

March 22, 1995

# Fiat Lux



The Student Newspaper of Alfred University

News: pages 6 & 7

What will SUNY cuts mean for Alfred?



Editorial: page 4

• Women's history is for men, too  
• Teaching is job number one

Volume 88

Issue 4



AU professor rocks atoms to make tougher glass.

page 2



## World Notes

### local

The AU College Bowl team was selected to go to national competition in Akron, Ohio, April 28-30. The team of Michael Zarkin, Megan Park, John Pietras and Phil Stewart came in second in regional competition on Feb. 24-26. • David Szczerbacki, dean of the College of Business, said he expects the Board of Regents to approve an MBA program for the fall 1995 semester.

### national

The Republican-sponsored balanced budget amendment failed to pass the Senate by a one-vote margin. • Space shuttle Endeavour returned on Saturday from the longest-ever shuttle mission—nearly 17 days long. • A vaccine for chicken pox has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

### international

Protests took place in Ukraine after the nation's legislature repealed the constitution of the pro-Russian autonomous Crimean region. • U.S. officials are pressuring Iraq to release two American citizens siezed last week when they crossed the Iraq-Kuwait border. • Singapore and the Philippines issued strongly-worded diplomatic communications after Singapore executed a Phillipino maid accused of murdering a boy and another maid.

## PERSONALITIES

Of her position as an adjunct professor of communication studies, Abby Brody declared that "it's the biggest challenge I've ever undertaken, next to a three-year-old."



Abby Brody

Before coming to Alfred, Brody spent many years in the San Francisco Bay area, working in both radio

and television journalism. She also worked as a freelance media consultant, providing media training for various corporations.

Here at Alfred, she is teaching a course in broadcasting for the second year in a row. Most recently, she oversaw the production of a video for the University, "a training video for new trustees."

She currently divides her time between preparing for her class, taking care of her daughter, and organizing her family's move to a new home.

## Misconduct policy addresses student issues

BY MEGAN PARK AND DARCIA HARRIS

Student affairs personnel will now judge cases of unwanted sexual contact between students under Alfred University's new sexual misconduct policy.

Previously, charges of sexual misconduct between students were handled under the same procedures as charges of sexual harassment between a student and a faculty or staff member.

Under the new sexual mis-

**Sexual misconduct:** any form of sexual contact without mutual consent

**Sexual harassment:** any verbal, written or physical contact of a sexual nature demanded by a superior as a necessary condition for employment or academic standing

**Review officers:** anyone who may serve on a com-

mittee investigating charges of either harassment or misconduct. Includes the affirmative action officer, area coordinator of residence life, associate dean of new students, assistant dean of students/director of Greek life, and director of personnel (public and private)

**Intake officer:** the review officer chosen to handle the paperwork and initial investigation in a case brought under the new policy

conduct policy, students cannot charge a faculty or staff member of sexual misconduct. Such complaints will still be handled under the sexual harassment policy.

"The sexual harassment poli-

cy was more designed to be implemented with the power-differential issue," said Judy Hartling, dean of new students and an intake officer for sexual misconduct cases.

In a power differential, one

person determines another person's job or academic standing.

Joyce Rausch, special assistant to the president, said the new policy marked an effort to "move student issues ultimate-

continued on page 8...

## Mitchell examines women's roles in history

BY JONATHAN SPRINGER

Women of the past have been "ghettoized" by the modern need to create a separate discipline to study them, said Linda Mitchell, assistant professor of history, at last week's Bergren Forum.

"The history that I was trained by, the history our students still read in Western Civilization, doesn't include women not because they weren't there, but because they have been systematically and deliberately overlooked," she said.

Mitchell's lecture, entitled "Viragos and Virgins: A Medieval Perspective on Women, History and Women's History" examined how history evolved into the history of men, forcing modern historians to form a separate field to study women's history.

Women have not always been separate from history, Mitchell said. Medieval historians like Gregory of Tours, Bede, Paul the Deacon, and Froissart compiled chronicles which included characters important to the story, regardless of sex.

Medieval records also included women when necessary,

Mitchell said. Court transcripts, for example, paid no attention to the gender of participants.

After 1660, when intellectuals began to consider the Roman republic the best form of government, historians no longer dealt with women as historical actors, she said.

The new theories, Mitchell said, "rejected the idea that women might have had a political voice or might have engaged in so-called 'public' activity in 'advanced' civilizations."

Women need to be reincorporated into standard works of history, rather than studied in the separate field of women's history, she said.

"In the 1970s and the 1980s this separation was necessary," Mitchell said, "since no mainstream historians were willing

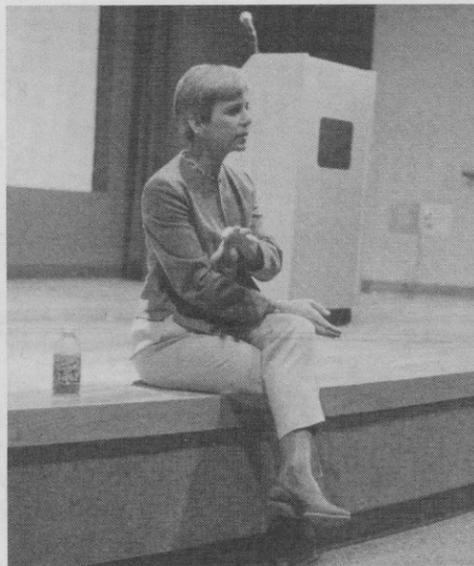


PHOTO BY JESSE JACK

Linda Mitchell, assistant professor of history, speaks about women in history in a presentation entitled "Viragos and Virgins."

or able to jettison their tried and true theories so that they could include women in their work."

But now, she said, "it's vital for the future of historical inquiry not only to include women's history, but to incorporate women into history."

The Bergren Forum, sponsored by the Division of Human Studies, takes place every Wednesday at noon in Nevins Theater. □

## John Mohawk addresses reservation violence

BY JONATHAN SPRINGER

The current politically-oriented violence in Seneca reservations has its roots in New York State Indian policy, an expert on New York Indian affairs said.

John Mohawk, an assistant professor of American studies at SUNY Buffalo, spoke to a packed lecture room in Binns-Merril Hall last Thursday.

The Seneca's problems, Mohawk said, began when New York's constitution was approved in 1777.

New York has always had a perceived Indian problem, Mohawk said. "Since the State of New York became the State of New York, it has been the

natural enemy of the Seneca nation." The animosity centered around land. The Senecas had it, and New York wanted it.

A fraudulent treaty in 1838 gave New York the Senecas' land, but half of it was returned by the federal Compromise Treaty of 1842. That treaty also gave the Indians autonomy from federal and state jurisdiction.

Now violence has erupted on the Cattaraugus Indian Reservation over who should rule the Seneca nation.

Rival factions have fortified two buildings, Mohawk said, and are engaged in a standoff.

The current conflict began earlier this year when the Seneca

tribal council impeached then-president Dennis Bowen Sr. They said Bowen misused his authority by kicking two leaders off the council and firing political opponents.

The council then installed Karen Bucktooth as president.

Bowen's opponents sued him in state Supreme Court, based on recent precedents of state courts holding jurisdiction over Seneca affairs, Mohawk said, but a federal court ruling handed down in February told the state to "keep its hands off," leaving the Senecas to solve their own problems.

ALANA and the Native American Student Organization sponsored Mohawk's visit. □



PHOTO BY DARREN MILLER

# Dancing atoms strengthen glass

He hurls the baby food jar across the laboratory. The jar bounces off a wall, smacks into a cabinet and rolls to a stop—intact.

**1** LaCourse demonstrates strength of using an approximately 12" by 14" piece of glass no thicker than an average window pane. The glass had been treated for three hours in a  $KNO_3$  solution heated to 850 degrees Fahrenheit.



**2** LaCourse proceeds to whack the glass ten times with a hammer.



**3** Despite the abuse, the glass does not break—no scratches, no cracks.



Do not try this in the dining hall.

That baby food jar is made of tougher glass than the stuff currently used for beer bottles, spaghetti sauce jars and windows.

And even this glass isn't unbreakable.

When William C. LaCourse, professor of glass science at Alfred University and co-director of the Glass Science Institute, throws a second baby food jar made from the same material, it shatters.

"As you can see, we have not created an indestructible glass," he says with a grin.

But this Alfred scientist, a compact and energetic man wearing a dress sweater with blue sweatpants, may be on a research path that could rejuvenate a glass industry struggling to compete with plastics.

LaCourse's research made headlines in print and broadcast news last year when he used music, or sound waves, to speed up the glass-strengthening process.

Stronger glass is created by immersing glass in potassium nitrate ( $KNO_3$ ) heated to 850 degrees Fahrenheit. In these conditions, glass's mobile sodium atoms readily switch places with the larger potassium atoms.

"We're actually stuffing the surface of the glass, which expands the surface and closes cracks in the glass," LaCourse says.

The process, the scientist insists, is simple. Picture a dried mud puddle, the earth dusty and cracking. Begin adding water to that area and the extra mass of the water causes the combined materials to expand and fill the cracks.

Louis Mattos, a second-year graduate student in glass science, says sound may enhance the process of glass strengthening by diffusing particles in a shorter period of time.

And, Mattos explains, "there's a point in the process that if the temperature becomes too high, it's no longer strengthened glass, but potassium-based glass."

But minus the sound waves, produced by Modonna, Luciano Pavarotti or any sound jacked up to the right frequency, glass strengthening would be too costly and time-consuming for industry to consider.

"Without sound energy," LaCourse says, "glass strengthening could take 10 to 20 hours longer for ordinary tasks."

Sound energy speeds up the process by



**ion-exchange stuffing: "We're actually stuffing the surface of the glass, which expands the surface and closes cracks in the glass."**

— William C. LaCourse

causing atoms to "dance" or to vibrate, making the potassium and sodium switch places quicker.

LaCourse began the research using traditional stereo speakers to produce sound energy. Now, however, he uses special high-frequency sound "guns" capable of generating 20,000 hertz frequencies at 1500 watts (about 37 times the power of a home stereo).

But why expend so much time and energy to create a hard-knock glass?

"The use we had in mind when we first started this research was for windows on homes or condominiums built next to golf courses," LaCourse says.

But if glass can be strengthened, glass containers—milk bottles, soda bottles, jars—can be thinner and lighter, making it easier to transport them by truck from factory to store.

The only catch, LaCourse says, is that the process still may be too expensive for factories that produce 500 tons of glass each day.

"We're doing this one, small square sheet at a time at about three hours of treatment

per sheet," LaCourse says. "We've sort of admitted defeat for now."

But in the same breath, LaCourse heads out of the sweltering laboratory, up several flights of stairs to a new floor and to new areas of glass research. □

WRITTEN BY DARCIA HARRIS  
GRAPHICS AND PHOTOS BY JESSE JACK

## Glass in the human body

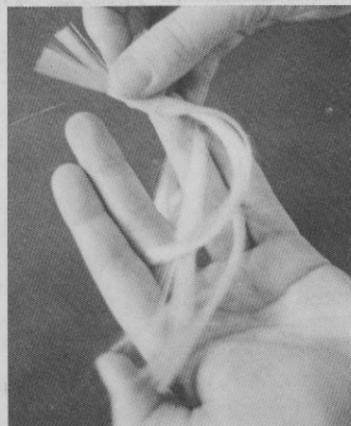
If current testing is successful, metal plates, pins and disks for broken and fractured bones could be replaced by resolvable glass.

William C. LaCourse, professor of glass science at Alfred University said metal plates pose a critical problem in the healing process for broken bones.

"Metal plates are designed to absorb all of the stress that might otherwise be placed on the bone," he explained. "That's a problem, because to heal and strengthen, the bone must experience some stress."

The answer, LaCourse hopes, is a glass-plastic combination that will gradually dissolve in the body to transfer an increasing amount of stress to the bone.

This could reduce surgery costs by up to 40 percent, LaCourse said, because a second surgery to remove a plate would not be necessary.



LaCourse said researchers are also working to develop glass that could replace parts of broken bone.

"In the end, the artificial part of the bone would be stronger than the rest of it," he said.

But increasing litigation has caused many larger companies to back out of the businesses of creating synthetics for biochemical purposes.

"It's difficult to find anyone who wants to pay for that kind of research," LaCourse said. "We're looking to smaller companies but it can be an expensive business."

# Faculty show features four professors and mixed media



PHOTOS BY REBECCA ROBERTS

"Featuring 4 Faculty" is on exhibit at the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery in Harder Hall.

The show features Katherine Black, assistant professor of drawing; Diane Cox, assistant professor of sculpture; Fred Tschida, associate professor of glass; and William Underhill, associate professor of sculpture.

It will run until April 3. Hours for the gallery are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. □



Left - glass and mixed media sculptures (Fred Tschida); foreground - mixed media (Diane Cox); center - mixed media (Bill Underhill); back and right - oil and mixed media on canvas (Katherine Black)

## "Voices Through Time" a success in NYC performance

Susan Caligaris, assistant professor of dance at AU, is "glowing," after the performance of her solo dance concert "Voices Through Time" at the Merce Cunningham Dance Studio in New York City on March 3.

Jack Anderson of *The New York Times* called Caligaris' performance, "effectively concise, vivid, witty and dramatically strong."

Doris Diether of *The Villager*

BY SARAH GOODREAU

Today I made a lettuce, tomato and onion sandwich. I love fresh vegetables. And there's really no better place to get vegetables than Kinfolk Grocery.

### Campus Living

Street, opened 14 years ago this May.

At Kinfolk you can get fresh vegetables and fruit any day of the week, as well as just about anything else you can think of.

They have homemade breads, fresh eggs from local farms, cookies, henna for your hair, beans, rice, ice cream, tofu, blue corn chips (I really fancy the spicy ones) and seaweed. That list isn't even nearly complete.

Elliot Case, owner of Kinfolk, told me a lot of people don't realize that there is a lot of give and take between customers and business owners in Alfred.

Kinfolk, located on West University

"What people, especially those from the city, aren't used to is a store getting them what they want. It might take three days, but I'll get it," Case said.

And Kinfolk gets bagels for its eager customers.

Friday is bagel day in Alfred, and if you haven't taken part in the festivities, you're missing out.

The bagels—onion, plain, garlic, raisin, poppy seed and so on—come from Bagel Land in Rochester. There are always packages of fresh cream cheese for your bagels on Friday.

Case says that the number of bagels he sells depends on the week and on such things as the weather. "The number of bagels I sell usually goes down every third week."

Bagels are just one small part of what makes Kinfolk a great place to shop.

When you're out walking around some day I would suggest stopping into Kinfolk.

If nothing else, just look around and say "Hi." It will be worth the trip. □



PHOTO BY JOHAN ELBERS OF THE NEW YORK TIMES COURTESY AU PUBLIC RELATIONS

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# Fiat Lux



## Embrace women in history

Linda Mitchell presented a Bergren Forum entitled "Virgins and Viragos" Wednesday.

She talked about women.

She talked about history.

And she said the two need not be separate.

Sixty people—men and women—listened raptly as she spoke for forty minutes about women who took part in Western society, four centuries ago.

Mitchell's talk was the keynote address for Alfred's Women's History Month, a celebration of women's contributions to our past.

She said, ironically, that had women never been removed from historical texts, such a month would not be necessary.

Mitchell was right, but the damage has been done.

Women are separated from history, and even in an institution of higher education, like Alfred University, we can't budget a month to ponder the issue.

We need to bring women into the mainstream of our education, but to do that, we need to learn about them first.

AU offers a women's studies program, but, of the men on campus, only a few are willing to risk its courses.

Face it, guys, you're going to be talking to your children in a few years about women and their accomplishments.

You'll have to deal with it when society has a different view of women and what they've done than you learned sleeping through Mr. Schmuckenbacher's eleventh grade history class.

You may even enter into a relationship with a woman who knows a lot more than you do.

Your generation will write the next generation of history texts, and you'll need to be able to discuss, intelligently, women and the role they've played in history.

Take the time to learn about

women in history. If you don't feel up to a full course, attend a lecture like Mitchell's or a women's issues roundtable.

The next time you have a paper topic, consider the effect women may have had.

Don't eliminate half of the human race from your thinking. Embrace women in history and make yourself whole. □

### Upcoming Events in Women's History Month:

3/27 - Jane Middleton-Moz: Boarding Schools & Trauma on the Reservation. 7:00 p.m. Nevins Theater.

3/28 Alfred Alternative Cinema Ingmar Bergman's *Persona*

3/31 Women's Studies Roundtable: "Feminist Teaching as a Transformative Act." Noon, Kenyon-Allen Room, Powell.

3/31 — AU Student Dance Concert

March display at Herrick Library  
Barbie: A Feminine Icon

## Teaching is job number one

BY ALEXIS J. DIAMOND

AU offers aspiring artists and ceramic engineers a world famous, world class education. Art majors and CEs recognize that they're riding the fanciest horses on the University's academic carousel and look forward to snatching the brass ring after four or more revolutions.

But where does that leave the others? What are they doing in a

small isolated place with harsh winters? Why choose Alfred for English, accounting or mechanical engineering? When the merry-go-round stops, what will these students have gained and where will they be?

There had better be a solid reason for *everyone* to buy a ticket for Alfred University. At a time when the business of higher education has never been more competitive, AU approved its first budget deficit in seven years and applications for next year's freshman class are down.

So, what do we need? A new King Alfred logo?

No. We need to celebrate and support Alfred's tradition of excellence in teaching. AU is special because professors have always been appreciated as teachers and mentors first and researchers second. Think of the math professors who take students down to Georgia for Habitat for Humanity.

Inside and outside the classroom, teachers are sources of

**"If Alfred is to thrive, it needs to remember that good teaching is the fundamental business of a university."**

inspiration, role models and friends. They are genuine agents of and catalysts for growth and development.

If Alfred is to thrive in the years to come, it needs to remember that good

teaching is not only good business—it's the fundamental business of a university.

Without a faculty dedicated to serving its students, AU's carousel won't spin. And if that happens, even the fanciest horses will lose their luster.

## University should not serve alcohol at sports banquets

BY MEGAN ALLEN

I had many expectations when I came to college, and one of them was to see students drinking alcohol. I did not expect to see the University serving alcohol to students.

Alfred University does many

things right. If it didn't, I would not be paying money to come here.

I must complain about a practice, a tradition, in the football department. I attended the end-of-the-year football banquet last semester and was surprised to find alcohol being served to par-

ents, staff and students over 21 years of age.

Excuse me? Alcohol is being served at a football banquet—a sports function. Yes, sports, a discipline dedicated to the physical well-being of its participants. Football players spend hours conditioning their bodies for

their sport.

Where does alcohol figure into all of this? It doesn't. It impairs and destroys everything the sport has worked so hard to build. Serving alcohol at a sports banquet can only be described as hypocritical. "Yeah guys, great season, here's something to destroy yourself."

Is alcohol really necessary? Is the football department trying to tell us that in order to have a good time, a real celebration of the football season, we must have alcohol?

There are sports that do not serve alcohol at their banquets. When I asked some students about alcohol being served at their banquets, they looked at

me confused. This is the way it should be, since the idea of alcohol at sports banquets is absolutely ridiculous.

Unfortunately part of the banquet is funded by the football department, which is funded by the University budget, which is funded by the tuition I am paying. I expect my money to pay for education, not alcohol for the football department.

I have nothing against football, I have nothing against sports banquets. Some traditions need to be broken, and this is one of them. Let's send students a clear message that we care about their health. Leave the alcohol in the cabinet for the next football banquet. □

## Concord Coalition: the Zero Deficit Plan

BY JASON JIANDINI

"Considering all the concern about the ever-increasing federal deficits, including the Republican attempt to amend the Constitution the efforts of the Concord Coalition appear far less draconian and more flexible than most of the other proposals," said Savo Jevremovic, professor of economics.

The Concord Coalition, head-

ed by Paul Tsongas and Warren Rudman, is a bipartisan organization created in 1992 dedicated to two goals: balancing the federal budget by the end of 2000 and keeping it balanced after 2001.

The Coalition does not propose to eliminate the national debt anytime soon, but instead addresses the issue of year-to-year deficits in the federal budget. Only by balancing the budget each year and slowing

borrowing can the enormous public debt be reduced.

The situation is so bad that the government must borrow just to cover the accrued interest on the debt. "It is as if we are running up our MasterCard to pay off our debt to Visa, knowing that next year we will have to borrow even more from American Express to keep the game going," a Coalition booklet said.

For the first time we as a country will witness the next generation having a lower standard of living than we have—a dismal scenario and one that will destroy the prospect of the American Dream.

How does the Concord Coalition propose to solve this problem? Three ways: cutting spending in many areas, increasing spending in carefully chosen programs and raising revenue.

Now, in the 104th Congress we are seeing some of the Coalition's theme play a major role in balancing the budget. Of course, President Clinton is against cutting many entitlements, but there must be some compromise if there is to be any progress made on this crucial issue. □

### Concord Coalition's proposals

Spending cuts:

- \$118 billion: cutting entitlements, including reforming the current Social Security, Medicare, federal pension, and farm deficiency programs.

- \$19 billion: cuts in domestic spending. These would include eliminating unnecessary inefficient programs and setting aside certain technological projects, such as the Superconducting Super Collider, which cost too much at the present time.

- \$7 billion: cuts in defense. Foreign aid would be reduced by \$2 billion while we would continue to decrease spending

on national security.

Spending increases (\$10 billion total):

- funding to job retraining programs
- education
- transportation and communications
- money set aside for emergencies, including natural disasters
- scientific research in selected areas

Revenue increases:

- \$19 billion: alcohol and tobacco tax increase
- \$45 billion: 50 cent tax increase on gasoline implemented over six years
- \$7 billion: savings from limiting mortgage interest deduction

## Fiat Lux



**Editorial Policy:** The *Fiat Lux* welcomes feedback from its readers. Letters to the editor will be printed in the order we receive them, and may be subject to editing for space purposes. Letters must be accompanied by name, address and telephone number. Address editorial comments to the editor care of Powell Campus Center.

The *Fiat Lux* supports the perpetuation of a broad and liberal education conducive to free speech. The opinions expressed in op-ed articles do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper.

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# New death penalty law brings controversy back to life

## Lethal injection numbs the death penalty debate

BY DARCIA HARRIS

Of the 188 convicted criminals executed in the United States between 1977 and 1992, one was killed by a firing squad, seven died in the gas chamber and 98 were electrocuted.

Eighty-two were given lethal injections.

"First they'll swab your arm with anti-septic. Then, a dose of sodium thiopental puts you comfortably to sleep, as if you were going under for surgery. You won't feel a thing when the second injection, of pancuronium bromide, paralyzes your muscles. And you'll be utterly numb by the time the third, potassium chloride, stops your heart."

This description in *The New York Times* of lethal injection, a form of capital punishment quickly gaining popularity in the United States, provides a solution for many to the moral dilemma surrounding the death penalty.

How can putting a convicted murderer to sleep be considered cruel and unusual punishment?

It seems America has been searching for a humane method of death by execution. We want to rid our states of the criminal element, but we'd rather avoid the guilt that comes with inflicting pain on others. When we compare the lethal injection to the gas chamber, the electric chair, hanging and the firing squad, it would appear we've come a long way in this quest.

Executing criminals by lethal injection allows Americans to attain a certain comfort level about the death penalty. Lethal injection mimics medical efficiency and kindness. And prison

doctors, although prevented from performing the procedure, are often present at the scene.

But killing is killing.

Lethal injection is not a medical procedure and is not a process immune to messy mistakes. Michael L. Radelet, a sociology professor at the University of Florida, has documented botched lethal injections, including one fifty-minute jabbing session searching for a suitable vein and another case in which the syringe came loose from the convict's arm spraying the lethal chemical in the direction of witnesses.

Doctors opposing lethal injection argue the procedure lends to this form of execution a respectability normally reserved for life-saving operations performed in hospitals.

Having lethal injection as a death penalty option certainly made the New York State Legislators' efforts to reinstate the death penalty less reprehensible.

Oddly enough, lethal injection as a form of capital punishment was rejected more than a century ago in New York State by a governor-appointed panel. Instead, *The New Yorker* reports the commission decided electrocution was "the most rapid and painless method available."

Lethal injection shouldn't make "an eye for an eye" any easier to accept. If we're going to support the death penalty at a national or state level, we'd best keep in mind that in the end, the person on the receiving end of the needle is dead. □

## Capital punishment exacts society's revenge

BY MICHAEL S. ZARKIN

New York has joined the ranks of states with death sentences.

While I support the idea of capital punishment, there are problems that must be fixed.

In principle, capital punishment is justice, plain and simple. It doesn't reform or rehabilitate people; it kills them. It doesn't deter crime; it exacts society's vengeance.

There is nothing wrong with society killing a person who deserves to die. And some criminals surely deserve to die.

Murderers, rapists and others who destroy lives have lost their claim to their own lives.

When a person feels free to destroy human life on a whim, he becomes something less than human. He becomes a destroyer, a danger, a cancer to be removed from society. He deserves to die.

Society is under no obligation to care for the murderer or the rapist. Society cares for those who preserve and protect life—not those who destroy life.

The person who destroys life doesn't deserve to live, just as his victims don't deserve to die.

And the victims are the ones we must remember when we debate the death penalty.

We remember the victims when we make the criminal pay—preferably with his life.

It doesn't really matter how the criminal dies. Hanging, firing squad, gas chamber, electrocution and lethal injection

all have the same effect. The criminal dies.

Some forms of capital punishment are nicer to think of than others. Lethal injection looks like a safe medical procedure. Electrocution has a high-tech feel to it. Hanging is environmentally sound.

But that doesn't matter. How the criminal dies is far less important than that he dies and that society exacts a just punishment.

Some may argue that capital punishment is too harsh, too much "an eye for an eye." Yet what else is society to do? Allowing the murderer or rapist to live out his life hardly seems fair.

And fairness is the real problem in the death penalty debate. We must make sure that death sentences are fair.

There is a serious problem with our justice system when more than three-fourths of the people on death row are African-Americans from poor backgrounds.

Our justice system favors the wealthy and the white. This is a problem to be solved.

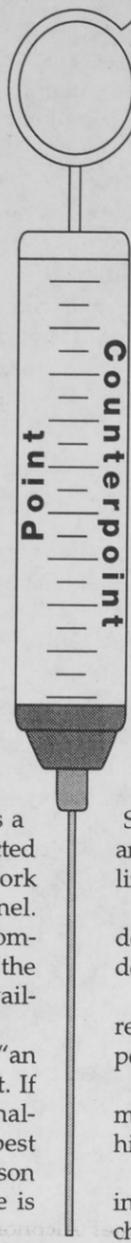
We must make sure that the appeals process is not abused by criminals trying to postpone their just punishment.

We must also make sure that appeals are available in cases where new evidence or serious problems hint that a person may be innocent.

Our justice system must be reformed to be fair, both to the accused and to the victim.

In a fair system, those who willfully and wantonly destroy other people's lives must pay with their own lives.

It is justice. □



## College dissection: should you cut?

BY JONATHAN BALCOMBE

For several decades animal dissection has been a routine part of the biology curriculum in high schools and colleges. Many students have forced themselves to participate in dissection assignments, overriding their good instincts, because they thought they had no choice.

They do! Here is my story about confronting the dissection status quo during the course of my studies leading to a doctoral degree in animal behavior.

In high school biology class, I didn't look forward to the mandatory dissection assignment. I chose the fetal pig over the cat, because it was easier for me to distance myself from an animal that I didn't share my home with.

By the time I reached my sophomore year as a college biology student, I had participated in classroom dissections of rhesus monkeys, frogs, dogfish sharks, pigeons, mudpuppies, crayfish and several other invertebrates.

But I never got over the nagging feeling that dissection wasn't the right thing to do.

I was among a small group of students who, during genetics labs, would secretly allow fruit flies to rouse from their ether-induced stupors and fly away, rather than dumping them into a dish of oil called the fly morgue.

By the time I was a graduate student in animal behavior, I had become convinced that classroom dissections and vivisections did more harm than good.

Why object to dissection? First, there is the animal suffering involved.

Investigators of the dissection trade have documented cats being drowned in burlap sacks or prodded roughly into crowded gas chambers, rats embalmed

with formaldehyde while still living, dozens of live frogs piled into sacks for days or weeks without food and sickly turtles kept in filthy overcrowded holding tanks.

These sorts of cruelties are commonplace and, though inexcusable, are not surprising in a business where the "merchandise" will end up dead anyway.

There is also quality of education to be considered. Teachers who continue to use live animals in dissections or other invasive classroom exercises are apparently unaware of or unmoved by the fact that more than a dozen studies have been published showing that students using humane alternatives learn anatomy and physiology as well as or better than students who use animals.

Abundant resources are available for learning anatomy, physiology, genetics, toxicology and other animal-related fields that do not require animals to suffer and/or die. These include films, computer simulations, models, books or trips to the local veterinary clinic.

Finally, there is environmental protection. Many of the animals harmed or killed for classroom use are caught in the wild.

So think twice about participating in classroom exercises that are harmful to animals. If you think, as I do, that it isn't good education, then speak up.

By exercising your right to learn biology without harming animals, you send a strong message that you care about animals and the environment, society's values, and your education.

*Jonathan Balcombe, Ph.D., is a biologist and Assistant Director for Education with the Humane Society of the United States.*

## Mayor of Wellsville questions evaluation of tax rates in different area towns

Dear Editor:

I commend *Fiat Lux* for taking on substantive issues facing the town and village of Alfred. However, I question the use of the graphic showing alleged tax rates per \$1,000 assessed valuation accompanying the article, "Village seeks college contribution for tax-relief," in the Feb. 8, 1995, issue of the *Fiat Lux*.

As mayor of the Village of Wellsville, my complaint arises from the fact that the graphic, without explanation, makes it look as though property owners in the Village of Wellsville pay twice the taxes that those in other communities do.

In reality, that is not true. In New York State, each town is responsible for hiring its own assessor to determine the value of properties within it, and, sad to say, there really is little consistency from community to community in how properties are assessed.

The state tries to step in with its "fudge factor," called the equalization rate, to account for the variations in assessing practice. The equalization rate compares the selling price of homes in that community against actual market rate. In Wellsville, the equalization rate is 92.15, meaning that properties are assessed at 92.15 percent, while in Alfred, it is 107.13; Almond, 94.49; Amity (in which the Village of Belmont is located), 109.50; and Andover, 129.79.

So what does that all mean? It means that the same house that's worth \$50,000, for example, is assessed for \$46,000 in Wellsville and \$53,500 in Alfred. One step further: the taxes on that house would be roughly \$920 in Wellsville and just over \$600 in the Village of Alfred. See how that difference in taxes paid begins to dis-

appear when that factor is also considered?

But there is yet another major factor to be considered—the average selling price of houses. Some three years ago, when I was director of the News Bureau for Alfred University, I did a story on the average selling prices of houses in various communities to show how the presence of AU and ASC affects the housing market in the Village of Alfred.

At that time, the average selling price in Alfred was close to \$100,000, while in all the surrounding communities, including those that you mention in your story, the average selling price hovered around \$30,000. Does that mean that houses in Alfred are three times nicer than those in surrounding communities? Of course not. It just means that people who move into Alfred are willing to pay more for their houses, and that the same house in Wellsville or a surrounding community would likely sell for far less than it does in Alfred.

Okay, now translate what all that means to the buyer of an "average" house. It means that the "average" home buyer in Alfred, who is paying something in the neighborhood of \$100,000 for the house, will be paying \$1,128 a year in village taxes, while the buyer of an "average" house in Wellsville will be paying \$600 a year.

Again, the point is that to look at tax rates per \$1,000 assessed valuation, without taking into account a number of other factors, is misleading.

Sincerely,  
Susan C. Goetschius  
Mayor, Village of Wellsville

# Ceramics College, Alfred State College,

## Ceramics College braces for SUNY cuts

By DARCIA HARRIS

If Gov. George Pataki's budget passes on April 1 with a 32 percent decrease in the state grant to SUNY intact, the New York State College of Ceramics could suffer up to \$2 million in cuts, Alfred University administrators predicted.

As part of a rapid-fire assault on several areas of public

spending, Pataki has called for a \$629 million state grant to the State University of New York (SUNY) for 1995-96, down from \$919 million last year.

The SUNY Board of Trustees responded March 14 by releasing what they said would be the impact of this dramatic decrease.

Trustees said SUNY would be forced to:

- close or merge eight campuses, saving \$41 million;
- raise tuition by \$1600, generating \$188 million;
- eliminate 120 academic programs and reduce 600 others, saving \$42.2 million; and
- restructure college administrations, including a 30 percent staffing cut and a revision of funding to statutory college (like the Ceramics College), saving \$18.8 million.

Trustees predicted the tuition hike would drive 20,000 students from the system, while the other measures could result in the elimination of 2,500 jobs.

Administrators at AU began tightening the Ceramics College's finances as soon as Pataki was elected.

"We took him at his word," Provost W. Richard Ott said of Pataki's campaign promises. "He said he'd make cuts and

we responded accordingly."

Susan Strong, associate provost for the University, summed up the future for the Ceramics College simply: "There will be less money."

But in a March 17 faculty meeting, Provost Ott reassured AU faculty that the private sector of AU would not be called upon to bail out the public colleges if state aid is cut.

The Ceramics College houses the School of Art and Design and the School of Ceramic Engineering and Science.

Currently, the Ceramics College is managed by a team of four administrators—Provost Ott, Associate Provost Strong, Alastair Cormack, dean for the School of Ceramic Engineering and Kathleen Collins, dean for the School of Art and Design—while a search for a new dean continues.

James W. McCauley, former dean for the College of Ceramics, resigned Dec. 31.

To prepare for cuts, the management team curtailed out-of-state travel, called for reviews of all future spending and froze hiring.

Dean Cormack said that although the Ceramics College "won't be able to carry on as before," he does not think jobs will be at stake.

"We aren't expecting at this point to have to let anyone go, but we probably won't be replacing anyone who retires or resigns either," he said.

But the hiring freeze spells trouble for the School of Art and Design. Mario Prisco, professor of art, plans to retire this year, said Peer Bode, associate professor of video art.

"Mario teaches painting, freshman foundation and drawing classes," Bode said. "His position deals with a lot of students and it has to be filled when he leaves. As far as art faculty are concerned, that's non-negotiable."

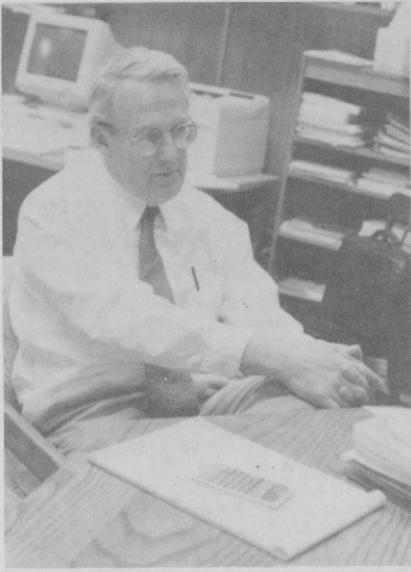
Strong said the management team may also combine offices in the Ceramics College to save money and to prepare for future retirements or resignations, but would not comment on which offices might be closed.

The management team and AU President Edward G. Coll Jr. hope the Ceramics College's reputation as a top-ranked art and ceramic engineering school will protect it if cuts are made.

"The Ceramics College is one of the truly distinctive intellectual jewels SUNY has in its academic crown," President Coll said.

Norman Aborjaily, associate professor of painting, said, "Our school has been gradually but consistently attracting more attention on a national level."

Aborjaily seemed confident the art program would thrive, despite an increase in



**"We took Pataki at his word. He said he'd make cuts and we responded accordingly."**

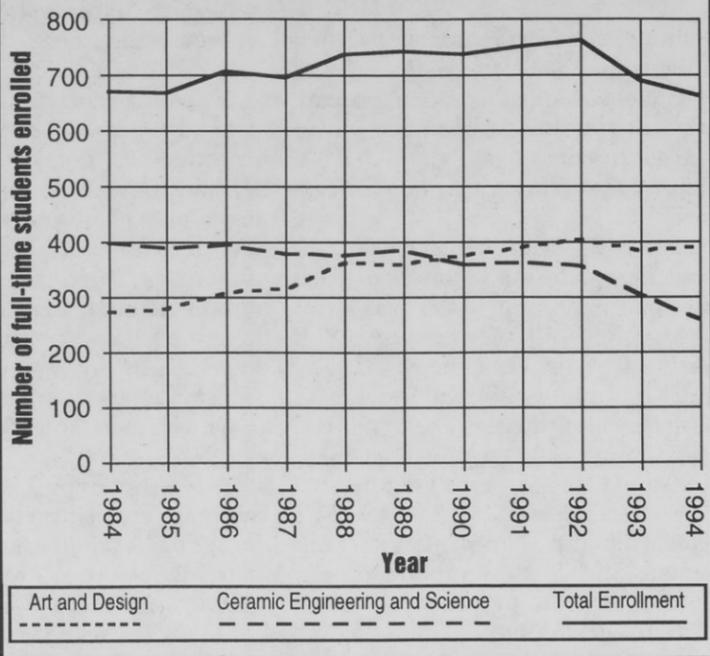
**-Provost W. Richard Ott**



**"These cuts are tampering with a structure that has evolved and grown and has achieved a certain excellence in education."**

**-Peer Bode professor of video art**

Comparative fall enrollments for the past ten years



tuition.

"Interest in art persists even in times of economic decline. People even went to school to study art during the Depression," he said.

But while the art school has grown, enrollment in ceramic engineering has steadily decreased since 1989. Total enrollment for the college has fallen since 1992, primarily because of a sharp drop in engineering enrollment between 1992 and 1994.

Strong, Cormack and Ott said the decrease in ceramic engineering enrollment does not make the Ceramics College more vulnerable to SUNY cuts.

"Enrollment in ceramic engineering is slightly lower than our target, but it seems to be stabilizing," Dean Cormack said.

However, Stong said the management team must increase total enrollment in the Ceramics College by building on the strength of the art school

and rejuvenating engineering.

In the end, all parties are concerned about preserving quality despite the possibility of severe cuts.



**"We're kind of like pawns between SUNY, the legislature, and the governor."**

**-Barb Fletcher ASC crisis counselor**

"We've tried to reduce expenditures, but our primary goal is to make sure the high quality of our programs isn't impacted," Cormack said.

Others doubt quality can be preserved in a college under such severe financial pressures.

Peer Bode said, "Each time faculty have to attend a special meeting, every time we have a conference to decide whether to replace the smallest piece of equipment, that's time we're not spending teaching."

Bode said faculty of the Ceramics College "are disappointed, because to be a part of this system is to believe in public education.

"These cuts are tampering with a structure that has evolved and grown and has achieved a certain excellence in education," he said.

But Dean Cormack, although he admitted it hardly seemed the time for optimism, said having less money "does not mean we won't be as strong; we just have to find a new way of doing business." □

PHOTOS BY JESSE JACK (OTT, BODE, FLETCHER)

PHOTOS BY JONATHAN SPRINGER (NINOS, PROTEST, INFORMATION TABLE)

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# village anticipate impact of Pataki's cuts

## Potential ASC closing could be a burden for village

BY JONATHAN SPRINGER

John Ninos missed his high school education when Nazi's occupied his native Greek island of Milos.

Now Ninos, who owns the Collegiate Restaurant on Main Street, is concerned about Gov. Pataki's proposed cuts to educational spending.

"It's an error on the part of the state administration," Ninos said. "We need to provide education to obtain jobs."

"Any kind of economizing that will take away the opportunity for an education is built on a false foundation," he said.

The lower budget could cause Alfred State College to close. On March 14, the New York Board of Regents, which governs the SUNY system, announced that in order to meet proposed spending cuts, it would need to merge or close eight campuses or learning hospitals.

Were ASC to close, the result would be major harm to the economy of the village, Mayor

William Hall said.

"It would hurt the businesses, and that's going to hurt the tax base. There's no large direct effect, but there is an indirect effect."

Loss of sewer and water fees paid by ASC would mean that AU and village residents would need to pay significantly more to maintain the sewer and water plants, Hall said. "That would be a disaster."

Deb Clark, ASC publicity director, said ASC doesn't know its future. "Until the legislature passes the budget April 1, nobody knows."

Even if there is no state budget after April 1, ASC can operate normally until June 30, Clark said, because SUNY's budget year runs from July to July.

Students and professors at ASC would be hurt if it closed. Rebekah Banfield has been studying nursing for two years, and has another year to go.

"I'd probably have to start over," she said. "Everybody's program is different."



Students, faculty, staff and community members exchange information about how proposed SUNY cuts could affect EOP, HEOP and other educational programs.

Barb Fletcher, an ASC crisis counselor, said most staff members don't know what to expect. "Every time we turn around there's another rumor

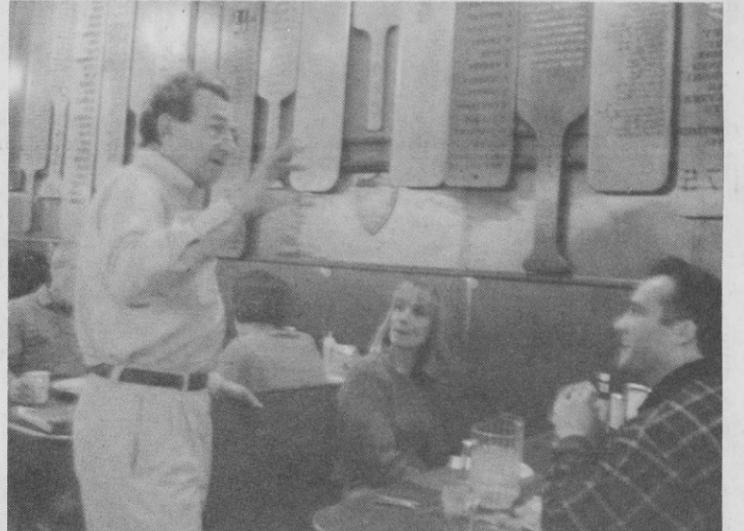
or another slant in a newspaper article."

"We're kind of like pawns between SUNY, the legislature, and the governor," she said.

Ninos said, "ASC serves an important purpose, not just in our community, but in our state. Losing it would be devastating." □



Alfred University and Alfred State College students and faculty march on Main Street, March 2, to protest Gov. Pataki's proposed cuts to New York State's education budget.



"Any kind of economizing that will take away the opportunity for an education is built on a false foundation."

-John Ninos  
proprietor of the Collegiate

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## SENATE UPDATE

BY JONATHAN SPRINGER

Student Senate's new administration held its first full meeting last Wednesday. No committees met over break and little new business was discussed.

At Senate's March 1 meeting, President Edward G. Coll Jr. announced that the tuition for private sector students will increase \$476 next semester and that the price of room and board would also increase.

Newly elected president Jacob Cooper and vice president Joseph DiCarlo were installed on March 1.

Senators elected Tracy Smith publicity chair and Matt Hansen treasurer. No secretary was elected at the March 1 meeting. The senate will attempt to elect one tonight.

## Sexual misconduct policy

...continued from page 1

ly into student affairs."

The old policy gave Provost W. Richard Ott, an academic official, final say in all cases of improper sexual conduct. Gerald R. Brody, dean of students, now has the final say in cases between students.

Giving responsibility for cases between students to student affairs personnel may have been done because of how much other University business Ott and Rausch already handle.

Rausch, with three titles—affirmative action officer, assistant professor of math, and special assistant to the president—and two offices, will now deal only with sexual harassment cases.

Ott serves as provost, director of graduate studies,

professor of engineering, acting dean of the College of Engineering and Professional Studies, and co-manager of the College of Ceramics. He will still decide the final disposition of sexual harassment cases between students and faculty or staff members.

After consulting a copy of the new policy, Ott confirmed that Gerald Brody, dean of students, decides the final disposition of sexual misconduct cases.

Ott said no cases of sexual misconduct had yet reached the appeal stage of the process.

Copies of the new sexual misconduct policies can be found in Herrick Library, Scholes Library, the offices of student affairs and residence life and with all academic deans. □

## A recent history of AU policy-making

**September 1992**—Judy Hartling, associate dean of freshman students, begins work with a "sexual issues group to work on policy revisions on sexual assault, prevention and education."

**October 1992**—A female African-American student at Alfred State College (ASC) alleged she was assaulted by three white males who "threatened to cut her breasts and throat."

AU students report rumors of a rape on the bridge behind Key Bank.

**November 1992**—Women's Issues Coalition (WIC) marched silently past the Homecoming parade carrying signs reading, "Are You the Next Voiceless Victim?" and "This University Lies, It Closes Its Eyes."

**December 1992**—Alfred State College crime statistics report no rapes were committed in 1991 and 1992 and no assaults or sex offenses in 1992.

Pat Schwartz, AU director of security, revealed plans to purchase fifteen emergency phones.

**August 1993**—AU institutes sexual harassment and sexual assault policies with full, written procedures.

**February 1993**—AU's blue-light phones were activated.

AU crime statistics for 1991-92 report that AU had not had any rapes or aggravated assaults.

**December 1993**—An AU student was charged with second degree sexual abuse on Dec. 4 after allegedly abusing an intoxicated college student.

**February 1994**—AU releases an updated version of sexual harassment policy.

**May 1994**—Joyce Rausch reported eight informal cases and two formal cases of sexual harassment, and two formal cases of sexual assault.

**June 1994**—An AU student filed for judicial intervention, requesting that a judge order the University to re-open her allegation of rape against another student.

She alleged that AU had violated its sexual harassment policy by failing to notify her of the disposition of her rape case within the policy's specified time period. This case was later dismissed.

**July 1994**—Thomas Evans, former professor of music at AU, filed a lawsuit against AU on July 5.

**September 1994**—Evans said AU official forced him to resign after a student filed a complaint against him.

When asked if the complaint was one of sexual harassment, Evans said, "Speak to my lawyer."

AU releases updated version of sexual harassment policy.

**November 1994**—WIC and Alfred Working For A Responsible Environment (AWARE), planned separate meetings to address "widespread concern about the issue of sexual assault."

WIC later canceled their Nov. 3 panel discussion when administrators canceled.

AWARE's "pro-active student caucus" held its first meeting to discuss AU's sexual harassment policy and its handling of sexual assault cases.

**December 1994**—Judge George F. Francis dismissed a student's request for judicial intervention on Nov. 21.

The petition, filed in June, was dismissed because Francis found that the statute of limitations had expired and the University policy allowed the student a chance to appeal a decision without going to court.

**January 1995**—AU releases new sexual misconduct policy. □

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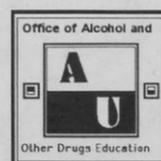
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# Budget deficit

...continued from page 1

not be altered.

"The money promised to students is still there," she said.

But President Edward G. Coll Jr. said the shortfall, which amounts to less than 2 percent of AU's total budget, could hamper the University's ability to attract financial support and investment from national foundations.

"That's why we've got to get this thing in balance," he explained. "I told the Board of Trustees at the meeting Feb. 18 that we are going to try very hard to work our way out of this deficit."

Peter Fackler, vice president of business and finance, said AU was "not wealthy".

"But we have a solid credit rating because we've developed a strong track record of balanced budgets," he added.

Fackler attributed the shortfall to reduced enrollment in the private and public sectors.

In a memo to faculty and staff dated Feb. 10, Fackler asked "that all personnel vacancies be held, pending further review by the President."

The memo also asked "that only necessary and critical spending for travel and equipment purchases be approved between now and the end of the year."

Budgetary problems are not peculiar to Alfred University. Many secondary educational institutions, especially those in the northeast, have begun tightening their belts as enrollments decline.

Ithaca College, in Ithaca, New York, is struggling with multimillion dollar budget deficits and an undergraduate enrollment decrease of 17 percent in the last three years. □



PHOTO BY JESSE JACK

Gary Ostrower, professor of history, takes advantage of the warm and sunny weather by holding his "American Women: History and Herstory" class outside on Mar. 15.

## Police Blotter

The Alfred Police Department (APD) reported the following arrests and incidents from March 3 to March 16:

- March 3: notified of a rape, investigation pending.
- March 3: notified of noise complaint.
- March 5: notified of stolen money at 1 Mill St, investigation pending.
- March 6: notified of a motor vehicle accident, Andrew Diaz of Dunkirk, charged with driving while intoxicated.
- March 16: Derek C. Comestro, 19, of Syracuse arrested for reckless endangerment and criminal mischief.
- March 16: The APD was notified of the theft of a stereo and other items from the Ford Street Apartments

The following people were arrested on charges of disorderly conduct:

- Richard J. Jopson, 19, of Groveland (March 11)
- Charles P. Stabell, 32, of Bellevia (March 11)
- Eric Winkleman, 22, of Almond (March 11)
- Henry O. Reed, 19, of Rochester (March 15)

The following people were arrested on charges of driving while intoxicated (D.W.I.):

- Monica L. McCarthy, 22, of Blasedell
- Robert B. Perry, age 22, of Cohocton

The APD was notified of motor vehicle accidents on:

- Rte. 21 (March 8)
- Rte. 244 (March 8, 13 and 14)
- In front of Harder Hall (March 13)

The APD was notified of seven bad checks issuances from March 3 to March 16.

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## Court Report

- Mark Bennett of Port Crane, driving while intoxicated (\$400)
- Shawn Butler of Rush, criminal impersonation in the second degree, reduced to a noise ordinance violation (\$200)
- Chad M. Dutton of Hinsdale, criminal possession of stolen property in the fifth degree, reduced to noise ordinance violation (\$250)
- Michael L. Franzino of East Setauket, criminal mischief in the fourth degree, reduced to disturbing the peace (\$50)
- Gene L. Gray of Caledonia, criminal possession of stolen property in the fifth degree, reduced to disturbing the peace (\$25)
- Michael P. Baker of Perry, harassment, reduced to disturbing the peace (\$50)
- Jermaine Bishop of Bronx, trespassing, reduced to disturbing the peace (\$50)
- Daron E. Huebsch of Liberty, theft of services, reduced to noise ordinance violation (\$50)
- Eli Hazzan of Buffalo, driving an unregistered motor vehicle (\$75)
- Sean J. Jordan of Brightwaters, driving without a seatbelt (\$50)
- Andrew C. Schell of Auburn, failing to reduce speed, reduced

- to failure to obey a traffic control device (\$100)
- Robert A. Condrate Jr. of Rochester, unlicensed driver (\$50)
- Michael S. Johnson of Depew, failing to obey a traffic control device (\$100)
- Lee E. Rector of Rochester, clinging to a motor vehicle (\$95)
- Brian C. Slocum of Olean, driving the wrong way up a one-way street (\$75)
- Vernon J. Hallett of Canisteo, drinking alcohol in a vehicle (\$25 fine)

The following people were charged with an open container violation:

- Ryan Hoban of Alfred (\$25)
- Anthony Assalone of Alfred (\$25)

The following people were charged with criminal trespassing in the second degree:

- John G. Olszowy of Lackawanna, reduced to trespassing (\$95)
- Brandon M. Acker of Warsaw, reduced to trespassing (\$95)

The following people were charged with disorderly conduct:

- Willard F. Hamelinck of Phelps, reduced to disturbing the peace (\$25)
  - David C. Briggs of Honeoye Falls, reduced to disturbing the peace (\$75)
  - George F. Ohsiek of Geneseo, reduced to disturbing the peace (\$50, paid with bail)
  - Scott W. Wideman of Honeoye Falls, reduced to disturbing the peace (\$50)
- The following people were charged with driving without a seatbelt:
- David R. McDougal of Warwick (\$75)
  - Stacey L. Klimtzak of Rochester (\$75)

The following people were charged with passing a stop sign:

- Kimberly McFarland of Smithville, Mont. (\$100)
- Michael Lebel of Acton, Mass. (\$100)

The following people were charged with speeding:

- Marjorie J. Cosola of Whaland (\$85)
- Aaron M. McCarty of Tonawanda (\$85)
- David Blank of Dewitt (\$85)
- Tamara R. Fschell of Chapel Hill, N.C. (\$85)
- Kimberly N. Parker of Buffalo (\$85)
- Eric Albrecht of Hilton, N.Y. (\$85)
- Patrick R. Brauch of Rochester (\$85)
- Byrum W. Cooper Jr. of Horseheads (\$85)
- Jamee E. Farinelle of Mornfield (\$85)
- Wesley A. King of Dellroy, Ohio, (\$85)
- Elvis Vukosa of Whitestone, reduced to failure to obey a traffic control device (\$125)
- Darcy D. Pulos of Alfred Station, reduced to failing to obey vehicle and traffic law (\$100)

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