

What's Inside



LOCAL

SEE WHY STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN AURS.

TURN TO PAGE 4



SCIENCE NEWS

YOUR PALMS ARE SWEATY. YOUR STOMACH GOES FLIP-FLOP. FIND OUT THE CHEMISTRY BEHIND LOVE.

TURN TO PAGE 4



FEATURES

POINT/COUNTERPOINT THE GOOD AND BAD ON THIS DAY OF LOVE.

TURN TO PAGE 5



A&E

FEMALE EMPOWERMENT IN THE WORKPLACE. HOW IT ALL STARTED.

TURN TO PAGE 7



SPORTS

NEW COACH HAS HIGH HOPES FOR SEASON.

TURN TO BACK PAGE

Li'l Alf changes continue to improve

JERNEE JOHNSON
NEWS EDITOR

Li'l Alf continues to be reputable amongst students as more adjust to the new CyberFresh system.

"Staff and customers are getting more used to it [CyberFresh system]," said John Dietrich, director of dining services.

Li'l Alf was scheduled to undergo renovations under the new contract with AVI FoodSystems. AVI presented Alfred University with four potential packages for Li'l Alf's new look. A committee of faculty, staff and students picked CyberFresh as AU's choice.

AVI implemented the kiosk system at three other schools. AU is the fourth one with the system. AU's menu however is extensive, resulting in a few more glitches with the CyberFresh system.

"We're working to get the kinks out," said Michelle Miller, retail and marketing manager of food services.

According to Dietrich, the CyberFresh system was brought in to help accommodate the extensive menu. The menu is diverse and contains many new items. AVI wanted to create more choices for students. There was also a problem with customers building their wraps. Miller said there was no way of pricing items on the wraps. This system helps with that hurdle.

"We wanted students to expand their horizons and we wanted to give more food flavors," Miller said.

Most of the old food items are still on the menu, with the exception of turkey burgers and chicken tenders. Others are under new names, such as the chicken tender and buffalo chicken wrap. Students can now find them under grillers on the touch screen.

Dietrich and Miller said they are trying



PHOTO BY MATTHEW BUTTS

The Cyber Fresh kiosks found directly across from Li'l Alf hope to make the food ordering process more efficient.

to create four different food destinations, CyberFresh, MidKnight Express, and Ade and Powell dining halls. Each place has its own flavor, its own individuality, said Miller.

As errors occur, they are tweaked. Some changes have already been made to the menu. Students are able to add or delete cheese from their order as they were not able to before. Dietrich said many things have been fixed since the first week of the semester, "its almost 90 percent there." AVI is in the process of tweaking the system so that students can add condiments and sauces to their wraps.

"It sounds easy, but there is a whole

process to rewrite the program," said Dietrich.

One misconception about the new system is thinking that it is fast food. The system was not implemented to be faster, but easier for employees. Everything is made to order and that takes time to prepare, says Miller. The concept of Li'l Alf was never to be considered fast food. It is a café with an extensive menu, said Dietrich. Most items are freshly made. The process of preparing can take up to two hours. Some foods are pre-made because they are labor intensive and it helps accommodate long lines at the kiosks. A lot of students are pleased with the new items, said Dietrich

and Miller.

"I always get the pre-made chicken Caesar wrap because it's delicious and the line is sometimes too long," said Patricia Mebius, Spanish major.

The system also helps employees move faster to get customers orders prepared. It is meant to be more efficient, said Miller. Everyone is still learning the new system, but as time progresses customers will get their orders quicker, said Miller. And students can still interact with the employees. The system was not created to take away student, employee interaction.

"We'd like to hear more positive responses," said Miller. "It's hard on the crew to hear that things are bad because they work really hard."

Students were concerned about the cutting work study jobs, however, Dietrich and Miller confirmed that the touch screens are not replacing employees, but increasing productivity. Li'l Alf added about 15-20 work study jobs and currently are still looking to fill positions.

"We need student workers," said Dietrich.

Li'l Alf is to undergo a few more changes to accommodate the CyberFresh system. Already the location of the coffee has been moved to a larger area. A counter has been re-designed in the back to add more space for food preparation. Miller is also looking to add a new line of potato chips. And to make use of the open space in the middle of Li'l Alf, Miller is trying to add a news rack and news board to help make wait time less stressful. The menu may also be tweaked again in the fall.

"We're working on the suggestions and comments," Miller said. "Change is hard, but I'd like for everybody to just give us a try." ☺



PHOTO BY KARLI MARIE REYES

Allen Hall renovations look promising

KATIE KIELY
FEATURES EDITOR

Students will soon be able to experience a new Allen Hall.

Allen Hall renovations are scheduled to be completed by Aug. 1. Once the building is complete, students, faculty and staff can expect larger classrooms, updated handicap pathways, a new equipment lending office and a new location for the Study Abroad Office.

Demolition work and basic plumbing on the site has been completed. Walls have been framed and an elevator is to be added.

Currently, they are working on creating walls for offices on the second floor. The structure of the roof, the language and computer room, plus all the finishing aesthetic touches is awaiting completion.

Once the renovations are complete the inside will

be hard to recognize, however the basic structure of the building will remain the same.

The inside will include a staircase that leads from the first to the second floor. Because of fire regulations the staircase had to be closed from the second to third floor.

The first floor is to provide a language lab/computer room, three classrooms and two study abroad offices. The second floor will have a classroom next to the staircase, an extra bathroom and nine offices. The third floor will consist of a large conference room, which will be open for scheduling by the department.

An equipment lending office is to be added as well. Instead of going to Herrick to rent computers people can go to Allen Hall. The third floor is also to be equipped with a tech classroom designed for

SEE ALLEN PAGE 3

Engineer Career Fair 21 companies to recruit

MICHELLE CLARK
STAFF WRITER

Alfred University's Career Development Center is hosting its second Engineer Career Fair on Feb. 23 in the Knight Club from noon until 3 p.m.

This fair, which is part of National Engineers Week, is aimed to introduce engineers to companies recruiting for internships, co-ops and full-time positions. However, this fair is not just for engineers.

"Other majors are encouraged to attend," said Nancy Williams, recruiting coordinator at the Career Development Center.

This fair technically started three years ago, but worked in conjunction with business and liberal arts schools. Last year was the first official year that the Engineer Career Fair functioned independently from other career fairs, with over three hundred students meeting with prestigious companies, one being the platinum level cooperate sponsor, PPG Industries.

PPG Industries has made this fair possible, being the top sponsor of the event for the past four years.

Through networking and targeted marketing, companies are invited to attend this event.

Williams also personally emails as well as telephones top companies, requesting their attendance. "This year alone I sent over 1,500 emails to companies, receiving quite a turn out," said Williams.

However, not everyone can attend. Not because these companies have no immediate interest, but more so these companies "need to think about what they need and align those needs" continued Williams.

As of now, there are approximately 18 companies that are registered and three from last year. Whereas 21 companies may not seem like a large number, "the quality of the businesses attending is stellar," said AU's Internship/Co-Op Coordinator Kyle Torok.

Companies registered to attend the fair include: Adecco Technical, ANH Refractories, Anheuser-Busch, CertainTeed, Corning, Inc., Emerson Power Transmission, Emhart Glass, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Greatbatch, Inc., Howmet Castings, Northern Lights Candles, Owens Corning, The Gunlocke Company, Ultrafab, Inc., Zampell Refractories and Lehigh Cement Company. ☺

Students share Guatemalan heritage at roundtable

GERALDINE GENZARDI
MANAGING EDITOR

The country of "eternal spring" has a deep connection with three Alfred University students eager to share their knowledge and heritage at the Feb. 6 Global Awareness Roundtable in the Knight Club.

"These people [Guatemalans] are very humble and they have good hearts. It's something I admire and I'm proud of my country," said Guatemalan native, Seward Molina.

Molina, Francisco Alegria and Caroline De Leon presented the roundtable. Its purpose was to inform the Alfred community about different cultures around the world.

Alegria and De Leon were born and raised in the United States by their native

Guatemalan parents. Molina was born and raised in Guatemala and has been living in the United States for three years.

Alegria introduced the discussion with important facts about Guatemala, including the geography, the country's flag and its natural resources.

"Guatemala's flag has three major colors and an emblem on it. The emblem stands for the independence from Spain on Sept. 15. It has their National Bird, which is the Quetzal. The reason why they chose this bird is because the Quetzal cannot live in captivity. It does need to live in freedom," said Alegria.

Molina informed students and faculty of the history of Guatemala, including some information on Mayan civilization. Molina expressed appreciation for the Mayans and their great achievements.

"I'm a fan of the Mayans myself. When I was little I never paid attention to [them], but when I started to find out the things that they had done I was impressed. They are good astronomers, architects and mathematicians. They have many beliefs that I find interesting," said Molina.

The Mayans were innovative when it came to measuring time. They created three calendars relating to the sun, moon and Venus. They measured time and made predictions based on these three cycles. The Mayans built pyramids that aligned with the constellations of stars in a very precise way.

With the invention of the number zero, 23 types of Mayan languages and several sports games, the Mayans have been recognized for many achievements in their development as a civilization.

Guatemalans preserve Mayan culture. Mayan cities are now historical sites in Guatemala. El Peten was the main city of the Mayans. It now has the fifth largest nature reserve in the world, says Molina. The city of Tikal is famous for its ruins and it is the main tourist attraction in Guatemala. According to Molina, Chichicastenango is the center of commerce for indigenous people.

Most of the population is still Quiche, an ethnic group of Guatemala. The Quiches compiled Mayan documents and created a book of community explaining how the Mayan civilization was created, said Molina. Much of it is based on mythology, according to Molina.

De Leon turned the audience focus to traditional foods and Guatemalan holidays.

SEE GAR PAGE 3

Fiat Lux

Lack of involvement Low numbers hurt campus

Students in Alfred need to open their minds when it comes to campus entertainment. For some reason, students are reluctant to go to events that are new, out of the ordinary or in a different part of campus. It is time that we stop pre-judging events and start trying something new. Otherwise, the groups and individuals who work hard to find good entertainment will not continue to do so.

Alexa Joel is a perfect example of students judging a singer by her name. Joel, a female rock/pop artist who is just starting her career, is also the daughter of legendary singer Billy Joel. AU was one of the schools on her first tour. As soon as Dan Napolitano, director of Student Activities, announced that she was coming, the idea was met with instant cynicism.

The show was preceded by much skepticism. Most people thought that she was just using her father's name to get booked. She might have been. However, how she started her career is irrelevant, what matters is her talent.

If you ask just about anyone who went to the show last Saturday, they will tell you her performance was wonderful. Joel sang almost all original songs, had nice vocals, and a good stage presence. The audience gave Joel a warm applause after every song and at the end gave her a standing ovation.

The reason that students tend to be skeptical about performers is because they haven't heard of them before. We are a small school with a student population that has a variety of interests. In order to bring a broad range of talent the money has to be spread out. Just remember, the dollar amount of a performer does not always indicate the quality of the event or performance.

If you look at past performers, AU has done a decent job of predicting good talent. Before artists rose well above our price range, we were able to bring acts such as Alanis Morissette, the Barenaked Ladies, Smashmouth, Simple Plan and the Black Eyed Peas. These are well-known artists that have very different styles.

This campus has a wide range of interests and it is hard to appeal to everyone. It is understandable if students don't like the music or if Joel just wasn't your style, but how would you know if you didn't attend? However, Super Bowl Sunday proved that it's not that students aren't interested, it is that they simply aren't giving events a try.

This year, the Taste Buds and Student Activities decided to hold a Super Bowl Party and Wing Fest in Holmes Auditorium, and it went really well. They had plenty of wings, an assortment of chips, dip and sodas and soft pretzels and popcorn; and those were just the refreshments! In addition they also had a cookie decorating table, a commercial judging contest and the option of a wing-eating contest. Oh yeah, and you could watch the Super Bowl on the big screen in Holmes Auditorium. It was like going to a movie theater to watch the game.

It is difficult to believe that students had no interest in the Super Bowl, so why wasn't there a bigger turnout? People came, and those who did had fun, but in relation to the size and quality of the event the turnout was not impressive.

It seems as if ALANA is in decline as well. Attendance for weekly general meetings have gone down sharply compared to previous years. It is very common to see the Multicultural Suite only filled with each organization's executive board members. The ALANA groups have sponsored incentives and events, but those tactics seem to have no effect on students. Students have just put involvement on the backburner.

It's hard to determine why students just won't come out anymore, but the most common excuses are that, "I had so many things to do," "I will come next week" and "I forgot."

But, students do respond well to the parties sponsored by ALANA groups. If there is a party, you'd better believe people would show up—even people you've never seen before. Is that what ALANA groups have boiled down to? Party planners? It's a debate to see that people will not come to club sponsored events such as Roscoe Orman, which was FREE of charge, but will pay \$5 for a party.

It is not like events are not being advertised well or are too expensive, it's that people just don't seem to care anymore. That's a tide that will hopefully change in the near future.

Finding motivation can be hard, but once you are there, you will have fun. At the very least, before you decide to complain that there is nothing to do in Alfred, go to an event, try it out and then judge the quality of AU's entertainment. ☺

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

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Opinion

Word usage sparks debate Negativity becomes mainstream

I guess I have taken a backseat to popular culture. Perhaps it is because I don't agree with my peers who hardly think that the use of the "N word" is offensive.

I don't know how many times in route to class I have heard friends greet each other by saying "Hey n-----." But I was really taken aback during Thanksgiving dinner last year. My family was sitting around the living room after dinner with a bad case of nostalgia. My grandfather and uncle were telling jokes about random events of the past. Then I heard my grandfather say, "N-----, now you know that didn't happen."

I was stunned at what I had heard. The memory still hurts; one because of the negative connotations of the word and two, because my grandfather from that moment on looked so different to me. Although my grandfather was only joking, the fact that he used it repels me.

And it's not just my grandfather who has disappointed me; black people as a whole have succumbed to ignorance. A woman who devoted her entire life fighting for the acceptance of black people, trying to make her husbands dream a reality died only two weeks ago and across the hall someone is blasting an old DMX song, full references to the N word.

Have we forgotten that the word symbolizes the oppression of enslaved Africans in America? Africans were considered less than human, they were not even given the same right of existence as Caucasians. They were a sub-human and an inferior species. The proof lies in the text of the constitution before it was changed, Africans were "three-fifths" a man, by law.

The word was meant to imply a debased,

ignorant or very low person. It was used to insult, enrage, and demean people of color. Ironically, contemporary rappers and comedians now frequently use the word because, they argue, the word is used in a different context. "We mean it in a different way," is the explanation often heard.

Supposedly dropping the "er" and adding an "a" makes the use of the word acceptable. It implies brother or friend, most of my friends tell me. Brother! I hardly agree with that. If the word is now used as a term of endearment, why is it that in most violent disputes the word is tossed around with negative implications as a tactic to intimidate and de-value the opponent.

Have we become so simple-minded that we think we have the power to change the meaning of a word, to think that others will follow our mentality? If so, why is it only acceptable for African-Americans to say "hey my NIGGA," but, if a white person is caught repeating such a phrase, necks cock, heads turn and we all cry racism. How "just" is that?

It sickens me because we are in celebration of Black History Month and every other music channel blatantly displays 50 Cent and Tony Yayo videos in which half of the song is censored because of constant references to the N word. I would hope that the deaths of two very prominent women of the civil rights movement would make us embrace the importance of our history, and not spit in the faces of those who fought perilously for our rights.

I am sorrowful for what black people think of themselves. Because honestly I do not consider myself a debased, ignorant or low person, but I sometimes wonder do you? ☺



JERNEE JOHNSON
NEWS EDITOR

Take action: help prevent abuse Millions of children affected each year

Approximately 3 million children are abused each year and 4 million children die as a result of child abuse. Of these 3 million reports, one 4-year-old boy became a statistic of child abuse in Alfred last week.

According to the Wellsville Daily Reporter, Timothy Cochran, associate professor of electrical engineering at Alfred State College and Jane Cochran, a stay-at-home mom, were accused of beating their son.

The Cochrans adopted a 4-year-old boy from Russia, according to the Daily Reporter. Because he was allegedly to say his prayers in English well, Jane allegedly threatened to cut off his tongue and penis. After beating her son, Cochran took the boy to St. Jude's Church on Alfred State Campus so she wouldn't continue to beat him.

Both Timothy and Jane were charged with second-degree assault and endangering the welfare of a child.

It's scary to know that our teachers, neighbors, friends and relatives can be child abusers.

What can we do to help stop child abuse, especially in small towns like Alfred?

You can contact a group like Childhelp USA, a non-profit organization that opens its door to children who have been abused.

As the website explains, "Childhelp USA exists to meet the physical, emotional, educational and spiritual needs of abused and neglected children. We do so by focusing our efforts in the areas of treatment prevention and research."

Childhelp USA encourages people to help abused children in several ways.

First, make a donation to help meet the needs of abused or neglected children. Second, you can volunteer at a facility or host a fundraising event. Third, write to your congressman or senator to help pass the Childhelp National Registry Act, an act to create a national register of child abuse or neglect cases.

Even though we may live in a remote place in Allegany County, we can make a difference by taking action and voicing our concerns. ☺

Terms evolve over time Common terms have hateful connotations

Gay, bitch, Nazi. Those are just a few of the many strong words used to verbally hurt people.

Over time such words have changed meaning and, more importantly, perception. For example, in 1178 the word "gay" was defined as "full of joy or mirth." That is until about 1300, when the dictionary described it as someone "brilliant, showy." It was not until 1951 that the word "gay" became a slang term for "homosexual."

Although today "gay" is defined in the dictionaries as "a person whose sexual orientation is to persons of the same sex," young people often use it as a synonym for "messed up," "stupid" or "weird."

One of my closest male friends is gay and not only does it annoy me when I hear someone jokingly or seriously call someone a "faggot," but it personally affects me. It is a known fact, to most people, that that is a disrespectful term used to reduce the self-esteem of a gay person. Even though my friend does not take offense if he hears degrading words against his sex, it is just not appropriate and flat out disrespectful.

Another word, used often is "bitch." When we are calling a female dog, we do not say "come here, bitch." And I am sure that was not done on many occasions back in the day. At one point in time the "b" with an "itch" term meant "female of the dog" or fox, wolf,

and sometimes beast, or used to reference an unknown origin. However, today it is used to insult women.

In 1811, in "Dictionary of the Vulgar Tongue," "bitch" was defined as "a she dog, doggess; the most offensive appellation that can be given to an English woman, even more provoking than that of whore."

Now, many in today's society would disagree that being called a "bitch" is worse than being called "whore," but that is how perceptions change.

The last word that I contribute my comments to is one that is not only hurtful, but was rooted in a time of dark history. In 1930, the word "Nazi" was defined as the "National Socialist German Workers' Party, led by Hitler from 1920."

"Nazi," depending on how one uses the term, is basically synonymous to the word "evil." In today's society, when someone is called a "Nazi," they are being referenced as "mean," "strict," or "anal." This word should only be used when in reference to the current party or when referring to historical context.

As words will continue to change meaning and perception, people must change the ways in which they use them. It is vital to educate the uneducated, and to remind people to not just throw around words that other people are most likely sensitive to hearing. ☺



JESSICA HENDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Roving Reporter

QUOTES AND PHOTOS BY
JESSICA WEBSTER
SUBSCRIPTIONS MANAGER

If you could choose anyone in the world to be your Valentine, who would it be?



"Christina Milian, she's my dream girl. I set my standards at Alfred up to her."

Aaron Offei, Accounting



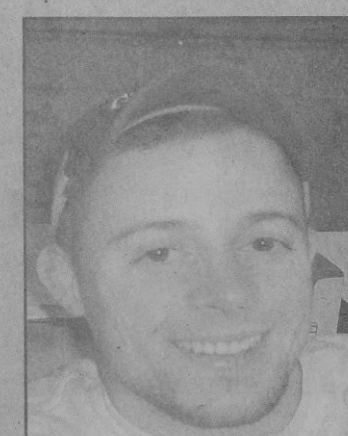
"Jake Gyllenhaal because he is extremely attractive and seems like an interesting and talented actor. For our date, we'd have a romantic dinner on a mountain."

Becky Holt, Art & Design



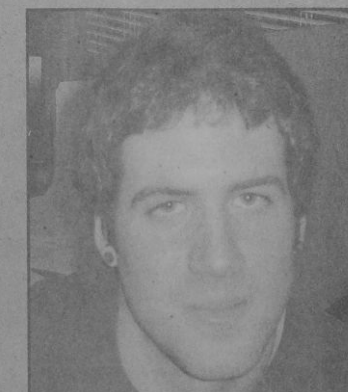
"Johnny Depp, obviously! I love pirates!"

Rachel Buscemi, Business Administration



"I would choose my grandmother. She might be short, but she has a very big heart"

Randy Jones, Communications



"I have a Valentine already. She's the best girl in the world and I can't wait to spend my Valentine's Day with her."

Al Garr, Graphic Design

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The Democratic Party is hurting itself with low internal support

Sole focus on “middle” voters continues to hold the party back

The Democrats in Congress need to start supporting each other and stop moving towards the middle of the political spectrum if they want to take back the majority in the 2006 elections.

Currently the Republicans have the majority in the House of Representatives and in the Senate. That could change with the midterm elections this November. However it won't change if the Democrats cannot come together and support each other's initiatives. It won't change if Democrats keep alienating their constituents by moving toward the middle.

When Samuel Alito's nomination for Supreme Court Justice was before the Senate, the Democrats lost another chance to show the American people that they are a strong and united party.

Two weeks ago, John Kerry announced that he wanted to filibuster Justice Samuel Alito's nomination to become Supreme Court Justice, Kerry's fellow congress-

man should have been there to support him. As a result Alito was confirmed and the Democrats gained nothing politically.

A filibuster is when there is a topic on the floor and senators just continue to talk about the issue and refuse to move to a vote on the issue. In order to vote on an issue, discussion on the floor has to end. In order for that to happen 41 votes are needed. Without those votes, the discussion just keeps on going.

Filibusters can be annoying, but they are a vital tool for the minority party in the Senate.

Democrats did not support Kerry's push for a filibuster because they were scared, not because they disagreed with him.

Democrats claimed that if they went

ahead with the filibuster the Republicans, who have the majority, would vote to get rid of the filibuster all together.

In all fairness, this was a legitimate threat. The Republicans have enough of a majority to take filibusters away. However, filibusters have existed for a long time and the likelihood of them actually voting to end filibusters is low. Inevitably, the Republicans will become the minority party, when this happens they will want to have the filibuster as a tool.

Even if the Republicans had voted to end the filibuster, at least the Democrats would have stood up for what they believed in.

Unfortunately, the Democrats did not choose to stand up for their beliefs. Instead of sticking by their loyal liberal constituents, they decided to try and win over the American voters that are in the

middle-right of the political spectrum. Because of this they were too afraid to filibuster. They were afraid that filibustering Alito's nomination would lead to bad press. Bad press might cause them to lose those middle voters in the upcoming November elections.

This is the reason that Democrats are losing support. They are focusing on middle voters instead of their consistent liberal constituents. This is a mistake because chances are that middle voters aren't paying attention and if they are they won't remember in November. If they were paying attention, they wouldn't be "in the middle," they would have chosen a side. The Democrats need to focus on the Americans who are counting on them, the Americans who believe in them. If they don't, those Americans are going to become disenchanted and then they might not vote at all.

It is time for a new approach; instead of constantly reacting to the Republicans

and being afraid of what could happen, the Democrats need to stand up and start leading the country. They need to get people to believe in them.

The Democrats need to start making the agenda, not passively reacting. They need to push for what they believe in, and then persuade the American people that their views and programs are best for the country.

The United States is an extremely large, diverse country. Trying to guess what the majority of people want is not going to work. The Democrats have the right programs and they have the right beliefs, they are lacking conviction. They need to believe that they can persuade the American people to agree with them. Until that happens, America will continue to be in the hands and at the mercy of the Republican Party. ☐

AU seniors are faced with an unavoidable question

Well, it is officially that time of the year for many seniors.

Slowly but surely we are getting the common, hard-to-avoid "So what do you plan to do after your graduate?" question. It is probably the most dreaded, irritating question we endlessly hear.

This question usually surfaces somewhere close to Thanksgiving, when the entire family is sitting around, chitchatting about recent events: Little Tommy is finally potty trained, Great-Aunt Beatrice is now in adult diapers, Gramps flushed his dentures down the toilet for the third time this week and Michelle is approaching her last semester of college.

Oh good god! The question is coming. What do I do? Can I run out of the room and pretend to choke on the overcooked spinach? Probably not considering I do not like spinach, therefore I would not be eating it, let alone choking on it. Can I slip under the table and dodge the question completely? That

would be a negative.

Betty Lou is pursing her lips. She is taking a deep breathe. "Oh really, well, what do you plan to do after you graduate?"

Well, second cousin Betty Lou, I plan on flying the next Hubble NASA thing to that planet up there, but only after I come up with a cure for cancer.

Okay, so I would never say that, nor did I. However, what am I supposed to say? I would like to have a definite answer, but I do not. The fact alone is depressing. I mean, isn't college suppose to clear up any haze you have floating around your head about career plans?

Sure, some people will have solid career plans the day they graduate. Others, such as myself, really have no idea where the wind is going to take us. Actually, I do not even know where that wind is, when it is going to come, and if and when it does, will it take me.

Don't get me wrong, I am trying to find at least a small gust to come along. I have applied to a few graduate schools; however I am finding that to not really work out too well.

Try and remember how tedious it was to fill out undergraduate college applications. There are millions of questions that need to be answered, as well as supplementary form upon supplementary form to fill out. Let's not forget about transcript requests, letters of recommendation and additional surveys. You might as well include a urine sample just to be on the safe side.

Okay, take that previous stress and multiply it by 92.4. Seriously, the process is grueling. Yet, it is not as grueling as it is when you find out that after all that hard work you put into your grad application, you are denied acceptance because you forgot to, oh

I do not know, fill out the actual online application. Not that I know this from personal experience or anything.

The question is downright awful, and quite frankly it makes me angry. Not at the person asking, although I would not mind pinching them and then following that pinch with a slap in the face. But I am angry because I really do not know what I am going to do, and that alone makes me feel hopeless. I would like to go to graduate school, but what if I'm not accepted (or attempts to accept me, then deny me because I forgot to fill out the main part of the application)? I would like to get a job, but what if no one will hire me? Yes, could I please have some more wine with my cheese?

Let's just hope my life after Alfred University settles and finds itself somewhere, because if not, I feel bad for all of those who tried desperately to teach me something here at Alfred. I also feel bad for my close friends and family, because I will be whining for that wind to come get me. ☐

One-woman show commemorates Montgomery Bus Boycott

JESSY SANTANA
CONTRIBUTOR

"Right here in Montgomery, when the history books are written in the future, somebody will have to say, there lived a race of people, a black people, fleecy locks and black complexion, a people who had the moral courage to stand up for their rights. And thereby they injected a new meaning into the veins of history and of civilization." Martin Luther King, Jr., Dec. 5, 1955, Montgomery.

On Feb. 9, visiting artist Awele Makeba performed a historical piece, *The Untaught*

History of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, to commemorate the lives of the unsung heroes that played leading roles in the event.

Her performance was funded by the Alfred University Division of Performing Arts, ALANA, and presented by Professor of Theater, Stephen Crosby. In this one-woman show she played four very diverse women that all played significant roles in the boycotts.

She also played the people that either helped or hindered their fight for justice and equality. Makeba transformed into

a slew of different characters by using different small props and distinguishing voices. As engrossing as her performance was, the chorus of music and sound effects attributed to holding the audience's attention thoroughly.

At the end of the show Makeba opened the floor for some Q&A, and she gladly answered all questions posed by the audience. She talked about her own personal research and experiences she went through in actively trying to find the unbiased truths of the Montgomery Boycotts.

She also emphasized that, like

Claudette Colvin, who was only 15 years old at the time of her arrest, we must realize the power of the individual and do what is just for all. That even though the newly elected President of the Montgomery Improvement Association, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., was willing to compromise and still adhere to the *Separate but Equal* law, while others refused to work with the organization. As Makeba put it, "A green dime, is still a green dime." Even small steps toward equality and a common way of life is still a vast improvement."

The stories of Claudette

Colvin, Marie Louise Smith, the shy pre-boycott victim of segregation in Montgomery, JoAnn Robinson, the President of the Women's Political Council and the lead organizer of the Montgomery Boycott and Rosa Parks, NAACP secretary and Youth Council director. They all are reveal-inspiring stories that have regained strength and courage through the "truth telling" of Makeba.

Without learning African-American history it is difficult to prevent racist acts. By taking an interest in learning our nation's history we will fail to repeat the same mistakes of the

past.

Makeba reflected that at the time, the Montgomery Boycotts, along with other civil liberty movements, were the biggest social-changing actions and asked if today there was anything as important as there had been those 50 years ago?

So in retrospect, is there anything in this country right now worth fighting for? And if there is, why are we not fighting for it? By standing up for your principles, anyone can start a ripple effect and progressively change history and possibly even the world. ☐

...Allen

CONTINUED FROM FRONTPAGE

small group teaching. A small kitchenette and skylight will furnish the tech classroom.

The outside of the building will sport the basic structure with a few alterations. The big metal fire escape on the back of the building has been torn down, and a new fire escape, similar to the one on the back of Kanakadea Hall will be put up.

Allen Hall will be handicap accessible. Sidewalks will be placed around the building that provides access to Myers and the Science Center. Director of Campus Operations and Legal Counsel Mike Neiderbach said that the area behind Allen Hall "just needed cleaning up."

The Allen Hall renovation project should take about one full year, according to Neiderbach. It appears that the renovations should be completed on time. According to Neiderbach, if there was going to be any delay-causing surprises they would have appeared by now. Trustees and AU's capitol budget is funding the renovation of the building. The actual cost of the renovations is not open to

the public in order to maintain competitive prices from contractors.

During the renovations foreign language classes have been moved to other locations around campus. Caroline De Leon, a junior Spanish minor was relocated to Olin, "I only hope that the Allen Hall is as comfortable as Olin."

Other students are just glad that Allen Hall is being renovated. Seward Molina, a junior said "it needed to be done, I was tired of seeing spiders and running into [spider] webs."

The idea for renovations came from a need for more space. The new building will create new office space and make classrooms more accessible for students. The building will be much more "functional," according to Neiderbach.

Once completed, the overall feel of the building will be similar to that of Kanakadea's, only not as historical. The main entrances and walkways will have porcelain tile for both practical and aesthetic purposes. "High traffic areas need durable finishes; it also adds to the charm of the building," according to Neiderbach. At the start of the fall semester students, faculty and staff can look forward to a renewed Allen Hall. ☐

...GAR

CONTINUED FROM FRONTPAGE

"Guatemala has a lot to offer to the culinary world. First there is maize. We use maize for everything. We use it to make tortillas, which are made of corn, flour and water. It is like our bread, we eat it with anything. Give us a tortilla, we'll eat it," said De Leon.

Tostados, chuchitos, tomares, enchiladas and sweet bread are dishes that can be found in Guatemalan households. According to De Leon, what you put in the dish depends on an individual's personal taste.

Semana Santa, or Holy Week, which occurs during the week of lent, commemorates the passion, crucifixion and resurrection of Christ. The events begin on Palm Sunday and continue until Easter, said De Leon.

Guatemala celebrates its independence

day on Sept. 15. According to De Leon, a torch travels from the Pan-American Highway to Costa Rica. The torch travels this far because El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica also gained their independence on this day, said De Leon.

Guatemala has been in a state of Peace since 1996. The peace agreement ended a 36-year war with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). According to De Leon, this party now runs for elections, but hasn't been elected since the war ended.

De Leon and Alegria said they try to visit Guatemala every few years and Molina has gone back every year since he has been in the United States. Guatemala is a country with a rich, prosperous history. Alegria, De Leon and Molina agree that it's worth a second thought when making travel plans. ☐

Senate Update Senate Update Senate Student Senate Update Senate Update Senate Update Senate

MATTHEW BUTTS
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The highlight of the Feb. 8 Student Senate meeting seemed to be the launch of the Safe Ride program at Alfred University.

The initial run of the shuttle service was on Feb. 10 and 11 from 9 p.m. until 3 a.m. Fliers were placed throughout the campus to promote student use of the service.

Also, bright yellow ribbons were placed around trees at the bus's AU stops. The four AU stops are at the corner of the Brick and Powell campus Center, the Women's Leadership Center, Joel's House, Harder Hall and Ade dining hall, along with a downtown stop at the "Box of Books." Another run of the service is scheduled for next weekend.

During this meeting, Student Senate committees had plenty to report. Sheila Garcia, chair of the Buildings and Grounds committee, stated that she again work ordered all of the problems that students had.

Laura Findlay, chair of the Academic Affairs committee, was looking into if the First Year Experience (FYE) requirement is actually productive.

Andrew Schwartz, chair of the Telecommunications committee, stated that students will have to wait until July in order to receive larger e-mail mailboxes. He is also working on getting clubs and organizations assistance with the development of web pages.

Conrado Bowen, chair of the Transportation committee, is working on loosening the parking and ticketing policies.

Jackie Moyers, chair of the Food committee, assured the Senate floor that Dining Services is working on making wraps more made-to-order.

President Ian Phillips addressed other concerns regarding the food at AU. He stated that students have complained that there have been constant shortages of numerous food items, toppings and condiments at MidKnight Express. The response given was that a way has been developed for Midnight Express to get necessary items from the dining hall. Students were also concerned about blind students using the CyberFresh kiosks. The response was that any CyberFresh worker would be more than willing to assist the customer.

By way of announcements, the posting policy will be strictly enforced within Powell Campus Center. There

are three approved posting boards where students, clubs and organizations can post messages within the building. Any posters not on those boards will be taken down immediately and put into the group's mailbox.

The Taste Buds and the Old West Food Co. restaurant will be joining to present a Cultural Café inside of the establishment. It will take place on Feb. 19 at 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The first country in the Cultural Café series will be Spain; participants must make reservations prior to the event.

Poder Latino will be hosting a "Grown and Sexy" party on Feb. 14 in Susan Howell Hall from 8 p.m. until 12 a.m. It is free and attendees are encouraged to come dressed up in order to take pictures.

On Feb. 16, 17 and 18, "An Evening

of Dance" will take place at 7 p.m. in the CD Smith Theatre at the Miller Performing Arts Center. Tickets will be on sale this week.

AU's Alumni Office is seeking nominations for the Outstanding Senior Award. To be eligible, the senior must have a 3.2 or above grade point average, involved in extracurricular activities, and exhibit superior personal character and conduct. The male and female Outstanding Seniors will give the commencement address and receive a \$5,000 cash award.

Ralph Nader will be the first speaker in SAB's Speaker Series. Nader will speak on Mar. 24 at 6 p.m. in Holmes Auditorium.

The next Student Senate meeting will be on Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. in Nevins Theater. ☐

Students should travel the “twists and turns” of life

Life after Alfred

BRANDON THURNER
GUEST WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Nine months after graduating from Alfred University, the world already looks like a different place.

Graduating brings about a sense of excitement as we enter the workforce full of ideas and youthful energy. It also brings about a sense of responsibility not only for our personal welfare, but for that of our communities and nation.

For some, graduation is a time of exploration, both of self and the world around, and a time to pursue our hopes and dreams, all the while meeting new and fascinating people.

For me, exiting the Alfred gates has been a bit of both: the steps I have taken since Alfred have taught me more about myself than I have learned in all the years since, and it definitely has brought me into contact with people I will remember for the rest of my life.

Trust your inner voice.

After a short stint at the U.S. Commercial Service (Dept. of Commerce) in my native Pittsburgh, I decided it was time to move back to Washington, DC.

After looking for work and interviewing on three trips to DC in as many months last fall, I made my move and joined the countless other youth who move to our nation's capital to make a difference.

I knew I wanted to begin my career both in writ-

ing and exploring international trade. After several interviews at DC writing outfits, which ended in the bagel, I decided to try a new tack: I walked in off the street to a correspondent's position with United Press International. Literally.

UPI is one of a handful of internationally-recognized newswire services and is approaching its 100 year anniversary, which has made for a wonderful time to be a part of its transition to the digital age. Plus, UPI's location at 1510 H Street places it in prime location, perpendicular to the White House and the heart of downtown Washington.

Comprised of a staff heavy on European influence from Brits and Irish to Indian, Japanese and other foreign staffers, UPI truly is a global news outlet.

From talking U.S. national security from a European perspective, to discussing the rise of India and China, and even selecting the morning's tea, UPI has expanded my horizons and the way I view the world in ways I could only imagine before walking in the door.

Covering national security adviser Stephen Hadley, to the S.E. Asian tsunami one year later, to the advent of renewable and the reincarnation of nuclear energy in both Europe and the United States, these have allowed me to experience new industries and ways of thinking.

Attending the latest speech on the limits of execu-

tive power by my longtime political hero and tragic figure, former Vice President Al Gore, provided wonderful insights as to how the political world works at such a young stage of my career.

The lessons learned while on staff at the *Fiat*, from how to settle into a production schedule, learn from others around you and to remain objective have all been put to use during my days at UPI.

To my surprise, the DC-area has many more international marketing and consulting firms than I first expected.

Having a long-standing fascination with international trade, along with how and where money flows, spurred me to look into these outfits.

This led to my signing on with Odell, Simms, and Associates out in Falls Church, VA, just a short Metro ride from all the DC action.

Working in a bipartisan atmosphere, we speak with CEOs and Business Development Officers of U.S.-based firms who are interested in expanding their physical presence abroad.

Simply put, OSA is contracted out by regional economic development agencies across the world who are interested in attracting American dollars to their respective regions.

Never did I think upon graduation that I would be working for the Thailand Board of Investment, but I am learning more and more as to why the system of regional trading blocs may some day overtake

the nation-state as the predominant method of negotiating trade.

Cherish your time at Alfred.

Like many others, I never thought our time at Alfred would end. Despite one stage of life ending, another begins anew.

Never did I think I would end up in journalism and market research, in the nation's capital, nonetheless. Life twists and turns in ways unknown and we have a way of finding our purpose.

Look to your classmates and respective College community for support and guidance. For me, those in the College of Business presented us with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed away from the friendly confines of Alfred University.

The lessons of leadership and management learned while in the CoB are also essential to future success, especially in Washington where all too often special interests trump logic.

Nothing is forever. When planning life after Alfred, keep this simple phrase in mind:

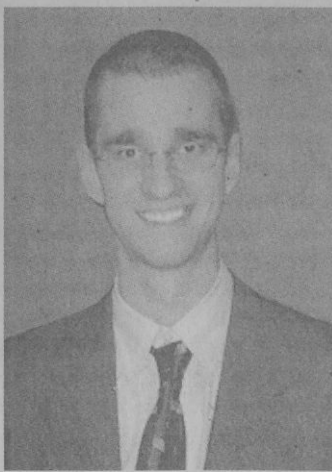
Look to the future.

My previous time in DC studying U.S. Foreign Policy through American University's Washington Semester in spring 2004 afforded me the chance to experience the Washington atmosphere for the first time.

This being my second time in town, I am taking nothing for granted and pausing for reflection more often than I did my first time around the block.

We can never be too sure where we will be in a year, but as the clouds unfold to each new day, so too do new hopes and dreams.

Reach out and seize those hopes and dreams. ☉



Rescue squad seeks willing and reliable students to help

JESSICA HENDERSON
STAFF WRITER

Alcohol poisoning, frostbite, hypothermia, shock, ankle sprains and blood-gushing wounds are just a few things Alfred University Rescue Squad tends to on a daily basis. AURS is looking for new people to join the squad. No experience is necessary, just the willingness to be trained and assist.

The members of rescue squad are basic first responders who are able to provide basic life support, administer oxygen and trained on how to use an automated external defibrillator. AURS members are the people everyone sees in their classes and around campus with the bright orange bags. They are also the people who could possibly save our lives in the case of an emergency.

To become a member of AURS, one needs to attend its weekly meetings at 9 p.m. Thursdays in Powell Campus

Center. After attending four meetings, one is considered a member. At some point, during that first month, new members will shadow one of the four people on call and learn the radio process, which

is how AURS is contacted.

Rescue Squad's basic training takes place at their general meetings, which consists of learning first-aid and how to check things like vital signs and blood



pressure.

However, AURS offers more than basic first-aid training. Through rescue squad one can become certified as an Emergency Medical Technician. In order to become an EMT, you must dedicate one day, each week, for two semesters to a class held in Hornell. This class will be funded for people interested and counts as four transfer credits from Alfred State. Not only does AURS offer training skills, it offers personal hands-on experiences.

"My favorite thing about being on squad is that it is not like being in any other organization," said junior AURS co-captain Psychology major Barbara Bickford. "I know the choices I make on a daily basis could effect someone's life."

According to AU senior Emma Wolfer, an AURS member and biology major, the worst accident she has dealt with was head trauma, after a skateboarder

crashed.

"It was frightening because it really showed AURS has to respond to serious things, now and then, and it was a real wake-up call for us all," said Wolfer.

Every night after 6 p.m. two EMT's, one executive member and one general member, is on call. All general members are required to be on call, at least once a month. However, members can be on call as much as they choose to be.

If you think you are interested in any sort of medical career or enjoy medically assisting others, this could be the organization for you.

AURS member senior Biology and Pre-Med major Jenny Pownall found her future through the rescue squad. Pownall was recently given a scholarship to attend paramedic school and says AURS not only gave her leadership skills and a handful of friends, but the opportunity to discover what to do after Alfred. ☉

Whether you are in love or lust, chemistry is hard at work

KATIE STEWARD
STAFF WRITER

From the onset of mankind, man has been confused about love. In ancient Greece, a man in love was thought ill.

The ancient Roman man was encouraged to have guilt free sex and often with no mention or concern for love or his wife. With the rise of Christianity and the onset of the dark ages, love between a man and wife was completely diminished because the wife part of the equation was whittled down to mere property.

It was not until the 11th century that our modern ideal of love was even introduced, and even then it was barely a shadow of what modern society recognizes as "love." Only royalty were allowed to have what we would call love, peasants married for love or convenience.

And, still in this time period love and intimacy where two different things. If you loved your wife and chose to spend time with her, you were a crazy man. It has been modern America which has truly defined love in the way

we all understand it, and much of the world has followed suit and accepted it.

Being Valentine's Day, this newly adopted ideal of love is shoved in our faces and brought to our doorsteps in a magnitude that outshines the normal diamond and internet-dating commercials. Flowers, poetry, expensive dinners and the Russell Stover's sampler box of chocolates are all conventional ways to show your significant other that you love them today.

Although we have the symbolism of love all nailed down, most of us experiencing this emotion have absolutely no idea what is going on inside our bodies and brain. When you see that one special girl in your class, and even the briefest moment of eye contact makes your stomach flip and your hands all sweaty, do you really get it? No wonder for the past thousand years, man thought he was crazy if he was in love.

But, OH! Through the wonders of modern science we are able to explain this phenomena in all of it's not so romantic detail.

So, let's start with the basics: Are you in love? Or are you lusty? Raw

lust is indicative of high levels of testosterone. That is probably why men stereotypically experience this feeling more then women. Testosterone is the chief male hormone, which is responsible for enhanced libido, energy and some immune function. Men have been proven to be sexually aroused visually, while women are turned on mentally. This is likely why lust is mainly the man's domain.

But, it is love you say? No just carnal lust? Well there is an explanation for that as well. The infatuation stage of love is dominated by norepinephrine. This is the chemical that stimulates the production of adrenaline; which explains the racing heartbeat, sweaty palms and even the geriatric reference of "weak in the knees."

Okay, so you are beyond the puppy-love stage? Well then, your relationship is likely being dominated by "PEA"—Phenylethylamine. This is the chemical in your brain that causes increases in information exchange between cells. It would also be responsible for that "high" feeling of love, the one that makes you feel like you are walking on

air. This is also the chemical found in chocolate that makes you feel happy and satisfied. Now, it isn't PEA alone that gives you the warm fuzzies, dopamine is also involved. Dopamine gives you that toasty, radiant and glowing sensation. This is the chemical that is often described as and associated with drugs, as it gives off many of the same pleasure responses that drug use does.

Now, if it has been years and years that you have been with your partner and you are way beyond either one of these typical stages of love, then your long-term relationship is dominated by oxytocin. This is the godfather of the love chemicals. It is actually called the "love" chemical. This is the chemical that is released when our mothers gave birth to us, creating that first and vital bond. This is why it is responsible for the lasting bonds that enduring couples experience.

Although there is a specific chemical that creates these long-term bonds with other humans, we are not scientifically defined as monogamous. In fact, only 3 percent of the species on earth are categorized as such, so it isn't surprising

that we are not among them.

So, you ask yourself? How? We have all these chemicals zooming around our bodies; shouldn't one of them be responsible for this?

Well, yes. There is a chemical that dictates monogamy, but it just so happens we don't have it: Vasopressin. Research has shown that when men were injected with this chemical, they showed all the typical signs of monogamy. After mating, they were very attached to their mate, and also developed "jealous husband syndrome."

So today, on the day of love, as you eat your chocolates and conversation hearts and read all the nice cards that friends and loved ones have sent you, take a minute to appreciate the true cause of that sought after emotion, chemistry and the intricate design of the human body and brain.

And, if you don't have a partner to share today with, comfort yourself with the thought that it is all just boring science anyway. ☉

Don't overlook one relationship for another when dating

KATIE KIELY
FEATURES EDITOR
JESSICA CABRERA
STAFF WRITER

When it comes to relationships there are always struggles between friends, partners and your partner's friends. It is important to balance love with everyday life because once the "lust phase" is over you will need your friends.

Living in Alfred, we are sure that we've all experienced couples that start dating and then meld into one entity. We are also sure that some of us have been in those relationships and have experienced lonely friends.

Recently, more and more of our friends have "fallen in love," as this has happened, we've noticed that we can predict our Verizon minutes based on their relationship status. When they are arguing or having "issues," suddenly our minutes increase, when things are running smoothly we have to check our phones to make sure our battery hasn't died.

Usually there are only two perspectives consid-

ered when it comes to romantic relationships: those of the two people romantically involved with each other. It is time to consider the third perspective: people who have been supportive from day one, before the romance blossomed.

That said, there are important questions that need to be asked. Can a person in a relationship still be an individual? Why is it when someone is in a relationship he slowly morphs into the other person? They are no longer considered as individuals but as a pair?

Why is it when a person is in a relationship their whole world revolves around that one person? Do we do that unconsciously or purposely? Why do some of us drop our friends who have always been there? What happens when a person breaks up with his partner? Does he run back to those friends he left?

Why do we think that the person we are in a relationship with can fulfill all the voids our friends used to fill?

How can one decipher the line between having a partner and sharing a life with him, and having a life that consists of friends, work, and being an

individual?

How come it isn't until people end relationships, that they suddenly apologize for being so lost and "love crazy?"

More importantly, if we as friends felt slighted during the relationship, how come we say, "Oh, it's no big deal?"

The answers to these questions are based on everyone's point of view. As usual there is no clear, easy answer.

The reason that people get so wrapped up in each other when they first get involved is because it's fun. It's human nature. When people are introduced to something new and exciting, they want more. Add hormones, and they really want more. It's both subconscious and on purpose. They do it purposely because they want to be with the person and at that moment, that's all that occurs to them. They unconsciously ignore their friends in fact; we highly doubt that they ever realize it.

However, just because they don't realize that they are ignoring their friends doesn't mean that it is alright for them to do so. They have to find a balance.

Why do you need balance? Because when you break up you are going to need a shoulder to cry on and you don't want to receive a "cold" one instead.

Even if you don't break up, even if you get married, you are still going to need your friends; a spouse alone isn't enough. Who is going to be your bridesmaid? Your best man?

Finding the balance isn't easy but it has to be found. All three parties need to find balance in order for it to work, friends and partners alike.

The easiest way to handle the change is to make sure that you as the friend stay focused and do what you need to do. As the friend in the relationship, you need to make sure that you stay in control of your life. It's fine to change a little bit and have fun, just don't pull a 180 because that's fake.

If you're the partner make sure that you endorse friendship, don't make them choose between you and their friends. Trust us they still love you. Just remember if you let your friend/partner have a little leeway then hopefully they'll give you some when you need it. ☉

Should Valentine's Day be cancelled?

Commercialism ruins day

TESS CODDINGTON
A&E EDITOR

Roses: \$16.99 a dozen. A nice card: \$2.99. Godiva chocolates for your sweetheart: \$19.99. Letting someone know you love them: priceless.

Valentine's Day can be expensive! You're talking card, gift, flowers, dinner and drinks, it can add up quickly! This Valentine's Day we should all do something different. Forget the flowers and candy, the cards and stuffed animals. Sit down with the people you care about and talk to them about what's going on in their lives and how much their love and friendship means to you. This is what Valentine's Day is about.

This holiday has become commercialized to the point where it's a decision between getting our sweetheart the bear holding the hearts that say "I love you" or the chocolate roses. Why does it matter? Everyone loves to hear how much they are loved any regular day of the week! This should include not only your boyfriend or girlfriend, but your housemates, suitemates, parents, uncles, aunts, cousins, grandparents and siblings too.

What's the problem with doing all this on Valentine's Day? Time. There is not enough time in one day to tell everyone you love how you feel. So what is the solution you ask? Simple. Couples shouldn't need a labeled holiday to express their feelings. People should always be open to each other and not be afraid to share what their heart tells them. Tell that boy you've been crushing on since freshman year how you feel. Tell your best friend

that you wouldn't survive another finals week without her. And for God's sake, tell your parents thanks for everything they do.

Why does America get wrapped up in the stifled robotics of Valentine's Day? We should give chocolates and flowers to our boyfriends or girlfriends or platonic friends any time we feel like it- if your friend is having a bad day or your girlfriend failed a test. This is what really matters.

Too often real love gets lost somewhere between the Hallmark cards and teddy bears. Even conversation hearts have important emotional phrases on them that we chew and swallow, just like many people do to their real emotions. It's time for liberation! Free your mind and soul and tell people how you feel.

I want Alfred to be a community of respect and love, where people are open to each other every day, not just on Valentine's Day. We need to remember why we have Valentine's Day in the first place. I know many women who would be upset if their boyfriend or husband didn't get them an extravagant gift or confession of undying love on Valentine's Day, but what they should really be asking is why don't we give each other small tokens of love and talk about our relationship randomly throughout the week? Why do we need a special day with special flowers and special chocolate?

This Valentine's Day I will tell the people I care about why they matter in my life. I will try to forget that there are more important things out there than deciding between white, dark or milk chocolate and I will celebrate the friendships I've made here in Alfred. I think there needs to be less materialism and more realism this Valentine's Day. Spread the cheer, but don't forget what this holiday is really about. ☺

Embrace Valentine's Day

KATIE KIELY
FEATURES EDITOR

Enough complaining! I can't understand why everyone seems to be so cynical about Valentine's Day. Honestly, it's kind of fun whether you're in a relationship or not. No matter what your romantic situation is, Valentine's Day has the potential to be fun for everyone. Think of it as another day to celebrate, dress up and appreciate your friends.

How can anyone have a grudge against celebration? Think of Valentine's Day as a way to celebrate. Trust me, you do have things to celebrate. Even if you aren't in love you can still celebrate the idea of love and romance. Being able to celebrate is another chance to relax, have fun and eat candy, especially chocolate! Admit it, we can all use another opportunity to enjoy these luxuries.

Chocolate isn't the only enjoyable thing about Valentine's Day, let's not forget about the attire. Yes, red and pink together is tacky and over the top, but that's what makes it so much fun to wear. If you can't take a day and dress up you are taking yourself way too seriously. Dressing up and decorating are what get you in the spirit of the holiday.

I realize that keeping your spirits up can be hard when it seems as if everybody has somebody but you. My advice is to look at it from another angle. Instead of waiting for someone to make you happy, why not try to make someone else happy.

Making someone smile always feels good. It

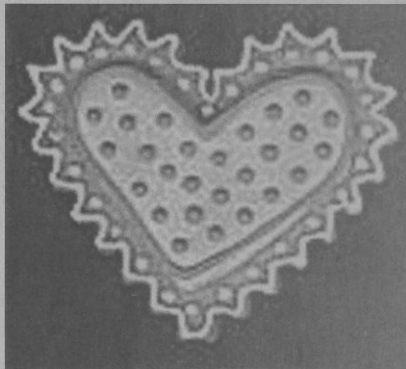
doesn't have to be a big deal and it doesn't have to be for your "crush" or love interest, it just has to be for another human being. It barely takes any effort, just stick a nice note in someone's mailbox, or give someone a Hershey's Chocolate Kiss. Sometimes the littlest things bring the biggest pay offs.

I'm not saying that Valentine's Day should be put on the same level as Christmas, Halloween or Thanksgiving. I'm just saying why pass up a perfectly good opportunity to smile and have fun? What do you have to lose?

Why would you rather mope and spend the day being miserable? That just doesn't make sense. If you're determined to be miserable, chances are pretty high that you will succeed, and chances are that I can't change your mind. Just remember, it takes more energy to be sad than it does to be happy.

Don't take yourself, or others, too seriously. Instead of focusing on what's wrong, tacky, stupid or painful about Valentine's Day, think about what's exciting and fun.

This is a day that has great potential; it could be disastrous or amazing. The nice thing is that you are the one controlling the day's destiny. ☺



The history of Valentine's Day, from the beginning

STEVEN HERNACKI
CONTRIBUTOR

Valentine's Day is the time of year when we are all made painfully aware of whether or not we have someone special in our lives and when a general feeling somewhere between elation and depression sets in over the population.

Back in the ancient (pre-Christian, pre-Hallmark) times, the Romans celebrated a month-long festival called Lupercalia. This festival began on what in our calendar is Feb. 14 and would last until mid-March. There would be numerous public and private feasts and celebrations.

The tradition at that time was to have all the eligible young women write their names on slips of paper. The eligible young men would then pick a name at

random from a large lottery jug and the young woman would then be his partner, mainly for dancing, for the remainder of the festival.

The pairs made during this annual festival would often continue for a year or longer. Pairings made in this way sometimes even married, if they could secure their parents' consent. Other than arranged marriages through their parents, this was one of the main ways young men and women found love and companionship in those days, particularly among the noble class.

The story of our holiday's namesake, however, begins in the third century CE with Saint Valentine, a Christian priest living in Pagan Rome. At this time the

Emperor, Claudius II, was having trouble finding dependable soldiers for his increasingly bloody and increasingly disastrous foreign and border wars. He issued an edict saying that no soldier could be married because men were better soldiers this way.

Needless to say, with his armies growing younger through battle, many men and women found that their love was now illegal. But Saint Valentine refused to comply with this edict and secretly married many soldiers and their loves.

When Claudius II learned of this, he called Saint Valentine to an audience and demanded that he cease his illegal actions as well as demanded his conversion to Roman Paganism. Saint Valentine not

only refused to stop marrying those who were in love, but he actually tried to convert the Emperor! Saint Valentine, after a stay in jail, was publicly stoned, beaten with clubs and then beheaded - on Feb. 14.

But it wasn't until the late fifth century that the Roman Catholic Church assigned Feb. 14 as Saint Valentine's Day.

Pope Gelasius, as part of a larger plan to Christianize the old Pagan traditions of Italy, thought that the feast of Lupercalia involved too much of the old religion to continue in its present form. So he ordered his priests to pre-empt the Lupercalia lottery with one of their own.

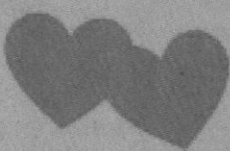
This time, the young men wrote their feelings on slips of paper and addressed

them to specific eligible young women and the church officers would make sure they were delivered. Except that it was considered bad luck to sign the "valentines" with their own names, so they were usually signed "your secret admirer," allowing the recipient to discover whose heart she had captured.

The oldest extant Valentine's Day card was written by the Duke of Orleans in 1415 and is currently on display in the British Museum.

A final interesting note is that in 1969, the Roman Catholic Church removed Valentine's Day from their official list of holidays. They did this because there were doubts, as there still are today, as to the details and authenticity of the saint's life.

Happy Valentine's Day. ☺



ANDREA SARRO
CONTRIBUTOR

"Love Stinks:" A different view of February's evil curse

Michael Bolton sings, "Love is a Wonderful Thing." I disagree. The J. Geils Band sings, "Love Stinks." I couldn't agree more. Love certainly stinks, but don't get me wrong, I am not preaching hate. There are basically two kinds of love. Love associated with peace, respect and goodwill, usually referred to as "brotherly love," which is something the world definitely needs more of. And the other kind of love is, romantic love. Which is total crap.

What is love? This question has been answered many times by poets, songwriters and lovers making utter fools of themselves. Most of them usually come up with such clichés as, "Love is a rose." Blah, blah, blah. Love is a rose, all right. It's got thorns.

If I were defining love, I'd answer as follows: "Love is a luxury, not a necessity. Love is society's dangerous pressure, which ruins those who vainly try to comply with it. Love is a leech that sucks out your intelligence, rational abilities, creativity, time and money."

So there. "Love is a luxury, not a necessity." Is love really necessary? Does the U.S.

Constitution demand it? Does one of the Ten Commandments say, "Thou Shalt Fall in Love?" No. Love is simply a luxury. One can live a happy, healthy, productive life without falling in love. If Plato had fallen head over heels, for example, would he have had time to create his philosophies.

"Love is society's dangerous pressure, which ruins those who vainly try to comply with it." Turn on the radio. What do you hear? A love song. Watch a movie. What do you see? A love scene. Escape the problem by taking a walk. Sorry! There are lovers holding hands everywhere in the parks, on sidewalks and in shopping malls all over the world. And every February? Ugh. We are bombarded with hearts, cupid, flowers and candy. We feel the pressure of Valentine's Day, a so-called "holiday" with a strictly commercial purpose and no historical significance whatsoever, designed to suck your wallet dry on overpriced junk. Pressure indeed. So you have

no one to love? Tsk, tsk. Society labels you a "loser" or "outcast." That's just not fair.

Love is responsible for all the problems in the world. Take overpopulation, for instance. Love leads to sex, and sex leads to babies. Too much love and sex leads to too many babies. Perhaps the world's governments should take that into consideration when trying to solve the world's overpopulation problems.

"Love is something that leeches you of your intelligence, rational abilities, creativity, time and money." Love makes you dumb. That is not just an opinion, it is a fact.

A study performed last fall at University Tübingen, Germany dealt with electroencephalogram (EEG) readings of people with low IQs and high IQs. It found that some of the high IQ subjects showed brainwave patterns of "clearly reduced complexity," comparable with those in the low IQ group. The researchers questioned them and found that they

were genuinely and passionately in love. How many times have couples neglected work or their studies just to spend time together? Far too often.

Lovers are very uncreative people. They succumb to dullness and clichés. "I'll love you forever," a man says to his woman. Boooooor-ring. What does "forever" mean? No one loves forever. People break up. Even if they marry, they get divorced. And even if they stay married, they die. Nothing lasts forever. They even begin to lose friends. I have lost count of all the times I wanted to hang out with a friend only to hear, "Oh, sorry, I can not. I have to spend all day with my

girlfriend." (I hear the sound of a whip cracking, even now). And lovers are so intoxicated with each other that, for them, "Time seems to fly by so quickly."

As for money: hah! Love leaves you bankrupt. There are the necessities of life: food, clothing, bills, rent and gas. But love upsets one's financial priorities. Lovers have to spend money on presents, flowers, cologne or perfume, perhaps even birth control and, oh yeah, presents. And money disappears on dates! It's no wonder that lovers have to end up living together.

Face it, love is not such a wonderful thing, now is it?

V-Day shouldn't be just for women

Why is it that males don't get flowers, chocolate and other nice things like females do on Valentine's Day? My answer is simple: women are selfish beings.

I say selfish because we're (males) the ones spending all the money. We buy the roses, teddy bears, chocolate and take them to dinner, whereas females just turn off the lights, puts on lingerie and call it a night.

Believe it or not, ladies, guys like to feel wanted and needed too. We do have a sensitive side. Maybe not a huge one, but it's there. Some of us would like to receive some of the same gifts you get, like long-stemmed roses, Godiva chocolates and an expensive dinner date that YOU pay for.

I spoke to some of my fellow male peers on campus on the subject and got the same motifs. Males at AU say their Valentine's Day gifts are always

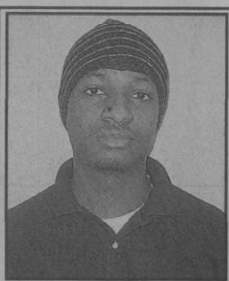
the same: a card, a picture frame and a night of lingerie and romance.

Now these are the same guys who bought flowers, cards, chocolate, teddy bears and a fancy dinner. Every guy I asked said that they are tired of the same lame old gifts; tired of gifts that don't last more than 24 hours. You cannot win us over with lingerie anymore.

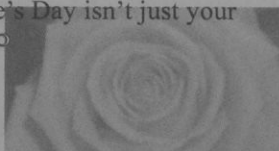
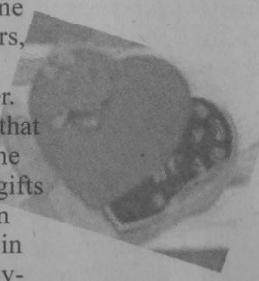
Women are always fighting to have things equal, like equal pay in the work place. What about equal

gifts on Valentine's Day? Stop being selfish and greedy. If we have to spend money, so should you.

Ladies, please stop taking the easy way out and giving us the same old gifts. Valentine's Day isn't just your day anymore. ☺



DEVIN SIMPSON-LONEY
CONTRIBUTOR



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Alfred couples share relationship secrets

ASHLEY PADDOCK
COPY EDITOR
CAROLINE DE LEON
STAFF WRITER

Je'taime, te amo, ik houd van u, ich liebe dich.

So many ways to say, "I love you." With Valentine's Day upon us, many couples here in Alfred find themselves questioning how to express their love for one another. There is the usual: going out to dinner, exchanging gifts, and possibly a little something after, but lets face it, in Alfred there is not much for couples to do.

To get into the spirit of the lovely holiday season, some couples have decided to share some of their experiences and insights into what love at Alfred really can be.

Darnell Thompson & Sherill Anderson



Together 4 months consistently

Darnell is originally from the Bronx, NY and Sherill is from Harlem, NY, but that doesn't stop the two from being in love here in Alfred. They were acquaintances, but met through Students Acting for Equality (SAFE).

"We met because we were friends," Sherill said. "It wasn't really an attraction-based thing."

"Our personalities are what got us together, but it also causes a lot of conflicts," Darnell said.

Around campus, you can find Sherill and Darnell constantly together, from walking and attending classes together, to spending quality time with each other in both Powell and Joel's House. Both expressed the humor in spending almost every moment together.

"We're terrible," said Sherill.

When asked to give advice to newer couples struggling in Alfred, both Sherill and Darnell expressed that communication, compromise and respect for each other's feelings were among the most important in a relationship. Both agreed, however that they sometimes find it difficult to maintain a relationship on campus.

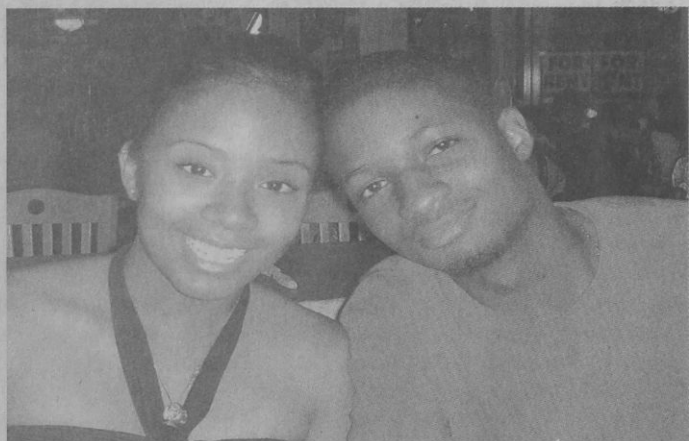
While apart for breaks, they do not find not being in Alfred to be a major dent in their quality time together.

"We spend a significant amount of time together," Sherill said. "He hangs with his friends, and me with mine. Plus, we try to find time to have dinner together. His mom's a great cook, plus she's nice to me."

When asked how to maintain a lasting relationship, Sherill joked, "You want to ask us that?" She explained that you need to be real with yourself and accept that person for who they are. Darnell said that "a relationship shouldn't be work, people should just be."

For Valentine's Day they plan to exchange gifts and spend as much time together as possible.

RaSheeda Foster & Devin Simpson-Loney



Together 10 months

RaSheeda is from Pittsburgh, PA and Devin is from Brooklyn, NY. Although they live in different states, these two make it work.

They met at the 2005 CSA fashion show, where Devin was attracted to RaSheeda when she modeled boy shorts during the show. "I like what I see," expressed Devin, while looking at RaSheeda on the other end of the couch. They shared a little laugh. RaSheeda expressed her

attraction to Devin's dimples and his long eyelashes. "They look really cute," she said.

Spending as much time as possible together is what seems most important to this couple. "We play video games, watch movies, and do our laundry together," they both said.

When asked to give advice to other couples around Alfred, they said not to lie and not to expect much because there isn't much to do. "So if a girl says there isn't much to do, tell her to look at her surroundings," joked Devin.

Neither one feels that it is difficult to maintain a relationship in Alfred, but Devin joked that you should stay away from your exes because they are exes for a reason!

Spending time apart during break is part of the challenge for this couple. Over the summer both took turns in visiting each other's hometowns and spoke to each other on the phone every night.

Be truthful, spend time, make an effort and try new things is what this couple had to say about maintaining their relationship.

For Valentine's Day, the couple plans to go about their daily business, hang out and exchange gifts.

Patricia Debertolis & Dan Napolitano

Married 10 years

Patricia, also known as Trish, is from Schenectady, NY and Dan is from Smithtown, NY.

Fate brought these two lovebirds together under different circumstances. While he was working as Assistant Director here at Alfred University, he met the love of his life while she was fulfilling her graduate internship under the supervision of his boss.

Despite the fact that they work together in the same office, the couple feel that there is a balance that seems to agree with them in their professional lives.

Besides working, Dan and Trish spend quality time together while walking to the playground with their kids and enjoying a movie at Nevins Theater.

"We try to have lunch together just the two of us downtown at least once a week," Trish said. They both agreed that it is nice.

"Dating in Alfred is tricky because there is no such thing as not seeing the person after the breakup," Dan said. Trish said "Big city romance isn't here. Unplanned events are what makes the time special."

When asked what effect Alfred has had on their relationship, they both agreed that there was no difficulty in maintaining their relationship.

"We started our relationship here. We've grown and morphed because of our surroundings," both agreed.

Students aren't the only ones who have to deal with separation over lengthy amounts of time. When either one of them has to leave for a conference, the other is left behind, having to deal with being a single parent.

Both were wise in describing how they have tried to make their relationship last.

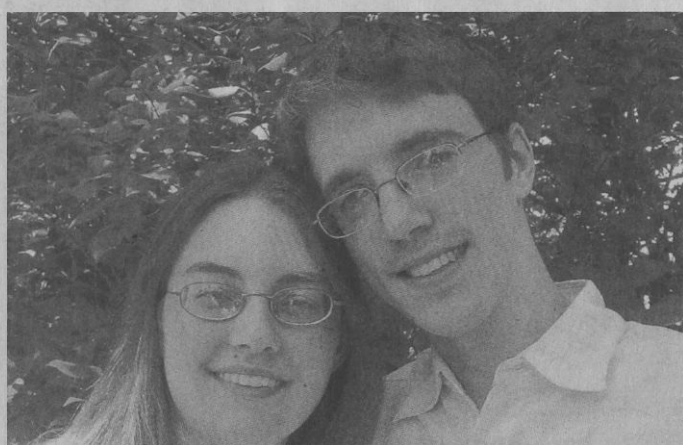
"Realize that a lot of work and sacrifice go into a relationship," said Dan. "You can't expect it to be easy."

"You can't think it's a fantasy. Each relationship is different," Trish said. "If you are happy in a relationship, you can't compare it to others. Life's not a soap opera or the movies."

Neither one has an idea as to what their plans for Valentine's Day will be. "Maybe we'll go out to dinner with the kids...no, it'll be too crowded," said Trish.

"We're going to get takeout," Dan said. "We'll have high expectations, but then the kids will complain." Trish responded with, "The idea of romance with three kids...it's not possible."

Devin Anderman & Kyle Burns



Together 3 years

While Devin is from Jersey Shore, PA, Kyle lives in Scottsville, NY, about three hours away from one another.

They met each other in Freshman Foundations, where they worked on projects together in their workshops.

After Devin turned him down four times, she finally agreed to date him. And now three years later, they find themselves preparing for a life together as husband and wife. While in London, England last sum-

mer, Kyle proposed to Devin. They plan to wed in Alfred in the future.

Both have a similar art mentality, which drew one another together.

"He's so cute," Devin said while pinching his cheek.

It was not easy at first for this couple. They spent the first three months of their relationship writing letters to each other and talking on a pay phone because Devin was away at camp. But this is one couple who have definitely shown their strengths in order to make their relationship work.

When asked what they do around campus, they explained that they do everyday sorts of stuff, they have a radio show together, and they watch the food network before going to dinner.

They do not find that it is difficult to maintain a relationship in Alfred. Kyle joked that Devin is his RA this year, meaning that they can see each other more frequently.

They agreed that couples need to make sure that they can spend time together and apart and to take care of any problems when they happen. People often ask them if they ever fight because they always seem so pleasant with one another, but Kyle mentioned that they do have fights, but just not out in the public.

While apart over break, they explained that they visit one another and talk on the phone for about an hour each night.

"Since cell phones are free after 9 p.m., at exactly that time my phone rings," said Devin.

Some advice they would like to share with couples is to be yourself, if you can't do that, then you can't be happy, and to have a sense of humor.

For Valentine's Day, the couple plans to spend a night together for themselves. They would like to get away from school, while not having to spend much money. They are focusing on their senior shows, so their plans are not as extravagant as some other couples.

Barbara Bickford & Emma Wolfer



Together 8 months

Emma is from outside of Letchworth State Park, NY, while Barbara lives in Connecticut. They are roughly six hours away from one another, but that does not stop them from maintaining a loving relationship.

They met Barbara's freshman year in Spectrum, however they did not become close until working together in AU Rescue Squad.

Their initial attraction for one another came in a most surprising way. Barbara said that Emma was the first girl she was ever attracted to, which was a complete surprise for herself. The attraction for her was instantaneous. Cupid had obviously hit Barbara hard. For Emma, Barbara's attraction also came to her as a surprise.

"For two years I thought she was straight," Emma said. Then while at a party, Emma and Barbara expressed their attraction to one another, and now the rest is history.

They do everything together; they even live with one another. Much of their time is spent with one another.

They definitely feel that it is harder over break. They talk to each other every day on the phone and visit one another to lessen the difficulty.

Communication, honesty and working through problems are the key factors that this couple feels will get them through anything.

"Don't let things get so hot that it boils over and you can't fix it," Emma said. "Don't go to bed angry."

When asked about the public's reaction to their affection for one another, Emma explained that even though Alfred is a diverse atmosphere, it is still closed in and that people look surprised when they see them together.

They both agreed that it took a while to get used to the attention from others, but they have learned to deal with it.

For Valentine's Day they would like to do something that doesn't cost a lot of money, possibly going out to dinner, but Emma has class that night.

While preparing to celebrate this holiday, these couples have kept in mind the true meanings of love. These relationships, and relationships in general, did not just grow over night. They are months, and in some cases years, of compromise and devotion to one another. Although at times this season may get people down, keep in mind that love can be

Warm crowd welcomes Joel's performance

JULIE THARRETT
STAFF WRITER

On Feb. 4, singer and musician Alexa Joel entertained the AU community in the Knight Club with her smooth vocals and lively pop sound.

Joel opened the show, her third on tour, singing: "Times are changing, baby, it could get better or it could get worse, ooohh." The crowd responded well to

her songs, with tapping feet and bobbing heads.

Aside from vocals, Joel played the keyboard throughout the show, and her band featured two guitarists and a drummer. She explained that all of her songs were originals except for two covers.

Her biggest musical influences are artists such as Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, Rufus Wainwright, Neil Young and of course, her dad, Billy Joel.

"I love my dad's music, I think he's great," she said.

But don't let her many influences and famous father mislead you, she brings her own sound and style to the table as well.

Her lyrics are genuine and easy to relate to, the words coming from her own life experiences. For example, she expresses that she's "got a f----- problem with authority" in "The Revolution Song," which is "for all of you who don't feel like you fit in the box," and tells a story about giving up on the opposite sex in "Jaded." She gets philosophical with the words "so answer my existence in the field of dark resistance" and searches for love in the song, "Come Home to me, do."

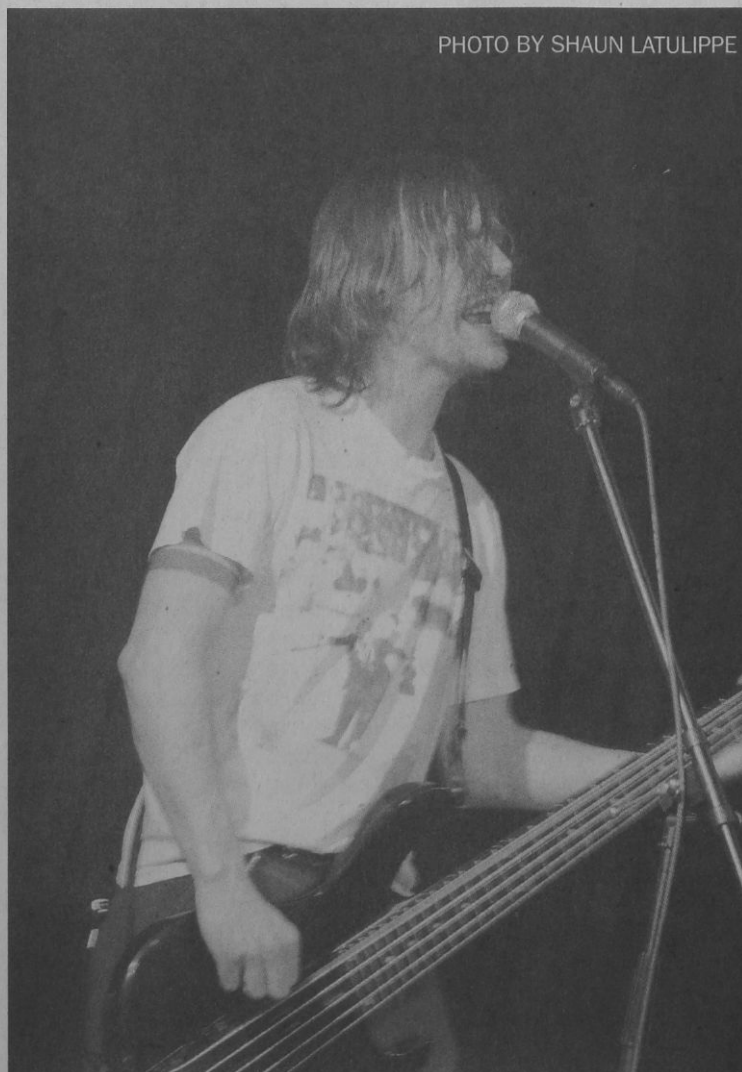
Senior chemistry and education student Dave Cook explained that, "It is not my style of music, however, she sounded good and I enjoyed her performance."

Joel was pleased by the crowd's response throughout the concert and was delighted when the performance ended with a standing ovation.

Senior ceramic engineering student Kate Deprez said, "For being her third show, she did a great job and I look forward to hearing more from Alexa in the future."

○

PHOTO BY SHAUN LATULIPPE



“Almost Famous” inspires updates in modern music

In the 2000 film “Almost Famous,” there’s a scene in the beginning that still sends chills down this rock-lover’s spine: the 11-year-old protagonist reaches under his bed and pulls out a tote bag filled with records left behind by his older, hipper sister.

As he unzips the bag and starts perusing the dream collection of any music lover, we are treated to the following eight mile-stones of rock music: “Pet Sounds” by the Beach Boys, “Get Yer Ya Yas Out” by the Rolling Stones, “Axis: Bold As Love” by the Jimi Hendrix Experience, “Blue” by Joni Mitchell, “Wheels of Fire” by Cream, “Led Zeppelin II” by Led Zeppelin, “Blonde On Blonde” by Bob Dylan, and “Tommy” by the Who.

So I had this idea: what would that scene look like if it were updated to present-day? What if a sheltered kid is handed the Holy Grail of modern music and finds his true calling in 2006? Personally, I was raised on classic rock, so the original does it for me, but that’s not the case with many people my age and younger. Modern music deserves a modern update, so I decided to erase those original eight albums listed above, and fill in the blanks with more contemporary music. Without further ado, I present the new Great 8 (by the way, I included rap music too, because it’s as big, if not bigger, than rock now, and like it or not, you can’t ignore the RZA.)

“Appetite For Destruction” by Guns N’ Roses

A staple of any rock collection. Maybe it’s something about the way the blood starts flowing on the opening verb of “Welcome to the Jungle,” or the way the album NEVER lets up

for 12 amazing tracks, even on the slightly less stinging “Sweet Child O’ Mine,” but anybody that wants to hear the annihilation of 80s hair metal and the beginning of the 90s rock movement needs to buy this landmark effort from Axl Rose & Co.

“Reasonable Doubt” by Jay-Z

Anybody who wants to understand the fuss over “The Black Album” should probably go back to 1996, when this seminal fan favorite from Jigga became the next chapter in the progression of rap music into the mainstream. Although Tupac and Notorious B.I.G. had been occupying the airwaves for a few years already, Jay-Z’s debut album turned the tide ever so slightly towards rapping about money, women, living the good life, and just generally making rap/hip-hop more *fun*. Oh yeah, and the torch-

passing that occurs in “Brooklyn’s Finest” between Biggie and Jigga needs to be heard and appreciated.

“Exile in Guyville” by Liz Phair

Forget Gwen. Forget Jewel. Forget Courtney, Missy, Lauryn, and PLEASE forget Britney: the bridge between Joni Mitchell and Alanis Morissette can be found in “Guyville,” where Liz breaks into unorganized ditties such as “Dance of the Seven Veils” and “Mesmerizing” and uses more four-letter words than a Navy sailor on weekend furlough. Out of respect, though, please don’t refer to this as the “ultimate chick album”: the Heir to the Throne of Patti Smith delivered unto the 90s the newest Must-Have Album.

“Dookie” by Green Day

Any white-bred suburban kid who missed the grunge train because they were too young were probably only a year or two removed from puberty when “Dookie” was released in 1994 (this author included). Although in my town “Dookie” was an excuse for otherwise happy pre-teens to complain that life sucked and “Basket Case” was their anthem (and on a less important note, to just get to say the word “dookie”), Green Day’s third album was also the next progression in the birth of alternative, paving the way for Blink 182, New Found Glory, and hundreds of other whiny teen-angst bands to usher out the last half of the 90s (on second thought, maybe it shouldn’t be on this list after all).

“Ready to Die” by The Notorious B.I.G.

Although “Life After Death” was the album everybody bought when people started jumping like crazy on the Biggie Bandwagon after his death, “Ready to Die” was the album that was important. With unconventional lyric structures and tracks that rival even the grittiest urban-life rap songs, “Ready” was also one of the first to feature Puffy as producer, who would turn his friendship with Biggie into a lucrative marketing campaign featuring a song written by Sting. Anyways, while “Juicy” and “Big Poppa” were predestined to become Top 40 favorites, the meat and potatoes of this album can be found in the closing “Suicidal Thoughts,” which still to this day casts an eerie foreshadow over the entire album and indeed, over Biggie’s legacy as well.

“Nevermind” by Nirvana

If I even need to tell you why you should own this album, I will leap off this page and smack you 7-8,000 times.

“The Marshall Mathers LP” by Eminem

The most controversial choice to put on this list, if only because Eminem has been so overexposed in the last few years, his shtick has grown just a little wearisome. But any kid that wants to hear what all the fuss was about needs to grab this album. “The Slim Shady LP” was too “trend-of-the-moment” to be given serious consideration, and anything after “Marshall” seems more hypocritical, if only because Em had garnered more recognition, money, and gay rights protest groups than he knew how to handle at that point. But from the raging self-declaration of “The Way I Am” to the pharmaceutical-fueled hip-hop of “Drug Ballad” to the eruptive outburst of rage inflicted on Slim Shady’s better half in “Kim,” this one needs to be heard.

“The Joshua Tree” by U2

Ok, so you’re probably mad at me that your favorite by the Butthole Surfers was cut out of the list. Well, there was only room for eight, so slap me next time you see me. But no modern-day list is complete without at least one throwback (“Welcome to the Jungle” by Guns N’ Roses gets played so much you would have thought their video was on “TRL” this week). In that respect, I consider “Joshua” a throwback, if only because it’s the type of album you don’t see very often, but when you dig it up again, it’s as if you heard it yesterday. Gentle at times, overpowering at others, Bono & Co. created a true rarity in 1987 – an album that’s infinitely listenable, songs (such as the haunting “With or Without You” and the percussion-heavy “Bullet the Blue Sky”) that you hum for hours afterwards, and a place in music history that can never be rivaled. ☺

The Mysterious Production of Eggs hatches a hit

KATE NARON
CONTRIBUTOR

Andrew Bird (who has released more albums than your mother) is fabulous. “Who is he?” you may ask. Well, he is the amazing artist who released last year’s *The Mysterious Production*

of Eggs, a fabulous album that was in the top ten of nearly every indie music snob’s Best of 2005 list.

If you are at all familiar with *The Mysterious Production of Eggs* this will not surprise you in the least (of course, if you are at all familiar with it you’re probably one of the indie music

snobs I mentioned in the last sentence – hello again). Now, when Bird tours it is just his fabulous self, his violin, and a boatload of sampling pedals, but recorded he has a truly splendid band to accompany his amazing voice and his extraordinary violin playing.

“Pop music with a violin as the primary instrument?” you may be saying to yourself at this very moment, “What would I want to do with him? That sounds like swing and hey (!) wasn’t he in the Squirrel Nut Zippers?”

My answer to you: you want *everything* to do with this. This *isn’t* swing and, yes, he was in the Squirrel Nut Zippers, but that was a long time ago. *Move on, man!* Bird obviously has.

The album opens with a quaint little ditty that is one of the two untitled songs on the collection. It’s made up of soothing instrumentals and some first class whistling (if you need to know anything about Bird it’s that he can whistle like a fiend).

The first song, which is rather short, has a seamless lead-in to the first titled track: “Solvay.” It is on this track that you first get a taste of Bird’s gorgeous, mellow crooning. Bird has a wonderful voice – he sings softly – as if he were politely asking for your attention – and if you have any music sense at

all, you raptly listen to what he has to say.

“Solvay” gives way to “A Nervous Tic Motion of the Head to the Left,” (obviously taking a page out of Sufjan Steven’s book with the ridiculously long song title), this third track is an obscenely catchy tune. The best part of the tune (aside from the marvelous whistling) is when Bird sings along with the guitar. It’s a very small part of the song, but it really stands out, even after just one listen as pure musical genius.

Another thing about Bird that is crucial to mention is his lyrics – they’re funny! Granted, he’s not Nellie McKay, but he’s still a rather clever wordsmith. This fact is exemplified most in the forth track “Fake Palindromes.”

In this song he somehow manages to rhyme formaldehyde seven different ways: “My dewy-eyed Disney bride what has tried, swapping your blood with formaldehyde?, Monsters?, Whiskey-plied voices cried fratricide!, Jesus don’t you know that you coulda died.”

The man is clearly a genius. Not, only that, but this song also deals with trepanation (the drilling of a hole in one’s skull). How many times have you heard anything about trepanation

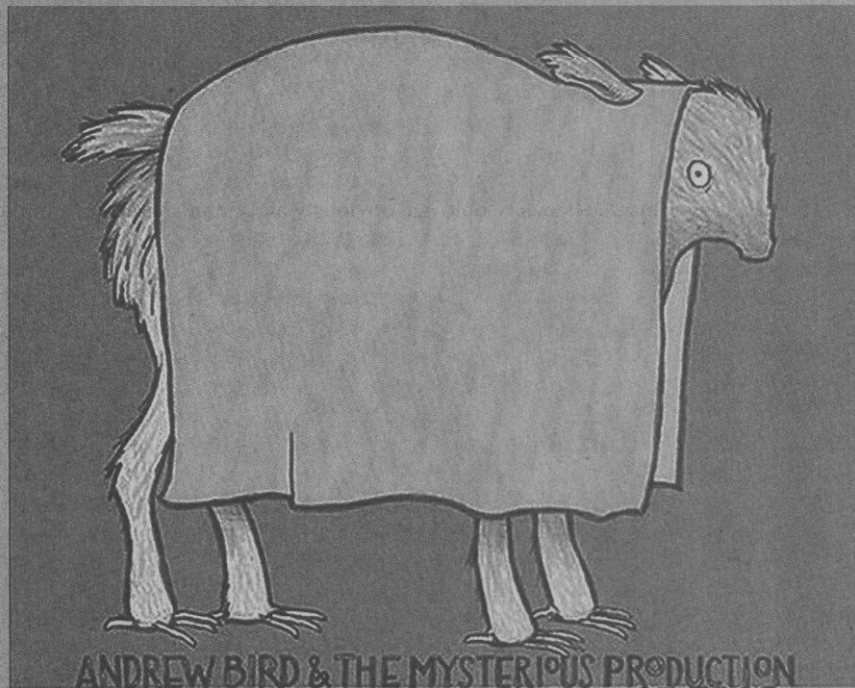
in a song? Never! But here it is! Right on this very album!

The other really standout track on this brilliant collection is the ninth track, “Skin Is, My,” which is the most upbeat of the whole folk-tinged album. In this song Bird does the most musical, beautiful imitation of a telephone that has ever graced the musical scene. Have I mentioned how beautiful Bird’s voice is? It’s simply gorgeous. I’d like to think he’s describing it in this song: “oh what a lovely sound, oh how it shakes the ground.”

One last thing about the album is that Chicago-based artist Jay Ryan drew fourteen pictures inspired by each of the fourteen songs that can be found in the album’s packaging. So, if you don’t buy the album for it’s exceedingly lovely and cleverly written songs, you should buy it for the art.

Seriously though, if your ears work in the slightest, you need to listen to this album. If you’re lacking in the hearing area, you should buy it for the vibrations – which I’m sure are quite lovely too.

“And that’s not all, Woah!, there will be snacks, there will, there will be snacks.” ☺



Not Monsters asks right questions Understanding the minds and stories of child molesters

CRYSTAL CRAFT
STAFF WRITER

Pamela Schultz is an associate professor of communication studies and author of *A Critical Analysis of the Rhetoric of Child Abuse*, a book based on her doctoral dissertation of sex offenders.

Since Schultz herself was a victim, she has always been interested in the motives behind the sexual abuse of children. It was also during her youth that she began sorting out her feelings of being molested by a neighbor.

She is now the author of *Not Monsters: Analyzing the Stories of Child Molesters*, a book that looks above and beyond the reasons why child molesters offend.

Robert E. Longo, an expert on sex offenders, applauds her book for exploring the motives of sex offenders.

“*Not Monsters* is a valuable book that is both well written and highly informative. Pamela Schultz has done an excellent job in providing straightforward information about the impact of sexual abuse on victims as well as on men who sexually abused children, looking critically at the motivation behind their behavior. Working in the field for almost three decades has taught me that punishment alone will not prevent sexual abuse from occurring. *Not Monsters* provides a daring look into child sexual abuse and furthers our understanding of this public health problem, lending support to the national efforts to prevent child sexual abuse.”

Although Schultz is analyzing the stories of child molesters, she does her best to write without bias or judgment. She broaches the subject of

child abusers in a creative and interesting way by having incarcerated prisoners tell their stories.

Not Monsters is a book that is carefully crafted to grab the reader’s attention. Schultz incorporates her own personal experience as a victim in the preface to establish credibility.

She interviewed nine incarcerated sex offenders to answer the question of why sexual abuse occurs.

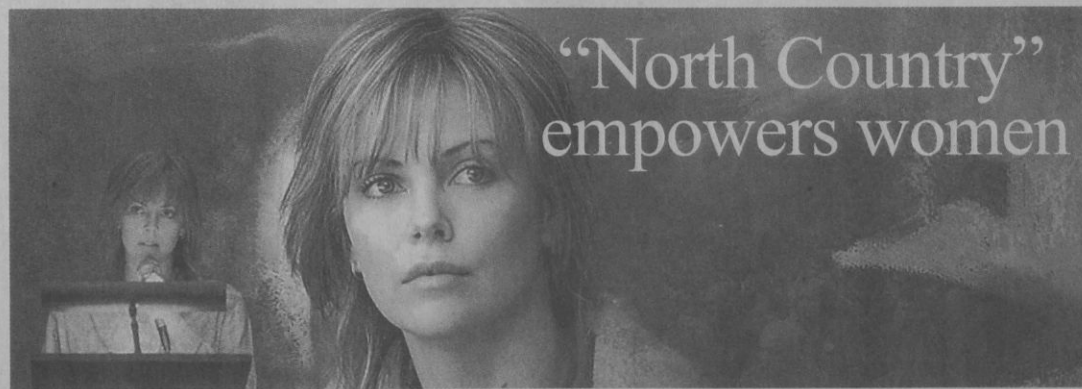
I would recommend that everyone read *Not Monsters: Analyzing the Stories of Child Molesters* because it makes the reader question whether or not these men deserve a second chance. Schultz analyzes the minds of convicted felons to help ordinary people make sense of the senseless. Schultz began this project wanting to know more, but what she left behind is priceless.

Schultz wants people to understand that these men are not monsters after all. They are humans who became victims when they were children. As stated in her preface “Read these stories with an open mind, when you’re finished, despise their actions. Hold these men in contempt for their willingness to give into their darkest impulses. Condemn them for being weak, violent, impulsive or cruel. But remember the children that they once were and the lessons they learned that shaped their adulthood. Try to imagine what can be done to keep other children from growing to be just like them.”

This is a problem we should all stand up for and we can start by reading this book and learning from its contents. ☺



DR. PAMELA SCHULTZ



GERALDINE GENZARDI
MANAGING EDITOR

“North Country” empowers women

Women weren’t welcome in the iron-mines, which for some of them was an occupation they couldn’t escape. That is until Josey came along.

“North Country,” starring Charlize Theron, is a film motivated by events that took place in Northern Minnesota in the 1970s and 1980s. The story is based on the book *Class Action: The Story of Lois Jenson and the Landmark Case That Changed Sexual Harassment Law*, by Clara Bingham and Laura Leedy.

The film is loosely based on the experiences Lois Jenson encountered before she filed for the first class action sexual-harassment lawsuit in the United States. According to filmmakers, Theron’s character, Josey Aimes, is fictional aside from the lawsuit and the harassment she endured on the job. Josey and her children flee her abusive husband to find haven at her parent’s house. She is greeted by her father, Hank (Richard Jenkins), who can only think to say, “He caught you with another man? That’s why he laid hands on you?” The tension and shame that lie between Josey and her parents is unmistakable from the beginning of the film and shapes much of Josey’s character.

After she has moved in with her parents, Josey learns about a job at the local iron-mine that provides her both the money she needs and the support from her old friend Glory (Frances McDormand).

From day one, her job at the mine presents challenges that Josey never imagined could lie in her

way. She is introduced to her duties by a chauvinistic boss who doesn’t understand why the Supreme Court would let a woman take a “man’s job.”

Josey and her female co-workers are constantly reminded just how unwelcome and unwanted they are. According to their community, families and fellow employees, there is no place for women in a mine.

The women of the mine go to work not knowing what’s going to happen next. Will there be degrading words written in excrement on the locker room wall? A sex toy in your lunch box? Semen in your locker? Will one of your fellow employees attack you in a secluded section of the mine? These are questions that Josey deals with each day with strength and composure.

The scenes of sexual harassment and rape, anger, frustrate and move viewers. Audiences aren’t often presented with disturbing scenes of sexual harassment, but this film makes you cringe and squirm in your seat. Theron reveals the pain, helplessness and the never-ending need to prove to everyone that she is not a whore and doesn’t deserve any of the treatment she receives from her male co-workers and abusers.

Josey’s story is woven through the court room with exceptional performances by Theron and McDormand. This is a gritty, raw and honest drama that shows how abused women in powerless situations can stand up for themselves and turn the tables on a the system that supports their abusers. Josey is a role-model for women because she stands up for herself and her rights. ☺

Call of Duty sequel trumps original

DEVIN SIMPSON-LONEY
CONTRIBUTOR

Are you a gamer who likes to play WWII-style first-person shooters? Do you like to snipe and blow things up? I certainly do. And if you're like me, then you will like Call of Duty 2, the sequel to Call of Duty, the best-selling WWII shooting game of 2003.

CoD2 follows real battles from the Russian, American and British perspectives during WWII. It covers everything from fighting in urban areas to a hot desert in Africa.

The American campaign has a team-based feel to it where there's always someone watching your back. The British campaign has more of a covert feel, where there's some type of sniping going on or a surprise attack at night, where as in the Russian campaign, they just seem to use sheer numbers to overwhelm the enemy.

The enemy is smarter and deadlier than ever before. German troops now pick up and throw back

grenades thrown at them. Sometimes if you are in battle in a large area and they feel like you're kicking their a--, they will throw a smoke grenade to gain a better defensive position. I don't know about you, but that sounds like love at first sight to me.

Although better artificial intelligence is always a plus in a video game, the graphics of a game are also key. CoD2 is the best-looking WWII game out right now for PC and the Xbox 360 console.

For example, the facial features of each soldier are slightly different, making it look like you're not just in a war with an army of the same guy. You can even see each specific wrinkle in the faces of some of your more seasoned officers.

If you were to shoot an MG-47 stationary gun at the ground, visibility would decrease because of the dirt and sand being kicked up into the air.

Speaking of guns, the detail that was put into every gun is mind blowing. Certain guns, like the Thompson, have its name engraved on the side, which you're able to see clearly. And CoD2's battlefields are just as packed with every bit of detail

as the weapons. If you wanted to stand and count every brick in a building, or count every blade of grass, you could.

But graphics and AI aren't the only things to look for in a game. The realism of the sound quality can sometimes make or break a game. I don't know about you, but sound is just as important to me as graphics.

CoD2 perfectly uses the Creative Labs EAX3 audio technology in the game. This means instead of only getting stereo sound out of two sound channels, you can get up to eight individual channels such as 7.1 surround-sound. With a set of 7.1 surround-sound speakers, you feel totally immersed in the battle. There is nothing like hearing a bullet whiz by your head. And explosions sounding so real, you're left shell-shocked and walking away with a racing heart and jittery hands.

CoD2 offers everything and then some. It's fun to play, the graphics are tight and the sound quality is out of this world. If you have an itch for a war game, CoD2 will definitely scratch it. ☺

Crossword

- ACROSS**
- Tied
 - Yellow-brown
 - Accomplished
 - Angry
 - Having a wave-like pattern
 - 1
 - Characterized by intense emotion
 - Five-six in Roman numerals
 - Rips
 - Submarine
 - Lust
 - Skitter
 - Takes arbitrarily
 - Turbid
 - Inward
 - A stitched cloth border
 - Mid-month days
 - Saline
 - Magma
 - T
 - A divided Asian peninsula
 - More rational
 - Feelings of being thwarted
 - Attack
 - In current fashion
 - Swerves
 - Preen
 - Female sheep
 - Type of aircraft
 - The color of cherries
 - Hangman's knot
 - Artist's workstand
 - Attempt
 - Initial wagers
 - Bonkers

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- DOWN**
- Fifty-two in Roman numerals
 - Forelimb
 - Type of hat
 - Estimated Time of Arrival
 - Demolish
 - Genus of the dogfish
 - Secure with cables
 - Receptacles
 - Before
 - Shrunk
 - Painful grief
 - A trademarked nickel-iron alloy
 - Any worshipped supernatural being
 - Ooze

- Public transit vehicle
- Anagram of "Timed"
- Release through one's pores
- A brief indulgence
- Annoys
- Remain
- Backsides
- Cove
- Perfume from flowers
- City in Viet Nam
- Smooths
- Wetland
- The immaterial part of a person
- Placed
- An avatar of Vishnu

- Ceased
- Not near
- Ammunition (slang)
- Turn aside
- A waste water conduit
- Sleazy or squalid
- Scheme
- Go up
- Freezes
- Long period of time
- To some, the ultimate principle
- Estimate (abbrev.)
- Drench
- Clever

Jumble Words:

Things you might have seen at Superbowl XL Let's see if you can unscramble them!

brwsulope
leomtsiaw hfh
asettel
fsan
fikrmaa anlhetr
tirtgPsbuh
csnioto s

sootdhg
ferreee
ostln srleongi
cocah
nli natahtonema
lsretese
ysrelap
rcqakabeurt
oursmnfi
agitalet
lnneiem
ohses
rodcsw
ervseierc
jereyss
puretn
chgmeie
u behts
kcierk
nnwrsie
obllaotf
mdoe

Life is calling.
How far will you go?

Peace Corps will be on campus February 23.
Come learn more & meet recruiter and former
Peace Corps volunteer, Caroline Handschuh.

**Peace Corps at
Spring Engineering Career Fair**
Thursday, February 23, 2006
Powell Campus Center Knight Club
12 Noon- 3:00 P.M.



Peace Corps volunteers work in
77 countries around the world.
To date, 102 graduates from Alfred
University have served in the
Peace Corps.
Life is calling. How far will you go?
www.peacecorps.gov

HAPPY
VALENTINE'S DAY!

Daily Horoscopes

Courtesy of astrology.com

TESS CODDINGTON
A&E EDITOR

Aries: March 21-April 29

You're busy and loving it. In fact, you're so happy to be doing what you're doing that you're ready to take on the world. You may not have to work today, but you should definitely make a plan. If you play your cards right, you might actually be able to spend some quality time with a loved one on Tuesday -- Valentine's Day -- or at least spend a few hours preparing a very special, very memorable evening.

Taurus: April 20-May 20

It's time to end this nonsense -- to mend fences, bury the axe, break bread, etc. Whatever you want to call it, just be sure you do it. A minor dispute has turned major, and it's been going on for long enough, hasn't it? Do the adult thing. Put it to rest, right now. The heavens will be happy to help you out, and if you take the initiative, you'll also be proud of yourself. Now grab that phone and start dialing.

Gemini: May 21-June 21

After all that holiday shopping that you enjoyed oh, so much, you may not be ready to quit. If you're still patrolling the malls, however, consider this: Valentine's Day is four days away, so you may want to have a couple of bucks left over -- say, to pick up something nice for a loved one. Better get that gift while you still have available credit, and then retire the plastic. Have dinner at your place. (It's romantic.)

Cancer: June 22-July 22

Emotions are pouring out of you -- even more so than usual. They're not arriving in a sniffling, sentimental way, though. You're feeling downright adamant about what you feel. As a result, you may be surprising some people -- especially anyone who knows you well and really hasn't seen you act like this. Oh, well. It's good to keep 'em on their toes, and it's time to let the world know what you're really made of.

Leo: July 23-August 22

When you least expect it, the irresistible urge to share a secret fantasy will arrive -- and turning it off may be more than you can handle. What are you going to do about it? Well, finding an appropriate person to whisper it to -- hopefully, someone who can either help make it happen or at least provide some ideas -- wouldn't be a bad start. Remember, though, that once it's out, it's out. Ready?

Virgo: August 23-September 22

You've been extremely busy lately -- and busy, by your standards, is hectic, frenetic and unbearably stressful to most of the rest of us. However, you've just realized that it's just about the weekend and you're coming into some free time. Get busy, then -- in a different way -- and use this time to your advantage. Call every playmate you know you should have called weeks ago, make plans and resolve that there will be absolutely no work. None whatsoever.

Libra: September 23-October 22

Don't let them get to you. You know who 'they' are, and so do they. You also know that your mission is easier said than done, especially when whomever you're up against knows exactly what to do to make your life miserable. Hang tough, though. If you give in and get nasty, you'll be letting them win, and while you do have a reputation for being fair, you don't like to lose. Do what comes best -- and easiest. Kill 'em with kindness.

Scorpio: October 23-November 21

Anyone who starts something with you -- at any time -- obviously doesn't know you well. If they did, they'd have some respect for your ability to, at the very least, intimidate someone so that they end up looking over their shoulder for many, many moons. At the moment, though, in the mood you're obviously in, should someone refuse to back off, given the warning signs -- well, let's just say that they deserve what they get.

Sagittarius: November 22-December 21

You've spent quite a bit of time with a certain person recently, and your friends are starting to kid you about it -- so much so that one more comment about wedding bells just might tip you over the edge. If you're starting to wonder, however, if it might not actually be time to settle down and put an end to your solo lifestyle, think about it. Wouldn't it be nice to climb that mountain, cross that bridge and see the sun set from a pyramid with a permanent travel partner?

Capricorn: December 22-January 19

Thanks to a truly mixed bag of signals, you're not even close to being sure about what's going on between you and a loved one. It has been difficult, however, and you're not happy about it. You two may be entering one of those phases that either makes or breaks a relationship. That means it's time to make a decision -- and that means it's time to have a long talk.

Aquarius: January 20-February 18

Telling you not to let your mouth get away from you just doesn't work. Never has, never will. You've always said exactly what's on your mind, and you'll probably never quit. Just don't say anything too excessively harsh right now. Without meaning to, you'll be especially brutal now, and you could easily wound someone. The more important the issue, the more careful you should be. Practice in front of a mirror if you have to.

Pisces: February 19-March 20

Here's one more day of doing absolutely nothing but enjoying the company of someone you consider divine, delectable and oh, so dear -- and wisely, you're planning to make the very most of it. The heavens are willing to help -- in fact, all you have to do is provide the companion, the venue and maybe some provisions. Stop at the grocery, the florist and the video store on the way home, and once your guest has arrived, unplug the phone, the beeper and anything else that might interrupt your time together.

Weird News

Courtesy of theonion.com

Sharon's Neurotransmitters Reach Cease-Fire Agreement
White House Debuts Iraq War Infomercial

WASHINGTON, DC—In an attempt to gain support among idle and sleepless Americans, the Bush Administration made its case for the continuing war in Iraq in a one-hour paid program that premiered early Tuesday morning.

The infomercial, cohosted by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and former *Dynasty* star Linda Evans, was shot in a Burbank, CA studio before an audience of approximately 60 tourists and college-age Republicans.

Produced by the White House Communications Office in collaboration with Excelsior Direct Marketing International, the infomercial was characterized by White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan as "an effort by the administration to show the public that the occupation of Iraq is an unbelievable success, and if they don't understand that, they are missing out on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

The paid program, called *Amazing Policies*, opened with a splashy title sequence, then cut to the audience greeting Rumsfeld and Evans with applause.

"From what you've heard about foreign wars, I bet you all think freedom in Iraq costs about \$500 trillion and 2 million civilian casualties," Rumsfeld said. "Well, you're wrong. Try \$238 billion and some 30,000 casualties!"

"I don't know," a skeptical Evans responded. "That insurgency looks pretty ground in. I don't think you'll ever get something like that out."

"Think again, Linda," Rumsfeld said. "If you'll just put on these goggles and look into that screen, you can see for yourself!"

"Whoa!" Evans said, after gutting an underground bunker with a remote-controlled cluster bomb. "It's so easy."

The infomercial was interspersed with glowing pretaped testimonials from coalition partners, American soldiers, and Iraqi business leaders. Australian Prime Minister John Howard was particularly kinetic in his endorsement of the Iraq war plan.

"Don and Linda, I'm here to let you in on the world's best-kept secret," said a wide-eyed, floral-shirted Howard from the beautiful Sunk Island resort off the coast of Cairns, Australia. "The strategy for victory in Iraq is working! Last January, Iraqis went to the polls and elected leaders for a transitional government and drafted a working constitution establishing unheard-of rights for the people of Iraq! And in December, they elected representatives to the National Assembly!"

"Amazing!" Howard added, arms outstretched.

Ibrahim Ja'lal, a newly elected Iraqi Assembly member, also delivered a ringing endorsement.

"Before Bush's unilateral decision to invade, we Iraqis weren't looking so hot," Ja'lal said, pointing toward a video montage of "before" photos of Iraqi corpses, starving children, and chemical-weapons victims. "But now look at these images from 'after'! They're dancing in the discos!"

The montage of "after" photos included an image of a scantily clad belly dancer, which prompted Rumsfeld to quip, "Ooh-la-Allah."

"Linda, I hear you—you're worried about the complexity of implementing our plan for victory in Iraq," Rumsfeld said. "But that's the beauty of it. The U.S. government has a team of expert strategists and war planners standing by to make all those difficult decisions for you! And a military that is standing by to answer the call of duty."

The commercial is scheduled to air on local network and cable stations across the country through February 2012. ☐

STEVE BARZ
STAFF WRITER

This is my fourth year at Alfred University and I can honestly say there has been a serious lack of support from the student-body toward the athletic teams.

Whether you have friends on the team or not, we (students) should be there in full support of our fellow classmates and try to give our teams as big of a home-field advantage as we can.

Having a home-field advantage is huge no matter what sport is being played. Having fans at every game, making noise and rattling opposing players can help our teams win more games.

When I think about the lack of support for our teams in the past four years, two instances come to my mind.

For the last two seasons the

Saxon football team has had two of the best seasons in more than a decade. In 2004 they had a record of 8-3 and won the ECAC Northeast Championship. It was their first post-season birth since the 1989 season. This year's team was even better, finishing with a 9-2 record, and repeated as ECAC North Atlantic Champion.

Despite all the success the Saxons have had over the past two years there has been very little support for them from students. When I would take a look into the stands, it was mostly filled with parents and other family members of the players. Now I'm not saying that there weren't any student fans at the games because there were, but compared to other schools our fan-base was poor at best.

I had a chance to go to the Ithaca-Alfred football game this year, the game was played at

Ithaca. They have an enormous student-section. Their fans have cheers and chants that are as good as some Division I schools, which is a big reason Ithaca is so hard to beat when they play at home.

Another case, I look at this year's men's basketball team. They came into this season with high expectations and the hopes of making it into the post-season. The team got off to a great start, but the bleachers were mostly empty for their home games. Now they are fighting for a spot in the Empire 8 Conference Tournament and need all the support they can get. Just last Tuesday night the Saxons hosted 20th ranked St. John Fisher College and the stands were relatively empty. It was a close game throughout, but the Saxons ended up losing 67-63.

Having a home-court advantage in basketball is so crucial.

Take St. John Fisher for instance, the team recently lost at home for the first time in 40 games, that's an incredible winning streak. A big reason for that long winning streak is the outstanding support the team gets from the student-body. The students at Fisher have a student section they call the "Cardinal Crazy's," these students sit in the first three rows of the stands and get as loud as possible.

I am making a call to all students here at Alfred to come out and support all of our athletic teams. These are your classmates and friends, they would love your support, not to mention these four years are the last four years of your life that you will have the opportunity to go crazy and make a fool out of yourself in support of your team. After this it's off to work and become a grown up. ☐

Professional skier brings good publicity
"Crazy Bode" skis drunk and angers U.S. Ski Team President

Meet Bode. He's a professional alpine skier. He has qualified to ski for the U.S. in the 2006 Torino Winter Olympic Games. He's already won the World Cup of skiing, a feat that few Americans have accomplished before. He grew up in New Hampshire, the product of two free-spirited parents. He's built his own homemade exercise gym. He went to Carrabassett Valley Academy, which is literally only 10 minutes from where this author grew up. In Maine and New Hampshire, this guy's the biggest thing, since Joan Benoit Samuelson. He apparently has just the right amount of eccentricity to qualify as a story on "60 Minutes."

Then, CBS reporter Bob Simon dropped the bomb: more than once, it seems Mr. Miller has skied while inebriated.

The backlash was overwhelming and immediate. The eccentricity that was once seen as endearing was labeled "crazy." There were talks of investigating him for other past transgressions. Not surprisingly, discussions had already

started about not letting Bode ski in Italy.

In Maine, the "bomb" went off more like a sparkler. Nobody — nobody — was surprised that "Crazy Bode" had been skiing drunk.

I grew up 15 minutes away from a prominent ski resort (the same one Bode skied while attending CVA), and it's considered a good day if skiing drunk is the worst thing that happens. If you've ever seen the 2001 film *Out Cold*, which — fortunately or unfortunately — is how skiers and snowboarders act on a regular basis.

U.S. Ski Team President Bill Marolt went nuts, calling Miller's comments "unacceptable" and "uncouth." Sponsors "flipped out" on Bode, who quickly apologized for his comments, but not before digging himself a little deeper by declaring he had no need for the media.

He subsequently made the covers of *Time* and *Newsweek*.

Bode, like it or not, is our most famous skier to date. His peculiarities are the stuff that the media eats for fuel. And to top it off, he made some very

public comments linking steroids to Lance Armstrong and Barry Bonds, something else he eventually ended up apologizing for. The problem doesn't seem to be that Bode shoots off at the mouth; it's just that his common sense can't keep up with it.

And it appears Bill Marolt and the cheap suits over at U.S. Skiing don't know how to control Bode.

Bill, here's some unsolicited advice: don't try controlling Bode. He'll be quiet for a few days, but eventually another pesky reporter will show up totting a pen and paper or a microphone and wait for another "Bode-ism" to appear, and given enough prodding, it probably will happen. Like it or not, Bill, you need Bode. Not just you, but your entire sport needs Bode. With the exception of the

diehard slope dopes, nobody cares about skiing except for those two or three weeks every four years when Americans find their pride and try to stick it to the foreigners just one more time. But hey, if you cut Bode from Torino, I'm sure the media won't frame Michael Phelps for another DWI. I'm sure millions of PO'd Americans won't throw snowballs at your headquarters like you just invaded Kuwait. And I absolutely guarantee NBC won't be so upset, Bob Costas won't be given a steady IV of anti-depressants into his (expletive deleted).

But back to the point: Bode is only bringing good publicity to your sport, Bill. He's got the perfect erratic behavior that United States Skiing needs if any enthusiasm is to be displayed by otherwise disinterested Americans every four years. Please be careful when labeling him "Crazy Bode" though: skiing consists of strapping two half-inch pieces of plastic to your feet and barreling down a snowy hill at 90+ mph. "Crazy" is the last adjective anybody should use. ☐

CHRIS GORDON
STAFF WRITERWhat's all the fuss?
Super Bowl anthem sparks controversyJESSY SANTANA
CONTRIBUTOR

I am pretty sure most people in this great nation watched the Super Bowl on Feb. 5. This year the controversy was not during half time, according to an AM radio station. This year the controversy happened during the National Anthem. As part of the ceremony there was a moment of silence for both Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King. Then, in commemoration of the Katrina tragedy in New Orleans, Dr. John and Aaron Neville, along with Detroit's own Aretha Franklin, performed the National Anthem.

Apparently one particular radio station found it unnecessary to have so much "Black Pride" during the performance. Apparently Aaron Neville "butchered" the anthem. Why was this even an issue? Parks and King helped to change this country for the better through their work in civil rights and equality. They were both such great influences and human beings that I find it hard to believe anyone would find something wrong with honoring their lives through a simple act of silence, which in my opinion, is not nearly enough.

As for Aaron Neville's performance, obviously who ever this radio station represents has never heard Neville sing before. If they had, they would have realized his style of performance was nothing less than beautiful. And did they have as many complaints during the 1990 Super Bowl when he also sang the National Anthem?

There was also a debate over whether or not mentioning

the Hurricane Katrina victims was in good taste. I saw nothing wrong with it. I think it's important to remind the nation of Katrina victims. Why not make people realize that even though they are there to enjoy a game of football, there are still many people affected by Katrina.

I believe that in this fast-paced world of ours, unless we actually live to see the damage made by some horrific disaster, it seems to fade from our memories as if it never happened. Even the most tragic of things, unless you witness them firsthand, cannot really be empathized and so, they lose effect on the average person.

This radio station also said that during the National Anthem there were too many black football players shown with their eyes closed, swaying to the music. On both the Seattle Seahawks and the Pittsburgh Steelers more than 60 percent of the players are black. Who else should they have shown? Why in contrast was there not more talk of the Pittsburgh player who, on purpose or not, left his baseball cap on backward? How is that not more disrespectful to the National Anthem than anything else? Why was the player not reprimanded?

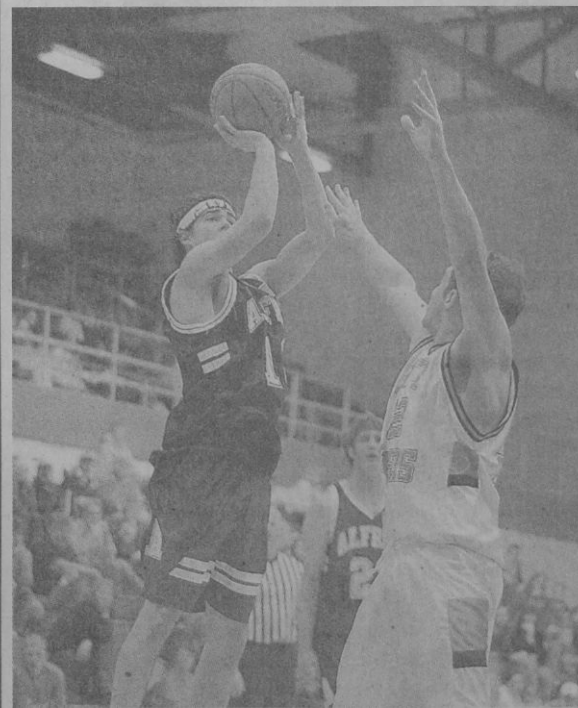
The opinions of this radio station are ignorant and they should really analyze their judgments to see if they have any true worth. ☐

Men's basketball looks to finish strong

STEVE BARZ
STAFF WRITER

Despite struggling as of late, the Alfred University

"Right now we have to take it one game at a time and just try to keep our season going as long as possible."

PHOTO BY SHAUN LATULIPPE
Junior Rob McCarter goes up for a shot as a RIT Tiger tries to block.

Men's Basketball team still has hopes of making the postseason. The team has gone just 4-9 since returning from winter break, but has played better as of late and their playoff chances are still alive.

"We've dug ourselves in a pretty deep hole after the first half of league play, but if we win I think we have a chance of making postseason play," said senior guard and co-captain Chris Lemasters.

On Feb. 3, the team lost at home to Utica College by a score of 74-60. Center Dillon Stein and forward Ryan Hallett led the team with 14 points each, while forward Todd Dersham had 13 and guard Quentin Bryant added 8. Junior forward Ryan Clemenson had a team-high 8 rebounds and Lemasters led the team with 3 assists.

The next day the Saxons took on the Hawks of

Hartwick College at the McLane Center in an Empire 8 conference game. The Saxons played a much better game against the Hawks and came away with a 68-54 win. The team played one of their best all-around games of the season. Hartwick shot 30 percent from the field for the game and just 23 percent from 3-point territory. Bryant led the team with 17 points and 12 rebounds in 28 minutes of play. Stein added 15 points, 7 rebounds and 2 blocked shots, while Lemasters had 10 points, 7 rebounds and 4 assists and Clemenson added 6 points to go along with 9 rebounds.

"We probably played our best game defensively against Hartwick and we shared the ball a lot more than we had in some of our past games, both of those factors helped us get the win," said Hallett.

On Feb. 7, the Saxons played St. John Fisher College at the McLane Center in another Empire 8 conference game. The Cardinals came into the game ranked 20th nationally and were in first place in the Empire 8 with a record of 17-3 and 8-1 in conference play. The Saxons had lost a heart-breaker just two weeks earlier at St. John Fisher by a score of 77-69 and were hoping to avenge that loss.

Lemasters started the scoring quickly hitting his first three shots, all from behind the arc; he would go on to finish the game with 13 points. The Cardinals took a slim 34-32 lead into the half, setting up what was a very exciting and physical second half of play. During the second half the Saxons were able to gain the lead, going up by as much as five points at one time. But the Cardinals regained the lead with under two minutes left and never looked back, going on to win 67-63.

Dersham led the Saxons with 14 points and added five rebounds. Stein had a double-double with 11 points and 16 rebounds, and Quentin Bryant 10 points in the Saxon loss.

"The loss to Fisher definitely hurt the most," said Stein. "Take some missed free-throws and turnovers and we would have won, but that's what happens when we have those kind of mental breakdowns."

The Saxons final two games will come against Empire 8 rivals RIT and Nazareth, both games will be played on the road. The Saxons will look to avenge losses to both teams, losing to Nazareth 89-74 and RIT 79-76 in overtime back on Jan. 20 and Jan. 21.

"We just have to keep doing what we are doing and turn that into wins," said Stein. "We have four games left and we are looking to win them all." ☐

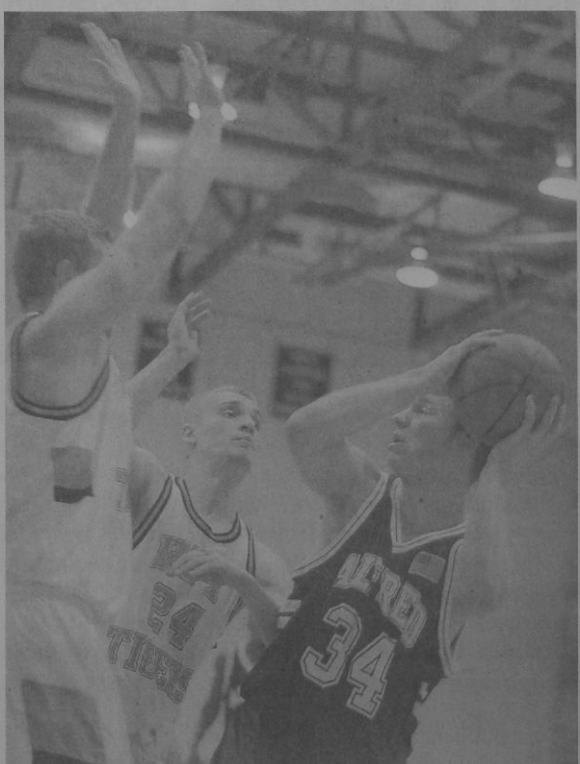


PHOTO BY SHAUN LATULIPPE

Senior Todd Dersham looks to make a pass.

AU Sports

As final games approach, Lady Saxons are eager to win

CHAD WINANT
SPORTS EDITOR

The Alfred University women's basketball team is trying to overcome a 0-12 losing streak. The team stands 4-17 on the season and a league worst 0-10 in Empire 8 competition. This year's team was balanced with talent and leadership, but the roster was depleted.

"Coming into the season I expected things to be tough because we only had nine players," said first year head coach Heidi Metzger. "I still believe with the talent we have we should have been able to claim a fourth place spot."

The team has three solid seniors, forward

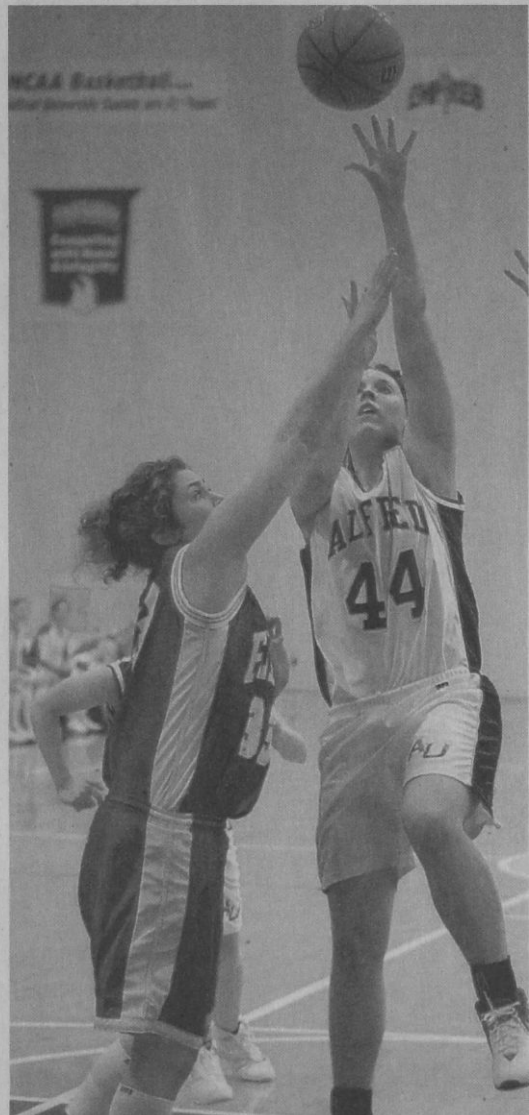


PHOTO BY SHAUN LATULIPPE

Senior Meghan Coddington goes up for a rebound.

Meghan Coddington, forward Tess Coddington, who took off her junior year and returned for her senior season, and center Kylene Knoll. The team also has three experienced junior guards; Denae Foster, Megan Sampson along with Alfred State transfer Amy Plank. The team also received contributions from sophomores Melanie Jackson and



PHOTO BY SHAUN LATULIPPE

Sophomore Catherine Hoffman dribbles down the court past a Fisher opponent.

Catherine Hoffman, along with freshman Colleen Montgomery. But, nine players can only take a team so far.

"These teams we play aren't easy," said Knoll. "With only nine players we would get tired and start fouling because we were playing lazy."

Meg Coddington expressed her feelings of the hardships of only having nine players, but it was a year she will never forget.

"We compete against teams that have 15+ players and, with us having only nine, it is an uphill battle during the games to keep the momentum in our favor, said Coddington. "Even though we have not won a lot of games, this season has been my favorite out of the four years I have played for Alfred."

As for the three seniors, they are hungry for a win down the stretch in these last couple of games.

"We want to win," said Knoll. "It would be nice to have that feeling back."

Metzger said that she desperately wants to send her seniors off with some victories.

"I couldn't have asked anything more from my seniors," added Metzger. "I wish I could have them all back because they are great."

According to Metzger, many coaches in the Empire 8 are happy to see Meg Coddington grad-

uate because of her work ethic and sheer will to compete. Metzger said she has received numerous compliments from coaches throughout the league about Coddington's style of play.

"Just about every coach would game plan specifically for her," said Metzger. "She is a great role model for everyone and she leads by example...she's our work horse."

AU's losing skid began on Dec. 10, 2005 when the Lady Saxons fell to St. Lawrence College 61-49. Since that loss the team has lost on an average of 15 points per game. However, don't let the numbers fool you. The Lady Saxons lost to Utica by only eight points. They took Penn College into overtime and lost by 5. Nazareth and RIT defeated AU by 6 and 5 points respectively.

"We could be 7-3 in the league, we just have to play 40 minutes of basketball," said Metzger.

With the core of seniors that will be leaving Alfred, no player is taking it harder than Knoll.

"Since freshman year this basketball team has been a family," said Knoll.

For Metzger, losing her 6-foot center will leave some big shoes to fill in the paint.

"She is a versatile post player, not only being a lefty, but she can post on the low blocks as well as stepping out and hitting the long jumper,"

Metzger said.

Tess Coddington said she is sad to leave but she knows the program will be in good hands with Metzger.

"I really appreciate all that she has done with the women's basketball program already, and I know that she is going to have a huge impact for years to come," Coddington said.

The main objective for Metzger is to recruit, recruit and recruit. The Lady Saxons will have six players returning next season, three of which will be seniors.

"We need to bring in as many bodies as possible for the future," Metzger said.

As the season winds down and another core of seniors leave the game, it is hard to say how a player reacts.

"I don't know when it's going to hit me that after about 19 years of basketball...it's over," Knoll said.

However, the Coddington twins may stop playing the game but they will always be a Saxon at heart.

"I know Meg and I will return to watch Alfred take on the rest of the Empire 8," said Coddington.

Meg Coddington has no regrets about her career at AU.

"Coach Metzger, has had a positive influence on me and all of my teammates, so in a way I am glad to be ending my basketball career in this way, with a coach I really admire and teammates that have stuck together through the thick and thin," Coddington said.

AU will play Nazareth and RIT on the road for the team's season finale. ○



PHOTO BY SHAUN LATULIPPE

Sophomore Melanie Jackson plays against a strong defensive pressure.

Lockner brings pride to lax

ERIN BRUMMER
STAFF WRITER

Many sports teams at Alfred University have experienced coaching changes this year; men's lacrosse is one of them. After seven seasons as head coach, Preston Chapman left Alfred to take the head men's lacrosse coaching position at Elmira College. To replace Chapman, AU only had to look across the street. Alfred State College's head men's lacrosse coach, Jason Lockner, was appointed on Jan. 3 with hopes that his success at ASC will continue with the Saxons.

"Coach Lockner brings a sense of pride and discipline to the program," said senior Steve Roff.

Lockner's coaching career at ASC was impressive. He earned a 75-40 record during his eight year run. As of this fall, the Pioneers are ranked nine in the country, and have been nationally ranked for the past seven years in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). In addition, Lockner was named the NJCAA Region III and National Coach of the Year in 2001. Eight of his players have been All-Americans and over 20 of his players have been All-Region III and Academic All-Americans.

Lockner's involvement with athletics extends beyond lacrosse. While at ASC, Lockner was a physical education instructor for five years. He also coached men's soccer, ending the season with a 12-7 record.

During his playing career at Corning Community College, Lockner was an All-Region and All-American defenseman, as well as an Academic All-American. After graduating from CCC with an associate's degree in liberal arts, he enrolled at SUNY Cortland. Here he received a bachelor's degree in health science, and a master's degree in education. While at Cortland, Lockner was a two-year starter and the team leader in ground balls.

Lockner and his players have high hopes to improve on the Saxons 1-12 record from last season. For Lockner, discipline is needed in order to experience success. By having a disciplined team, Lockner hopes to "build a sense of pride in the program." Lockner's players share his sentiments.

"Last year was a tough season for everyone, and I think pride is exactly what we need," said Roff.

Junior Mike McCarthy agrees that the discipline Lockner brings will help immensely. With this discipline, McCarthy has noticed, "[the] team seems a lot more anxious to learn and to win."

Something else that Lockner thinks the team needs is individual work. All players spend time outside of scheduled practices honing their skills.

"At a college level, you can't expect to be successful without outside work," says Lockner. "Lacrosse is not just a spring

sport. In order to be competitive, year-round practice is necessary."

For success in the 2006 season, Lockner recognizes the importance of leadership. He is looking to his three captains, McCarthy, junior defenseman James Powell, and senior midfielder Carlo DiRisio.

Lockner thinks each captain brings different aspects of leadership to the team.

"Powell is an on-the-field leader, while McCarthy is a leader on and off the field. Carlo leads by example," said Lockner.

Like any coach, Lockner's goals for the season include, "Staying healthy and winning as many games as we can," he said.

He will have coaching assistance from Adam DuPree, his assistant for the past seven years while at ASC. DuPree will serve as a coach for the goalies and defensemen.

Being a new coach, Lockner is unsure of his starting line-up at this point and stressed that he is impressed with how hard everyone is working. Lockner would like to start the season off with a win against Wittenberg, who the Saxons will play while training in Florida over spring break.

"It sounds cliché, but we will really have to take it one game at a time," commented Lockner.

Taking it one game at a time, along with a hard-working disciplined team should ensure future success for the Saxons with Lockner at the helms. ○

Athletes with attitude

Professional sports have a cancer, one that cannot be controlled. It is spreading across all major sports. It is diagnosed as: players with bad attitudes, also known as PBA (and I am not talking about the Professional Bowlers Association, even though there are a few bad eggs there as well).

I cannot remember a stretch of incidents that has changed how pro athletes are reflected. Now, I am not saying attitude is a bad thing. But, athletes need to think before they act. In today's society, where image seems to be everything, some pro-athletes aren't setting a good example for young aspiring athletes.

Ron Artest of the Indiana Pacers got hit in the face by a flying cup of beer and jumped into the crowd and started the largest player-fan brawl in sports history. Now imagine a fifth grade classroom: [Kid one] "Did you see Artest go into the crowd and start swingin'?" [Kid two] "Yeah, did you see Jermaine O'Neal drill that other guy in the face?" [Together] "That was awesome," (high-five) Meanwhile, the teacher is saying, "Who are Artest and Jermaine O'Neal? Did anyone watch American Idol last night?" You get the idea.

Terrell Owens got sent home from practice during pre-season workouts for mouthing off to head coach Andy Reid. He proceeded to invite every media camera to his house as he played basketball and lifted weights in his front lawn. The most disturbing image was a little boy watching T.O. do shirtless sit-ups and answer questions for the media. The boy was smiling like he just finished a happy meal and now he can play with his toy. I don't think he wanted his 15 minutes of fame, he worshiped T.O. I ask, "How is this guy cool?" He mouthed off to his coach. I got sent home from basketball practice in high school once but I didn't even go home. I waited for prac-

tice to end and apologized to the team. But, who am I?

Manny Ramirez is the poster child for how not to play baseball. Ramirez rarely runs out any type of hit (even his homerun trot takes five minutes). In fact, last season he hit a pop fly in the infield and never left the batters box. How is this guy teaching anything to little kids about baseball? He's not. The sick part about it is people adore him (I don't know why). But it's okay, "it's just Manny being Manny." Could you imagine being at a Little League game and hearing, "Oh, that's just Billy being Billy?"

The guy is bad for baseball, no wonder he plays for Boston.

In a playoff game against the Tampa Bay Bucs, Sean Taylor of the Washington Redskins spit in the face of Bucs running back Michael Pittman. Now, I am sure there are worse things going on during a football game, but Taylor just happened to get caught on live television. The image of Taylor's spit flying through the air and hitting Pittman in the face was priceless and tasteless. Priceless because people got a chance to see how shady this guy really is and tasteless for obvious reasons. One can say that he just got caught up in the moment. I say it's premeditated. I mean, you just aren't talking to someone and oops...there's a loogie.

Athletes need to look at themselves in the mirror with their \$3,000 suits and \$75 haircuts and start acting normal. The fact is, little kids idolize pro athletes, I know I did. Today's youth is fragile; they are going to copy what athletes do. So next time you want to act like a kid on national television, just remember there are kids watching. ○



CHAD WINANT
SPORTS EDITOR