Past listeners of Iron & Wine will be pleased to hear a resemblance of past albums like "Our Endless Numbered Days" and "The Creek Drank The Cradle" on a few new tracks like "Tree by the River" and "Half Moon." Apart from these tracks though, all bets are essentially off for Beam's creative license.

The album's opening track, "Walking Far From Home," eases listeners into Iron & Wine's flight from the norm with audible drum beats, bass guitar (older albums were strictly acoustic) and ethereal chimes mixed with gritty static. On top of this mish-mash of noises, Beam simply and beautifully serenades with lyrics like, "I was walking far from home but I carried your letters all the while. I saw lovers in a window whisper, 'Want me like time...'"

"Big Burned Hand" might be the most confusing track on the entirety of "Kiss

Each Other Clean," featuring influences that range from jam band, reggae, afro-indie pop all with Beam's voice somewhat haphazardly thrown on top. While the album lacks any sense of coherence, not just with Beam's previous albums but within itself, certain individual tracks are what give "Clean" it's sole redeeming qualities... and the fact that you just might be a die-hard Iron & Wine lover.

Beam's experimental nature culminates in the 7-minute track, "Your Fake Name Is Good Enough For Me." Genres are swapped out rapidly, trading off big band quick-tempo guitars, saxophones and other jazz staples for a slower rhythm and more boiled down instruments. Nevertheless the track still comes off as heavy and indecisive for the most part. The end of the song features a lengthy repetition of Beam crooning, "We will become, become" a various array of things from an "ice cream cone" to "the whisper and the shout."

"Kiss Each Other Clean" refuses to stay glued in one

place. Sam Beam should absolutely be commended for stepping out of his extremely successful acoustic realm and engaging in experimental sounds and musical choices. While certain tracks really do shine through, the album tends to feel like it's hidden behind one of those confused Christmas sweaters donned with jingle bells, plaid Yorkies and a fabric fireplace - nothing adds up to one complete, cohesive product. I'm all in favor of Iron & Wine playing dress-up with new styles, even adopting certain new sounds fulltime, but before releasing another album, Beam should pick one and hone in on it. The album's potential for greatness seems to be clouded under the confusing style layering that Beam will eventually learn how to balance.

Don't be entirely turned off though. Iron & Wine's credibility will not diminish with this album, in fact, it could be a well-commended effort. To get the most out of "Kiss Each Other Clean," wipe all previous expectations out of mind and focus in on "Walking

Far From Home," "Tree By The River," "Half Moon," and give a listen to "Your Fake Name Is Good Enough For Me." If anything, you'll hands down be able to

appreciate the creativity and time that Sam Beam put into his newest piece.



Photo provided



Photo provided

SPORTS

Class Actress, French Horn Rebellion provide perfect combo for AU club atmosphere

Eric Hudack
Managing Editor

Electronica-dance music continues to reign supreme as the live music of choice in Alfred, NY as Class Actress and French Horn Rebellion provided a compelling one-two punch in the Knight Club Jan. 22.

Although the opening act took the stage an hour and fifteen minutes late, (rumor has it our Class Actress is a first rate diva and was "being difficult" as one SAB member put it) the energy of the two synth-heavy bands kept the crowd alive from start to finish (just south of 1:00 am Sunday morning.)

Class Actress, the new wave, dance-pop project of Brooklyn native Elizabeth Harper, is so unknown right now, they do not even have a wikipedia page. It's like Fiest meets Blondie's Debbie Harry in sound and attitude, a sound that features layered synthesizers and programmed drumbeats.

What makes Class Actress unique is her ability to interchange hauntingly beautiful melodies with groovy beats and enough noises to create a "wall of sound" feeling, yet an atmosphere that lets the melody and music breathe.

Harper provides a very interesting sound, which

excels in the club setting but also makes for an intriguing listen in the studio.

Harper was joined in Alfred by an unnamed synthesizer player who really helped add a layer of complexity to Harper's compelling melodies. The musicians threw everyone for a loop when the synth player busted out an electric guitar on the disco influenced "Let Me Take You Out," which Harper chose to close her set with. The change in sound style showcased Class Actress's depth and range as an artist, and proved she is not just a one-trick pony.

Class Actress features a complex layering that was hindered by the less than adequate sound system in the Knight Club. Harper's vocals were often buried in the mix, which was a shame because her lyrics are more interesting and cutting than your typical "dance" artist.

French Horn Rebellion took the stage just after midnight and continued the theme of electronica in the Knight Club.

Brothers Robert and David Perlick-Molinari, raised in Milwaukee, now located in Brooklyn, use disco-beats and layers of synthesizers to set a mood of chaos, only to be

restored by their charming hooks and catchy melodies.

A Jeff Lynne influence was evident in the songs, both in the layers of music and the melodic construction, however modern day comparisons to Apples in Stereo, of Montreal or MGMT may be more appropriate here. Incidentally, David Perlick-Molinari produced the MGMT single "Time to Pretend" which begs listeners to make the comparison in the first place.

In essence, French Horn Rebellion was fun. The audience picked up on the energy, the fact these guys are just enjoying what they are doing, which makes the sound that much more enjoyable. In an ironic twist, Robert occasionally busts out his prized french horn and embarks on some fantastic solos.

French Horn Rebellion uses an exciting and refreshing approach to create enjoyable sounds that force you to dance in response. The band is offering a free download of their new song "Brazilian Girl" from their upcoming debut album "The Infinite Music for French Horn Rebellion."



Photo provided by Jonathan Merrit



Photo provided by Jonathan Merrit

Who got snubbed by the Oscars?



Photo provided

Adrian To
Advertisement Manager

The Oscar nominees were announced last Monday and, of course, there were surprises and disappointments.

The biggest snub was Christopher Nolan, who did not get nominated for Best Director for "Inception." It appears the Academy might have it out for Christopher Nolan. Back in 2009, "The Dark Knight" was a huge hit, named as the film of the year by several entertainment magazines including "Empire." Although the movie ended up winning two Oscars -- best supporting actor for Heath Ledger and Best sound editing -- it

did not even get nominated for Best Motion Picture or Best Directing. Rumors were that it was considered a "Box-Office Movie" for the Academy. This year, "Inception" had eight nominations, including Best Motion Picture, but surprisingly no nominations for Nolan's amazing directing or the film's fascinating special effects, which were intense, fast-paced and engrossing, especially in the last part of the film, which includes layers of dreams being crossed over.

Another snub was Andrew Garfield for his performance in "The Social Network." He might not be better than Jesse Eisenberg (as Mark Zuckerberg), but Garfield did an amazing job in fleshing out the emotional betrayal of his character in the movie. Mila Kunis of "Black Swan" also got snubbed for her role as Lily, Natalie Portman's opposite. It was one of the best movies of the year, though the Academy wasn't as impressed with the film for Best Costume Design or even Best Art Direction.

Other snubs include Best Visual Effects for "Tron: Legacy," Best Make-up for "Alice in Wonderland," Best Animated Feature for "Despicable Me," and only one nomination (Best Supporting Actor) for Ben Affleck's highly-rated thriller, "The Town" Disappointments, Academy!

There were a few surprises, though; Best Actor nominees included "Biutiful's" Javier Bardem, "Winter's Bone's" John Hawke and "The Kids Are All Right's" Mark Ruffalo, who all got a nod from the Academy. They were all passed over by the Golden Globes but I don't see how Mark Ruffalo got nominated for his mediocre performance. Whether you agree with the nominations or not, the Oscars are fast approaching. Exciting additional news is that James Franco and Anne Hathaway are co-hosting the event, so tune in ABC on Feb. 27 for Hollywood's biggest night.

Six key headlines to conclude 2010

Adrian To
Advertisement Manager

What is the first thing to come to mind about 2010's movies? Leonardo DiCaprio's Shutter Island or Alice's Wonderland? Scott Pilgrim's battle with seven evil boyfriends or Hit Girl's fight with Red Mist in "Kick Ass?" The unstoppable totem in "Inception" or the unstoppable train in "Unstoppable?" In the past year, there were movies that surprise you and some that let you down. Let's take a look at the past year in Hollywood with six key headlines.

1. Nolan is back with surprises

As the new leader of Hollywood directors, Christopher Nolan once again proved the "A-List directors" are all geniuses who combine business (Box Office) and art. Without doubt, "Inception" is one of the best movies of 2010. Not only did it meet fans' and audiences' expectations, but it blew their minds with amusing effects and plot twists. Let's not forget the members of Nolan's team including Wally Pfister, the cinematographer Nolan has worked with for over ten

years and composer Hans Zimmer, to name a few.

Right now, Nolan is working on the pre-production of the third Batman installment, "Dark Knight Rises." The original cast will be joined by Anne Hathaway as the new Cat Woman and "Inception"'s breakout star, Tom Hardy as Bane. Nolan will also co-produce the new Superman reboot and has handed the project over to well-known visual-effects-director, Zack Snyder. These two movies were both scheduled to be on screen in the summer and Christmas of 2012, respectively. Looks like 2012 will have another Nolan film sensation globally.

2. Geeky Movies

Since Judd Apatow's comedies and "The Big Bang Theory" became huge hits, productions about freaks and geeks have gone mainstream in movies and TV shows. 2010 is a successful year for "geek" movies, from "Kick-Ass" to "the Social Network," and from "She's Out of My League" to "Scott Pilgrim VS. The World," each of which were well-received by audiences.

Although spring's "Kick-Ass" was not a huge box

office hit, Chloe Moretz's character Hit Girl was remarkable. The creative

summer movie "Scott Pilgrim" combined comic and nerd movies together, which led us to the other side of the world of nerds. Fall's "The Social Network" brought us to a higher level of geek movies, showing us how boring math nerds can change the world and become billionaires with a few enemies and dramas.

3. Mockumentary

"Mockumentary" might be a hot term for Hollywood in the upcoming years. 2010's "Last Exorcism" and "Paranormal Activity 2" both received stunning box office turnouts with relatively small budgets. A mockumentary needs to have a "wow" plot to grasp audiences' attention, so that it does not look like some lame low-budget movie.

On the other hand, mock-documentaries have become a new way of promotion for major motion pictures. For instance, back in June, Cameron Diaz and Tom Cruise did an interesting soccer video for "Knight and Day" (during World Cup) and Robert Downey

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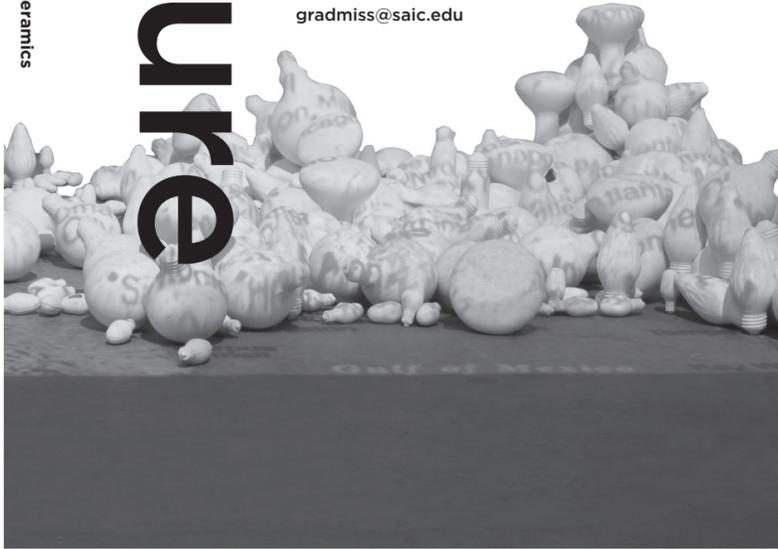
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Jr. did a faux-clip for the Stark's annual exhibition (imitating the Shanghai World Expo) which was an interesting promotion for "Iron Man 2."

4. 80s Remakes

Remakes became a way of saving the poor box-office and lowering risk for production companies in recent years. Coincidentally, most of the remakes of the past year were movies from the late 70s to 80s. From "Clash of Titans," "The Expendables" and "A Nightmare on Elm Street" to "Predators" and "Tron: Legacy."

Advances in technology, effects and cinematography bring these movies to another level, giving audiences new excitement and entertainment through remakes. But when it comes to the influence and characteristics of remakes, they are often not as good as the original versions.

5. 3-D Movies overflowing

Can you name all the 3-D movies that were on the big screen last year? Yes, the success of "Avatar"

brought new experiences in sounds and visual effects for audiences, but not every 3-D movie will be a success. More and more films followed this 3-D trend, trying to add the 3-D effects during post-production, which actually made some movies worse, like the "Clash of Titans."

Certainly some movies went 3-D in order to produce a better box office number (3-D movies are usually a few bucks more than 2-D ones), like "Jack-Ass" in 3D. Really?

Production companies should have certain standards to meet before deciding to make a movie 3-D, and should not just convert a 2-D film to 3-D during post-production, because the visual effects are completely different from those brought by movies like "Avatar" and sometimes it is really unnecessary to make a movie 3-D.

6. Teen-Idol movies!

Guess what? The third installment of the "Twilight" series, "Eclipse," beat "Inception." "Eclipse" grossed over \$300

million in the States, while "Inception" only grossed \$292 million. Even more worrying was that teens were camping outside theaters for weeks for the premiere of "Eclipse." Personally, I am puzzled when fans become that crazy about idols. And since when has Robert Patterson become more important than school?

And its not only "Twilight;" Disney Channel stars are also invading the motion picture market; Miley Cyrus's "The Last Song" grossed \$62 million with only a \$20 million budget, and Justin Bieber is going to have his 3-D biopic coming out Valentine's Day (I dropped my jaw when I heard this). Unfortunately, these teen idols will keep dominating the highest grossing movies in the upcoming years.

Whether the film industry in 2010 surprises you and disappoints you, some of them did bring laughter and fears and colors to our lives. I can guarantee 2011 will be another exciting year in Hollywood.

Editorial: What we missed

Flooding, severe weather warnings, snow packed and garbage heaped New York City Streets, belligerent bombings, shootings, 14 dead, a black swan, epic mealtime, The Kings Speech and The Fighter, protests in Egypt and education price rise in England, riots, Tunisia, David Kato, Russia, the yuan, the world afloat on fiat, Qari Hussain Mehsud, Jared Loughner and "blood libel" misinterpreted, entire peoples diluted and politics polluted: this, an editor's digression on what we missed.

Natural Disaster: Blizzards were the forecast for everywhere from Georgia to Massachusetts. New York City found itself drowned in some of the largest snows memory can recall. Sanitation workers were disposed; trash lined the streets while snow covered sidewalks and Bloomberg ushered citizens into the pavement to clear their dregs. Meanwhile flooding ransacked Australia. Infrastructure in areas so populated as Brizbane, Australia collapsed to the force of flooding while homes were left to flounder afloat in their own debris.

The world's political topography is proving just as unpredictable as it's meteorological counterpart. It has been 60 years since an Arab regime has fallen, and in just 23 days the

largely oppressed peoples of Tunisia redefined possibility. Meanwhile yet another threat is placed on the United State's State Department list of terrorists; Qari Hussain Mehsud is renowned for training suicide bombers and planning threats to security from Pakistan to the United States. Bin Laden is believed to have sent a message to French officials warning them of their allegiances: a wish that our world is broke. France has not subsided.

Of all these notables, for those who know the term, the use of blood libel may be the most shockingly indignant. A term stemming from a false accusation against the Jewish community further contorted its way out of former Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin's pallet in response to the Arizona shootings. Some things are still indignant.

And a study shows that college may be ineffective after sophomore year. All this for nothing: no, at least not hear. It seems this study is very likely to have been miswritten and in large part testing for the wrong sort of aptitudes.

In our college town we continue to make macro connections in just another of earth's microcosms. We find, for eight months of twelve, home in Alfred. We

find we were missed, we were wanted – we are alive. Home in Alfred to grow and hopefully pursue a shared goal to learn.

In the face of adversity pursuit of literacy emancipated an American people – education, tolerance and ingenuity have always pushed this nation's finer aspects to the forefront of the global stage. As a nation we often have less than forthright notions, yet we pursue, we mend and we prosper.

President Barack Obama has throughout his presidency kept a firmly public stance on education – much like his predecessor President G. W. Bush with his No Child Left Behind Act. It can be argued that thus far neither president has seen their conception of this nation's capacity fulfilled.

Now on Jan. 31 we have no longer a new year by which to wish dedications, but tomorrow will always bring opportunity for a better day. A new way of thinking allows a new dedication to find renewed ways and thus – with some luck – more progressive days. So silence your stilled pens and write. Sometimes all ones' world needs is a little piece of silence to inspire peace. This is mine, my piece of catharsis.

FIAT LUX

Vol. 105, No. 7
Next issue: February 14, 2011
Next deadline: February 10 by midnight

Editorial Policy

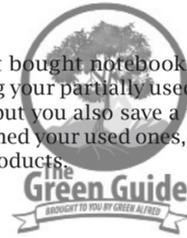
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The *Fiat Lux* is printed by Adnet Direct and is typeset by the production staff. It is funded in part by Student Senate. The *Fiat* can be reached at (607) 871-2192.

If you have not bought notebooks yet for your classes, consider finishing your partially used ones first. Not only do you save money, but you also save a tree! If you have to buy because you finished your used ones, look for eco-friendly or recycled paper products.



OPINIONS

Sick? Get over it

Vreni Gust
Opinions Editor

It's that time of year when people start to get sick. I am of the belief that there are people who are "bad" sick people, and "good" sick people. I wish that everyone could be a "good" sick person, but for some, that is just plain difficult. And I must admit, people who are "bad" at being sick really irritate me.

It is understandable that sometimes people are simply extremely ill. In those cases, having a poor attitude is reasonable. For example, if you have mononucleosis and can barely move let alone swallow, then it is absolutely acceptable to wallow in misery. If you simply have a runny nose and a sense of discomfort, get over it.

I am not suggesting that everyone should use a positive attitude to trick themselves out of being sick; if you are severely ill you should seek the necessary help. I am just stating that having a more laid back attitude about being sick may allow people to alleviate future stress.

Having a negative attitude towards being sick is a quality that makes a person



Photo provided

a "bad" sick person. No one enjoys listening to people complain about being sick. If you are really so sick, go home and go to sleep. Complaining is simply not productive. Not only that, complaining and dwelling on stress causes increased stress, which causes more illness. Researchers estimate that 75 to 90 percent of all visits to primary care physicians are for complaints and conditions that are, in some way, related to stress. Researchers have also found that stress can decrease the function of your immune system. In fact, stress even lowers resistance to the common cold.

Scientists at Carnegie Mellon University found

that the higher a person's stress score, the more likely one was to come down with a cold when exposed to a cold virus. People with stress lasting more than a month were the most likely to contract a cold, and those with severe stress for one month to six months were twice as likely to catch a cold. Stress lasting more than two years quadrupled the risk. So, the people who are complaining about being sick, thus causing themselves more stress, are actually creating more risk for themselves to get worse. That is downright counterproductive. Stop stressing about being sick, it will only make you sicker.

"Sounding Off"

Griffin Taylor
Staff Writer

Three cheers for Rex Ryan. And three jeers for the first news outlet to cite the cliché "The Bigger They Come, The Harder They Fall" as both literal and figurative in regard to Ryan.

For some strange reason, contributors to major media outlets -- specifically ESPN and Associated Press -- have made public a negative bias toward the Jets. This past week, celebrated ESPN staff writer Rick Reilly published a piece which ended in Reilly asking Rex Ryan to "hand over the lighter fluid", alluding to Ryan's previous statement that Reilly can either wear the Jets' jersey or burn it. On "NFL Live" this past Sunday, after the Steelers defeated the Jets 24-19, Chris Berman alluded to the fact the Jets did NOT get to the Super Bowl, as they said they would, before he mentioned the final score of the game.

Much of the hate is directed toward Ryan in response to his "brash" antics. Many of the old-school guys who "know

the game" think Ryan distasteful.

But what do they really know?

They should know that Ryan's playoff record in two seasons as Jets coach is 4-2, with all four wins coming on the road, the past two against arguably the greatest QB of all time as well as this year's unanimous MVP favorite. They should know that Ryan's winning percentage in the regular season is above .600. They should know that in order to make a franchise winner you have to first make the franchise believe it's a winner, and to create a winning attitude in a losing environment you need to be every bit over the top.

No one disputes the fact that Ryan's players would run through a brick wall for him; it is often the first thing they say when asked a question about their coach, and their play on the field confirms that claim. Rex Ryan has resurrected a franchise thought to be beyond repair and deserves the utmost credit for doing so. His tactics can be criticized ad nauseum,

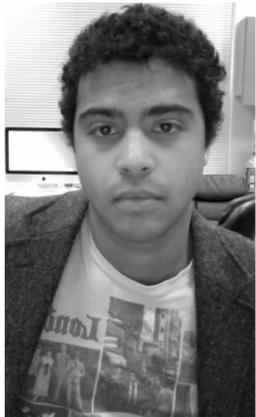
but at the end of the day Ryan gets the one thing that matters: Results.

If Ryan were to win the next two Super Bowls, would Ryan's detractors in the press flip-flop their view of him the way they did with.....

Michael Vick?
It was hard to follow the NFL this past year and not hear media outlets talk about how Vick is a "smarter" quarterback now, and how they knew all along Vick had the ability to again rule the NFL. It was hard to follow the NFL in 2007 and not hear many of those same voices dismiss Vick as no more than a warning tale for youths of a professional athlete gone wrong. Heck, this past December, Fox News pundit Tucker Carlson recommended Vick be executed for his abuse of dogs.

I wonder if Vick sees a few familiar faces when he sits in the post game press conference and listens to questions about his greatness. No matter the stance on Michael Vick the person, he is no doubt a captivating figure who is back where he belongs, in the spotlight.

Capital efforts: Aspects of an educated mind



Jericho Shackelford
Editor in Chief

President Obama's State of the Union address rallied the nation Tuesday, Jan. 25 – he motivated, instigated thought and called out opposition – however many facts were relegated, designated as talking points for ensuing interviews meanwhile the truth remains that we need time and there is no better time than now for tangible

change to the nation's education system.

Throughout his presidency, Mr. Obama has stayed firm to his ardent belief in the opportunities that education allows. The most significant changes the Obama administration is continuing to advocate are those affecting k-12 schools. Race to the Top, or R2T, is one such adjustment. In his address, Obama notes that 40 states have raised their standards since his ascension to the presidency -- the carrots are working. For each school and state system that can prove high marks in various categories there are monetary rewards.

As President Obama noted, "[the] education race doesn't end with a high school degree." U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan noted that what the federal government can do best is make a college education more affordable and the processes

contingent upon application more approachable. Thus, the simplification of the FAFSA form and expansion of Federal Pell Grant funds made possible by offering tuition tax credit programs, which the Obama administration is pushing into greater breadth.

"The honest reality is we at the federal level can't stave off all of the tough decisions that the states and locals have to make," stated Duncan in a conference aired on the Obama administration's White House website Thursday, Jan. 27.

This is certainly a resounding truth and, in fact, I prefer it. The contemporary American education system is a force structured by utilitarian goals at best, each structured based on yet another degree and more money.

Obama has claimed that we do not have time for anymore Sputnik

moments. We cannot let the world (China, India, most of western Europe) pass us by, and once again I agree. However, perhaps the paramount problem is not under-education, but the oversimplification of values and capital that orient one's education.

Considering that under-education is the result of a number of factors, such as demographic inequality, due to factors so varied as differing local tax rates and availability of capital to generational poverty and differing value systems throughout many low economic communities, it is no wonder that the problem of education has yet to be sufficiently tackled. What may be most important to recognize is the importance of community to a healthy education.

What is the common measure by which college students are being judged against foreign nations other than that they do it

cheaper and therefore have larger attendance rates and therefore a generally higher level of education per capita? The catch-22 is if we work to increase our number of graduates, do we standardize disciplines and in turn classes in order to decrease cost by consolidating goals? Do we give up quality for quantity? Do we somberly trod down this still beaten path, or can we find an alternative?

If, as seems to be the case, many lectures at any level of education come from a book and an informed perspective, why can education not consist in that same book and the perspective of an experienced friend. It is no secret that standardization of education is beneficial for innumerable reasons. However, as one grows longer adjusted to the world of academia, the bond of money to application of resources, and therefore education,

becomes blatant. If education is going to succeed in this nation, a more holistic approach is necessary.

Education does not trickle across socioeconomic medians. Race to the Top is brilliant, but the communities of America need to understand education is the communities' responsibility. It is pertinent to understand that it is okay for your children to move out, for them to grow, to learn, to go to college. Success is certainly not measured by a single homogenous scale, however, freedom in the United States has always meant to make opportunity possible.

The fact that we are our government has been lost to this nation just as the idea that we are the teachers of each other was so diminished at our nation's inception. It is time we reclaimed our nation through more holistic education.

ADDITIONAL NEWS

McGee Pavilion Continued

2011 with the expectation that the facilities will be accessible and occupied by the fall of 2011.

"Every construction project has its challenges. The students, faculty, and staff of the School of Art and Design have been extraordinarily flexible and good-natured as the project has progressed," said Bellavance.

By the fall of 2011, students and faculty will once again have access to Allen Walk and the new McGee Pavilion thanks to the committed workers who continue to execute the project, regardless of weather conditions.

CLA test result controversy continued

motivation. How do you get a student to care about taking a long, challenging standardized test that has no outcome on their future career or college GPA? The CLA is not graded and students admitted, between length and lack of purpose, that it was easy to grow lethargic during the test.

Like the high school Regents exams or the SATs and GREs, professors and students alike are becoming more and more concerned with the results of standardized tests to measure collective knowledge. "Teaching to the test" is becoming a popular trend in high schools and colleges across America.

"But teaching to the test works if you are teaching to the right test," Nancy Furlong associate professor of psychology and chair of the psychology department at AU, stated, but is the CLA the "right test?"

Gordon Atlas, professor

of psychology and head of the honors program at AU, does not seem to think so. According to Atlas, the term "college learning" is quite arbitrary and the definition Arum and Roksa have come up with seem to neglect the idea of student focus on a particular discipline.

"This assessment tool, the CLA, is a general one so that it assess only general improvement in cognitive functioning, which would not be expected to change dramatically over a short (or even three plus year) period," Atlas conjectured via email.

The research fails to acknowledge the great deal of learning that occurs within specific majors. This concept is not being addressed. The fact remains that chemistry majors are learning a lot about chemistry or psychology students are learning a lot about psychology.

Consequently, when the authors report "students are not learning very much in college," the lack of inclusion of specific discipline learning skews the data to benefit the hypothesis of the researcher.

In addition, no research has been done on the critical thinking and cognitive skills of people who did not go to college. There is no comparison to college students of the '80s or '90s, but an implication that the "old ways" are superior. Because of a lack of previous research done on the topic, it is impossible to tell if the changes found in the study are less substantial.

Announcements

-Elections - Run for a Senate Executive Board positions!
Contact us if you are interested senate@alfred.edu
-Call for submissions

Class of 2011!

What do you think is One thing that someone should do before they graduate from Alfred University?

Tell Us!

We are making an "Alfred Bucket List." This master list will be a hub of information for new (or current) students to attempt to accomplish by the time they graduate.

SUBMISSIONS NOW ACCEPTED

(Keep in mind, although we are not planning on editing to the max there are certain things we cannot accept. This will be determined on a case by case basis)

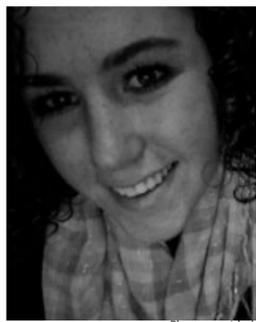
Please email adg6@alfred.edu with any submissions or questions!

Thank you,

Ana Devlin gauthier and Jessica Repanes

This announcements section of the Fiat Lux originated out of a student's concern to be heard. Thus this section is the no strings attached portion of the Fiat, open only to students and associated interests. Simply send an announcement and it will be placed. For more information attend the next student senate meeting or email the Fiat Lux at fiatlux@alfred.edu

Senate President Devlin Gauthier not to run for second term



Eric Hudak
Managing Editor

Student Senate President Ana Devlin Gauthier will not be running for another term, the junior environmental science major announced at a Senate meeting on January 26.

Devlin Gauthier hopes to explore different options over the upcoming semesters including jobs with Residence Life and the Career Development Center, and does not feel she can devote the time

to the position that is required to do an excellent job.

Devlin Gauthier tackled her fair share of challenges throughout her time as president, none more challenging than attempting to organize the student need for field space during a growing time of limited space on campus. Facilitating requests for field space for clubs like the Baseball team or the Frisbee team has become a difficult task, considering the demand for both Tucker field and Merrill Field during the fall season, and McLane Gym and Davis Gym during the winter.

"We simply do not have enough space and it is an issue we try to deal with," Devlin Gauthier stated.

While the field space issue has been an on-going problem for most of the year, Devlin-Gauthier and

her executive board have been able to achieve successes along the way. In the next couple weeks senate will be hosting a second block party for clubs at AU. Traditionally, one "block party" is held at the beginning of the school year in hopes of recruiting first year students to the assorted clubs on campus. Devlin Gauthier hopes to garner additional interest in student involvement at Alfred by hosting another block party in February.

Other accomplishments of the 2010-2011 executive board include an updated senate constitution and helping to "change the image" of student senate. Devlin Gauthier wanted to get clubs to work closer with senate and that meant loosening the strict following of Roberts Rules, which places heavy emphasis on the motioning

and seconding of proposals as well as the strict monitoring of the process in which people are allowed to speak. Devlin-Gauthier felt to follow these rules to the letter would create a business-like atmosphere in which people did not feel comfortable approaching the senate floor with ideas. The hope was to slowly phase in the Roberts Rules and find a common middle ground.

With the announcement of Devlin Gauthier not running for a second term, the race for President and Vice President will not have incumbents running for office as VP Matt Brown is scheduled to graduate in May. Senate Finance Chair Kevin Nagel is currently the only student to announce his candidacy at the time.

Gender Neutral Bathroom Continued

from their assigned sex at birth; they may alter their bodies through hormones or surgery in order for their body to match their gender identity.

As far as sexual orientation and gender identity go, they are separate concepts. Sexual orientation refers to a person's attraction to members of the same or different sex - whether a person is gay, lesbian, bisexual, or heterosexual. On the other hand, gender identity refers to a person's internal sense of being male, female, or something else. The fact that a person is transgender says nothing about that person's sexual orientation.

The concept behind this project has been discussed

by Craig Arno and Tricia Debertolis, director of new student programs. Alfred University administration has not conversed much about it.

The petition itself "is more of an impetus...to get the ball rolling for the campus center," said Arno.

The petition has acquired over 350 signatures, a rather impressive feat. Although it is unclear as to how the project will progress, there appears to be a lot of support from the student body. Spectrum has succeeded in its goal to raise awareness. Students hope to continue to bring attention to controversial topics and receive acknowledgment for their efforts.

Mentoring Matters Forum

Sonya Ellison
Staff Writer

The Women's Leadership Center hosted a "Mentoring Matters" panel featuring three alumni speaking on the impact of mentoring, on Thursday, Jan. 27.

The panel of successful career women included Peggy Wozniak, class of 1972, Beth Mott Rothwell, class of 1990 and Rachel Comstock, class of 1996. They shared their personal mentor experiences and talked about the importance of mentoring.

Now the superintendent for the Binghamton school district, Wozniak said,

"Mentoring is important because of the encouragement it offers." She has helped start a mentoring program for young women in the district. Thanks to mentoring, she worked her way up into graduate school after becoming a teacher. Being mentored was helpful to her because, "It allowed me to bounce my ideas off other people to gain perspective and give me an extra push that I needed."

Rachel Comstock spoke of one of her first mentor relationships as "A life-changing experience with so much value to me." She

runs AON Hewitt, a company in Florida.

"What matters is what experience you bring to the table and how you deal with situations," Comstock said.

Also discussed was where and how you can find mentors as well as how after being mentored, people tend to become mentors themselves.

"Your mentors kind of find you and you find them. Mentoring just happens like that," said Mott Rothwell, who is currently the president of a mid-market company in Pennsylvania. She shared the progression of her

experience:

"I was a mentee, but now I am becoming a mentor to the employees in my life," Rothwell said.

When asked if mentoring was especially important for women, Comstock replied, "It's important for everyone."

"There's still the glass ceiling that hasn't been broken and that's because it's a reality that's hidden," said Wozniak explaining the importance of mentoring to professional women. "Navigating yourself in that professional world is harder but you can succeed with the help through

the development of those strong relationships."

Perhaps the best description of what a good mentor does was given by Beth Mott Rothwell:

"A mentor isn't people who have a prescription or recipe for what you should do, but a mentor looks at what your strengths are and sees the value in you. In their hindsight, they give you foresight."

After the panel answered a few audience questions at the end of their presentation, the three women joined the WLC staff and those who came to the event for coffee and

refreshments.

At the event, Senior history major Hannah Certis introduced Saxon Sidekicks, a program that helps to better connect new Alfred students to the community with the help of a mentor. The program also will hopefully allow upper and underclass students to have stronger relationships and bridge the age gap between them.

If you would like to become a part of Saxon Sidekicks, email sidekicks@alfred.edu.

BEHAVIORS

Adventures of a misshapped Columnist: Haggis and Single Malt Scotch



Victoria Flood
Copy Editor

Happy belated New Year! It usually takes me until the tail end of January to reevaluate the many promises I made to myself, so I thought it would be fun to share some resolutions with you. Aside from

slipping into a size 7 wedding dress by October, my only real goal for 2011 is to be more courageous in my day-to-day life.

Thanks to a polite suggestion from my mother, I found myself at the annual Robert Burns supper held in Andover about two weeks ago. Though she currently lives in Florida, my mother is an expert at finding activities for me to participate in. This particular activity was a tribute to the Scottish poet's birthday, which requires a toast with haggis and scotch whiskey.

To be fair, the haggis was more of an appetizer than a "double-dog dare," but I should mention that I have something of a food phobia and this seemed like a pretty good opportunity to try something new.

Because I grew up in a British household, I came to appreciate predictable food. Yes, I fully intend to contribute to that stereotype. The most exotic meals in my home were either baked beans on toast with cheese (aka Dad's specialty) or cottage pie. There was never a moment when I couldn't identify something on my plate and I felt a tremendous sense of comfort in that fact.

The haggis sat before me on the table, a large round sausage between a basket of Saltines and a block of cheese. A slice in the top of the casing revealed a protruding mash of the sheep's most vitally necessary organs, minced with oatmeal, fat, salt, and stock. Traditionally it would be simmered and served in the animal's stomach, but

I thought better not to ask if it was the "real deal" or not, as it looked authentic enough to me. I scooped some up on a cracker and placed the whole thing in my mouth. I always feel kind of brave when I allow a strange food to touch my taste buds; as if the haggis might actually be a piece of dynamite in disguise as ground up sheep parts. I began to chew. Much to my astonishment, my mouth did not explode. It had a nutty, mild pâté-like flavor, with only the faintest hint of liver. Perhaps you're wondering why a food phobic knows the flavor of liver, in which case I will say that the secret to making a good impression on your future mother-in-law is to eat whatever she puts in front of you and to carry lots of napkins. I did

find the sticky texture of the haggis to be somewhat distracting, but the dry cracker probably contributed to that somewhat.

I sipped the dram of scotch. My online research had suggested that by swirling it around in my mouth, I would experience the "smoothness" of it. I must have done it wrong. I didn't taste citrus or chocolate, but I did taste iodine. I use an antiseptic called TCP, Trichloro-phenylmethyl-iodosalicyl, whenever I have a sore throat or an injury of any sort. It works wonders, but smells and tastes like concentrated medicine cabinet. I think it must be made in hell, next door to the single malt scotch distillery. Of course I'm kidding; one is made in Scotland and the other in France. I'm not sure which

I'm slamming there, but I'll let you figure that one out. I know I have made scotch sound like delicious mouthwash, but you should refrain from drinking it if you're under 21.

I expect that any minute now, kilted mercenaries will appear at my door, drag me outside and beat me to death with a bottle of Glenmorangie. I can live with that chance, because this column is about trying new things and conquering fears. I can happily say that I have conquered haggis. The rematch with the scotch may come at a later date, somewhere between sushi and sky diving. I'll keep you posted.

FACTUITY SOAPBOX

Getting Under America's "Skins"



Photo provided

Craig Arno

MTV has been dabbling in blackmagic trying to transform the UK teen drama "Skins" into an American counterpart that airs amidst their "reality"-filled lineup. Apart from the censorship of nudity and drug use that were far more accessible in the British version of the show, there may actually be some disconcerting changes that took place as the debauchery-driven cast of

characters made their way across the Atlantic. Tony, the somewhat sociopathic character to appear with the same name in both series, wasn't the only character to lose something when MTV replaced his naked-body bedspread that opens the British pilot with a less controversial spider-patterned comforter for the American stylings of the show. The removal of full frontal printed on a blanket is a change easy to rationalize when it comes to the FCC, but some of the other changes MTV made to the show are definitely harder to swallow.

In fact, one character seems to have lost their entire identity in the conversion from Metric to Standard. Maxxie Oliver is a talented male dancer who also identifies as a gay man in the UK version of this teen drama. The MTV series doesn't change

Maxxie's sexual identity, but it does complicate it by turning Maxxie into the female character Tea Marvelli. Perhaps this is symptomatic of America's heightened level of comfort with female sexuality in comparison to male sexuality, but it also drastically changes the significance of the character and other characters in the series.

For example, in both series Tony cheats on his girlfriend Michelle by having a sexual encounter with the Maxxie-type character. When Tony pursues a sex act with Maxxie, it is his heterosexuality that is proven to be un-entirely resolute. However, when Tony and Tea mess around, nothing can be questioned about Tony's sexual identity. Another way MTV distinguishes Tea from Maxxie is by making her a cheerleader instead of

purely a dancer. Maxxie's motivation for dance was his passion for it and aspirations to become professional, but Tea alludes to the fact that she likes cheerleading because she gets to be touched by the other female cheerleaders.

It is also confirmed that the other cheerleaders don't know that Tea is a lesbian. If MTV wants to say that gay individuals are primarily motivated by their sexual desires and will even discreetly and deceptively pursue them, then they are doing a good job. Very progressive of them, I might add.

Another character to undergo a makeover in the transatlantic transformation of this show was the mentally unwell and anorexic Cassie Ainsworth who becomes Cadie Campbell for the American audience. Cadie loses an eating disorder and gains

an obsession with knives. Both Cassie and Cadie struggle with drug addiction, even though Cadie seems to be affected by it more heavily and openly. Cassie in the UK pilot was just released from a treatment center for girls with eating disorders and her adamant avoidance of any food are paramount to the development of the character. She even explains in detail to her love interest the practice of making it seem like she's eating when she's not.

So why does Cadie stray from the anorexic roots of Cassie? I would venture that it could be connected to America's sizeable discomfort with talking about eating disorders on TV. It makes me uneasy to think that it is perceived that the US would be more accepting of a character who has a mysterious and violent obsession with knives

instead of one who is living with an eating disorder - something that impacts many young people in our country.

I would not leap to say that Skins, regardless of the version, is a show bursting at the seams with positive messages or wholesome values. The points of interest to me are why some elements of the show were changed for the American viewers when MTV intentionally tried to replicate entire scenes, dialogue and episodes of this UK cult-favorite. Was it based on the perception of what would fly in the US and what wouldn't?

We can thank the FCC for the censorship of the UK-approved vulgarity and nudity, but I think we can give credit to MTV for enacting a censorship of its own accord.

THE AUBURN BEAT

AU star: Greg Badger



Photo provided

Jericho Shackelford
Editor in Chief

Greg Badger found home in his hobbies and aspirations at Alfred University. The glass engineering and

French dual major graduated in Dec. 2010 to move on toward a new world of possibilities and employment working as the process engineer at Amcor Pharmaceutical Packaging.

"I learned motivation and determination as well as distraction and I think all are important," said Badger in recapping his experiences at AU.

Badger is truly a well-rounded person. He notes that the hobbies and extracurricular activities of his life are what have kept him from losing sight of himself, a task that is especially worth mentioning due to his recent relocation.

"I think it's very important to keep up your hobbies, interests and

involvement in the community once you leave Alfred and enter the "real world," said Badger.

Badger first connected with his current employer through work with the Career Development Center.

"I was giving a tour to a number of employers, including two representatives of Amcor and I stopped by their booth later on to say hi. They of course asked if I know about their company and unfortunately I did not. So they told me," recalled Badger about the experience, which led him to his current vocation.

Working at Amcor, Badger is in charge of overseeing the entire manufacturing process of the products

from conception to the products' shipping out for customers. As the only glass engineer working in conjunction with two other engineers, Badger is given the opportunity both to enact executive decisions and learn from what he has found to be a well-apt and willing support system.

"My experiences have given me enough confidence to ask questions about everything, try to learn as much as I can and really strive to do the best job possible. As a result I am given responsibilities for certain things and I continue to succeed. I've had many leadership positions at AU and I consider myself to be a leader in many things I do, so it just

fits that I carry my experiences and knowledge with me into my career and my life," said Badger on the confidence he gained while studying at AU.

Badger would urge all AU students to take charge of the value inherent in so many of AU's varying and diverse opportunities as he found them to be some of the most influential detours he has encountered.

"Go all in. In engineering, there are good jobs and good positions in great companies all over the world. Don't limit yourself to the checklist but know what you want," Badger added.

Curiosity and the chutzpah to follow it have led Greg Badger to much

success.

"Try everything. I don't mean join every club and go do things you don't like. I mean if you're interested in 15 clubs, at least stop in to one meeting for each of them ... help out with a couple things a year but don't say "no way" and decide you're never doing it," advised Badger.

Community was one of the most predominant themes to span the course of Badger's time at AU.

In conclusion, Badger offered this final thought on AU life and opportunity, "AU students really do a good job getting people involved with activities and events and the campus atmosphere allows those to thrive by word of mouth, posters and other media. Once you're out of that atmosphere, you're not as connected to what's happening and it takes a lot more work to do things like that but you feel so refreshed afterward and it does remind us of what it was like at AU: people helping people."

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FEATURES

Different people, one world

Racism is an issue that has and always will shape everyday interactions throughout the world. It could be the disrespected Muslim in an American grocery store or the hundreds of Tunisians forced to leave Italy, which only proves the extreme variation of the scale sizes. Whatever scale it may be, it plagues the world in ways that many people do not realize.

In early December, a Moscow soccer fan was shot and killed by a man suspected to be Muslim. This led to violent racism throughout the next few weeks. Apparently, the shooting was the cause behind multiple rallies in which ultra-nationalist Russians expressed their anger with minorities.

Targeted groups included minorities from Central Asia and Muslims from some of Russia's southern republics. Russian police eventually took over 1,000 people into custody, which prevented further attacks planned over the internet.

Even though recent polls have shown that Moscow citizens are growing uneasy with minority groups, others still hold out open arms in Pushkin Square, shouting things like "Russia is open to everyone." This is a good sign for those who oppose violent racism, because intolerance is the root of the problem in most cases.

Greece is another country facing racism within its borders. According to the BBC, Greece has one of the worst records in the

European Union when it comes to racism towards minority groups and it is largely directed towards Albanians. Before the 90s, Greece was made up of mainly Greeks, but after the fall of communism, many Eastern Europeans ended up there, along with Albanians.

Racism in Russia and Greece may not be surprising to everyone, but the third country in question might be...Australia? The "land down under" might seem like it cannot possibly contain racism, but it does. For example, back in the summer of 1998 when One Nation, a nationalist party in Queensland, Australia, was able to gain a large amount of support while running with racist lines and was a huge advocate

against immigration. One Nation targeted the unemployed, saying that immigrants steal their jobs, which would be convincing to those who didn't have a job at the time and desperate to find someone to blame.

More racism in Australia is directed against native Aborigines. In the past, there was a practice in Australia which prevented Aboriginal children from participating in their own culture. This meant that future generations could not retain their Aboriginal roots and the culture would cease to exist. The main thing that comes to mind when looking at this former practice is the senselessness of hatred and the ridiculous notion of the "white man's burden."

We, as a human race, need to look past prejudice and racism and be able to live in harmony. Although that sounds extremely cliché, it is the main way to prevent violence. Hatred needs to turn into acceptance so that fighting can turn into peace.

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SPORTS

New lacrosse captain Murphy is optimistic

Charlie Engleka
Contributing Writer

The 2011 collegiate lacrosse preseason is underway. The Alfred University Saxons have taken the field with new players, new leaders and a new attitude. The AU Saxons have a new captain in Brendan Murphy, a junior midfielder from Buffalo, New York.

The leadership role is nothing new to Murphy, who was a captain during his senior year of high school for the Bishop Timon Saint Jude Tigers. That year, Murphy was named the Offensive MVP for the Monsignor Martin lacrosse champion Tigers.

Now a captain for the Saxons, Murphy's role on the team has changed. The veteran midfielder feels he has more responsibility, more accountability and will have a more vocal leadership. Murphy stated

that there are significant differences between being a captain in high school and being a captain in college.

"It's a lot more serious [in college]. I didn't have a lot of authority in high school. Here guys look to us [captains] for help and to answer questions," said Murphy.

Murphy expressed his optimism for the upcoming season.

"I'm feeling pretty good. A lot of young guys are going to step up and have an immediate impact," stated Murphy.

The midfielder captain is confident the talented freshman class will step up and help the team win.

In regards to the strengths and weaknesses the team has heading into the season, he said attack and defense will be strengths for the Saxons this season. Murphy

expressed his confidence in fellow captains Marc Zoyhofski and Adam Schutz to make plays. The Saxons are counting on 4-year starters Zoyhofski (attackman) and Schutz (goalie) to make plays and lead them into the postseason.

Murphy feels the biggest thing the team will have to work on this preseason is grooming the new players, particularly freshmen.

"Since there are a lot of new guys, we're going to have to get them adjusted to the pace of college lacrosse," Murphy stated.

The Buffalo native said the team's goal this season is to win at least five games in the Empire 8 Conference and make the playoffs. Murphy revealed what the Saxons will need to do in order to accomplish this feat.

"For us to beat the

nationally ranked teams we play, we need to be better conditioned, because these teams are more talented. We need to work harder than them on the little things like ground balls, possessing the ball and taking smart shots," said Murphy.

"We're looking to improve our record from last year (3-11). We had a lot of injuries which made it difficult to win games. This year we have a veteran presence and have four recruiting classes which should result in a more even playing field," Murphy continued.

The Saxons have nearly a month of preseason until their first scrimmage. This gives them plenty of time to work out the kinks, establish chemistry and get a firm grasp on what they need to do in order to make the playoffs. In the eyes of captain Brendan Murphy,



Photo provided

things are looking good. The AU Lacrosse season opens in Winchester, VA on

Feb. 26 when the Saxons take on Shenandoah.

One step forward, two steps back

Griffin Taylor
Staff Writer

I will refer to Mets fans as "we" in this column, and to Yankee fans as "they," short for "they who must not be named (full credit to J.K. Rowling)."

It is time for us to once again reinvent our identity in Flushing. Gone are the aggressive "quick fix" tactics of former GM Omar Minaya, in are the intricate sabermetrics of Sandy Alderson, possessor of the ultimate blueprint to build from the "bottom-up," embracer of the painfully slow process that comes with it.

Gone is former manager Jerry Manuel, he of the quick wit and "salt n' pepper" beard. In is Terry Collins, a stern, clean-shaven, Midwestern man who couldn't shake the tag of "drill sergeant" in his previous two stints as a major league manager.

Worry not, Met fans, Collins intends to have more "fun" this time around. He has implemented "Pizza and Bowling Night" on Thursdays, attendance to which is mandatory for players and expected of family members (not sure if K-Rod's father-in-law has RSVP'd yet). Collins and his wife already have matching "Mets" bowling balls (hers is pink), ready to go in a specially made Mets bowling bag which reads "Him" and "Her."

The Mets will attempt to morph into a "small market" team, and ask that you not notice the price on your ticket, or the "NY" on the front of the jerseys worn by a slew of disgruntled "superstars," whose only resemblance to the title is in the checkbook. The Mets will be a team that crosses its T's and dots its I's, one which

watches the ball all the way into the glove, and uses two hands once it's there. One which might actually plate the runner standing on third with one out. A "high character" team which excels at the "little things" that don't show up in the box score.

But being an overachiever is not so sexy in this city, not when they are across town.

In a town where patience wears thin well before rush-hour, there is little tolerance at CitiField for a work-in-progress once 7pm rolls around. The term "rebuild" is taboo around here, as long as they are across the way ready to rub it in our face.

Before we reluctantly step into a new era, the only thing going for it is the fact that it can't possibly be worse than the last, let's take a minute to reflect on the past, specifically the past half-decade.

Fact: Omar Minaya made mistakes.

Fact: Hindsight is 20/20. Minaya dug his own grave in 2007 with the inexplicable 4 year, \$32 million contract he handed second baseman Luis Castillo, a man in his 30's who has not hit a ball to the outfield since his 20's. Minaya lay in that grave the following year, with the 3 year, \$36 million deal he gave Oliver Perez, an erratic left-hander who, at the time of the deal, sporadically located the strike zone from sixty feet, and since has failed to hit it with a hundred foot pole.

The only contract in the universe capable of making Castillo's look good is the one given to Perez. But remember the strut we had in our collective step on our way to work the morning of December 13th, 2004,

in search of the nearest newsstand to confirm that Pedro Martinez was indeed a Met? Who cared that it was "I'm in my thirties, 90% of the cartilage in my shoulder has gone AWOL" Pedro, it was Pedro none the less. Suddenly, the Mets mattered.

Soon after, Carlos Beltran was on the way, which marked twice in the same month we had stolen the back-page from them. The fact that super-agent Scott Boras charged us the going rate for two Beltrons rather than one? Irrelevant.

Fast forward a couple of years. Did we not tolerate the day's worth of nagging from the wife to sit inside on a gorgeous Saturday afternoon and watch Johan Santana's first game against the Yankees? As we turned on the television, did we not dare allow ourselves to entertain the fact that our crown jewel may just be better than any of theirs?

Before we discovered K-Rod held his father-in-law in the same regard as a drunk at the bar in need of a lesson, did we not think we actually had a closer in the bullpen rival what they had going on over there?

We may have ended up void of an excuse to get out of the family events the past four Octobers, but for the most part, we always limped into September vaguely relevant, our team still playing "meaningful" games.

"Meaningful" only if the glass is half-full, but meaningful nonetheless.

For much of the past five seasons, there was an audible tenseness in the tone of Mets play-by-play announcer Gary Cohen. You knew it actually mattered when Jose Reyes tried

to add a little pizzazz to a routine infield play and botched it, because the rest of the baseball world was watching.

As dysfunctional as the past decade has been, I am not so sure I would want it any other way.

The Yankee fan would say the previous statement is Exhibit A of the crippling effect being a Met fan has on one's mental state. Then after a few dim-witted, clichéd Met jokes, insist that there really is no rivalry at all, because in order for a rivalry to exist, an opponent must elicit feelings of spite rather than pity. That is to say, the opponent must be good.

The Yankees are good. We hate them. It's a rivalry to us.

As a second-class citizen in the New York baseball world, I cannot even set foot in Yankee Stadium. I feel the looks of contempt from the Yankee diehards, average Joes from 9am-5pm, but after that opening pitch, chests pumped out as if each of them is equally responsible for the 27 World Championships as Mantle, or Jeter.

As a second-class citizen in the New York baseball world, I steer clear of Yankee Stadium. While supporters of other franchises may view themselves as "upper class" in the sport fan kingdom, Yankee fans are unanimously the royal family.

Of course, in order for one extreme to exist there may be another.

I have spent the past two years at a small university in rural western NY. Out here, the Buffalo Bulls are the only game in town. It is the Bills, or it is nothing, and though it is often a close call, the Bills are

better than nothing.

Despite a decade in which the Bills alternated between mediocre and just plain bad, the fan base remains the most loyal, albeit delusional, I have ever seen.

The team labored through half a season before it picked up its first win. Moments after the final whistle, J.P. McCombs, a classmate of mine and Bills fanatic, recited a scenario in which Buffalo, 1-8 at the time, could win its final seven games, finish at .500, and (with help, of course) make the playoffs. He kept a straight face throughout.

"Anything's possible," said McCombs.

If the job market is as bad as all of the grown-ups say, I can always open a psychic stand in Buffalo and predict a Bills' loss each week. An inevitability, but in Buffalo I'd be regarded as the ninth wonder of the world.

And that is not to insult the Buffalo faithful. I admire the loyalty. Part of me even yearns for the innocence. After all, ignorance is bliss, right?

In the sport fan kingdom, and many aspects of the real world, the lower class is out of touch with the upper from a day-to-day basis. As Met fans, and members of the kingdom's middle class, we know there is something else out there. We need only take a quick peak across the Harlem River to see it. And one of the early lessons we discover is that no matter how hard we try, we cannot have it.

So we do the next best thing. We loathe it. We don't necessarily want to be who we are, but we're glad we aren't them. We must clean our own mess, and in doing so we vow to never hire

someone to do it for us. We could never be so out of touch with reality, never turn our back on our roots.

So, we must look in the mirror and ask ourselves, do we really want to be them?

As middle-class fans, it is the ability to be in touch with both ends of the spectrum that gives us such character. We don't really want it all, because we wouldn't quite know what to do with it, and we certainly don't want nothing. In a sense it was the relative underachievement of each "former All Star turned contract albatross" that made him one of our own, a true Met.

So let us for a moment admire the past half decade of Mets teams. We assembled the parts which allowed us to dream of a day in which Goliath existed not only across the river, but in our very own ballpark.

Alas, each part was a bit defective, and it seemed every "momentous" victory one night resulted in a ride on the 7 train to witness a blowout loss the following afternoon. But isn't that what makes us who we are? Enough to dabble with the big boys for a day or two, followed by a dose of humility, necessary for us to truly appreciate the spurts of "privileged" living. Deep down, we wouldn't trade that trip on the 7 train for anything.

On that note, let's give one last shout-out to the Mets of the Omar Minaya era. Flawed as we were, we went down swinging.

Except Carlos Beltran. Game 7. He went down looking.

SPORTS

Saxons knock off visiting RIT

AU Press Release

ALFRED, NY -The Alfred University women's basketball team defeated visiting RIT, 63-50, Friday evening at the McLane Center.

AU held a 37-25 lead at the half as the Saxons shot 41 percent while holding RIT to 30 percent shooting. AU made 35 percent of its shots after intermission in outscoring RIT, 26-25, in the second half. For the game, the Saxons shot 38 percent to 29 percent for the Tigers and held a 51-34 rebounding advantage.

Freshman forward Grace Williamson (Olean, NY/Olean) scored a game-high 17 points and had five rebounds and a pair



Photo provided by Jonathan Merritt

of blocks to pace the Saxons (8-9, 3-5 Empire 8). Senior guard Lynsday Murphy (Hornell, NY/Hornell) scored 15 points

and added a game-high six assists to go with six boards, and junior guard Christina Jordan (Cornwall, NY/Cornwall) netted eight

points. Senior forward Autumn McLain (Oneida, NY/Oneida) finished with four points and a game-high 13 rebounds.

Courtney Tennant scored a team-best 12 points and had eight boards to lead the Tigers (3-14, 1-7 Empire 8). Leslie Havens, Kayla Wheeler and Anne Wapshare each netted eight points.

Alfred is in action next on Tuesday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m. vs. St. John Fisher.



Photo provided by Jonathan Merritt

Brockport can't handle Saxon swimming

J.P. McCombs

Sports Editor

The visiting AU men's and women's swimming and diving teams powered past SUNY Brockport last Saturday; the men with a score of 136-99 and the women 136-98.

Every individual non-diving event was won by the men (5-2) starting with sophomore Brett Irwin (Springwater, NY/Wayland-Cohocton) in the 1,000-yard free (10:58.01), followed by a host of Saxons including sophomore Nate Chapman (Hornell, NY/Hornell) in the 200-yard free (1:50.33), freshman Pete Sowinski (Akron, NY/Akron) in the 50-yard freestyle (22.72), junior Jeff Swartout (Binghamton, NY/Chenango Valley) took the 400-yard IM (4:34.43); senior Zach Mix (Mt. Morris, NY/Mt. Morris) in the 100-yard fly (54.51), senior Tyler Olsen (Saratoga Springs, NY/Saratoga) in the 100-yard free (50.31), junior Rich Guarniero (New York Mills, NY/Thomas R. Proctor) in the 100-yard back (57.23), senior Matt Lobban (Pittsford, NY/Pittsford Mendon) in the 500-yard free (4:52.29), and junior Warren Dolben (Rye, NH/Berwick) who won the 100-yard breaststroke) 1:01.96).

The relay teams also tallied some points as

freshman Kyle Kraeger (Henrietta, NY/Rush-Henrietta), Dolben, Mix and Olsen won the 400-yard medley relay (3:43.64), while junior Rich Lenihan (Warwick, NY/Warwick Valley), Lobban, junior Vince Pascarella (Bradford, PA/Bradford) and freshman Yair Lazar (Teaneck, NJ/Teaneck) won the 200-yard free relay (1:37.38).

The women (3-5) were led by senior Sarah Blair (Auburn, NY/Auburn) and sophomore Eryn Matich (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) who each came out on top in two events. Blair won the 50-yard freestyle (25.51) along with the 100-yard free (56.51), while Matich won the 400-yard individual medley (5:09.31) and 100-yard butterfly (1:06.68).

Other winners for the women were senior Calista Merritt (Conesus, NY/Livonia) in the 1,000-yard free (11:39.69), junior Donna Hoops (Geneseo, NY/Geneseo) in the 100-yard backstroke (1:05.71) and freshman Heather Remchuk (Hornell, NY/Hornell) in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:16.71).

The relay team of Hoops, Remchuk, Matich and Blair won the 400-yard medley relay in 4:26.33.



Photo provided by Sarah Shafer



Photo provided by Sarah Shafer



Photo provided by Sarah Shafer

Super Bowl XLV: north meets south

Griffin Taylor

Staff Writer

When you think Pittsburgh Steelers, you think "between the tackles," smash mouth football.

You think Rashard Mendenhall, the powerful back who would rather take the hit head-on than dodge around it. You think hard-hitting, unforgiving linebackers, whose primary objective (aside from winning the game, of course) is to make sure the quarterback walks off the field in much worse shape than he walked on it. You think Big Ben Roethlisberger, whom one might mistake for a rare watch collector the way

he buys time in the pocket, scrambling and scrambling until he and his receiver of choice are the only ones standing.

When you think of the Pittsburgh Steelers, you think cold weather football.

When you think of the 2010 Green Bay Packers, you think of long, blond hair. No, not the cheerleaders, but rather the Packers pair of freakish, "golden boy" linebackers, A.J. Hawk and Clay Matthews, the latter who was fourth in the NFL with 13.5 sacks.

You think of Green Bay's pair of shutdown corners, Charles Woodson (2009 N.F.L. Defensive Player

of the Year) and Travon Williams (6 INT). You think of fearless WR Donald Driver, who consistently beats father time at his own game, the NFL, where a 30th birthday is comparable to a funeral, let alone a 36th birthday, which Driver will celebrate four days before Super Bowl XL. You think of QB Aaron Rodgers, with his precision passing and leadership skills that have propelled the Packers to three straight road victories and an improbable path to NFC champions.

When you think of the Green Bay Packers, you think toughness. But most of all, when you think

Green Bay, you think "frigid weather" football.

So it only makes sense that the projected temperature for Super Bowl XLV is.....58 degrees?!!?

The game will take place in Arlington, TX, at exquisite Cowboys Stadium. The stadium holds 110,000 and the festivities surrounding the sporting event of the year Sunday night promise to be, as is only appropriate for the state in which they will occur, bigger and better than in past years.

The Packers look to cap a stunning postseason run, in which they were the lowest seed in the tournament, but defeated

the Eagles in the wild card round, the Falcons in the Divisional round and rival Chicago Bears in the NFC Championship, with all three wins coming on the road.

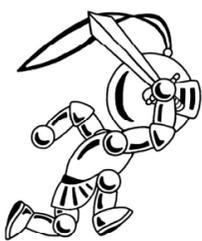
The Steelers look to make it a second Super Bowl championship in three seasons, having defeated the Cardinals in '08, in Super Bowl XLIII.

It has been a tale of two halves for Pittsburgh the past two weeks, having erased a 21-7 halftime deficit to come back and defeat the Ravens 31-24 in the Divisional Round, then jumping out to a 24-0 lead before holding off a furious

rally by the Jets to defeat New York 24-19 in the AFC Championship.

MY PREDICTION:

Aaron Rodgers will again rise to the challenge, but the Steelers' suffocating run defense (ranked first in the league) will make the Packers' "RB by committee" rushing attack non-existent, turning Green Bay into a one-dimensional offense. Look for Rodgers to toss a late pick in a tight one, putting the Steelers over the top, 24-17.



Alfred Saxons Scoreboard

| Team | Last Opponent | Result | Record | Next Opponent |
|--------------------|------------------|----------|----------|-----------------|
| Swimming/Diving | RIT Invitational | 3rd of 6 | 2--1--0 | Utica |
| Football | Mt. Union | L, 7-37 | 10--3--0 | |
| Men's Basketball | Paul Smith's | W, 88-43 | 5--3--0 | St. John Fisher |
| Women's Basketball | Canton | W, 69-48 | 4--2--0 | St. John Fisher |