

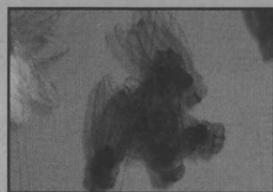


"The Contrast" overview
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FIAT LUX



Since 1913



Alfred's fly problem
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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ALFRED UNIVERSITY

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November 24, 2008



"Burn After Reading" will play in Nevins Theater Dec. 5 and 7. Check out the review in A&E.

A&E on pages 6-7



Check out The Green Guide from Green Alfred in Opinions.

Opinions on page 2



Senior swimmer Brian Agro recently broke AU's 100-yard breast-stroke record. Find out more in Sports.

Sports on back page

Welcome back, Randy!

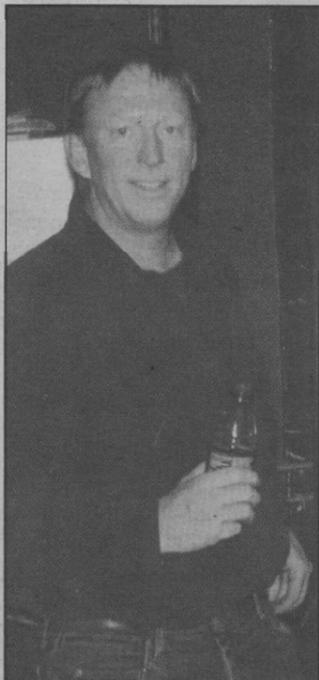


PHOTO BY THOMAS FLEMING

Holmes Auditorum Technician Randy Gillette has returned to campus after several weeks recovering from back injuries. Gillette can be found behind the scenes of most AU events requiring any technical assistance.

Only 12 of 21 vacant faculty positions to be filled for 2009-2010

By Kate Cohen
Billing and Ads Manager

Only 12 of 21 vacant faculty positions have received approval to be filled for the 2009-2010 academic year, President Charles Edmondson announced Oct. 31 at the general faculty

meeting.

Edmondson said the faculty positions that have received approval are currently vacant due to faculty retirement, faculty leaving AU, or extenuating circumstances. They have been approved for mostly full-time or tenure-track positions even though most institutions have

moved away from hiring long-term professors during the national economic crisis, instead focusing on hiring more adjunct and temporary faculty. In fact, most SUNY schools have had to enact some sort of hiring freeze, he said.

Edmondson says that although AU has great adjunct and temporary professors, tenure-track
Continued on page 5...

N.Y. Poet Laureate visits Alfred



PHOTO BY LEAH HOUK

N.Y. Poet Laureate Jean Valentine visited Susan Howell Hall Nov. 20.

By Laura Reyome
Copy Editor

It is not everyday that a writer is fantastic at their craft, a talented orator and an overall fabulous person. Alfred University was graced on Nov. 20 with the

presence of a poet who shines in all three of those categories: Jean Valentine.

The current Poet Laureate of New York State, Jean Valentine is, as Assistant Professor of English Juliana Gray puts it, "sublime." With a voice that

Continued on page 5...

Traffic incident causes day-long Internet blackout

By Sam Urann
News Editor

A traffic accident in Alfred Station caused intermittent Internet and power outages Nov. 18 throughout Alfred.

The truck involved in the accident pulled out of Tinkertown Hardware and was traveling east on State Route 244 when the incident occurred. The loading boom on the back of the truck, which had not been properly secured, struck electric, phone and TV

cables running above the roadway at 10 a.m., according to an Alfred Police Department press release.

According to the press release, two electrical poles were knocked down and a third pole was damaged as a result of the accident. There were no injuries, but the accident forced traffic to be rerouted for approximately 1 hour, 30 minutes.

Time Warner Inc. responded by repairing the fiber optic damaged, according to mass e-mails sent by

Continued on page 5...



PHOTO BY THOMAS FLEMING

Time Warner Inc. and NYSEG workers had to rebuild utility lines after a truck pulling out of the Tinkertown Hardware store knocked down several lines.

Ann's House on schedule to be open by fall 2009

By Tyler Parke
Contributing Writer

With construction moving along as scheduled, the new environmentally friendly residence hall Ann's House will be ready for students by the fall semester of 2009.

"It's neat that it is environmentally sound," Dean of students Dr. Norm Pollard said.

Since May, workers have been busy constructing Ann's House. With the recent overcrowding of AU's campus, this residence hall couldn't come soon enough. The hall will provide more rooms and will give students a quality living option that will keep them on campus for the mandatory six semesters.

Continued on page 5...



PHOTO BY LEAH HOUK

The environmentally friendly Ann's House is set to be completed by fall semester 2009.

EDITORIAL

Why isn't Alfred ahead of the curve on gas prices?

Jobs are being lost, the stock market is unpredictable and people are becoming scared of having to live paycheck to paycheck. With the economic downturn becoming a reality for most Americans, many are attempting to cut back on their spending to save a little money as they see their retirement plans diminishing with each closing bell in the stock market.

However, not all is bad for people who are looking for some kind relief, because even though the stock market is not leveling off as some hoped, it has caused oil prices to drop drastically from the record highs that we have seen during the summer months. Crude oil hit a record high in July at over \$140 a barrel, which caused gas prices to rise well over \$4.00 a gallon.

Hoping that some sort of relief would come in a timely fashion, people became impatient and nervous, thinking that these prices would stay high, if not increase to over \$5.00 a gallon. But as the economy began making its way into the recession we see today, Americans began limiting their travel during the summer months, which according to AAA is one of the most traveled seasons of the year.

This decline in travel would eventually lead to the fall of oil prices as the demand for gasoline lessened. Oil prices hit under \$100 a barrel at the end of the summer, the first time oil was this cheap since last March. The prices of crude oil only kept declining from there as our economy drew deeper into a recession. This decline in prices at the refineries led to the decline in prices at the pump.

Within the past few weeks we have seen oil drop all the way down to \$45 a barrel, and it is being reflected at gas stations across the country.

Here in Alfred that relief is not being reflected as much as some would hope. The price at the Arrow Mart in Tinkertown is \$2.57 a gallon as opposed to the national average of \$2.20 and the lowest price of \$1.35 found in Graniteville, S.C.

It does not seem that Alfred will be lowering its prices to stay ahead of the curve of this economic downturn anytime soon. That is why, if you feel like making the extra trip before going home before Thanksgiving break, you may choose to fill up in places such as Canisteo and Andover where gas is about twenty cents cheaper a gallon.

Gas is becoming cheaper across the southeast; we need to see this same trend occurring locally to reflect the economic troubles our country is facing today. Some relief at the pumps does not mean lives are becoming easier for Americans facing economic troubles, but it does help.

The hopes that gasoline prices will continue to fall is becoming a reality for a nation where every cent at the pump makes a difference. Though we may not be seeing as big of a difference here locally as we see on the national scale, it is apparent that gas prices are declining and this is allowing the American people to catch their breath from watching their investment plan diminish right in front of their eyes.

It's a small battle won in this ongoing struggle to bring the economy out of the turmoil we have created.

FIAT LUX

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Editorial Policy: The *Fiat Lux* welcomes feedback from its readers. Letters to the editor will be subject to editing for space and content purposes. The *Fiat Lux* reserves the right not to print any letter. Letters must be accompanied by name, address and telephone number. E-mail: fiatlux@alfred.edu or mail letters to: *Fiat Lux*, attn: Editor, Powell Campus Center, Alfred, N.Y. 14802.

The *Fiat Lux* supports the perpetuation of a broad and liberal education conducive to free speech. Only unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of this newspaper. All other editorials reflect the author's opinion.

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OPINION

Letter to the Editor: AMA is not as self-serving as you may think

To the Editor:

The Alfred University Chapter of the American Marketing Association (AMA) has had a long history at this school. Unfortunately, parts of that history haven't set forth a positive image for the future leaders of the student organizations to deal with. In the past two years, the AMA has been working to rebuild the reputation, as well as the membership of the student organization. The problem is, the AMA is still viewed as a self-serving student organization.

This year the AMA has decided to focus more of their efforts on events for the community. We began the semester by hosting two speakers for the university community, motivational speaker Lee Colan and AU adjunct marketing professor Cole Racho, who both drew a diverse crowd to their presentations.

In the month of October, AMA focused on raising money for Passionately Pink for the Cure by holding a pink bake sale and hosting a Halloween Bash for children and families to attend on Halloween Night after trick-or-treating hours came to an early end.

Currently, the members are participating in a friendly competition with the Alfred State Marketing Club and The Gallery, to make a video to help raise awareness about everything that is offered in the town of Alfred. That video can be viewed on the AMA Web site, www.auama.wordpress.com.

Letter to the Editor: Why I wear my military uniform to class

To the Editor:

Every Wednesday I wear my ACUs (Army Combat Uniform) to classes. Every week I get the same question, "Why are you wearing your uniform?" I tried to come up with an answer but it's tough. How can I explain to the questioner exactly why I am wearing a uniform? I generally reply, "I have Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) classes or labs today, and it's required to wear our uniforms." They usually become more curious after I say this because most students do not know what ROTC means, or that Alfred even has an ROTC program. I have reached my wit's end because I cannot give an answer in a few short minutes explaining ROTC because of all that the training consists of. There is a lot more to being in the program than students realize.

ROTC is a program run by the military to train prospective officers while they are in college. Alfred State and Alfred University are satellite schools of Saint Bonaventure's ROTC program. The ROTC program at St. Bonaventure is run by the Army, while other schools may have ROTC programs run by other military branches: Navy, Air Force, Marines, etc. For most colleges, ROTC classes are accepted for college credit. Once a week, I have a class to learn more about the Army and participate in a hands-on activity so that I may gain practical experience.

There is a class portion and a lab portion that is held once a week. The class usually goes over topics such

Next semester the chapter will be working closely with the Allegany County ARC to help promote new programs in the community by developing marketing tools such as flyers and posters, as well as performing market research for Partners for Prevention, a nonprofit organization.

It was only recently that AMA members learned of their self-serving reputation on campus. After all of the hard work that has been completed this semester, it was hurtful to learn the AU community wasn't realizing past efforts. The AMA is reaching out to the community to help and to learn. Members, with majors ranging from accounting to art and design join the AMA and quickly realize the benefits they gain from the projects and events we do.

As an active AMA member, I know all of the members spend several hours each week devoted to planning for programs that serve the community. I encourage those who still question our motives to come to our meetings, see what we are all about and learn that our goal is to practice our marketing skills while helping the community at the same time.

Jessica Marble
Sophomore
Vice President of Programming
AU American Marketing Association

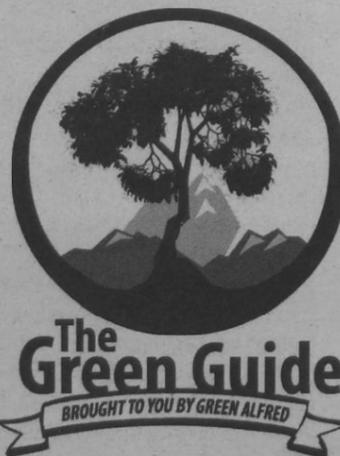
as rank structure, first-aid, courtesies, etc. The labs usually consist of exercises in the field or other training opportunities. The lab is the really fun part. The best is shooting the M-16, land navigation, or using the paintball guns. Drill ceremony is done periodically to show us how to march. There are two field exercises each year, which consist of activities culminating what we've learned for the semester. A formal military ball is held in the spring semester.

A myth I'd like to dispel is that because you are in ROTC class, you are not committed to serving yet. The only way you would have to commit is if you earned a scholarship. If you are granted a scholarship you must sign a contract and take an oath to serve our country.

We wear uniforms to our classes on Wednesday because that is the day we have class. It is tradition that we wear them. It displays our pride in the Army, identifies us as part of a group of proud cadets, and reminds us that even though we are college students, we are held and hold ourselves to the standards of soldiers and officers of the United States Army!

If you attend or are thinking about attending Alfred State or Alfred University and have comments or questions, please free to contact me via email at kcb5@alfred.edu, or come check out the class for yourself. We meet Wednesdays at 3 p.m. in the basement of the Orvis Center on the Alfred State campus.

Cadet Kenneth Bellows
First-year



Did you know that water bottles are never made from recycled material? To reduce the amount of petroleum used to make plastic bottles, use reusable bottles and filtered water. It's both less expensive and more environmentally friendly!

Are we better off without Greek life?

Tom Hayden
Staff Writer

As a super-senior hoping to graduate this December, I wanted to share some thoughts regarding Alfred University with, and now without, fraternities and sororities. I am a member of Delta Sigma Phi and will likely be the last Greek to receive a bachelor's degree from AU.

In 2003, when I first heard that AU was considering dissolving the Greek system, I immediately started sending e-mails from my office to President Edmondson. These e-mails requested that he and the Board of Trustees solve the problems they were having, not dissolve the Greek tradition. He and I started a dialogue that pushed me toward finishing my degree at AU.

I was a freshman in 1989 and walked away without my degree in 1993. In 2003, I started taking part-time classes again, and some of my former professors were still around and very supportive. I stopped taking classes in 2004, as the company I worked for couldn't allow me to leave work for Alfred, as we were working through a bankruptcy. I left the company in the summer of 2007 and enrolled full-time to finish my degree in the fall. I have basically been a full timer for the past three

semesters and have enjoyed every minute of it.

While being on campus as much as I have been for a year-and-a-half, I started to notice something. The students seemed to get along very well. The interaction between students in classes seemed more respectful than I recalled. There were at least twice as many student organizations than existed during my "first tour." Almost everyone is involved in something, and there is something for everyone.

Being Greek didn't mean that it was just pledging, and then enjoying great parties. There was honor among brothers and sisters. This honor came with some humbling period during pledging. I use the word humbling, because I never saw or participated in any hazing.

The honor I see in the students at AU today is that nobody seems to want to let other members of their student organizations down. I have seen this at the Fiat, but I am aware that it exists all over campus. This honor and respect for each other is happening without the need to humble one another.

What I have witnessed is that the students seem to get along very well without the Greek system. It is part of the AU history, but I do see things moving forward and Alfred will be fine.

AU Health and Fitness: Is Winter Making You Feel SAD? A Look at Seasonal Affective Disorder

Matt Cohn
Staff Writer

Winter is a time of year when we experience snowy, darker days. The lack of sunlight during this time of year may lead to a condition known as Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD). SAD is characterized by feelings of depression, sadness and lethargy that occur much more frequently during the winter season than during the sunny seasons (summer and spring). Another symptom is a craving for sweets and other carbohydrates during the winter season. This condition can be potentially dangerous, as severe depression may occur, which can potentially lead to suicide. SAD sounds pretty serious, but what causes it?

There are a number of theories behind the pathophysiology of SAD. One theory is that the decreased hours and intensity of daylight may affect the levels of melatonin in the body. Melatonin is a hormone responsible for regulating our natural sleep cycle (known as the circadian rhythm). The level of melatonin in the body is regulated by the amount of light stimulating the retina, the nervous tissue in back of the eye that is responsible for interpreting light. Light signals from the retina are then relayed to the pineal gland, the gland within the brain that is responsible for making mel-

atonin. Another theory about the cause of SAD is that an afflicted person has lower levels of serotonin, a "feel good" neurotransmitter. Okay, how can we treat this condition?

There are a number of potential treatments for SAD. Some possible treatments include light therapy, anti-depression medication, cognitive-behavioral therapy, and well-timed supplementation of melatonin. Another treatment that I recommend is a brisk aerobic workout; exercise has been shown to be just as or more effective than antidepressants (and it is good for you too!). Finally, if you feel that you may be suffering from SAD, I recommend that you make an appointment to meet with the friendly, qualified staff at the Crandall Health Center. Don't feel SAD this winter!

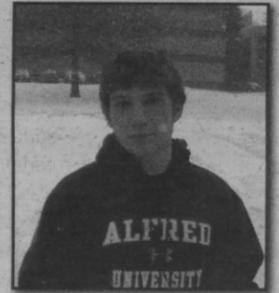
Matthew Cohn is majoring in biology with a minor in exercise science. He has been certified as an emergency medical technician - basic (EMT-B), certified nursing aide (CNA) and personal trainer (NCSF). This article is for entertainment purposes only.

Questions? Comments? Contact Matthew at mac8@alfred.edu

Roving Reporter

"What do you think of Senator Hillary Clinton as a likely nomination for Senator of State?"

By Harold Muntner
Office Manager



"Good idea-- she's actually a good choice."

-Peter Jones
Junior
Neuroscience



"Worst idea ever."

-Dan Meltezer
Junior
Theater



"It's a power trip; she's trying to get as close to the president's seat as she can."

-Chris Hanretty
Sophomore
Undeclared



"I don't feel she's an accurate candidate, and she doesn't support my second amendment."

-Amos Mainville
Sophomore
Mechanical Engineering

The race for the 29th district has reached crit-a-Kuhl Mass-a

Joe Martin
Contributing Writer

The race for the 29th district has reached Crit-a-kuhl Mass-a.

With the presidential election now a distant memory and the logistics of appointing and reorganizing an Obama administration filling the void that was electoral politics, many people have turned off the news now that the horse race is over. But don't throw that ticket stub down on the racetrack floor just yet, because one more pony still has to cross the gate.

The race between Republican incumbent Randy Kuhl and Democratic challenger Eric Massa is still going strong. The 29th congressional district, which includes Alfred, is one of two contests left in the country that is still undeclared - the other being Al Franken's Senate race in Minnesota. Republican Senator Ted Steven (who was convicted of 7 counts of lying on his financial disclosure forms one week before the election) was also in a tight race and narrowly lost his recount last week in Alaska, dashing former VP candidate Sarah Palin's hopes of filling in for the long-serving felon. As of the most recent vote count, though (11/14), Democratic challenger Massa is leading Republican incumbent Kuhl by 5,740 votes--a slim margin to say the least. However, with only 5,900 absentee ballots left to count, it would seem inevitable that Massa is going win.

But Eric Massa is a man who believes in the integrity of our great electoral system, and will not declare victory until every vote is counted. This is partly due to the fact that in his 2006 run, he insisted that he not declare defeat until every vote had been counted, although he eventually did when realizing the statistical impossibility of a victory. Despite his humility, though, Massa's campaign is obviously very confident in their candidate's success, as Massa is now attending freshman orientation on Capitol Hill, presumably learning where his classes are and making sure to sit at the popular table in the Congressional cafeteria.

Regardless of the hassle these recounts cause and controversy that can surround them, the closeness of these elections highlights the importance of a single vote and of an effective GOTV (get out the vote) campaign. For example, Al Franken's senate election is now only separated by four one-hundredths of one percent of the vote, with the incumbent Republican Norm Coleman leading by just 215 votes. One campaign volunteer will

speak to that number of people in one hard day of canvassing, and a phone bank operator will talk to even more. The point is that these elections, at least on a state level, fly in defiance of the old adage that one vote doesn't make a difference - even in a winner-takes-all electoral system. While a vote cast for McCain in New York may have been futile (as Obama won New York by over 20 percent), a vote for Randy Kuhl may have been the difference between his popping the cork on a bottle of champagne and renting a U-haul for his drive back from D.C. In this race the casting of one ballot and the effect of a few hours of volunteering could have very well shaped the future of the area and part of the federal government.

The change that Obama seeks to bring to the White House will be the result of a legislative turn around as much as an executive one. In 2004, not only did Bush win with a 'mandate of the people', but he also had a red congress, with 31 more Republicans than Democrats in the House and 11 more Republicans than Democrats in the Senate. Fast-forward to today: Senate Democrats are nearly filibuster-proof, with 17 more seats than Republicans (depending the Franken race), and the House is more blue than Violet Beauregarde, with nearly 60 percent democratic members.

All this change in just four years can be attributed to many things, including disillusionment within the Republican Party, an unpopular war, and that reliable catalyst for change- a tanking economy. Whatever the case may be though, it will be interesting to see if Obama, along with Massa and his compatriots, deliver the change they all promised on November 4. Traditionally the party of the President loses seats in the next congressional election as voters become angry about unfulfilled promises. Given the track record of apathy presented by the 2006 democratic congress, we may just see Massa back in Corning not too long from now.

The Obama campaign showed the effectiveness of grassroots and youth campaign organizing, but these congressional elections have shown the importance of voter participation in sheer numbers. It will now be interesting to see if the democratic House - along with Eric Massa -- will stay once the presidential honeymoon is over and make everything work. A democrat now represents the poorest county in New York State; let's see if he brings change as well.

OPINION

Ask the Alfred computer guy

Mike Stone
Contributing Writer



In my contact with the student population, I have noticed a general interest in computers and technology, but sometimes without enough understanding, experience, or "know-how" to really roll up one's sleeves and dive in head-first.

In response to this, I'll be offering a regular column in the Fiat wherein I answer your questions

on computers and technology. This being the first article of the series, we really don't have any questions to answer – so I'll begin by relating the circumstances that led me to write this.

Several weeks ago, I was performing routine system maintenance in the Herrick Library computer lab – it's a process performed by Alfred University ITS employees, such as myself, on a regular basis. While in there, I overheard a conversation taking place between a few students... and it gave me pause.

Apparently, one of these students was in the lab primarily because his computer had the dreaded "blue screen of death" and was no longer usable. He bemoaned the fact that he would have to wait until he went back home during break to take his system in for repair, and that he was forced to leave the comfort of his room to get work done.

"Does this guy know that the ITS Department, located just

beneath his feet, provide virus removal and computer repair services to students of Alfred University?" I wondered. It then struck me that this service could be less known to the campus as a whole than I had previously thought. I immediately called the Fiat Lux and ran an idea past them in an effort to spread the word.

The result is the article that your eyes are dancing across right this very minute.

If you are having issues with your laptop or desktop system, give us a call and we'll do our best to help you through it. For simple virus or spyware removal, we offer a "Clean Kit" – a USB Pendrive tool developed right here at Alfred University – that can be loaned out to help you perform the system clean yourself.

For deeper virus problems or more advanced issues (such as the aforementioned blue screen of death), you can drop the computer off with us for a few days while our "Tier 2" staff performs repairs. For hardware problems such as a dead hard drive or bad LCD display, we can help diagnose these issues and guide you in the right direction regarding who to call to get the best service (depends on the manufacturer and warranty status of the system).

The AU ITS Helpdesk is located in the lower level of Herrick Library and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. We can be reached by phone (607-871-2222) or you can send us an e-mail at helpdesk@alfred.edu.

So, if you have a computer or technology-related question, hit me with it – Mac, PC, hardware, software,

Windows XP, Windows Vista, Linux... I'll answer 'em all, and yours might even wind up in the next issue of the Fiat!

To send your inquiry, shoot me an e-mail at stone@alfred.edu with the subject "Alfred Computer Question." I look forward to hearing from you.

Making the ins and outs of the stock market clear

Jessica Marble
Staff Writer

Our economy: some call it the beginnings of the second Great

Depression, some lost the majority of their savings in it, and some are taking advantage of the opportunity that our society has been presented with. After talking to two student leaders from the AU chapter of the Student Managed Investment Fund, I feel it is important to inform the rest of the students in the AU community who are not 100 percent clear about the ins and outs of the stock market.

Gus Golinski and Louis Buscemi**, both senior finance majors and executive board members of SMIF, took some time and answered basic questions to give simple advice to those who are interested in but intimidated by the Stock Market. It doesn't take much to realize the stock market is at its worst point in years right now. What many people don't understand is, there couldn't be a better time to invest!

Golinski summarized the enormous drop in the stock market quite simply, "During the summer time, Bear Stearns shut down, a lot of personal banks were in trouble, and the fed needed to help them out." Buscemi continued, "This is pretty much all because of sub-prime housing loans. The reason that these major banks are failing is because they are so heavily invested in the housing market, people can't afford paying mortgages, so the banks are stuck paying what they can't afford." Sub-Prime Housing loans in simple terms is when banks loan people money at a floating interest rates, not fixed. The interest rates were rising due to occurrences in the economy and they were becoming too high for homeowners to pay. People lost their houses, and banks lost money.

Now that everyone is on the same page, where do we go from here? To students who are interested in investing, Golinski says, "Do it now, in or around the Christmas season, save up some extra money. Go on E-trade or one of the online trading sites and invest a little bit." Buscemi's advice: "Make sure you join an investment services organization that is FDIC insured, young adults look for an online service provider that offers the lowest brokers service fee as possible.

So now, you know where to go, you know what to do, but what do you look for? Buscemi advises to observe the stocks' 52 week high/low. This is how high and low the stocks have been in the past 52 weeks. It will give you an idea of the potential the stock may have in the future. The best idea is to try to find a stock that is near its 52 week low.

The stock market is a fierce environment full of professionals who trade for a living. There are opportunities both on and off the campus for students to learn, so they can understand investments on a basic level if they don't plan on majoring in finance.

The Student Managed Investment Fund on campus is open to all students. This is a credit bearing student organization. There is a lab and a class each worth one credit.

Students can take the lab as many times as they would like, it is a pass/fail class with a focus on the SMIF portfolio. The class teaches students what to look for and how to use Valueline (an investment service provided by AU to AU students to use at their leisure.) Students work weekly to gather reports of companies. The lab puts everything learned in the class to use.

During the meetings, students join president Golinski, and fellow members in improving the AU SMIF portfolio. Several years ago, AU trustees gave SMIF 100,000 dollars in real money to invest and gain life experience outside of the class room. Today, the portfolio is valued around 178,000 dollars. Buscemi, now treasurer of SMIF invites students to join, "we are always looking for new members to add to our melting pot of ideas."

Outside of the class, the best way to learn is to research. Buscemi says to "steal your parents newspaper and open it to the business section." Also, just by searching around on Google or Yahoo finance will teach any internet wanderer as well as The Wall Street Journal.

Both members have been closely watching a few of their favorite stocks lately. Apple is a favorite for the simple fact; it is right before the Holiday season. Buscemi explained Apple has a great research and development program, and continued to ask, "Do you know anyone who doesn't have an iPod?"

Google, another popular choice is very low right now, according to the students. Buscemi, with another quick fact notes, "They have more advertising revenue than any company in the world. They are also selling at 65% lower than 6 months ago."

One of Golinski's top choices is the Family Dollar, or any dollars store. He explains, "they offer products for a low price, and that is exactly what people are looking for right now. Everyone is going there in a market like this; everyone is eating up the dollar stores."

A final favorite of Buscemi's is any fast food restaurant. His reasoning, people are traveling more because gas prices have gone down. The money being saved on gas will be spent on the food.

Succeeding the stock market is more than knowing the stock "lingo." Everything that happens in our society effects portfolios across the world. It is a fast-paced upbeat market with sometimes unpredictable outcomes. The stock market is not just for business majors and will soon benefit all that are involved once our market recovers.

**Golinski and Buscemi are students at AU. They are not professionals and advise all students to take their trading in the stock market very seriously. Any questions relating to the stock market and money should be forwarded to a professional in the field.



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Faculty...continued from front page

and full-time faculty are a better fit for the AU community.

Edmondson said his decision to fund only 12 of 21 faculty hires was based upon the unpredictability of the economic crisis. Edmondson stated clearly that although AU is in good financial standing, he must anticipate the possible long-term effects the economy might have on AU.

"We do not know how the economy will play out, and I might find myself making changes next fall," he said.

Even though Edmondson has only approved around one-half of the vacant faculty positions, it will put AU over budget by about \$560,000, he said. Funding for approved positions is not yet accounted for, and AU will need

to find new ways to secure this funding, he said.

Edmondson said that AU wants to maintain the high quality of education that comes from the low student-to-faculty ratio. However, AU must view faculty as an institution-wide expense and be realistic in hiring, considering today's economy, he said.

"We are trying to get a student-to-faculty ratio at a level we can afford without making huge quality sacrifices," Edmondson said.

According to Professor of Psychology Lou Lichtman, hiring only 12 of 21 faculty members is the responsible thing for AU to do at this time. Lichtman explained that personnel are the biggest expense to an institution, which is why the president is looking

carefully at faculty.

Lichtman added that he was surprised at the number of faculty positions approved and questioned whether the president was being too generous.

"I was surprised that the president approved as many positions as he did, because I think the economic downturn is likely to result in a significant shortfall in revenue," Lichtman said.

Professor of marketing Amy Rummel says that as an AU faculty member, she is willing to do anything to keep the university running smoothly. If that means cutting back on faculty hires, so be it, she said. Although Rummel did comment on the added stress that the lack of positions can put on faculty, she said that she has

no doubt that AU will get through tough times due to the decisions the president and Board of Trustees are making.

"It seems that the administration and faculty are unified in looking over the health of the university," Rummel said.

How will the approval of only 12 of 21 vacant faculty positions affect the AU student body? The faculty will be larger next year, since 12 of the 21 vacant positions should be filled by then, he said.

He said that his hiring decisions were based on how they will affect AU students' quality of education.

"We do not want to compromise the quality of the academic programs the students have come here for," Edmondson

said.

According to Faculty Senate President and Powell professor of psychology Ed Gaughan, the president is doing all he can to ensure that AU has a solid future. He says that AU is making the right hiring decisions in order to protect itself, in a time of national financial crisis, without jeopardizing its quality of education.

Ceramic engineering and material science Professor Jeff Varner agrees with Gaughan.

"We all appreciate that the president and Board of Trustees have to be appropriately careful in this extraordinary situation," he said.

Traffic...continued from front page

the Director of Communications Susan C. Goetschius. The e-mail also stated that long-distance phone lines, in addition to the Internet, were likely to experience

problems.

Time Warner Inc. informed ITS that the repairs would take a "minimum of 4 hours" before the utility pole could be replaced, according

to the e-mail.

Goetschius's e-mail added that ITS responded to the situation by doing what it could to mitigate the loss of service, although there

was little that could be done until the electrical distribution lines and fiber optic network lines were repaired.

The brown out left campus as

well as some areas off campus without Internet and cable until later that evening.

Poet...continued from front page

could melt butter, Valentine read to a captive audience selections from her most recent book "Little Boat, Lucy" (a chapbook that will be released in February 2009) and some of her unpublished work.

Every word the poet chose was picked for perfection, evoking not only the image it was chosen to construct, but also a thousand different ideas for her spellbound listeners. With a single phrase, Valentine had the audience in a world of spirits, bones and little boats on tablecloths: "You are my skeleton mother/I bring you cof-

fee in your cemetery bed."

Valentine shared not only her poetry, but also herself with the audience.

One member asked the age-old-question of "what made you become a poet," to which Valentine, with a smile, responded, "I don't think I became a poet," explaining, "all I could do was write poems." She said she was "lucky" to get published.

No question was silly or irrelevant; the poet had an answer for everything and took the same care with each inquiry posed to her.

When did she write? In the morning, Valentine told us, it is when she has her "best energy."

How did she like to write? By typewriter, hand, or otherwise? Valentine writes by hand with a pen. She likes the way handwritten manuscripts look, and jokingly told the audience "like the Declaration of Independence, if 'independence' was crossed out and replaced with 'happiness' or something."

Favorite questions for a lot of the students were "how many times do you revise?" and "how

heavily do you revise?" There was a certain glee to learning that "Lucy" wasn't revised much, if at all, but reality set in as we were told that most of the time she revises "quite heavily."

After the reading, a handful of the audience trekked onto the first floor of Howell, and received an extraordinary reception, where we were not only fed delicious food, but continued to have splendid conversation with Valentine.

Her poems, she told us, were "expressions of gratitude." We were simply grateful she had cho-

sen to read to us, to share both her craft and her love of it. Nobody in the audience went away without a smile, a signed copy of a book of poetry, or a feeling of joy after deciding to hike up that snowy hill to Susan Howell Hall and being rewarded with a fabulous reading by Jean Valentine.

If you missed her reading, or are just interested in learning more about Jean Valentine, check out her website at: <http://www.jeanvalentine.com/>

House...continued from front page

Located behind the Ford Street Apartments, the hall will be 15,000 square feet with mostly single rooms, and will have enough room for 48 students. Every two rooms will have an adjoining bathroom to share.

This dorm will contribute to the greening of Alfred's campus. Solar panel technology and environmentally safe materials will help reduce costs and use of energy. Ann's House will lead the way for more eco-friendly buildings in Alfred's future.

Ann's House is being built on the site of an old Fraternity house, and Pollard believes the completion of this dorm will signify Alfred's movement in a new direction, away from the fraternities of the past. "It shows we are moving on," Pollard said.

The construction of Ann's House is made possible by Joel Moskowitz, an Alfred alum who already funded Joel's House, another newly built residence hall on campus. This hall will be named after his wife, Ann, and

according to Pollard, "will be a much nicer living space than many of the off-campus residences." Pollard stated that this hall "speaks really well for the continuity of community here at Alfred." People like Moskowitz have a love and a pride for their alma mater, and it shows.

More parking is another plus for Ann's House. Many students complain of the parking situation on campus, and with more parking available at Ann's House, parking spaces will open up for

more students.

The reaction from students on campus is that they are ready for construction to be finished. The process of constructing the dorm has caused minor inconveniences for the residents of the Ford Street Apartments.

Sounds of drilling and hammering can be heard from the rooms of students early in the morning almost seven days a week. The construction also caused the road to be blocked at times during the day, forcing students to find alter-

native routes.

"On warm nights when I want my window open, I have to leave it shut because I know the construction will wake me up early in the morning," junior Mike Buisman said.

When looking at the big picture, these are only minor issues. What Ann's House will offer students and the AU community in the long run far outweighs the inconveniences its construction has caused.

Littering is still an issue at AU



PHOTO BY SAM PRIBISH

A discarded can lying on the quad by King Alfred.

By Elizabeth Daniello
Staff Writer

Now that people are more earth-friendly and environmentally conscious, littering is becoming less of an issue. But how about on Alfred University's campus?

"During warmer months (littering is) higher than it should be," said the president of Green Alfred and senior engineering major Andrew Iovovich.

Green Alfred's mission, according to its website, is "to advance the recycling system throughout campus, to pursue alternative energy and to promote sustainability."

According to Iovovich, the amount of littering this year is about the

same as past years on Alfred's campus.

"I think it's just laziness that makes people litter," said senior engineering major Kate Glass

Iovovich stated that there's enough garbage cans on campus, but it's the responsibility of the community to make sure that the garbage ends up in the proper receptacles.

"The (garbage cans) ... they are placed well, but we could use more down Academic Alley," said senior psychology major Heidi Loomis.

Some students also recycle on campus in their dorms. However because AU doesn't have any type of stable recycling program it makes it difficult for students to recycle the material.

"We're looking to put recycling bins near dumpsters, instead of inside buildings, next semester," said Iovovich.

When it comes to recycling, some people don't know what the proper procedures are. When recycling glass bottles or jars, be sure to wash it out, remove the label and the cap, Iovovich said. Plastic bottles and aluminum cans can be recycled as well; just make sure to remove the label and rinse out the inside.

"I recycle everything I can, but I think more people need to recycle," said Loomis.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Movie Review



Meh

The Contrast

By Leah Houk
A&E Editor

The Theater Department performed their latest production, "The Contrast" by Royall Tyler, November 12-15 in the C.D. Smith III Theatre. Professor of theater Becky Prophet directed the department's second show of the semester, an early American comedy of manners written and first performed in 1787.

The play, which predates the Constitution, depicts the stark differences between some materialistic, wealthy European expatriates living in New York and the earnest, hard-working, rough-around-the-edges individuals who fervently believe in what America can become.

Sophomore John Hamolski (a native New Hampshire) played Colonel Henry Manly, the earnest, principled New Englander who contrasts sharply with the snobbish, stylish ladies' man William Van Dumpling (sophomore Steven Patterson). Van Dumpling is engaged to Maria (sophomore Emily Dowd), who loves truth, but is also involved with Maria's bored, gossipy socialite friends Letitia (senior Amanda Holland) and Manly's sister Charlotte (sophomore Melanie Baker), neither of whom know about Dumpling's involvement with the other. The servants Jenny (sophomore Anna Kowalczyk), Mandy (first-year Hope Barnum) and Netty (sophomore Katie Barlow) made small but memorable appearances.

As could be expected, by the end of the play serious Maria has broken her engagement with the two-timing Van Dumpling and set her heart on Manly instead, to the delight of her overbearing father, the merchant Van Rough (first-year Fernando Bolles). Letitia and Charlotte have also made amends with each other and begged Maria's forgiveness.

The play ran 2 and half hours, and though

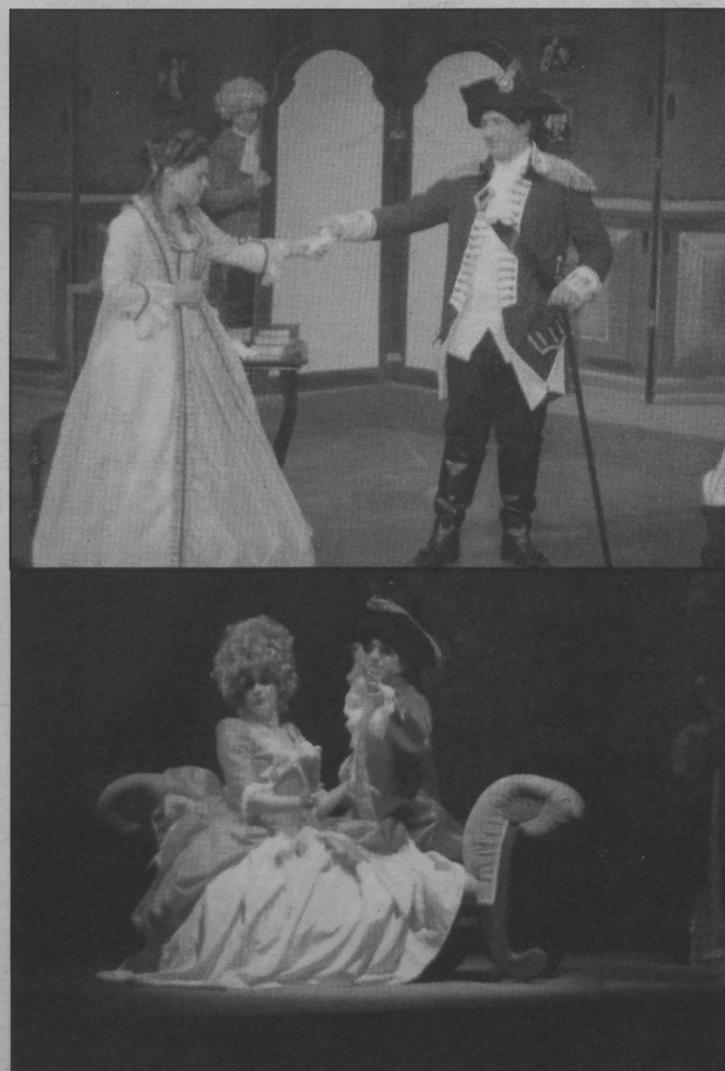
my interest flagged during a few of the lengthy monologues, in general the performance seemed shorter than it was. The interplay between Van Dumpling's servant Jessamy (sophomore Justin Pietropaolo) and Manly's attendant Jonathan (first-year Nicholas Jimenez) was incredibly amusing, as Jessamy attempted to instruct Jonathan in the ways of society, including how to read a book and laugh in the appropriate places, and how to woo Jenny the servant.

Pietropaolo had the audience in stitches as the pretentious, lacy hankerchief-wielding Jessamy. I was unable to concentrate properly on the dialogue through the fog of pomposity that clouded the air during the scenes in which Van Dumpling and Jessamy appeared together. Patterson and Pietropaolo played off each other both physically and verbally in a marvelous way.

I thought the acting in the show was fantastic—at times over the top physical comedy, at times subtle eye-rolling and wrist-flicking—and the dialogue, although lengthy, was snarky and fun.

The costumes for the show were like fluffy pastries—towering powdered wigs and giant hoop skirts for the ladies and Beauty and the Beast-style suits for the men. A large beauty mark graced the face of each actor, sitting atop the veritable icing of white face paint and drawn-on arched eyebrows and lacquer-red lips. The plush couches and rich furniture of the set also contributed to the overall decadent, luscious feel of the play.

The play took a fun and humorous, though sincere, look at the ideals on which our country was founded, and the contrast between those who believed in and actively sought to enact those ideals and those too frivolous and privileged to think of anything beyond their own hedonism. I must admit, though, I wasn't ready for the winsome frivolity of Charlotte, Letitia, Van Dumpling, and especially Jessamy, to end.



PHOTOS BY ANNA KOWALCZYK

(Top) From Left, sophomore Emily Dowd, first-year Fernando Bolles and sophomore John Hamolski. (Bottom) From Left, sophomores Melanie Baker and Steven Patterson.

By Harold Muntner
Office Manager

The latest Coen brothers' film, "Burn after Reading," is an amusing comedy with an all-star cast, including George Clooney, Brad Pitt and Tilda Swinton. The story revolves around a CD belonging to a CIA agent that is found in the locker room of a gym. Brad Pitt and his co-worker at the gym try black-mailing a CIA agent, played by the always great John Malkovich. The story was all around funny owing to the great physical humor between the characters, along with the amazing dialogue. It is also fun to watch the events of the movie unfold knowing that none of the characters have all of the facts about what is going on.

The only real problem with the movie is the plot itself. There are a lot of sub plots happening at the same time as the main events of the story are unfolding. This makes it easy for the viewer to forget what the main story line is, and when the movie finally circles back to it, you've forgotten what was going on in the first place. In addition, when they flip back to the sub plots it's hard to remember what is going on with each character. It is remarkable how they can make a movie that at first glance appears to be about nothing so confusing at times.

The acting in the movie was well done and balanced in the way it used actors like Brad Pitt, who plays a somewhat out-of-it gym trainer, blundering around in a comical fashion, and balanced him out with the always wonderful Tilda Swinton. Swinton plays the more serious role of a woman undergoing a divorce and having an affair with a married man in the meantime.

Although the plot is confusing and that acting only barely makes up for it at times, this is a good movie for those who are looking for a good laugh and are not looking for deep substance in the film.

"Burn After Reading" will play in Nevins Theater Dec. 5 and 7.

AUTV MOVIE SCHEDULE

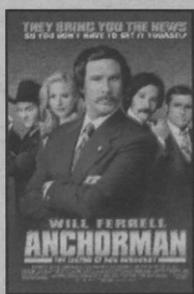


STUDENT CHOICES

Batman Begins
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation
Shooter

STUDENT SENATE

The Incredible Hulk



STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD

Anchorman:
The Legend of
Ron Burgundy

Baseball Club

Hellboy II: The
Golden Army

AUTV

Tenacious D
in the Pick of
Destiny

FIAT LUX

V for Vendetta

The schedule for the AUTV/Student Senate Movie Channel can be found at people.alfred.edu/~autv. Movie choices are subject to change. The survey for each month's student-chosen movies will be available at my.alfred.edu. AUTV is on channel 3 on campus only. Questions and comments can be sent to autv@alfred.edu.

Art Union Art Auction raises over \$2,000 for Indian school



PHOTO BY KODI TIDD

Art Union held a silent auction and a Bollywood-style dance show (performed by the Middle Eastern Dance Organization) in the Harder Hall lobby Nov. 5-7 to benefit Indian children. Artwork was submitted by students, faculty and local artists, and the auction raised just over \$2,000 for the Maya Free School initiative, which provides services for children from the dailits (or untouchable) caste in India.

The highest bid went to "Ceramic Bubble Plate," by senior Jessie Caccamo, and the second highest bid went to "Fruit Bowl," by Liz Sparks. For more information about the Maya Free School, visit <http://www.magicinmaya.com/>

Lee Collins lets AU on the secret to success

By Kate Cohen
Billing and Ads Manager

It's not news that perseverance is the key to success; it is the steps you take to persevere that will make you successful, Dr. Lee Collins, a motivational speaker on leadership, told AU in Nevins Theater on Nov. 11.

The American Marketing Association (AMA) invited Collins to speak at AU to aid in the success of Alfred as a whole. The audience was packed and the sound of Velcro could be heard as Collins handed out wristbands to promote positive thinking.

Velcro was invented by a man named George who took

his dog for a walk and got stuck with an annoying burr. George became fascinated by the burr and passionately made his way to become the inventor of Velcro, Collins said.

Although Collins said that perseverance is not news, he stated that there are three keys that one must use in order to be successful. The keys are fairly simple: a sharpened focus, competence, and passion. Each key has a multiplicative effect on another, meaning increasing just one of these keys will positively increase all three as a whole.

Collins explained that a sharpened focus is like the sun versus a laser. The sun is a

powerful source of energy but it gives off this energy in a diffused manner. A laser on the other hand is a relatively weak source of energy on a large scale but, the energy is given off in a coherent stream that can be powerful enough to cut diamonds.

"Those who consistently stick to their plans are laser-like," Collins said.

But how do we stay focused and what do we stay focused on? Collins told the audience two questions they must ask themselves in order to stay focused: "What are you passionate about, and what are you naturally gifted at?" He said if you can answer these, then you

are well on your way to success.

The key to competence comes from the skills you learn about yourself through focus. He compared competence to the sweet spot in a tennis racket explaining that you know that you are hitting things right if you go for it and it feels good just like hitting a tennis ball with the sweet spot of a racket.

"Our goal is to live in our sweet spot," Collins said.

Finally, Collins revealed the third method of success: ignite your passion. Passion is one of the strongest keys to success. Passion is what makes humans able to accomplish such amazing feats, Collins said.

"Passion enables us to perform ordinary tasks in an extraordinary way," Collins said.

Although he pointed out that the three keys to success seem simple, the path to success may not always be easy and enjoyable. It's the bigger picture one must always keep in mind. Collins told the audience that we have the power to take one little thing and make it huge through the keys of success.

"Put positive thoughts in your head today and get positive thoughts tomorrow," Collins said.

From Trenton to Timbuktu: AU alumnus Brad Berwald returns to speak about solar energy

Kate Cohen
Billing and Ads Manager

Solar energy is aiding the world from New Jersey to Africa, AU Alumni and senior sales engineer for Morningstar Corporation Brad Berwald told the AU faculty and students on Oct. 31 at the Roon Lecture Hall.

Solar modules are benefiting a wide variety of people, Berwald said.

Berwald graduated from Alfred with a degree in electrical engineering and then

completed a master's degree in business administration. He was invited back to Alfred by the Environmental Studies Seminar series.

Morningstar Corporation is using solar energy to help countries all over the world, Berwald said. He told the audience the scientific background of Morningstar's specific off-grid solar module and detailed the positives and negatives of using solar energy.

Berwald said that there are currently two types of solar

energy systems: on-grid and off-grid. The on-grid system connects directly to the user's electric meter with no means of storage, and the off-grid system deals with storing solar energy in a battery bank. Berwald explained that Morningstar Corporation focuses on the off-grid system thus enabling Morningstar Corporation to possess a diverse market that is interested in using off-grid solar technology. This market ranges from powering lighting in rural homes and high way traffic signs to powering

telemetry (instruments used to tell the weather).

"The best thing of the solar modules is that it is infinitely skilled," Berwald said.

Berwald pointed out that although solar energy is a very promising energy source it is by no means flawless. The process to build modular technologies uses toxins such as cadmium and arsenic, very dangerous materials, he said.

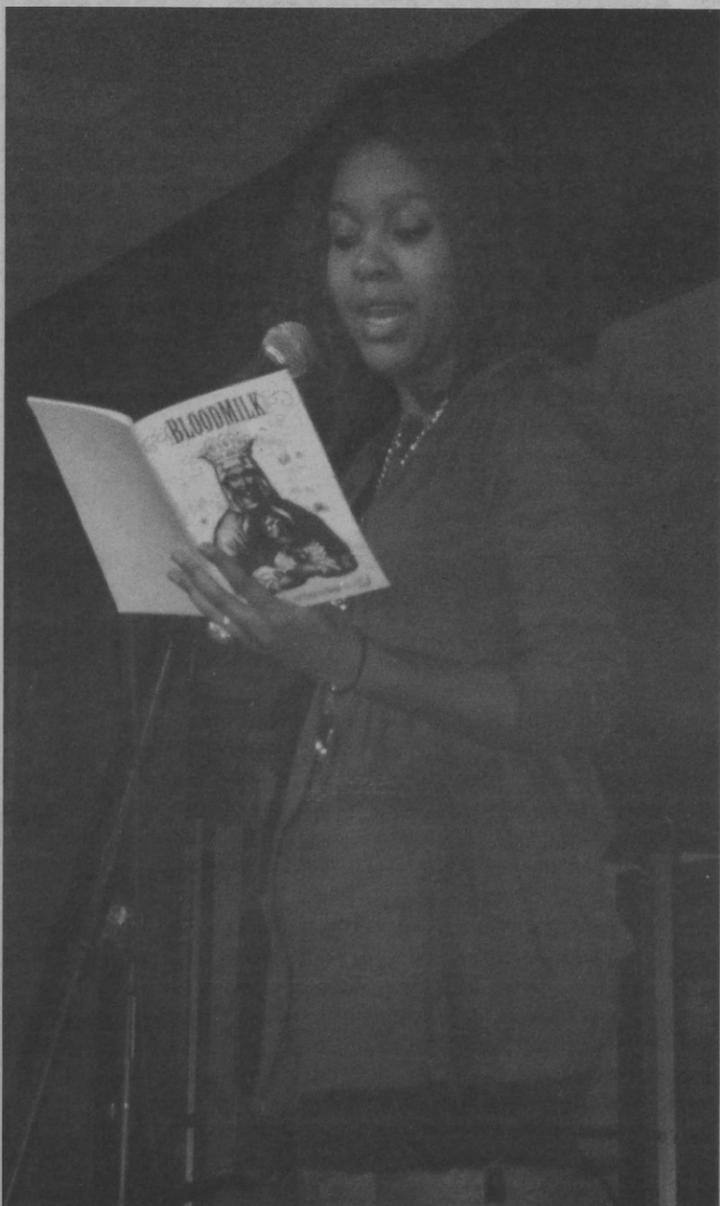
"Solar energy is clean producing, but it is not the perfect source," Berwald said.

However, solar energy is a safer energy source for many countries such as Ecuador. Morningstar Corporation and Berwald have helped Ecuador provide a safe and long lasting fluorescent light through their off-grid systems instead of dangerous kerosene lighting Ecuador readily used before.

Although solar energy may not be the perfect source it definitely is a revolution in the right direction.

"Morningstar is intrigued by the future," Berwald said.

Slam Poet Eboni entertains audience in Ade



By Sara Kam Yan Yuen
Business Manager

Eboni, the Slam Poet who performed 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at Ade Dining Hall, is an African-American young woman who came all the way from New York City. Eboni lives in Brooklyn, where she said it is scary when it is quiet. Therefore, when she got off the bus at Alfred, Eboni joked, she was scared. She immediately wanted to go back to New York City, where police booths are everywhere. Eboni loves to smile, and cracked many jokes during the event.

The first few poems that Eboni performed were all about sex and relationships. Eboni started off with a poem about drunken men and women in a bar, which she dedicated to beer drinkers.

Eboni wrote a poem for her ex-boyfriend, a guy she called a "mother f***er". She described scenes of listening to her ex-boyfriend's heart beat and digging nails into his back. Apparently when Eboni read this poem to her ex-boyfriend, the only thing that he said was, "It's cute."

Eboni also wrote a poem for her current boyfriend. She talked about women in this poem. Eboni thinks women who have ugly interior should have ugly exterior, which is not so true in reality. Eboni had to look at the mirror, and put her hair up and down. She had to spend time on making herself pretty to feel that she was enough to make her boyfriend love her. And hilariously enough, when Eboni read this poem to her boyfriend, he had the same response

as her ex-boyfriend: "It's cute."

Eboni performed a poem titled "Dirty Mouth." It was about her part-time job performing phone sex when she was studying at New York University. At that time, Eboni had no money because the college textbooks were too expensive. She did not want to humiliate herself by shoplifting tampons and stealing toilet paper from Starbucks. Since there was nothing that Eboni thought she could do, she decided to be a phone sex operator. Eboni's father told her, no matter what she does, she has to be the best. Therefore, instead of a "phone sex operator," she called herself a "fantasy conversation specialist." Eboni said, "When I am listening, I am sexy," and that this was what made her a good phone sex operator. She told the audience not to be phone sex operators because the job is gross and you do not get paid enough.

Eboni has spent 6 months in Ghana. She studied at a university and taught in a refugee camp at the same time. The experience inspired her to write a poem about the Elmina Slave Castle in Ghana, which was built in 1482 by the Portuguese. The Elmina Castle was built because of the slave trade. A few hundred years later, no one can forget the "Ballade of Elmina." When Eboni walked across Wall Street, she was walking on bones. Eboni is American because "someone crossed the ocean and died surviving." Eboni wrote this poem because she would like to pass something on.

The following poem was about

Eboni's grandma who passed away very long time ago. She described a scene at the funeral home. There were children at the funeral, but they were not as mischievous as they normally were. This was because "when your grandma dies, you are just human." Eboni found her grandma's hair everywhere in the house, this made her feel like she was just waiting for her grandma to wake up. Eboni found the adults ridiculous when they were thinking about what her grandma would wear when they bury her. No one would ever see what her grandma wore when she was buried. No matter what Eboni's grandma wore, "she will always be just beautiful."

The last poem of the event was one that Eboni wrote drunkenly on Nov. 4, Election Day. According to Eboni, New York City exploded because of Obama's victory. Eboni wrote this poem to be a protection spell for Obama. Eboni was still working on the poem, and the AU audience was the first to hear it. Eboni wrote that we have to watch over the dreams of our children, and let America become a "garden of free slaves."

Eboni believes Obama needs more blessings, and she hopes he can go wherever his blood draws him. The victory of Obama is a legend, it happened because there are magic, patience, and hope alive in the world.

PHOTO BY SARA KAM YAN YUEN
New York City poet performed at 7 p.m. Nov. 7 at Ade Dining Hall as part of the Slam Poet series.

Far too many dead flies are on the wall at AU

By Sharifa Barrow
Distribution Manager

Alfred locals that are able to escape outdoor critters, such as skunks and crows, are often faced by a greater nuisance indoors: flies, and lots of them.

At AU this problem can be observed best in buildings such as the Miller Performance Arts Center, or McLane Physical Education Center where piles of dead and dying flies cover the gym floor, according to AU Junior Danielle Cooper, a women's basketball team member.

"We run over hundreds of dead flies almost every practice," she said.

Though flies have always been in Alfred, there seems to be more than usual this semester, according to many AU community members.

Not long ago a student would have been able to practice the piano in Miller without hearing flies buzzing around. Today in Miller, in the larger practice rooms, it is almost guaranteed that not only will several flies be bumping against windows, dozens more will be dead or dying on windowsills and floors.

According to Professor of Biology Gordon Godshalk, if people think that the problem is bad today, they should have been here 20 years ago. He remembers working on his house many years back and encountering thousands of flies under a single sheet of tarp paper.

If whacky weather conditions are not enough to drive Alfred residents crazy, the abundance of flies is helping the process along. Locals want to know why these flies are here and it seems that the weather may be the blame.

These are not regular houseflies; they are most likely cluster flies, according to Godshalk. Cluster flies are parasites of earthworms, and earthworms thrive in moisture. Since this past summer had more rain than usual there were more earthworms. The result: a cluster fly invasion.

An adult cluster fly is roughly a little bit bigger than a regular housefly. According to Bugclinic.com, they tend to be way more sluggish and they are most common in the northern parts of the United States. They are appropriately named because they are usually found "clustering" around windows and warm places.

Cluster flies may be many things, but they are definitely not harmful, said Godshalk.

"There's no reason to get rid of them—they pose no health threat," said Godshalk.

AU Carillonneur Laurel Buckwalter, who teaches piano in Miller, agrees with Godshalk. She says that some years ladybugs seem to invade, and other years it's flies.

"They're just annoying, you learn to deal with them," she said.



PHOTO BY LEAH HOUK

A couple of dead flies lie on a windowsill in The Brick. Many students at AU have reported that the fly population has noticeably increased.

What to do about Alfred's smelly skunk friends

By Andrew Rosen
Contributing Writer

On Oct. 15 Carolyn Kassonoff, a senior Art and Design major, experienced a too-close encounter with a skunk. "My room got sprayed by a skunk and now I am living in my living room," she explained. "I really don't know what happened. The window was open and a skunk sprayed something that attacked it I think," Kassonoff said.

Incidents like this have been happening throughout the semester. There has been a rise of skunk sightings throughout the town of Alfred. Many students don't know

how to react to these sightings and often get scared. However, if you follow these tips, you will know how to deal with skunks and never have to worry again.

People see skunks and instantly get scared because the first thing they think about is being sprayed. What people don't know is that skunks don't even like their own smell. They spray only when they are frightened, because it is their defense.

According to Evergreen Animal Protection League, people should limit the amount of bird seed, pet food, piles of brush, gardens and garbage seen around the outside

of their yards, since skunks are attracted to these objects.

To avoid attracting skunks, people should feed pets inside or remove food after a meal and keep BBQ grills clean and stored in garage or shed. Also, keep garbage in metal sealable containers and pick up any fruit in your yard. Students are very messy and leave trash wherever they please. This only increases the skunk population.

Shannon Eustice, a Junior Art major, is a possible reason for Kassonoff's situation. "I can't have cats in my house because my roommate is allergic to them, so I

started to look after a stray over the summer, and now I have a feeling our downstairs neighbor thinks the stray is the reason for her room smelling, because I left food outside our front door every night."

In order to deter skunks from your residence, try putting rags soaked in ammonia around the yard or socks filled with moth balls. These two methods create stench that will force the skunk to stay away from your house.

If you ever encounter a skunk, never pester it by throwing things at it. This will only makes it angrier. The best thing to do is either walk away and seek an alternative

route or, if it is blocking your path, make yourself huge by opening your jacket. This will frighten the skunk and make it run away.

If you are ever sprayed by a skunk, you should use hydrogen peroxide. If you take that and mix some baking soda in, you can make an old standby remedy for the removal of skunk spray.

These tips and various others can be found at the Evergreen Animal Protection League and if anyone ever has any problems with a skunk who won't leave, call Public Safety at 1-607-587-2108

Bookstore representatives speaks to Senate about high prices

By Sam Urann
News Editor

Three staff members from the Alfred University Bookstore spoke to Student Senate in order to address student's concerns about high prices on Nov. 12.

"The wholesalers are setting the price; we have no control over it," Marcy Bradley, the manager of the AU Bookstore explained about the price of books.

The bookstore sent 3 staff members: manager Marcy Bradley, assistant manager Karla Panter and regional manager Debbie Parker. The staff was willing to come and field any questions at the request of concerned students during open forum in prior Student Senate

meetings.

The price of books and the rates student receive when selling back books was the topic of greatest concern. Bradley explained the system the bookstore uses to set buyback prices. A rating scale of 1 to 9 is utilized, with 1 meaning nobody uses the book and nine meaning many campuses use it. The books then receive an appropriate value.

Another reason for the bookstore's current policies is that they have no storage area. "What you see is what you get," Bradley said.

Bradley added that during the designated buyback schedule, students will receive 50 percent of the book's value.

There is a new feature

available on the AU bookstore website that allows students (or anyone else) to access a small list of books that are being bought back for 50 percent only on our campus, Bradley said. The date for the buyback list of books was Nov. 21, and the bookstore shoots for this date, although it may be subject to change (www.alfred.bncollege.com).

Bradley described how the list for what is being bought back depends on professors' timing in submitting what books they require for courses. "We're always asking professors to get their lists in," Bradley said.

The bookstore buys back a little over 2000 lbs of books every semester, which turns out to be 57 to 87 cartons, Bradley

said. The bookstore also pays the campus a percentage of its profits, Bradley added, stating that \$45,600 went to the campus in December 2007 and \$57,800 in May 2008.

Students were curious about why Under Armour gear is particularly expensive, and Marcy responded that the price is at "the industry standard."

The high price of art supplies was another topic students had questions about. Marcy moved on to explain that art supplies at the bookstore are typically priced at or lower than manufacturing pricing. She also suggested that art students can buy in bulk together to save money.

"We are well below 'list' price almost \$3," Bradley said, adding

"you can bring anything to our attention."

As for student organizations wishing to sell items like t-shirts, they can partner with the bookstore. The student organization receives approximately 20 percent after the university, and the bookstore take their percentages.

Resident assistants and resident directors receive a discount for a short time period, and Bradley said that these times are hectic, and she will look into whether these periods can be extended.

The AU Bookstore is located on the second floor of Powell Campus Center.

HUMOR

Dear Luxie:

Luxie answers YOUR questions about Life, School, and Stuff in General

Dear Luxie,
My roommate snores. Not a whimper, not a light purr; we're talking halftime at Ohio State. Our room is a lumber mill after she goes to sleep. What can I do?
-Pained Ears Need Solution

Dear Need,
First of all, make sure she knows about it. Once you've done that, the answer depends on how your roommate deals with the snoring. Once she knows about it, she can do one of three things.
(1) She can work with you, and go to the health center to get it checked out, and perhaps buy you earmuffs or something. Or (b) She can deny it. Or (~) She can admit to it, but refuse to do anything.
If she takes one of the last two stances, you have several choices.
You can hope it's from her vocal chords, and hum a tune you like. Hopefully she'll subconsciously take up the tune, and her irritating snoring will turn into a beautiful concerto that will help lull you to sleep.
Or you put an aluminum tube that leads up to the ceiling over her face so the sound annoys those noisy neighbors upstairs. You'll have to put it on after she goes to sleep and remove it before she wakes up so she doesn't find out about it, or she will work to thwart your plans.
Your last choice is to become a carpenter, so at least you can use all that wood.
-Luxie

Dear Luxie is written by Luxie Taif, and does not represent the opinions of the Fiat Lux as an organization, or its staff. Dear Luxie is a (mostly) humorous column, providing a sarcastic view of questions sent in by YOU, the reader, and should probably not be taken seriously. In fact, it DEFINITELY shouldn't be taken seriously. So don't.
If you have a question for Luxie, you can email it to the Fiat Lux at fiatlux@alfred.edu with "Dear Luxie" as the subject line or send it to the Fiat's mailbox anonymously by addressing the envelope to:
Fiat Lux
Alfred University
Yadda yadda yadda

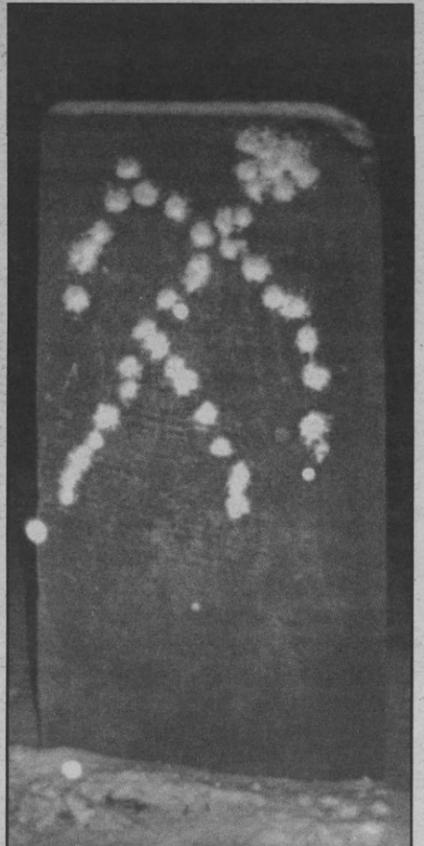
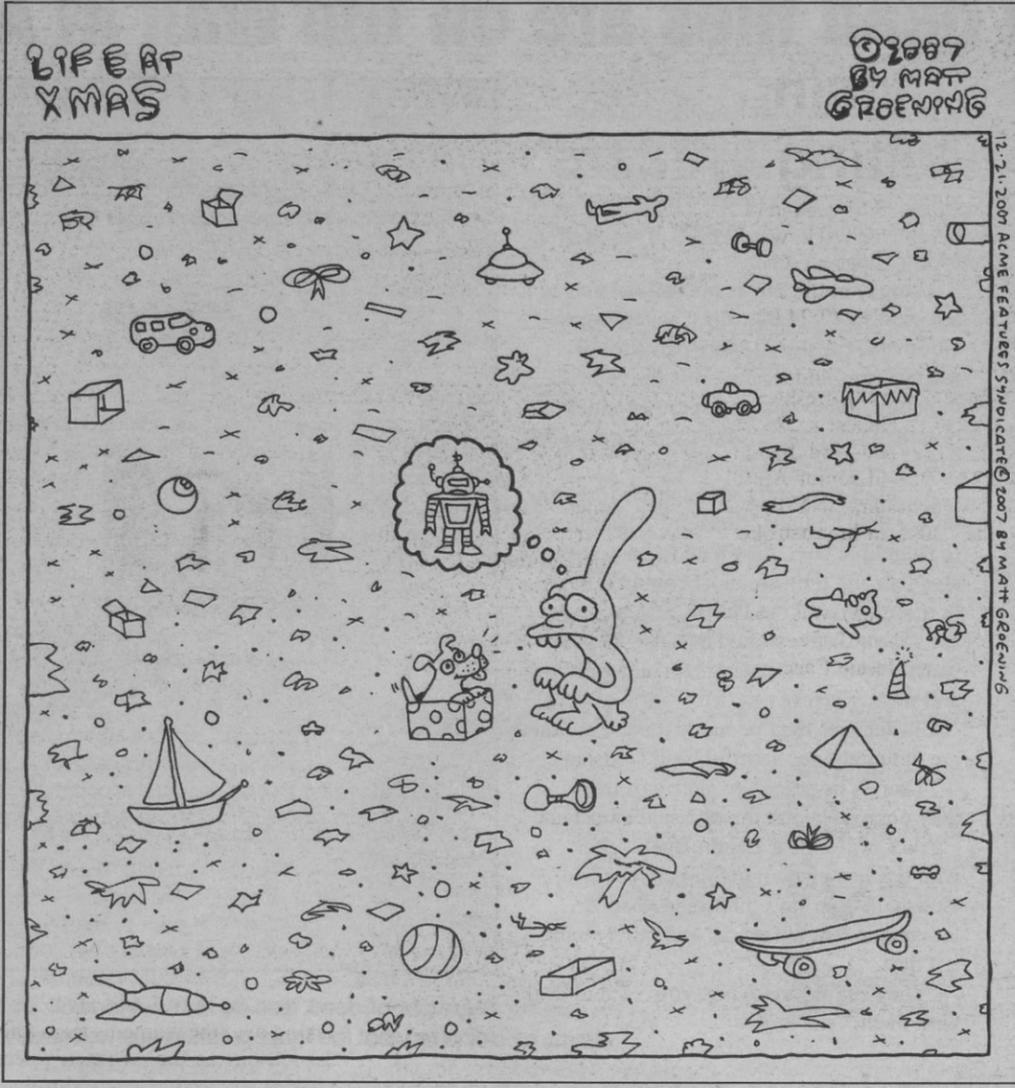
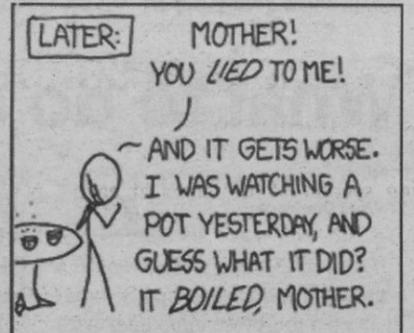
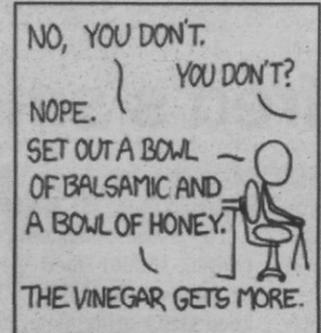
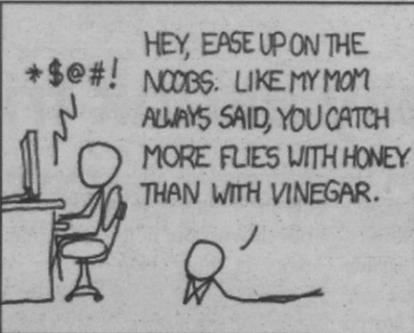


PHOTO BY LEAH HOUK
Snowball art on a stone slab by Canacadea Creek.

xkcd A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE. Written and drawn by Randall Munroe. You can find more xkcd at www.xkcd.com
WARNING: THIS COMIC OCCASIONALLY CONTAINS STRONG LANGUAGE (WHICH MAY BE UNSUITABLE FOR CHILDREN), UNUSUAL HUMOR (WHICH MAY BE UNSUITABLE FOR ADULTS), AND ADVANCED MATHEMATICS (WHICH MAY BE UNSUITABLE FOR LIBERAL-ARTS MAJORS).

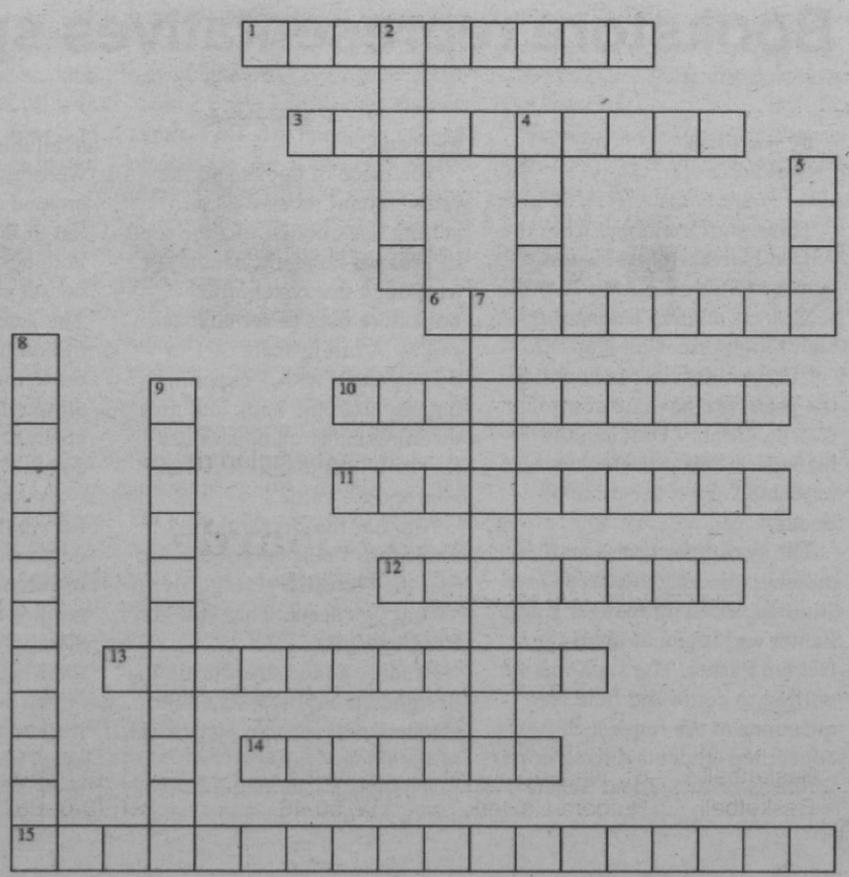


Author's Note: I don't know about houseflies, but we definitely caught a lot of fruit flies with our vinegar bowl. Hooray science!

Fiat Crossword

- ACROSS**
1. Almost single handedly built the observatory, later named after him.
 2. Biannual dance held by spectrum.
 3. Created a somewhat unsavory lamp. Hero to mice.
 4. Because of this AU students are writing frantically to 50,00 words this Nov.
 5. Student Senate funds this buss to provide transportation to the Wegman's-WalMart plaza.
 6. Non-artists hesitate to go here for fear of getting lost. There is a rumor that there is a Minotaur in the center.
- DOWN**
1. Vice president of student Senate.
 2. Heath Ledger played a spectacular Joker in The Dark Knight, shown in _____.
 3. Really loud, but the way to rally volunteers when there is a fire alarm.
 4. Hafra was performed here.
 5. This annual basketball game is held between AU and ASC.
 6. In charge of dinning services.
 7. Homecoming queen.

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SPORTS

AU women's swimming and diving team knocks off visiting William Smith

The Alfred University's women's swimming and diving team earned its second dual meet win of the season Saturday afternoon, beating visiting William Smith, 134-107.

With the win, the Lady Saxons improve to 2-4 in the year (0-3 Empire 8). Leading the way for AU with two individual wins each were sophomore Sarah Blair (Auburn, NY/Auburn) in the 50-yard freestyle (25.32 seconds) and 100-yard free (57.11 seconds) and senior Brynja Seagren (Bradford, PA/Bradford), who swept the 1-meter and 3-meter diving events. Seagren also placed second in the

50-yard freestyle (28.61 seconds).

Other winners for AU were freshman Maggie Callesano (Genevoort, NY/Saratoga) in the 200-yard individual medley (2:24.02); sophomore Cailin Asmo (Johnson City, NY/Johnson City) in the 200-yard butterfly (2:41.88); freshman Donna Hoops (Geneseo, NY/Geneseo) in the 200-yard backstroke (2:27.97); and senior Amy Buisman (Rochester, NY/Penfield) in the 200-yard breaststroke (2:46.15).

Sophomore Calista Merritt (Conesus, NY/Livonia) was second in the 1,000-yard freestyle (12:00.15); senior Jessie Caccamo

(Ballston Lake, NY/Shenendehowa) was second in the 200-yard free (2:06.83) and 500-yard free (5:43.24); and senior Laura Smith (Pine Island, NY/Warwick Valley) was second in 1-meter diving and third in 3-meter diving.

The team of Blair, Merritt, Caccamo and Callesano teamed to win the 400-yard free relay in 3:59.26. Hoops, Buisman, Asmo and junior Meghan Jones (Beaver Falls, NY/Beaver River) were second in the 400-yard medley relay (4:30.81).

The AU men's and women's teams are in action next on Dec. 5-7 at the RIT Invitational.

Right: An AU diver in action on Friday Nov. 14 as the women's swimming and diving team defeated William Smith, 134-107.



PHOTO BY DAVID LEMMO

AU english equestrian team places second in pair of weekend shows

The Alfred University English equestrian team competed in a pair of shows over the weekend, placing second of 15 teams at each show. One show was hosted by Nazareth, the other by Geneseo; both were held at Lehman Farms in Pittsford, NY.

Winning first-place ribbons in the Nazareth show were Theresa Wills (Ransomville, NY/Lewiston-Porter) in open equitation over fences; Maire Cosgrove (White Haven, PA/Bishop Hoban) in intermediate equitation over fences and open equitation on the flat; Barbara Koziol (Syracuse, NY/Bishop Ludden) in intermediate equitation over fences; Johanna Moore (Summit, NY/Morristown-Beard) in novice equitation over fences; Beth Ulbrecht (Penn Furnace, PA/State College) in novice equitation on the flat; and Alicia Pickett-Hale (Concord, NH/Concord) in novice equitation on the flat.

Kelly Rinebold (Ontario, NY/Wayne) took second in novice

equitation over fences and third in novice equitation on the flat; Katherine Kennedy (Horseheads, NY/Horseheads) was third in open equitation on the flat; Michelle Flannery (Syracuse, NY/Westhill) and Lyndsay Patterson (Belmont, NH/Belmont) were both third in advanced walk-trot-canter; Shaina Muir (Powell, OH/Dublin-Scioto) was sixth in open equitation over fences; Kayla Summerville (Fairport, NY/Fairport) was fourth in novice equitation over fences; Steve Pionkowski (Greenwich, NJ/Cumberland Regional) and Sandy Burnley (Bayside, NY/St. Francis Prep) were third and fifth, respectively, in walk-trot; and Natalie Grow (Hyde Park, NY/Our Lady of Lourdes) was fifth in intermediate equitation on the flat.

AU riders who earned first-place ribbons in the Geneseo show were: Wills in open equitation over fences and Burnley in walk trot.

Kennedy was fourth in open equitation over fences; Koziol was

second in intermediate equitation on the flat; Ulbrecht was second in intermediate equitation over fences and third in novice equitation on the flat; Rinebold was second in novice equitation over fences and third in novice equitation on the flat; Danielle Ross (Staten Island, NY/St. Peter's) was fourth in novice equitation over fences; Kate West (Pavilion, NY/Pavilion) was third in novice equitation over fences and second in novice equitation on the flat; Muir was fifth in open equitation on the flat; Grow was third in intermediate equitation on the flat; Pickett-Hale was second in novice equitation on the flat; Patterson was fourth in advanced walk-trot-canter; and Pionkowski was fifth in walk-trot.

The AU English equestrian team is in action next on Saturday, Nov. 22, at St. Lawrence before traveling to Cazenovia College for a show on Sunday, Nov. 23.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The english equestrian team poses with its champion ribbon after finishing first out of twelve teams in a showing at Geneseo on Oct. 25.

Lady Saxon basketball hits the refresh button

A new coach and a different mindset hope to reverse Alfred's record from a year ago



By Lauren Peterson
Contributing Writer

Left: Jay Murphy, former Alfred men's basketball head coach, was appointed the head coach of the womens team in May 2008.

Murphy takes over a team that finished 2-21 last season.

The women's basketball team is determined that with hard work, a positive attitude and accountability it can change the program around for the 2008-2009 season.

With an overall record last season at just 2-21, the women's basketball program is making big changes this season. New head coach, Jay Murphy, was appointed the post in May 2008. He is now taking over the women's team after 13 seasons as the AU men's head basketball coach. Coach Murphy's main focus is to get his players more comfortable with a motion offense and a pack defense.

"With hard work, defense wins games," said Murphy.

First-year assistant coach, Kristine Suatoni, with her experience hopes to add something to the program. Coach Suatoni, who recently graduated in Spring of 2008, says that by being closer in age to these girls and recently participating in a lot of tournament play, she can relate with players on a certain level.

"I hope these girls learn a lot this season, stay positive, and mainly

always have fun," said Suatoni.

The coaching staff and players believe that if they come together as a team, nothing is stopping them from winning 20 or more games this year.

Captain Lisa Button says, "I have noticed a huge change in the teams intensity and hopefully this will motivate our team for a break out season."

Button added by stating that she can already tell that practices are better than a year ago and is excited to see a difference in the team's performance this season.

Confidence, patience and hard work seem to be the key in a turnaround season for the women's basketball team.

"We do have a lot of experience, we have some very hard workers who are really getting the hang of our style of play" said Murphy.

With that, this team is determined to step on to the court this year with confidence and a mindset to win.

Saxons fall to St. Vincent 85-54

HUNTINGTON, PA— The Alfred University men's basketball team fell to St. Vincent College, 85-54, in the championship round of the Doc Green Invitational Tournament Saturday afternoon.

Alfred (3-1, 0-0 Empire 8) struggled from the floor in the first half shooting just 25 percent (7-of-28), while St. Vincent netted 15-of-30 from the floor to take a 39-22 lead into the half.

Despite improved shooting in the second half (58 percent), the Saxons could only pull to within 15 points. St. Vincent continued to shoot well in the second half draining nine, three pointers and shooting 56 percent from the floor.

Junior guard Bobby Barry (Duanesburg, NY/Duanesburg) paced the Saxons as he finished with a team-high 11 points. Sophomore guard Gary Kwiecien (Perry, NY/Perry) and senior forward

Carl Embury (Perry, NY/Perry) chipped in with 10 and nine points respectively.

St. Vincent's BJ McGill was lights out from behind the arch, netting seven three pointers on his way to a game-high 25 points. Joey Butler recorded a double-double, scoring 20 points and dishing out 10 assists while Mike Medved finished with 14 points.

For their performance, Barry and Embury both earned All-Tournament honors. Barry finished the tournament with 30 points, five rebounds, three assists, and three steals while Embury added 24 points, 13 rebounds, five steals, one assist, and one blocked shot.

Alfred is in action next on Tuesday, November 25, when they host Hilbert College in the Saxons' home opener at the McLane Center.

Alfred Saxon Scoreboard

Team	Opponent	Result	Record	Next Opponent
Football	RPI	L, 34-31	7-4, (3-1, E8)	Season Finished
Eq. (English)	Geneseo	2nd/15	N/A	St. Lawrence
Eq. (Western)	Syracuse	2nd	N/A	at AU Invitational
M Swimming	Fredonia	W, 129-102	5-0, (3-0, E8)	RIT Invitational
W Swimming	William Smith	W, 134-107	2-4, (0-3, E8)	RIT Invitational
M Basketball	St. Vincent	L, 85-54	3-1, (0-0, E8)	Hilbert
W Basketball	Rutgers-Newark	W, 50-46	3-1, (0-0, E8)	Hilbert



SPORTS

Lady Saxon softball team a hidden gem

Program looking to expand its facility needs

By Abbey Shaffnit
Contributing Writer

The women's softball program is approaching its 20th year at Alfred University, and as the 2009 season gets closer, players are unsatisfied with the fact that they still won't have a home field to play on.

"It's embarrassing," said junior captain Jessica Figallo. "We're a good team and we don't have the facilities to prove it."

Only days before students returned to AU this fall, the decision to begin the field was acted on. An infield was dug on Tucker, which is a commonly used practice field for many other teams on campus. However, throughout the entire fall season the field remained untouched by any softball players, leaving not only the team, but other students and coaches confused. After all of the struggle to get the field, why isn't it being used?

Athletic Director, Jim Moretti,

said the field has been approved for practice. The team did not practice on it this fall because head women's softball coach, Gino Olivieri, deemed the field unsafe. He wasn't willing to sacrifice any injury because of unsatisfactory conditions. So the team continued to travel each day to Hornell High School, where practices and home games are held.

"We would like to turn the practice field into a regulation softball field," said Moretti. "That will happen as soon as we relocate the practice field, (Tucker) which is expected to be in 2010."

Many people remember the 2006-2007 season, when the women who are now juniors came to Alfred as freshmen and helped rebuild the softball program. In the 2007 season, the team finished 3rd in the Empire 8 conference and 2nd in the ECAC tournament, only to improve in 2008, when they finished 2nd in Empire 8 and

2nd again at ECAC's.

Knowing the field won't be completed until after the 2010 season, it seems unfair that the women who work so hard to bring winning titles to Alfred University won't be able to host a single home game throughout their entire collegiate career.

"It's tough to play 40 to 45 games on the road. It would be nice to have a home field advantage once in a while," said Olivieri.

Although the women in the junior and senior classes know they won't see a home field anytime soon, they are still upbeat. "You don't need a field to have talent," said junior Jordan Siefer.

Coach Olivieri stated that the junior class has paved the way for a lot of things. Not only have they initiated the construction of the first softball field on campus, they have proven to be the key players Alfred needed to start a softball dynasty.



PHOTO BY JEREMY JUHASZ

With no "home field," the Alfred softball team is forced to play its games at Hornell High School. Although invisible, due to the snow, on Tucker Field rests a ball diamond that will serve as the team's practice field with plans for it to change into a regulation home field in the future.

Football ends regular season, beating Fisher

A Cardinal comeback forces OT, but AU prevails

By Nathan Weiser
Copy Editor

Alfred won an overtime thriller against St. John Fisher, 36-33, during its regular season finale, in the rain, on Nov. 15.

AU won the coin toss and elected to go on defense first, and the move proved to pay off. Fisher started with the ball, and they were not able to put together much offense, so they had to settle for a 25-yard field goal. That would prove costly because on the Saxons first play of the ensuing possession, quarterback Tom Secky fired a 25-yard pass for the game winner to receiver Trevor Bork.

It was exhilarating watching a game go right down to the wire, while seeing AU come out one top, and quarterback Tom Secky

thought so as well.

"The last second win was awesome. I play football to be in games like that," Secky said.

None of the Saxons three regular season defeats were by more than eight points. This time the Saxons came out on the right end of a close game, one that grants the team a chance to play one more week.

It appeared that AU would go on to win easily after they were on top by the score of 30-14, but Fisher mounted an impressive comeback. However, there was a critical blocked PAT by AU to send the game to overtime. The halftime score was 23-14 Alfred, and then AU was up by the score of 30-14 at the end of the third quarter.

There were a number of critical plays and interceptions that helped propel the Saxons to victory. Jared

Manzer, who's primarily a receiver made a key play on defense, intercepting the ball in the endzone. On offense, Manzer was Secky's main target and had three touchdown catches. The first hook up from Secky to Manzer connected for a 74-yard score, which put the Saxons on top 17-10.

There were many noteworthy highlights from the season finale at Merrill field. Tom Secky threw for 328 yards with 5 touchdowns. Morgan O'Brien had 12 carries for 57 yards, and the Saxon rushing attack totaled 114 yards on the afternoon. Manzer amassed 166 yards receiving in addition to his three touchdowns.

The Alfred defense was also crucial in the victory with many game changing plays.

On the whole the defense re-

corded three interceptions, two sacks, one blocked PAT, and a fumble recovery.

The team surely had a competitive season, but it could have been just a bit better according to Secky.

"I wouldn't say we met our expectations this year, but we were very close. We certainly had a successful year and we ended our regular season 7-3, and we very well could have been 10-0" said Secky.

The squad traveled to RPI for an East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) bowl championship game on Nov. 22.

Alfred University's Agro earns weekly swimming honors from Empire 8



PHOTO PROVIDED

Brian Agro (Gray, ME/Cheverus), a senior on the Alfred University men's swimming and diving team, has been named men's swimming Athlete of the Week by the Empire 8 Conference.

Agro was honored for his performance in a dual meet Friday at home against Fredonia, in which he won the 100-yard breaststroke. His time of 58.61 seconds broke the AU pool record established in 1983 by former Saxon great Howard Seideman, who was a six-time NCAA champion breaststroker at AU.

Alfred defeated Fredonia, 129-102, to run the Saxons' dual-meet winning streak to 26 straight. Alfred (5-0, 3-0 Empire 8) competes next at the RIT Invitational meet, Dec. 5-7.



PHOTO BY NADINE TITUS

The Alfred offense has a first-and-ten from its 36-yard line while AU receivers look to QB Tom Secky for signals during Alfred's victory over visiting St. John Fisher on Saturday Nov. 15.