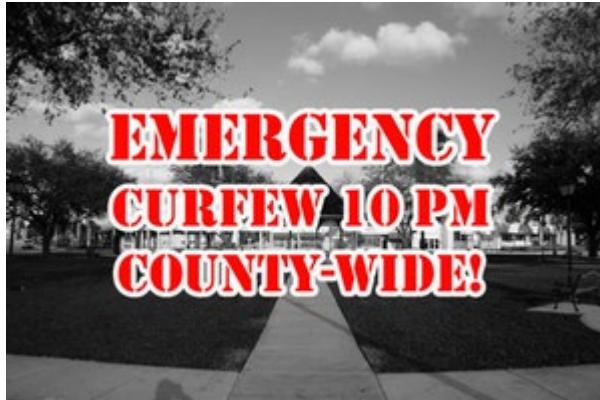


October 12, 2020 (issue 3)

News Section

Protecting Our Lux



When AU's President Mark Zupan coined the term, "Protect the Lux," he wasn't referring to the Fiat Lux sign on campus. He's referring to students doing their part to keep everyone safe during a global pandemic. AU students take pride in being able to maintain on-campus classes and activities this Fall semester. Tough times leave our decision makers looking toward solutions to lessen the blow of COVID. 1300 tests came back negative before the first positive was found at AU. If students follow the new

guidelines, they will be rescinded. AU has been transparent in its coverage of COVID on campus. The administration has made efforts to keep students in the loop.

An email was sent out Thursday night with new restrictions. The Allegany County Department of Health has presented guidelines to help us "Protect the Lux." Extracurricular activities and athletics are canceled as well as a 10 p.m. curfew. These measures are a result of recent increases in COVID-19 cases. Currently there are 10 students in isolation who have tested positive for COVID and 100+ students in quarantine traced to positive tests.

Students are taking the virus seriously and doing their best to follow the proper protocol. Seeing COVID trends on other college campuses is definitely eye-opening for students. There is a misconception that the new restrictions are a punishment. Some feel they are being stripped of the proper college experience. Unfortunately, the only way to get Alfred back to its healthy social climate is to follow the rules.

Understanding the severity of COVID Junior AU football player Chris Cox weighed in on the subject. "People react negatively to the curfew because we're college students. I definitely take pride in being on campus at this time because some schools don't even have that opportunity at all. I think that students trust administrators' decisions to a certain extent. We were told we would be able to advance with athletics, resulting in more competition against each other -- and we couldn't."

Cox is referring to the reluctance of decision makers to allow football players to have physical contact with each other. Being allowed to hit is a symbolic reward for the off-season work the

players put in. Due to COVID, players were denied this, resorting to contact-free practice instead. Cox also highlighted that everyone has to do their part to stop the spread.

Marketing major Sean Lewis believes protecting the lux is important, but now he feels restricted. “I personally feel like students think it’s important to Protect the Lux. I understand why the administration did this, but at the same time, I want my freedom. I take pride in being on campus but it’s turning into that same “back home” feeling. I live with those same restraints and I went to college to get away from that.”

To date there have been 1820 tests administered with 12 positive results. With a small population these are relatively low numbers. 69 students have been released from quarantine or isolation. About 30 more are expected to be released over the weekend.

The main objective is to not let our guard down. That will inevitably cause the virus to spread. Trusting the system is key to Protecting the Lux.

President Zupan was asked to shed light on the situation. He expressed his optimism as well as his intentions for Alfred University moving forward. “We remain cautiously optimistic about finishing the fall semester in person without having to pivot back online. This coming week will be crucial to realizing the objective, given district quarantine guidelines. We intend to re-issue recently announced added safety protocols as soon as we are down to a more manageable number of students in isolation.”

Zupan went on, expressing the gratefulness of fellow decision makers. “We greatly appreciate the forbearance and resilience our students have displayed in light of these added hardships. Most of all, we are grateful that our students both in isolation and in quarantine by and large report being on the mend.”

By Jamall Lewis

Norwood Fire

On Tuesday Oct. 6th, a small grease fire broke out in the Norwood suites and displaced 11 residents to other parts of campus.

The Public Safety officer first on the scene, Sean Fields, said that during his many years living in Alfred this was his first campus fire.

The fire started around 5 p.m. and public safety was immediately called to the scene. The Interim Chief of the Public Safety, Jessica Middaugh, along with Officer Sean Fields immediately ran up the steps with their fire extinguishers to get to the flames while thick dark smoke continued to pour out of



vents as students watched, patiently waiting for the officers to extinguish the flames. Eventually, Middaugh and Field came out of the building gasping for oxygen, but thankfully unscorched.

Shortly after, the fire department arrived to further investigate the damage and to secure the premises. Students were then told by the fire department officials to plan on finding somewhere else to stay for the night based on the damage caused by the sprinklers being activated. The electricity was cut off to prevent further damage to the building.

“I was angry at the person who started the fire at first, but I was also glad that everyone got out and was safe,” said Naya Brown, a third-year criminal justice major.

Unfortunately there are a number of students who were severely inconvenienced by this event in more ways than one. 11 residents were forced to pack up all their belongings and relocate to a new room on campus, in addition to being confined in spaces much smaller than the Norwood suites. As you may know, there are places designated on campus to only house students diagnosed with COVID-19 and others who were in contact. In order to continue the social distancing requirements, it may be a hassle to find housing for those residents without being an inconvenience.

Resident Life staff already have a lot on their plate. Surely, the person who caused the fire must regret their actions and learned a lesson for a lifetime and most of all, relieved that no one was hurt. President Zupan said it best, “Thank you to those who assisted in the incident. A special thanks to the public safety officer and her colleagues. And all the firemen, and every one of the faculty members who assured the safety and well-being of the students, all while in the middle of a pandemic. Their work doesn’t stop because of a pandemic or because of political/ social tensions. Our emergency civil service workers risk their lives all over the country to protect us from incidents like this and we should not let a moment like this pass without thanking them for their service.”

By Balynda Ali

Opinion Section

Why you should vote

Some people whose political views are liberal and progressive say they will not vote in the 2020 US election. They detest Donald Trump and his Republican enablers like senate leader Mitch McConnell; they oppose Trump's policies on most issues—the environment, immigration, health care, voting rights, police brutality, gun control, etc.; but they still say they won't vote. Why not?



One possible answer is: It has to get worse before it gets better. Yes, Trump and co are ruining much that is precious and causing a lot of suffering; but that is what has to happen to provoke

revolutionary change. People will only be goaded into action when things become sufficiently dire.

To this, I have two responses. First, if you *really* believe that, then you should vote for Trump. If you want to see the country driven into a ditch, he's clearly your man! Just look around. Why leave the job half done?

Second, this way of thinking on the left goes back a long way, but it has not delivered. Leftists have been anticipating and calling for "the overthrow of all existing conditions" since *The Communist Manifesto* was published in 1848. But in the modernized, industrialized countries, it simply hasn't happened. And since most people in these societies now have a lot more to lose than just their chains, dramatic wholesale revolutionary transformation from the bottom up seems unlikely. Significant, continuous reform seems the more plausible option.

The other common reason given for not voting is: It makes no difference who gets elected. The two main parties are as bad as one another. The Dems just wear a velvet glove over the iron fist. They both essentially run capitalism for the benefit of the elite and don't really give a damn about those who suffer from the system. Voting gives politicians the stamp of legitimacy; not voting is a principled refusal to do this.

To this, I also have two responses. First, it's simply false to say that it makes no difference who is president or which party is in power. Try telling that to the hundreds of thousands who have died or lost loved ones during the current pandemic as a result of Trump's vainglorious incompetence. Try telling it to the millions who are currently facing destitution, eviction, homelessness, or bankruptcy because Trump and the Republicans refuse to provide adequate federal assistance. Try telling it to the families torn apart by Trump's immigration policies, to the workers who are now less protected by health and safety regulations, to the citizens who are effectively disenfranchised by Republican voter suppression tactics, or to anyone affected by Trump's rolling back of environmental protections (i.e. everyone). Read an obituary of Ruth Bader Ginsburg and try telling yourself that it makes no difference who sits on the Supreme Court.

Second, to not vote expresses a strange (one could say callous) indifference to the suffering endured by the victims of Republican policies. If you are of a liberal persuasion, you presumably think that we should try to reduce avoidable misery. So shouldn't you use your vote to do this? Sure, Obamacare isn't universal health care; but its repeal would be devastating to millions with pre-existing conditions who will no longer be able to get health insurance. Yes, Obama had a checkered record on immigration; but Trump's policies on immigration are willfully vicious, breaking up families and blighting the prospects of so many young people for whom America has long been home.

Withholding your vote doesn't make a statement any more than playing air guitar makes an actual sound. Ask yourself: what is the collective impact, in practical terms, of each refusal to vote against The Bad because the currently available alternative is Not Good Enough? Answer: it increases the likelihood that the present nightmare will continue. Ask yourself: What would Donald Trump want you to do, given that you aren't planning to vote for him?

In 2020 the stakes are as high as they have ever been. Like many others, I believe that democracy itself is on the line. Voting in free and fair elections is a fundamental right. Withholding your vote is also a right, of course. It could even be called a privilege. But it is a privilege that, if exercised, may be lost.

A cart full of children from an orphanage is rolling down a slope towards a cliff. A group of bystanders have managed to grab hold of some ropes and cables attached to its frame and trailing behind it. Collectively they haul on these, trying to prevent a catastrophe. You have a choice. You can either grab a rope and lend a hand. Or you can just watch, choosing to withhold your help. After all, there is so much wrong with the world—like carts without safety brakes and kids without parents—that saving the children's lives won't really be doing them any great favors.

But if you think those kids' lives matter, you should help. And if you think anything at all matters, you should vote!

By Emrys Westacott

What It Means For Black Lives



Breonna Taylor, an African American woman, was shot and killed in her own home by police officers. This, along with the killing of George Floyd, caused outrage that was seen across the country and even the world. There have always been flaws in police regulations but, in 2020, activists are making sure changes will happen.

The police officers were not charged for Breonna's death. If there's anything that convinces you this system does not care for black lives, it would be this. As upsetting as the decision for her murderers is, the factors that led up to this are equally as upsetting. I'm talking about memes and performative activism campaigns performed by outlets like Vanity Fair and Oprah Magazine. The hashtag

#JusticeForBreonna was created to bring Taylor's name out and demand the correct justice, but it was instead used by some people for their own advantage. They put her name on shirts, made quirky posts on social media, and made her into a punchline.

The police officers were charged with Wanton Endangerment, meaning they did not intend the harm on the persons and were not trying to commit a crime. That decision is a slap in the face for those who have been protesting for more than 100 days for the right justice, just to be told that the murderers did not intend to kill Breonna and that her death meant nothing.

This is not the first time we encountered this behavior, and it won't be the last. Many peaceful Black Lives Matter protests all over the U.S. have turned into riots. Many were prompted by police officers, then blamed on the protesters so civilians at home could disagree with these protests. Outside individuals unconcerned with the movement would join these protests for the sole intention of looting and creating chaos, not realizing the damage they're doing to the movement as a whole.

Insincere posts all over the internet blind everyone to the true problem. It's heartbreaking to see these posts coming from non-black people. It brings the question, "Are we a joke to you?" into our minds. It doesn't matter what the intention was when posting, it still stings.

It's extremely disappointing for the black community to look to the internet and social media to bring attention to struggles, but all they get back in return are T-shirts and George Floyd plushies. Please, Do Not Turn Black Lives Into Merchandise.

By Isa Hamilton

The Breonna Taylor Timeline



March 13th was a very pivotal day for the United States. Not only was it the day the whole country went into lockdown due to the outbreak of Covid-19, but it was also the day an innocent 26-year-old woman by the name of Breonna Taylor was murdered in cold blood by Louisville police. Since then, there have been countless protests, petitions and even riots in her name to convince government officials to arrest the police officers responsible for her death.

On this tragic day of March 13th, at about midnight, Louisville police broke into her apartment while she was sleeping and police officers John Mattingly, Brett Hankinson and Myles Cosgrove fired 32 rounds, hitting her five times, which later led to her death.

Taylor's boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, whom she lived with at the time, thought that Taylor's ex-boyfriend was breaking in and initially fired a warning shot at the officers which led to the hail of gunfire. He shot Mattingly in the leg. At 12:47, twenty minutes after Taylor had been shot, police called medical assistance for her. Walker says that she had been choking and struggling to breathe before she received any attention.

The officers broke into Taylor's home looking for a suspect who had already been detained earlier that night. Though they had a No-Knock Warrant, they were still required to announce themselves as police officers for the "suspects" safety and for their own. Had they announced themselves as law enforcement, Walker claims he would not have fired at the officers, thus avoiding Taylor's death. Since then minimal arrests have been made for her murder.

In June the Kentucky government created “Breonna’s Law,” which diminished the No-Knock Warrant. Up to that point, two months had passed without any arrests for Breonna’s killers. Meanwhile, social media reacted to the death of George Floyd, who had been a victim of racially targeted police brutality and died from asphyxiation. The publicity that Floyd’s case was getting brought attention to Taylor’s case. This explains why a lot of the protests this summer were in honor of both of their cases. Since then petitions have been going viral globally, pushing for the three officers that killed Taylor to be arrested. The media even got the hashtag #SayHerName trending on several different social media platforms on June 5th, which would have been Taylor’s 27th birthday.

Even more, outrage developed in Breonna Taylor’s Case after Kenneth Walker was arrested for attempted murder for shooting one of the officers. The reason this stirred up so much national controversy was that three officers murdered Breonna Taylor, but her boyfriend was arrested for using his second amendment right to protect himself, his girlfriend and his property when he thought there was an intruder in his home. For months, Kentucky officials were radio silent on Taylor’s case, which only infuriated the media even more. John Mattingly was arrested in late September. However, this raised anger in the Black Lives Matter community because he was arrested not for Taylor’s death but for Wanton Endangerment. Ultimately, the charges came from the bullets that hit the surrounding apartments of Taylor’s home.

In short, three cops killed a black woman in her sleep. Only one was arrested for the bullets that missed. Therefore, the black community and allies are outraged at this outcome and will continue to use their voices to ensure Breonna and her family receive justice. It has been over 213 days since she was murdered, and all her killers still walk the streets as normal civilians.

Say Her Name, Breonna Taylor

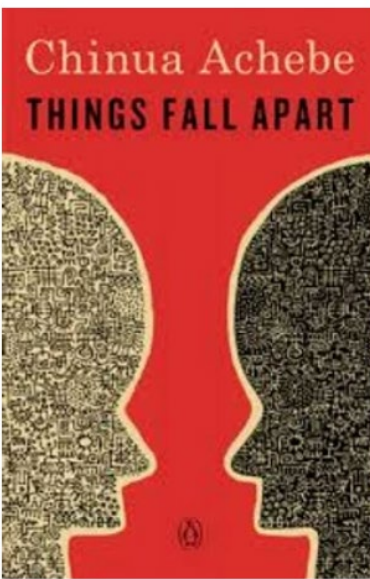
No Justice, No Peace

By Jeanni Floyd

Book Review: Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

The story takes place in a fictional 1890s village along the Niger River, inhabited by Igbo people in what is now Nigeria. It tells the story of Okonkwo, once a great wrestler and warrior, who now lives with his large family and grows yams with the rest of his tribe. The first half of the book focuses on both Okonkwo's ancestors and children as he navigates complicated decisions in the midst of breaking with the traditions of his people.

The images that constantly weave through the narrative are as organic as storytelling can get. The people of Okonkwo's tribe often call upon things like the sound of a bird or the movements of a cat to describe the people and objects around them. Everything depends on the jungle, or that year's harvest of yams, or someone's sacrifice to the appropriate god.



Each characterizing idea is expressed through a song or an oral history passed down through countless generations. The best part is that no matter how the reader sees a metaphor or hears the music it implies, Achebe perfectly assigns it every time. The setting, as a direct parallel, reflects these metaphors simply as the organic and natural place where they occur. It couldn't get any more primordial in the way a man's masculinity shows itself or the way a child responds to their parent's behavior. Every single detail of the story expresses our human emotions in ways we take for granted in today's modern world.

Generations are the units of time through which this novel tells its stories. Family lineages weave through it just like its incredible images, representing past versions of the same character, or a new generation that questions the authority of tribal traditions. Okonkwo is thrust into the middle of this realm, uncertain of his own identity, and eventually commits an

act that leads to his exile.

The second half is where Okonkwo's complications are multiplied. While in exile, a group of white, Christian missionaries come to his old village and begin to assimilate with the people. As a result, they instill a new government meant to improve the quality of life and "faith" of Okonkwo's people. This occurs over the course of his seven-year exile, and when he finally returns Okonkwo doesn't recognize the place he once called home. He's equally torn by the interest his oldest son takes in this new religion, causing a new generational rift that echoes ancient stories of the Igbo people.

I read this book in a matter of two days, not because it was an easy read, but because I absolutely had to continue. When I finally put the novel down I felt exhausted, along with a hint of regret about not having read it earlier. I hope new readers of this novel understand that its characters and its themes are just as relevant for us in today's America as they were for the Igbo people in the 1890s.

By Andrew Wiechert

So You Want to Talk About Policy...

During the pre-Election season, the news circuit has been filled with both Trump and Biden's ideas and claims of what they will pass, or veto should they find themselves in the Oval Office come January. With a perceived record-level number of voters for the 2020 election, it is important to start looking into what these ideas are: even the briefest of overviews.

Former Vice President Joe Biden and Senator Kamala Harris have been prevalent in the political sphere for a combined total of sixty-three years, with Biden having forty-seven and Harris having sixteen. The platform that they have been building since the Democratic Primaries is worth inspecting, as both have a history of centrist-conservative ideologies.

Biden's terms as Vice President showed that he favored some liberal policies, such as LGBTQ+ rights for marriage and equality, and it seems as if, from his campaign promises, that he is willing to work with liberal members of the government to negotiate between the conservative and liberal lines. A similar story with Harris, who had faced controversy during the Primaries for backing prisons and police in her past, during the height of the Black Lives Matters movements. Since then, Harris has begun identifying with liberal causes that she has made promises that she and Biden will likely tackle in office.



A few of these causes are eliminating private prisons, raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour, taxing carbon emissions, and increasing taxes on wealthy Americans. Both are advocates for immigration, with repeated mentions of keeping DACA and ending funding for the border wall. The Biden-Harris platform, however, also disagrees with itself. Biden has expressed interest in putting controls and limits on abortion and opting for background checks instead of banning guns, whereas Harris is interested in implementing the opposite: no limits and the banning of guns.

On the other side of the aisle, President Donald Trump has shown what he is interested and willing to do should he get another four years, often joking to his supporters and the media that he would be interested in having up to sixteen years in office.

The question, then, is what policies Trump is standing behind, so that the country will know what to expect coming down the line should he be re-elected. Several of his ideas fit under the Republican party umbrella, with many carrying over from his 2016 campaign.

Much of the news coverage of Trump's policies revolve around immigration, with his ideas of the border wall and re-negotiations of DACA. He has also been integral in foreign aid and trade policies, specifically noting that there are problems within the China and Trans-Pacific trade deals that he has wanted to fix and will likely attempt to do during his next term. The main problem that comes from these policies is that they are, seemingly, not supported by most of his constituents. Should he be re-elected, it could cause contention if he decides to continue with these policy changes.

Other policies that President Trump has advocated for tend to fall into either health care or gun control. He has repeatedly mentioned his interest in eliminating the Affordable Care Act and lowering drug costs. A recent action on this was his lowering of insulin costs, although it has yet to be proven whether this change has benefitted those who require insulin. He has also made changes in the level of health care that transgender individuals and minorities can access. The President has been a staunch promoter of the Second Amendment, although, during 2018 and

2019, he had said he was planning on making “tighter background checks” and “red flag laws.” However, he has yet to further these plans into actual policies.

Whichever way the election goes, Americans need to be educated on and prepared for the policy changes that will occur over the next four years. The core of democratic institutions is the ability for the people to make decisions in which they are directly affected, and it is important as many people understand this value and use it to their advantages.

By Sam Sage

Entertainment Section

The Lighthouse Is A Strange Horror Film

The Lighthouse is a 2019 horror film by Robert Eggers starring William Defoe as Thomas Wake and Robert Pattinson as Ephraim Winslow.

Trying to pin down what this movie is about proves especially difficult because it's a psychological thriller that makes you question what is real and what is imaginary. Put simply, The Lighthouse is about two wickies (lighthouse keepers) trying to keep their sanity intact on a remote New England island in the 1890s. Thomas, Winslow's boss, makes him do all the work around the lighthouse while forbidding him from accessing the lantern room. So yes, most of this film is just Winslow emptying chamber pots, cleaning the cistern, carrying loads in a wheelbarrow, and shoveling coal into the furnace. If that sounds incredibly boring, that's because it is. However, The Lighthouse manages to create such a mind-altering yet interesting story through its aesthetic and multiple meanings.



When it comes to aesthetics, The Lighthouse is pretty unique. It's in black and white with a vintage square aspect ratio that serves to highlight its old-timey vibes and how claustrophobic life is in the lighthouse. The score is full of tension and adds a never-ending sense of dread as Winslow hallucinates logs in the water and a tentacle monster in the lantern room.

Where this movie shines for me is the multiple meanings you can discern from it. Because of the hallucinations and the two wickies drinking alcohol on the job, many people speculate that most of the events that take place are not real. We find out in the film that Winslow's real name is Tom Howard and that Winslow was a foreman that he let die in a forest accident. As a result, some people have taken this to mean that Wake is Howard's subconscious. Many reviews on this film emphasize the theme of isolation or the spiritual connotations of the Light. That's not to mention the explicit homoerotic subtext and explorations of masculinity. The best interpretations of the

film that I have come across are from two video essayists, Acolytes of Horror and Kay and Skittles.

This is one of those movies that you have to watch to get a sense of how it speaks to you. However, I can confidently say that this film will not be everyone's cup of tea. It's weird, trippy, thrilling, and bombastic all at the same time. But if you are looking for that sort of horror film then I highly recommend it.

By Alpha Bah

Advertisement Section



Alfred
ArtWalk

OCTOBER 15TH 5PM-8PM

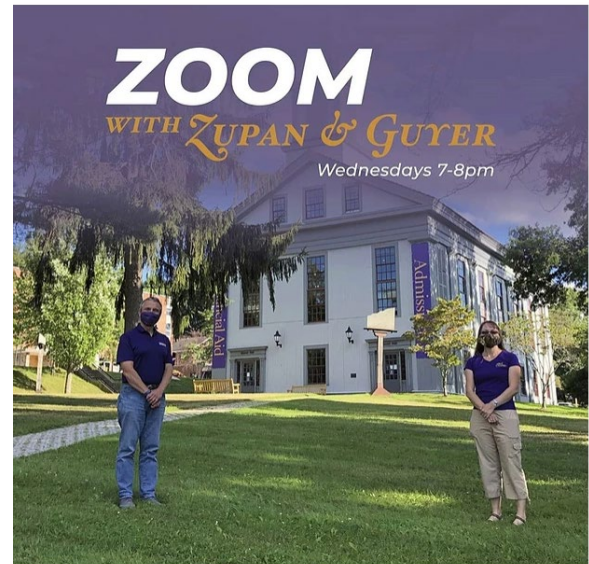
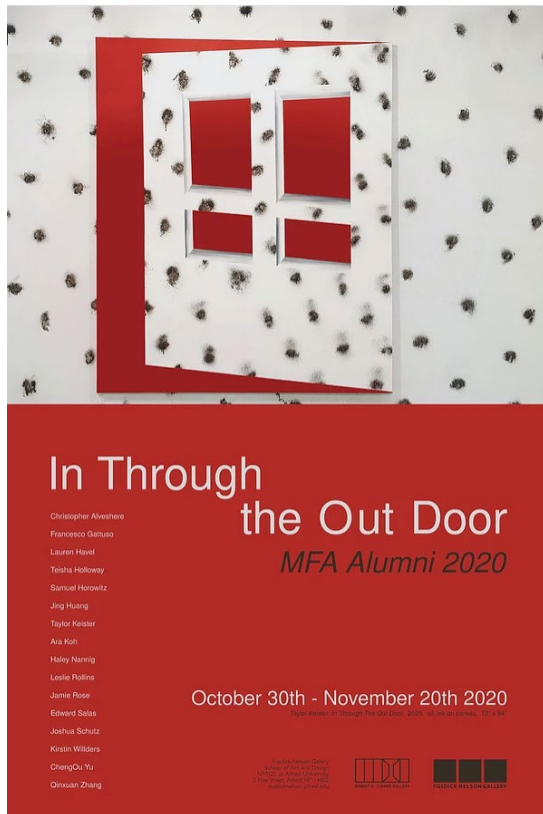
Pumpkin Art Contest: Gift Card Prizes

ALFRED COMMUNITY WELCOME: Bring your own pumpkin

AU Students Pumpkin Pick-up: Oct 12-15 @ Powell
Pumpkin Drop-off: 5-6:30pm at Bandstand and fill entry form

Categories:
Best Dressed (painted)
Made the Cut (carved)
Best Community
Funniest
Scariest
Most Creative

The poster features two black bat silhouettes on the left and right sides, flanking the central text. The title 'Alfred ArtWalk' is prominently displayed at the top, with 'Alfred' in a smaller, grey font above 'ArtWalk'. The event date and time are listed below the title. The pumpkin art contest details, including prizes and community welcome, are listed next. Student pumpkin pick-up and drop-off information is provided. The categories for the contest are listed at the bottom, flanked by bat silhouettes.



Fiat Lux Staff

Editor-in-chief: Talulla Torthe
Managing Editor: Andrew Wiechert
Staff Writer and Editor: Isa Hamilton
Staff Writer: Sam Sage
Staff Writer and Editor: Dale Mott Slater
Staff Writer: Kailey Reyes
Staff Writer: Alpha Bah
Staff Writer: Jamall Lewis
Staff Writer: Jeanni Floyd
Photographer: Piper Lilley

This issue was originally created as an online blog; information extracted and artificially created as a PDF for archival purposes.
<https://www.fiatluxnews.com/>