



College of Business Ball a Hit

MALCOLM WALTERS
STAFF WRITER

In the various arenas of life there are winners and losers. From 9 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, February 4, the “Mind Your Own Business Ball” put clean and sheen winning on display. Well over 100 inspired individuals floated around Susan Howell Hall with high spirits, celebrating their enduring efforts to cultivate creative innovation in Alfred.

After brandishing the customized black rubber bands that served as tickets to the event, guests entered into an elegant atmosphere permeating with contagious positivity. Susan Howell Hall, which typically gives off an eerie aura that leads to countless myths of paranormal activity, was transformed by the decor designed by members of the ever-growing BYOB movement. Glass vases filled with a combination of large, white-colored tree branches and transparent beads housed bulbs that gave ambient lighting to the amenities placed throughout the environment. The lower level served as the stage for tuxedo clad, karaoke champion, Professor Sangjoon Lee. While being serenaded, students helped themselves to finger foods courtesy of catering by AVI.

While the first floor gave a pacifying pleasure to guests, the upstairs gave way to classy yet uninhibited fun for all in attendance. Strobe lights visually supported the sounds selected by DJ SKINNY, and Patrick Camilien unwaveringly wielded the microphone to narrate the festivities. If not grooving on the dance floor, those aged 21 and above were able to surpass public safety to the bar to purchase their choice of Coor’s, Labatt Blue, red wine, or white wine. The bar area fit the description of a
cont. on pg. 7



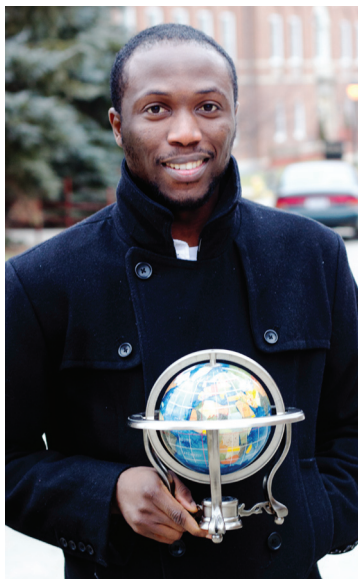
MYOB BUSINESS BALL, PHOTOS ON PG. 8
PHOTO BY: AMANDA TUTILL

From Alfred to Africa, A Lending Hand

GRIFFIN TAYLOR
EDITOR IN CHIEF

There are those who talk about it, and there are those who are about it. AU Mechanical Engineering student Prosper Mogboruko is definitely the latter. Mogboruko, who moved to the United States from Nigeria in 2008, has recently launched a social media network to provide an opportunity for African youth soccer players in dire need of one.

The site, RacleMail.com, attracted some 11,000 views in its first week live. It serves as an avenue for teenage footballers in Africa to market themselves to professional and collegiate clubs. Most important, it offers the first legitimate response to “Lost Boys,” Maria Van Zeller’s harrowing 2008 documentary which revealed the underbelly of the sport -- black market trafficking of West African soccer players which has left some 20,000 stranded throughout Europe,



PROSPER MOGBORUKO
PHOTO BY AMANDA TUTHILL

sans visa.

RacleMail allows youths to create a profile, with an ‘info’ section similar in layout to that of Facebook and a space for uploaded video content

via YouTube or Vimeo.

Of course, the site is a two-way street; legitimate scouts and NCAA recruiters can create their own profiles on the site, which provides free access to tomorrow’s stars today.

The idea for the site came to Mogboruko back in 2008 while he was working at Standard Microsystems headquarters in New York. Two years later, he decided to put his benefits accrued from work toward a college degree.

“I chose Alfred because my uncle, Alfred Okoigun, was my family mentor,” said Mogboruko.

Mogboruko has prior business experience in Africa. He founded Prosper’s Seafood, a service which delivered fresh seafood and chicken to restaurants throughout Nigeria, in 2004.

Mogboruko has a feel for the social media landscape in Africa, and he thinks it is growing at a rate which
cont. on pg 3

Student Senate: Meet the Candidates

MAIMOONA RAHIM
STAFF WRITER

Senior Ana Devlin Gauthier has been Alfred University’s Student Senate President since fall 2011. During her time in office, she accomplished a lot, but like most good things, Gauthier’s presidency is coming to an end.

The time has come to elect Alfred University’s new Student Senate representatives. The upcoming elections include Secretary, Treasurer and Publicity Director, along with the more publicized Vice President and President of Student Senate.

Running unopposed for Vice President is junior Marketing major Jessica Seyfried. Seyfried is currently the Publicity Director of Senate and President of SOMA-AMA (Students of Marketing at AU). She is also an avid participant in the Woman’s Leadership Academy, Gary



PHOTO BY MAIMOONA RAHIM

Horowitz Leadership Development Program, is an intern at the Judson Leadership Center and a Resident Assistant. As Vice President, she hopes to work more closely with the President and get more people involved in Student Senate and on-campus activities.

Both Scott DeFranco-Norton and Brian Pierce are running for Student

President.

DeFranco-Norton is a sophomore Biomaterials Engineering major and is currently Treasurer of Student Senate. DeFranco-Norton is also President of the AU pep band, a member of the Alfred University Ultimate Frisbee team, and actively involved in the G.E.A.R. Club. DeFranco-Norton wants to be President because he feels

that he will be able to successfully fill the shoes of Gauthier, who has done an outstanding job during her term. He believes that everyone has a voice and Senate was made so that students can voice their opinions and make change.

“I was appalled when I was asked what my political party is, because it’s neither Democrat nor Republican,” said DeFranco-Norton. “It’s Alfred.”

Running against Scott DeFranco-Norton is Brian Pierce, a sophomore Psychology major. He is currently the president of AURS (Rescue Squad), Alfred Outreach, Habitat for Humanity and Defensive Boxing, and the vice president of MEDO, in addition to being a Resident Assistant. Pierce is interested in continuing what Gauthier has started. He believes that filling Ana’s shoes and continuing her legacy will prove somewhat difficult, but his commitment to the university and experience in multiple leadership roles will make

Miller Stretched Thin

KIM RAU
MANAGING EDITOR

In October of 2010 the second part of the Miller performing arts center opened up to the public. The state of the art facility, covering 31,000-square-feet, included a 498-seat theater, green room and dressing rooms for performers, a new costume shop and a choral rehearsal room. In a 2010 interview President Charles Edmondson claimed the theater, “rivals anything found at much larger schools, and even theaters in major cities.”

While we have the facilities to rival much larger institutions, we are sorely lacking in staffing and support. For instance, the Geva Theatre

in Rochester hosts similar facilities to ones found at Alfred. They have a main stage theater that seats 552 people and a smaller second stage that seats 180, which is a similar size to the CD Smith III Theatre.

Although the Geva Theatre puts on far more productions than Alfred University, the numbers still speak. On the technical side they employ a technical director, master carpenter, master electrician and an audio engineer. On the artistic side they employ an artistic director, general designer, costume designer, props artisan and scenic artist. A mere two people at Alfred University do the jobs covered by nine people at Geva Theatre. In addition, the theatre also has a facility manager and



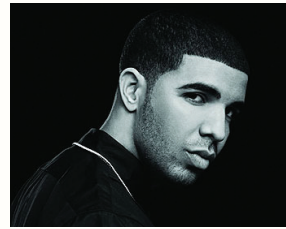
PHOTO PROVIDED

multiple house managers who work to maintain the facilities. At Alfred the responsibility of maintenance falls primarily on Zach Hamm, the technical director of the spaces.

Hamm, along with Marketa Fantova, the designer for both theater and dance productions, take

on the workload maintained by up to ten people in a normal theatre space. Fantova alone does costume, light, set and make-up design, the focusing and hanging of lights, programs lights into the computer for shows, purchases items needed for
cont. on pg 4

WHAT’S INSIDE



Drake vs.
Common
Pg. 4



Cheap
College Cooking
Pg. 6



Meeka Bromfield
on Fashion Trends
Pg. 6

NEWS

State of the Union Address
P. 5

EDITORIAL/OPED

Walk of Shame
P. 4

A&E

Lana Del Rey Album
Review
P.2

2nd Annual Dream
Gallery
P.2

SPORTS

MLB Stove Report
P.7

Lacrosse Preview
P.8

Pinstripe Blues
P.7

THE ALFRED BEAT

Philanthropy
Profile: Megan Sconiers
P.3

Brain Food with
Eston Adams
P.3

Arts & Entertainment

2012: The Year of the Movie

BRIDGETTE ORTIZ
STAFF WRITER

2012 is going to be one hell of a year for movies and box office achievement. Now, we all know the headliners coming out: “The Avengers,” “The Hobbit,” “The Dark Knight Rises,” “The Hunger Games,” “The Amazing Spider Man,” and the unfortunate Transformers clone “BattleShip.” However, let’s not forget the smaller guys who will be coming out this year. Here is a rundown of those 2012 movies:

“Shame” (which was screened in early December but had a wider release in January): About a sex addict, played by Michael Fassbender, grappling with his compulsions, his sister Sissy, played by Carey Mulligan, arrives unannounced for an indefinite stay. This film has been getting rave reviews on the movie festival circuits, despite it’s NC-17 rating.

“Norwegian Wood” (January 6th): Based on Haruki Murakami’s novel of the same title about finding love, even during the hardest times of one’s life.

Untitled Osama Bin Laden Project (TBA): At the helm is “The Hurt Locker” director Kathryn Bigelow. This project has been kicked into high-gear after the death on Bin Laden and will star Chris Pratt, Jessica Chastain, and Joel Edgerton.

“Being Flynn” (March 2nd): Paul Dano and Robert De Niro unravel a dysfunctional father-son relationship. Nick Flynn encounters his father, Jonathan, a self-proclaimed poet, in a shelter and struggles with the decision to reach out to his father. A promising movie starring two great actors.

“Cloud Atlas” (set for October): Directed by Tom Tykwer and the Wachowskis about the impact of decisions and actions that affect the past, present and future, but on a grand scale. Based upon the award-winning science fiction novel of the same name



PHOTO BY MAIMOONA RAHIM

by David Mitchell, this movie stars a knock-out cast of veterans including Halle Berry, Tom Hanks, Hugo Weaving, Ben Whishaw, and Jim Sturgess

“Seeking a Friend for the End of the World” (June 22nd): Odd couple Keira Knightley and Steve Carrel star in this romance/comedy about a man who goes on a road trip to find a special someone as an asteroid is headed for Earth.

“Dark Shadows” (May 11th) and Frankenweenie (October 5th): A good year for Tim Burton fans with the release of two movies: the first based on a television series of the same name centering around a vampire, played

by Johnny Depp, and the second, a continuation of a Burton short about a child who uses science to bring his dog back to life.

“Nero Fiddled” (TBA): Not just your typical Woody Allen movie – consisting of four interconnecting stories in Rome and starring Woody Allen, Penelope Cruz, Jesse Eisenberg, and Ellen Page.

“Django Unchained” (December 25th): The one, the only, the mastermind that is director and all-around brilliant auteur, Quentin Tarantino with Leonardo DiCaprio and Jamie Foxx. Enough said.

Lana Del Rey’s Born to Die

BRIDGETTE ORTIZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Unless you’ve been living without internet - today’s equivalent to living under a rock - then you’ve probably caught a glimpse of the most over-hyped phenomenons in recent time: indie-pop starlet Lana Del Rey. Since the release of her first single “Video Games” this past summer, Del Rey has been on the radar of blogospheres and audiophiles alike, awaiting the official debut release of her album Born to Die.

Originally performing under her maiden name, singer-song writer Lizzy Grant released her first album Lana Del Ray A.K.A. Lizzy Grant in 2010. However, after being signed to Interscope within the year, Grant underwent a label makeover, coming out as Lana Del Rey. Thus began the internet phenome. A self-described “gangsta Nancy Sinatra,” Del Rey caught flack for her image and for her music, thus building the hype that culminated with her album being one of the most pre-sold albums of the year so far.

After being given the pop gloss treatment, Del Rey’s songs can be described as an odd coupling of retro and futuristic sounds. On the first listen, the beats and productions of the songs are striking and catchy. Unfortunately the problems in the album, mainly Del Ray’s lyrical material, overshadow its beautiful production.

There are some standout songs on Born to Die. Notably songs where Del Rey explores darker material with depth such as “Dark Paradise” and “Off to the Races.” Her darker songs, reflect a pensive side that is capable of churning out melancholic, lost love, ballads. Take for instance “Off to the Races,” Del Rey takes this somewhat

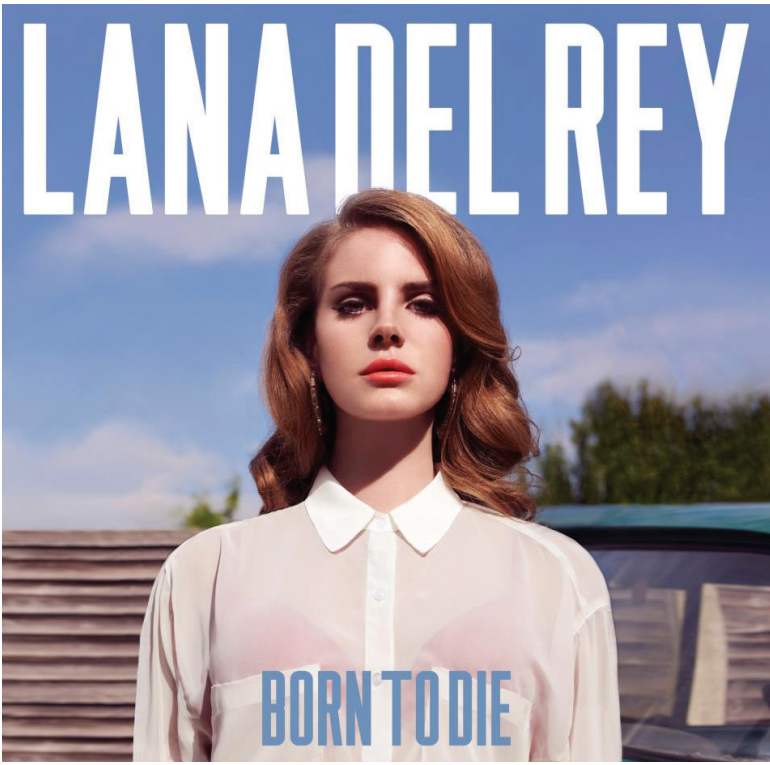


PHOTO PROVIDED

vapid song into an emotional lament: “Who else is going to put up with me this way? / I need you, I breathe you, I’ll never leave you.”

Del Rey’s talent is at its best when she sways on the side of depressed, introspective, observer instead of shallow hipster in love. Her first single “Video Games,” a hauntingly stunning piece, represents this perfectly, justifying the initial interest that the blogospheres had for this refreshing singer. However as the album progresses, that interest unravels when songs like “Carmen,” “National Anthem,” and “Summertime Sadness” play.

There is a false sentimentality within the album that borders on ridiculous. Oddly enough, these seem to be the songs that have become her singles like “Born to Die.” The biggest reason why Lana Del Rey doesn’t

work as a whole is because her lyrics are too superficial when she is trying to be sentimental, such as in her song “Blue Jeans” which goes “But you fit me better than my favorite sweater, and I know/ That love is mean and love hurts.” Unfortunately lyrics such as those are more prevalent in the album than the introspective ones.

Overall, what is fascinating and engaging about the album is overshadowed by vacant, materialistic lyrics. The beats are addictive and beautiful but, unfortunately for Del Rey, her lyrics are too superficial to be taken seriously. When she croons seductively about some long unrequited love with a bad boy, it comes off as superficiality trying to be sentimental. The album isn’t consistent: some songs flop with senseless lyrics while others shine with their pop-beats and catchy lyrics.

AU Holds 2nd Annual Dream Gallery

MAIMOONA RAHIM
STAFF WRITER

On Wednesday January 18th, Alfred University held its 2nd Annual Dream Gallery in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. and the power of his dreams. The event was open to the entire Alfred community, and had a great turn out of students and local residents. Many of the workers were students from the Drawn to Diversity Program, a program that uses community-based art to change the world.

Back in early December, Director of Student Affairs Dan Napolitano went with Drawn to Diversity members to visit children at surrounding schools, teaching them about inspirational dreamers throughout history. The

Alfred-Almond 3rd graders began an art project in which they provided a visual of the dreams in their head.

The purpose of this Dream Gallery was to inspire others to dream big like Dr. King. Those in attendance at the event began by viewing the dreams of the third graders. Afterwards, they learned about famous dreams, and participated in drawing lessons where they too were encouraged to put their dreams on paper. To finish, they created a dream candy bar. Over 50 people and over 15 families came to the event, an indicator the night was an overall success.

“A large part of Drawn to Diversity’s mission is to inspire artists and that’s how we succeed,” said Napolitano.



PHOTOS BY MAIMOONA RAHIM

The Beards Got it Right

RAFFI JANSEZIAN
A&E EDITOR

Comedians Dave Stone, T.J. Young, Joe Zimmerman and Andy Sandford took on the AU audience Saturday January 28.

Every comedian in the troupe had his own respective style, but they all loved being the butt of their jokes, which, let’s face it, is always refreshing. A combination of observational humor and improv proved to be a winning combination that ultimately won over the AU crowd. What made the show great was the fact that every “Beard” had his own distinct style, but those styles worked seamlessly with one another: one was pessimistic, daring even, another was purely optimistic and sweet.

Their brand of observational humor put a different spin on the things in my life that I’ve always felt were pretty straight forward. Their jokes made me think, “Oh! I never thought of a dog

like that!” which I followed with roars of laughter. For instance, the third Beard, Andy Sandford, mentioned that he was getting healthier by doing sit-ups everyday... but only because he lays down a lot. The difficulty of making the everyday funny is eye-opening and is what humor should be.

A short round of improv was memorable, but not the highlight of the evening. Their five minute skit focused on a doctor’s office involving patients with malaria, hemorrhoids, and male pregnancy. After a wave of, “My ass hurts!” and, “I got malaria three minutes ago because that girl over there shouted it out,” the office was closed for business and their quality stand-up continued.

In all, the Beards of Comedy was a great show with interesting and unique characters. It was a breath of fresh air: something new and un-expected. I think they would a great addition to any list of acts for Alfred. Bring them back soon, SAB!

Opinions

The Crossover

GRIFFIN TAYLOR
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Last month, Common caused a slight ripple in the millpond which has become the rap game when he fired shots at Drake. Common followed proper ‘beef’ protocol: come at another rapper’s vital organ, his machismo. But the hype generated was galaxies from Big/Pac, light years from Jay-Z/Nas and miles from 50 Cent/Jadakiss. Which begs the question -- is a Canadian born, Bar Mitzvah’d former Nickelodeon star a rapper? To answer one question, we must ask another -- what is rap?

Since this university is in the state of New York, let’s insert a little bias here and take you back to the 1973 South Bronx. Urban developer Robert Moses has just completed the construction of the Cross Bronx Expressway, a central avenue for Long Island and New Jersey commuters to get to Manhattan, and a nod by the city to suburban interests above its own -- the project destroyed the homes of 150,000 Bronx residents. And so a neighborhood which was once among America’s most gentrified saw many of its Jewish, Italian and Irish families make a mass exodus. Left behind in the rubble were a number of African-Americans. Toward the end of the decade, rioting in the area was on par with the pre-segregated south. It was a motorcade tour through the South Bronx which prompted president Jimmy Carter to make his famous declaration toward “the rebuilding of cities.”

From the ashes was born rap in its truest form, defined by Professor of Africana Studies at Brown University in her 1994 book Black Noise: “A narrative of political and social divide.”

Fast-forward to 1996, when rap was exploding on every street corner. Nas talked of ruling the world, Notorious BIG of being its king, and Jay-Z of being its number one hustler. But the above names and all others atop the game preached a common order: pain, perseverance, pleasure. The pain of, in the words of Nas: “I would be Ivy League if America played fair.” The perseverance of Machievellian logic, or in the words of Jay-Z: “Whoever said illegal was the easy way out, didn’t understand the mechanics of the underworld granted...Nine-to-Five is how to survive, I ain’t tryin’ to survive, I’m tryin’ to live it to the limit and love it a lot.” Pleasure of, in the words of BIG: “And my whole crew is loungin’, Celebratin’ every day, no more public housin’...

Thinkin’ back on my one-room shack, Now my mom pimps a Ac’ with minks on her back.”

But a message is at the liberty of its medium: that’s Comm 101. And

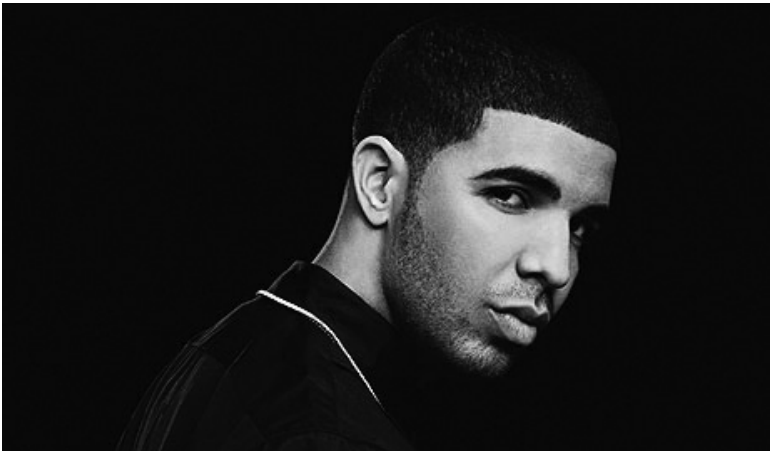


PHOTO PROVIDED

the controllers of rap’s medium presented the art form to pop culture with a fourth word attached to the pain, perseverance and pleasure which pulsed its lyrics: censorship. There were the higher-ups (see Gore, Tipper) who played the moral card in their censorship efforts. These were the subscribers to the ethnocentric view -- that drugs were illegal and women were not objects -- rather than an exocentric one -- that drugs were the sole profitable resource in the ghetto, and that gender slurs were really just young black males’ fear of female rejection, stemming from a lack of social and economic status.

And then there was the record industry, which took the green route. The demographic that related to the struggle of which rap spoke, and its youth that turned to hip-hop for an education that the public school system failed to provide, was not the demographic spending money at the record stores. The rap demographic was recirculating a single album from project to project, bootlegging the album all over the streets. So the question for the record industry became how to reach the more lucrative target market that was White America.

Enter the suburban rapper, Kanye was the face of the movement, Drake and Wiz Khalifa represent its staying power. The suburban rapper speaks of pleasure, but hardly pain and perseverance. He speaks of the affordability to get ‘fucked up,’ but not the importance of staying sober on the way up.

“Today’s hip-hop tells me about having it, but not how to get it, or how to maintain it,” said Malcolm Walters, a Senior AU Business major and aspiring rap artist.

Today, the demographic to whom mainstream hip-hop speaks need not worry about getting it, or maintaining it. Today, the talent of hip-hop is in its sound, not its journey.

And boy does Drake sound good. But let’s revisit Rose’s definition of rap -- a narrative of political and social divide. A supremely talented individual, Drake represents the crossover of hip-hop -- from rap to pop. And he

deserves to be heard, but not in place of the voices out there who narrate the struggle. A ghetto whose plight goes unspoken of in the 21st century (outside of Hurricane Katrina and The Wire) cannot afford to lose its vital avenue to our culture’s consciousness.

When Nas pronounced hip-hop dead in 2006, another beacon of ghetto culture began to perish: Allen Iverson. At the turn of the century, Iverson was the king of the crossover dribble, and the crossover dribble ruled the NBA. There were video games named after it, YouTube became a sensation among basketball fans because of it. By transitive property, Iverson was the face of the NBA.

What was the crossover dribble? It was the ghetto kid’s answer to the crooked playground rims the suburban jump shooter never faced; it was a move to assure a clear path to the basket so that fate would not be placed in the hands of lackluster resources. Just like rap, it was perseverance over environment.

But the rules were made (“They even put a zone in the league to try and stop him” -- Jadakiss), and the crossover’s innovator, as well as its imitators, were limited in their ability. As a result, the NBA has been censored. A league that, ten years ago, was the extension of hip-hop is hip-hop no more. Dwindling amounts of players are hailing from inner-cities. Check out an NBA press conference; players are sporting Carlton Banks and Steve Urkel attire.

Just as rap has undergone a crossover, so too has the NBA -- a crossover from the crossover, if you will. In the process, two avenues of ghetto culture are ghetto no more.

But here’s the problem -- there’s still a ghetto, and there are still voices out there to narrate that ghetto, and are in dire need of airplay.

And then there is Drake’s voice. The voice of a talented young artist with a bright future. Just not the voice of a rapper.

Somebody tell that last part to Common.

Ask Anonymous:
Dignifying the Walk
of Shame

It’s Sunday morning. You open your eyes. It’s happened again. You look around and it becomes clear; you’re definitely not in your own room. So what do you do? You don’t think you can stand another walk of shame back to your dorm, but you don’t see any other option. And that my friends, is WHERE YOU’RE WRONG.

We have all heard the stories or experienced that walk at 8 a.m. across campus, when you’re wearing that same outfit or (even worse) costume from the night before. Everyone stares and you feel like they know what you did last night. Most people feel like there is no way to avoid that walk of shame, but I have a set of steps to follow, to make you feel better about yourself and make your walk much better:

1.Get Up, Get Clean, Get Gone.

Once you’re up, you know what has happened, then you know it’s time to leave. If this is a first time you’ve stayed with the guy (or girl), get up quietly and don’t make a big production. You know how hungover you are; why would you want to wake up the guy who is feeling equally as terrible? Get your clothes on and see if it is possible to get to a bathroom. Pull your hair up into a pony, wipe off excess makeup on your face. Leave a little note that says “Last night was fun!” and your number, but only if you did have a good time ;-)

2.No extra clothes to put on? Put on a smile.

Alfred is a small place, and everyone will know as you’re walking back to your dorm that the skin tight mini skirt and sequin top is not what you wear to Sunday church. They’ll know it’s what you wore the night before. But so what? Rock that look. Put on a



PHOTO PROVIDED

smile, and keep your head high. The best advice I ever heard was “fake it ‘til you make it.” You have nothing to be ashamed of because college is the time to make some mistakes and have fun, so why should you care what others think of you? Besides, who else is up on Sunday morning at 8 a.m.? They obviously weren’t out last night having a great time like you were!

3.Stay safe and respect yourself.

As embarrassing as it may be, everyone has their moments. But you must make sure that you’re taking care of yourself physically and emotionally. While having your fun, remember to stay safe and to have respect for yourself. Don’t do something that you don’t want to do or that you may regret in the morning--it will make that walk much worse.

Surviving the walk of shame basically comes down to acceptance, confidence, and moving on. Realize what happened, put on a smile, and keep moving forward with your life. College is all about new experiences, meeting new people, and growing as a person, so make sure you take time to enjoy it!

A Message from
the Bias Response Team

CRAIG ARNO
COORDINATOR OF DIVER-
SITY PROGRAMMING

Many students aspire to make their mark on campus before they graduate. As of late, some students have taken that aspiration all too literally. Graffiti seems to be appearing at an alarming rate across campus. As if vandalism of school property wasn’t bad enough, many of the messages inscribed in various locations are seething with racism, sexism, homophobia and general hate. The perpetrators of this hate-based graffiti often choose private areas such as restrooms and elevators to tarnish with their appalling words. Why decorate our buildings with such powerful statements in such cowardice? Do the vandals know that Alfred University will not tolerate such acts, fearful of retribution should their identities be known?

Alfred University has a long tradi- tion of endorsing equality and continues to do so with pride. That very message will never be eschewed behind elevator doors or in the privacy of a restroom stall. Our community actively strives for an environment where all feel safe, welcome, encouraged and empowered. The words of equality are not etched in the corners of campus, but are practiced and heralded ubiquitously throughout. Our community does not value hate speech

and will do all it can to diminish its presence on our campus.

The Bias Response Team, a university-wide committee of faculty, staff and students, works diligently to address actions and behaviors that adversely affect our campus climate. The team stands ready to provide educational responses and meet perpetrators with judicial action if they have violated the Student Code of Conduct. One program that the Bias Response Team is working on in light of recent incidents is a forum on strategies and skills for bystander intervention; look for more about that this semester. Also, you can read more about the Bias Response Team at <http://my.alfred.edu/brt>.

Furthermore, everyone can help in promoting our community values by reporting vandalism and any other act that disrupts our campus. Please contact Public Safety at 607-871-2108 if you witness a crime in progress. If you notice graffiti or other disconcerting behavior, you can report it through the ‘AU Report It’ link on <http://my.alfred.edu> –reports can be filed either anonymously or with full disclosure. Be a champion for our community and stand up for equality by reporting any conduct that does not belong at Alfred University. Don’t let the cowardly acts of a few individuals blemish the reputation of our campus. If you see something, say something!

Faculty Soapbox: Learn to Teach

GARRETT MCGOWAN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF CHEMISTRY

Here we are early in another semester at Alfred University; professors back from fall sabbaticals, students rejoining their class, transfers joining us for the first time, all of us ready to learn, many of us ready to teach something different or try out some unique pedagogy. Alfred University is once again alive with the learning and growing that accompanies every college campus across the world.

Being asked by members of the Fiat Lux and being granted carte blanche, I could use this space to ramble about my children, politics, world problems, and what I hold most dearly -- my children. Instead I will give a little background on who I am and encourage each of you to never stop learning. It is my hope that many of you on campus are like me and know there will always be an opportunity to learn, and more importantly, to teach.

Maternally, I am considered a first-generation US citizen; my Mom came over from Germany in the early 1940’s. My Dad was born and raised in Astoria, Queens, NY. His grandfather emigrated from Ireland in the 1880’s and his mother came from Czechoslovakia around 1900. After serving in WW II, my father became



PROFESSOR MCGOWAN
PHOTO PROVIDED

a certified teacher in New York State and taught for many years at a school for under-privileged children from New York City. The school was called Little Flower and is in Wading River, NY. As the last of eight children, there was not much money in the house but there was plenty to be taught while I watched my brothers and sisters develop. It seemed at every opportunity there was an occasion to learn. Our parents instilled in us a lifelong love of learning, and the knowledge that education is often the “golden ticket” to a better life. At this point in time, one brother is a professor of philosophy, one brother a professor of business, a sister is now a retired art teacher (MFA), and another sister is

a special ed. teacher. Teachers many of us, students all.

Students, you have so much to learn through your classes, clubs, athletics, and environment and I encourage you to take advantage of each of them. Rejoice in the learning process and count yourselves among the fortunate to be at college. I remind my classes early in the fall semester that a good deal of what is learned on campus does not come in the classroom. Scheduling your life, getting along with a roommate, fixing your computer, getting home by way of a different route, maintaining long-distance relationships, and establishing new ones are just a few that come to mind that will serve you indefinitely as you flow through school and subsequently, life.

Some of what I learned in school I have not used since, like the opening bass riffs for Led Zeppelin’s “Dazed and Confused.” It was not taught in the classroom where I went to school; I learned it from a good friend by the name of Yvan Denoncourt. Learning how to kayak from my German professor and his son (Mark Zollitsch – Olympic altermate 1996) is a skill that I will use throughout my lifetime.

Everyone at Alfred University has additional knowledge to gain, but from my perspective, you each have something to teach. Take the time to learn and teach; we are ready to learn!

News

Miller Stretched Thin *continued from pg. 1*

KIM RAU
MANAGING EDITOR

production, and oversees props, all in addition to teaching two classes a semester. The show-load Hamm and Fantova maintain is done by an upwards of five people at other colleges. The requirements to maintain two theater spaces forces faculty members to go above and beyond the normal demands of their positions. The size of Miller II alone calls for at least five people to manage it, yet there are none. Despite this lack of support, the spaces continue to be properly kept because Hamm refuses to compromise, employing incomparable work ethic and organization that happens entirely behind the scenes. The spaces would not remain in functional order without him.

To bridge the gap, the performing arts department is often forced to rely on students for help in setting up productions. In other academic areas, such as biology or chemistry, student success relies on fully staffed labs and facilities in order to provide sufficient education and a quality lab experience. Success in theater also relies on practical experience. At Alfred, students step into a professionally focused environment, which prepares them for a focused career. This inclusion of practicum is not included in the LAS mission statement, yet it happens anyways because there is no other choice. “We’re asking students to keep us afloat,” says Fantova. In the end students end up being drawn into demanding jobs they don’t fully understand. For instance, every theater

and dance production put on by the university requires a stage manager, a role always occupied by a student which requires a dedication of more than 20 hours a week. Furthermore, there is no faculty member who specializes in stage management, often forcing students to learn on their own or from each other. Aside from stage management, it is also common to find students in charge of or aiding in costume, set, lighting and sound design. It provides students with invaluable practical experience, but the quality of this experience if often sacrificed due to an inefficient amount of staffing to facilitate it properly. “We have amazing potential here,” says Fantova. “But we’re not living up to the potential because we can’t”

Nevins Screens State of the Union Speech

SONYA ELLISON
NEWS WRITER



PHOTO PROVIDED

Nevins Theatre hosted a viewing of the State of the Union Address on Tuesday, January 24. Students, faculty and community members attended.

The event was hosted and organized by Prosper Mogboruko, who is a supporter of President Obama. He introduced and welcomed people as they came in and provided refreshments, which were provided by RacleMail, Mogboruko’s new website (see front page for article).

The main highlights of the president’s speech include his ideas for economic solutions to unemployment, his introduction of a trade enforcement unit, and new education mandates for both high-school and college students. He also proposed tax deductions for employers that created jobs here in the US.

“My message is simple. It’s time to stop rewarding businesses that ship jobs overseas, and start rewarding companies that create jobs right here in America. Send me these tax reforms, and I’ll sign them right away,” the president said.

“There will be more inspections to prevent counterfeit or unsafe goods from crossing our borders,” said Obama introducing a Trade Enforcement Unit, “This Congress should make sure that no foreign company has an advantage over American manufacturing when it comes to accessing finance or new markets like Russia.”

The president said he would propose legislation benefiting college students; this would include doubling work study jobs, working with universities to keep tuition costs down, as well as increasing financial aid. He noted that, on the state level, financial aid should not simply be a federal effort.

“Of course, it’s not enough for us to increase student aid. We can’t just keep subsidizing skyrocketing tuition; we’ll run out of money. States also need to do their part, by making higher education a higher priority in their budgets.”

As for public schools, his main agenda was to stop forcing educators to simply teach to the test, Obama stated that, “To teach with creativity and passion; to stop teaching to the test; and to replace teachers who just aren’t helping kids learn.”

Airing on C-Span, the speech appeared with Twitterfeed displaying tweets of Congress members present at the event. Perhaps this was due to a recent NPR article that suggested that the State of the Union speech is “outdated.” Perhaps the Tweets were an attempt at a more “interactive” viewing experience.

Obama’s speech was met mostly with applause, approval and positive feedback from those in the audience on the Democratic side. Only one Republican, Rep. Jeff Flake, stood because he aided former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords who required assistance to stand. Most of the criticism came from C-SPAN’s questionable “twitter-feed” style of presentation.

After viewing the speech, a few Alfred University Ron Paul student supporters handed out literature that promoted the Republican candidate by the entrance to the theatre.

After the speech, Prosper thanked everyone who came to the viewing, which he had been planning since winter break.

“During the holiday, the Obama for America team sent me an email asking if I would be interested in hosting the event in Alfred, which i accepted by applying online, and was [then] approved a few days later.” Prosper explained.

Prosper went on to say, “Later, in Alfred, I met with Griffin Taylor who gave me some vital advice on how I should go about it, like the booking of the venue for the event.”

He hosted the event as an opportunity to educate the community.

“What really inspired me is that these days young people are not aware of what is going on around them. I think that they are too detached,” he said.

Prosper’s main goal in organizing the screening was to get young people informed about the country’s current events in order for them to grow into future citizens and possible leaders.

“What I really want to accomplish is to make young people to win the future ...to let them realize that the policies politicians makes shapes their future and the only way they can win the future is to first of all be aware of what is going on.”

Student Senate Meet the Candidates

MAIMOONA RAHIM
MANAGING EDITOR

it possible. Both President and Vice President are very important positions, and it’s up to the student body to determine who is most fit to lead and represent us. In an effort to help students become more informed, Student Senate is holding a “Meet the Candidates” night on Wednesday, February 8. The event is a great opportunity to see who is running for all positions on the executive board as well as hear candidates’ pitches and proposed changes to AU. The event will also serve as an open forum where students can have their questions answered. Student Senate has the opportunity to help make changes around campus, but without student input it cannot do so. Hopefully students will attend and ask the questions that are



PHOTOS BY MAIMOONA RAHIM

important to them in order to better educate themselves on the candidates before voting. Student Senate voting will commence this Sunday, and will run

through Wednesday. Winners will be announced at the upcoming senate meeting. Student Senate meetings are held at 8pm on Wednesdays in Nevins Theater in Powell Campus Center.

Task Force Shares Possible Gen Ed Models

SONYA ELLISON
NEWS EDITOR

Recent developments in the process of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, CLAS for short, General Education model update have been made by the General Education task force. Currently, the project is in the phase of deciding upon possible new general education requirements. “It seems likely that the CLAS faculty will vote to change the general education program at AU, but the question is how much will it change,” Dr. Chad Harriss said. “The General Education Task Force is currently working on answers to this question, and we hope to arrive at those answers within the next 2-3 months.” Harriss is the student liaison member of the Gen Ed task force.

During a January 20 workshop, three drafts of general education models were revealed to CLAS faculty. The faculty scrutinized these models and provided the GET with its first wave of feedback.

The first model draft is quite similar to AU’s existing model, except that it includes a second-year interdisciplinary liberal arts poster session, as well as a senior presentation that allows students to display their cumulative work and results of their studies as undergraduates.

The second model draft progresses across all four years of the undergraduate experience. It begins with a first

year experience class that focuses on writing and community building. Students then engage with a “second year experience” that includes 6-8 credits drawn from two linked courses, which students bring together within a single portfolio. During the junior year students are asked to participate in a “keystone experience” that moves beyond the classroom. For example, students might engage in a service learning or study abroad experience. This model culminates with a capstone project that is to be determined by the student’s major, thereby linking the general education experience to the major.

The final model draft proposes a general education experience that includes: development of foundations in reading, writing, and math; an exposure to courses in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and art; the acquisition of skills and literacy involving writing, expression and the self; a connected course experience similar to the one described above; an intercultural, engagement and awareness component that encompasses global and American diversity, and culminates with a sharing and experience component that is similar to the “keystone experience” described above.

In comparison, the existing gen ed requirement model consists of nine attributes: written communication, foreign language, quantitative reasoning, literature, philosophy or religion,

the arts, history, social sciences and natural sciences as well as a First Year Experience Requirement.

“Whatever changes that will be made to the model are likely to be more incremental rather than a full-fledged overhaul, but this is expected since general education models should be open to evolutionary changes,” Harriss noted.

AU’s new mission statement and learning outcomes were established in the previous semester by the task force.

There is also a possibility that some change may be adopted by AU’s other schools (Art, Professional Studies, and Engineering).

The existing task force’s charge ends in May unless the faculty votes to extend that charge. Harriss says that it is likely that a new task force will emerge. This new group will focus on refinement, implementation and governance of whichever model the CLAS faculty adopts.

Harriss also says that task force is currently reaching out to students in various ways in order to gather their input.

Harriss strongly encourages students who are interested in disusing this topic to send him an email at: harriss@alfred.edu or to comment on the blog established by the task force. The complete models, information and upcoming events concerning the General Education updates are available on this blog, which can be found at <http://alfredgened.wordpress.com/>

College of Business Ball a Hit

continued from pg. 1
MALCOLM WALTERS
STAFF WRITER

lounge, where one could relax and observe the aesthetics of the engagement. When surveying the scene, the sight of group photographs, battery lit hula-hoops, and a relaxingly reclined Dean Evangelista gave a feeling of accomplishment for anyone remotely involved with the event. A highlight of the night that reeled in all eyes was a seemingly spontaneous dance performance by Eston Adams, whose well choreographed

movements catapulted the crowd’s energy to its peak position. The party would rock on until midnight. The celebration of the night did not distract from preparation for tomorrow’s progress however, as students and faculty graciously donated to Sawyer McFadden, who is currently recovering from leukemia. This gesture was the final ingredient to the formula for success concocted by the BYOB movement led by Dr. Amy Rummel, who continues to rise through her rigorous support of student

creativity. BYOB is an acronym which stands for building your own brand, and never having to apologize to external pressures for doing so. Winning is the result of a coalition of creative forces that recognize a particular goal. They put forth the necessary effort to overcome gigantic odds and achieve success despite any litter of shortcomings that delay their pursuit of happiness. This event showcased many of those who invest their energy in the business of winning, without ever losing sight of worthy goals.

AU to hold Career Fair

GRIFFIN TAYLOR
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On Thursday, February 16, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Alfred University will sponsor the annual Major/Minor Fair in the Knight Club from 10am-12pm. The event is open to students from all colleges across the university, and is designed to show students that the daunting process of selecting a major is not so, well, daunting. This year, computers will be on hand, as Director of the Career Development Center Marc McFadden and other members of the CDC staff will be on hand to introduce the Strong Interest Inventory, a system which suggests potential career paths based on a detailed survey of a student’s interests. The CLAS is all about exploration, and while it is of benefit for students to eventually choose a major, the

Career Fair serves as proof that, in the words of CLAS Assistant Dean Jennifer Posener, “there are many different paths to many different goals.” AU suggests its students wait until spring semester of sophomore year to decide on a major. In the meantime, Posener recommends students make use of all available resources. “Academic advisors and the counseling center can also be of big help in the process,” said Posener. So don’t be shy -- come out to the Knight Club next Thursday and reach one step closer to that dream job.

Features

Cheap College Cooking

MEGAN BRZUSTOWICZ
OPINIONS EDITOR

Eating is my favorite part of my day; the problem is, eating when you live off campus and have a budget of eighteen dollars a week tends to complicate my foody passions. I’ve reached some pretty low points this year: eating a can of beans—out of the can, reusing the morning’s coffee grinds for late-night writing marathons, even stooping so low as to eat instant Ramen because of its 28 cent price tag (a food I swore off years ago after seeing the salt content.) I’ve eaten so many eggs this year that I’m sure my arteries are screaming, and I’ve “conserved” bread by only eating half a piece in the morning so I can have the other half at lunch. These examples are depraved, sure, but they’ve also been the catalyst for me learning how to cook on a dime.

This first recipe I’m going to share, Black Bean Soup, can be made for about four dollars, will feed you several times, and, I’m not going to lie, is a big step up from a cold can of beans.

Easy Black Bean Soup
Ingredients:
2 tbsp. olive oil (or butter/margarine)
2 cans black beans (drain one can)
cup finely chopped red bell pepper
2 cups chicken broth (if no chicken broth, use water)
cup of onion, finely chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
1 tbsp. cumin
tbsp. pepper
tbsp. salt
Garnish:



PHOTO PROVIDED

chopped cilantro (optional)
sour cream or plain Greek yogurt (optional)

Directions:
Add olive oil to a large skillet, heat over a medium low temperature. Add onion and bell pepper, then sauté for four minutes. Add garlic to pan, sauté an additional one minute. Place cans of beans (one can with liquid retained, one can drained), into the pan. Add chicken broth. Allow ingredients to simmer for about five minutes. Stir in cumin, salt, and pepper. Remove pan from heat, and add all ingredients into a blender. If no blender is available, allow all ingredients to simmer for about fifteen extra minutes, or until beans begin to break down, mash beans up with a fork. Garnish with chopped cilantro and a dollop of sour cream or Greek yogurt.

Tip: rustle up some rice for a full-fledged meal that’s reminiscent of the classic college staple of rice and beans. Eat rice as a side dish or add it to the soup.

Beyond the Classroom:
Becky Prophet

ANA DEVLIN GAUTHIER
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Becky Prophet embodies the spirit of Alfred, NY. In fact, she played a large role in its evolution. Eccentric, but warm and smart as a whip, a theater professor at Alfred University, champion of Alfred, and mother of two, Prophet still manages to find time to simply be kind, doing things like baking bread for students during finals week.

“There is this absolutely kooky and insane person in there, but she has an amazing intelligence,” said Craig Prophet, Becky’s husband of 41 years.

Becky’s intelligence shines throughout her work both on the stage and in the community. After graduating from AU in 1970 with a bachelor’s degree in English, Becky left the town she had grown up in and travelled around the U.S. with Craig. After receiving both her master’s and doctorate degrees in theater from the University of Michigan in 1978 and 1986 respectively, having two children and exploring the vast world of theater, Becky and Craig returned to western New York in 1992.

“We returned because we knew we could raise our family here,” said Becky. “We knew we would be a part of a community where we could make a difference.”

And make a difference they did. Becky’s involvement with the Village of Alfred speaks volumes of her caring, spunky and smart character. She is the brain behind momentous Alfred events like “‘Bellebration’, a unique celebration of all of Alfred’s bells,” the “‘Lake Alfred Festival’... celebrating the glacial lake that drained for the valley now known as Alfred, New York” and the famous Traffic Light Festival where she chaired a committee to hold a birthday celebration for the one traffic light in the village.

“I really believe that Alfred and its surrounding areas are a unique way to be,” said Becky. “Anything we can do to bring us together...to celebrate something we share is really important.”

Becky hopes that her enthusiasm for Alfred is contagious. She spreads her message through lively and engaging projects in hope sharing her love for the village with others. She calls this mission her secret agenda to helping people, especially students, see how unique and special Alfred truly is.

“Some people say we’re in the middle of nowhere,” said Becky,



PHOTO PROVIDED

with a smile. “I prefer to say we’re geographically challenged.”

When Becky is not doing philanthropy projects for the Village, she can probably be found in the Miller Performing Arts building, directing young minds in a production or sharing advice.

“Becky is always extremely knowledgeable about not only the acting, but also how she wanted the lighting, sound and general atmosphere of the theater to correspond and enhance the production,” said Zach Grosser, an AU graduate who worked with Becky doing sound and for multiple productions. “As a director she knows what she wants, and is able to work with the actors to combine their vision with hers.”

Becky believes that theater is a political act. Having directed a number of controversial plays, Becky has found a way to keep the sometimes hard and negative influences in the productions from affecting her students. Her 1996 stage adaptation of poems titled American Dolls, was based on the role of Barbie, and included themes of misogyny and unhealthy body image.

“If you play a role, you will take on that role and feel sympathy for that character,” Becky said. “I know I can help them [my students] take on a role, and I know that I can de-role them in post-production. I don’t teach them to become the character.”

Becky Prophet will continue to enrich the lives of Alfred University students, community members and visitors for a long time. She truly believes in the community and all those in it.

“We are our own social organization,” Becky said. “We are our own base. We are small enough to make it happen and large enough that it needs to happen.”

MYOB Fashion Tips

MEEKA BROMFIELD
COLUMNIST



Ah Alfred, such a serene and peaceful place that’s known for its laid back and relaxing

environment--there’s not much excitement in this neck of the woods. So you wouldn’t believe my surprise when a little birdie told me that something was going down on the weekend! When I asked about it, the birdie said “Mind

Your Own Business!” One could imagine my puzzled face: “Me?” I thought, “mind my own business?” Then it was explained to me that there was going to be ball called “Mind Your Own Business,” on February 4th. A Ball at AU! I cannot explain the excitement I felt when I heard the word “ball,” and “AU” used in the same sentence. Not only was this going to be the most extravagant event of the semester, but I would also get to see my fashionistas looking their very best! Most importantly, this gave me an excuse to get all dolled up and

have a night out like a celebrity. A dream come true for a fashion-lover like myself: beautiful women rocking gorgeous dresses while being courted by handsome men in suits. Let’s face it ladies, what’s sexier than a guy in a suit? That’s right, nothing, unless of course it’s a sexy pair of shoes. Anyway, for the next time you plan on heading to a ball or to any classy function for that matter, keep these easy fashion tips in mind:

- Solid Colors:
Solid colors are always classic and easy to accessorize. With patterns, it can be easy to go overboard, especially when you start piling accessories on. It’s better to avoid confusion and go for simple and elegant sophistication. Try channeling your inner Holly Golightly!
- Avoid Whites:
It’s a party! You’re probably going to be eating finger foods and enjoying brightly colored drinks, so you don’t want to have to pay close attention to stain-attracting whites. Try darker colors instead. An LBD or a black suit is always classic and will always keep you from the worst dressed list.
- A Smile:
The most inexpensive accessory, and it looks great on everyone!
- Follow these helpful tips and you will be one of the most dashing and fashionable attendees at the ball. From the runway to the streets, make the streets your runway!!

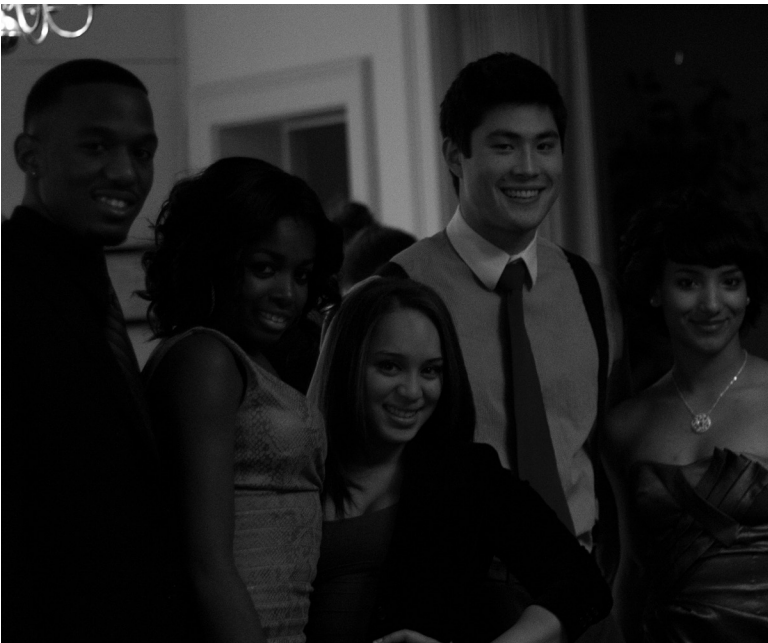


PHOTO BY AMANDA TUTILL

Wait for Weight

COLE BOJE
COLUMNIST

Many people are deterred from entering a weight room due to the belief that other people lift significantly more than they do. This may be true, but it somehow leads people to feel they will be embarrassed in relation to others, and that they are not worthy of being there. In reality, people that lift more weight often have shabby technique, and they get less out of their workout than someone who concentrates on their form.

We have all seen the person doing curls as if he’s trying to throw the weight over their shoulder, hip thrusting. This leads one at least 45-degrees short of a proper 90-degree angle while squatting. We have also seen the person that spreads his hands so far apart while benching that he’s severely limited his range of motion. People that have bad form have rushed into increasing weight before they are properly able to handle the weight responsibly. That’s not to say these people will hurt themselves, but they aren’t doing themselves any favors in the long run. These people may get bigger faster; but they’re also going



to plateau faster, be less flexible, and more susceptible to injury.
Speeding up your muscle growth before your body is capable of handling the weight leads to weak tendons and brittle muscles. These people haven’t properly adjusted to the weight they lift, which makes them more prone to injury. The result resembles the effects of steroids on the body, but to a lesser degree in this case. This may not always be true, because “freaks of nature” exist who benefit from such methods, but poor form is likely to never get you anywhere.
The person getting the most out of his workouts is the person who takes

his time, is not in a hurry to increase weight until he can perform the lift through a full range of motion, and isn’t afraid to lift lower weight if that is what his body requires. This will strengthen the ligaments and tendons attached to the muscles, while the muscles become more elongated, dense, and defined. This person will be able to increase weight for a longer period of time, have significantly more definition, and will have reduced susceptibility to injury.
Patience and self-confidence is key in the weight room. That is why it is important to concentrate on your form, pay attention to what your body can

Kinfolk

- The Best in Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
- Delicious Cheeses
- Natural Juices
- Fresh Fish Weekly
- Great Breads

Open 10am to 6pm Mon-Fri
12pm to 5pm Sat. and Sun.

• 607-587-8840 •

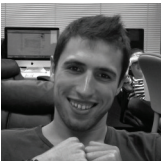
Just one block from Main Street
• on West University •

Sports

MLB Hot Stove Report

The Big Red Blueprint

GRIFFIN TAYLOR
EDITOR IN CHIEF



Cincinnati is not usually relied upon for its winter contribution to the sports world. The Royals are now the Sacramento Kings, and the Bengals are, um, the Bengals. But every rule has its exception, and we bring you the Cincinnati Reds offseason, dorky numbers style.

Atop the Christmas list of those within the Cincinnati Reds organization should be Los Angeles Angels owner Arte Moreno. In shelling out a quarter-billion dollars for Albert Pujols, Moreno not only removed the game's most feared slugger from the NL Central, he kept him from signing with Miami, which could prove of equal importance to Cincinnati come 2013, when a second Wild Card slot is implemented into the postseason. The Marlins have a Pythagorean win expectation of 85 victories in 2012, and forecast to join the Reds as primary contenders for the new playoff birth the following season.

The Reds followed the addition-by-subtraction which comes from a division now sans Pujols and Prince Fielder with some addition-by-addition, acquiring Mat Latos from the Padres to bolster the front-end of the rotation. The Reds paid a steep price for Latos, shipping a package highlighted by prospects Yonder Alonso (the 73rd best prospect in the game, according to Baseball America) and Yasmani Grandal (the 12th overall pick in the 2010 Draft) as well as right-handers Brad Boxberger and Edinson Volquez to San Diego. Volquez is four seasons removed from a 2008 campaign which saw him post a 17-6 record, 206 K, and a 4.3 WAR season. Since, only the strikeouts have remained — Volquez has posted a 22.2 K% since 2009 — and Volquez's abhorrent walk rate of 13.4% (second to only Carlos Marmol among pitchers who have thrown at least 220 innings) and resulting struggles have lent to a third guarantee in life along with death and taxes — that all the stuff in the world gets you nowhere if you can't throw strikes.

Dave Cameron of Fangraphs titled his piece on the Latos acquisition "Reds Finally Get Their Ace." My gripe with Cameron's word choice lies not in the premise that Latos is a bonafide ace; as evidenced by Cameron, the 24 year-old right-hander has thrown



PHOTO PROVIDED

over 350 innings and posted a strikeout rate above 23% the past two seasons, company shared only by names Lee, Hernandez, Greinke, Hamels, Verlander, Gallardo, Lester, Weaver and Jimenez. More, Latos Home/Road splits show his success is not a product of cavernous Petco Park; his numbers are slightly better away from San Diego.

Rather, the issue with Cameron's title lies in the premise that Cincinnati did not already have an ace on staff. If I were to ask a casual baseball fan who led the NL in ERA for a majority of 2011, he would probably answer the man to whom Johnny Cueto was once compared — Pedro Martinez — before he would answer Cueto. This is where the skeptics shout that ERA is not an accurate gauge of a pitchers performance, and yes, Cueto's FIP would indicate him to be a pitcher of around a 3.20 ERA, almost a full run higher than the 2.31 clip the right-hander posted in 2011. But much as Mike Scioscia's ballclubs have proven a tendency to outperform their Pythagorean win expectation, so too has Cueto's ERA outperformed his FIP. And even if he were to be valued as slightly above a 3.00 ERA pitcher, there are plenty of aces in major media markets who have posted similar ERAs and still been hailed as aces (think Beckett

in Boston and Clemens in New York). Cueto produced a WAR of 4.3, good for sixth in the league, in just 24 starts. Perhaps it is because Cueto plays in an underwhelming media market, perhaps because in the classic little-brother-wants-to-show-big-brother-he's-not-so-little-anymore brawl between the Cardinals and Reds in 2010, Cueto opted for a move reserved for Snooki in the Jersey Shore, but Cueto is criminally underrated.

Cueto earned \$3.4 million in 2011. For those without a calculator in hand, Cueto averaged \$790,000 per win produced, a far cry below the MLB going rate of \$4.5 million per win. Latos' rate the past two seasons has been cartoonish: \$150,000 per win. Though both figures should regress a bit as both players' salaries increase incrementally in 2012, the Reds will still boast perhaps the most undervalued 1-2 rotation punch in baseball. The rate of return atop the Reds rotation is somewhat offset by the lack thereof at the back end. In few sectors of the job market do we get rewarded for just showing up to work, but such is the case with starting pitching, as evidenced by the 5-year deal handed to Bronson Arroyo prior to the 2009 season, which will pay Arroyo upwards of \$50 million when it is all said and done. Arroyo's greatest attribute has

been his consistency; he has surpassed 30 games started every season since 2004, when he started 29 games. After that, Arroyo's numbers are markedly average, and his 1.5 average WAR the past four seasons does not merit the \$12 million he is due to make in 2012. A week after the Latos deal, the Reds made a move to solidify the bullpen, dealing Travis Wood to the Cubs in exchange for lefty Sean Marshall, who led all relievers in WAR the past two seasons. Such an accolade is not necessarily what it seems, as past performance has proven to be no predictor of future returns when it comes to relief pitching, but the move made sense from a personnel standpoint for Cincinnati, as the Reds traded a position where it had an excess for one where it had a dearth. Wood posted a solid half-season in 2010 (5-4, 3.51 ERA in 17 starts) but regressed a good deal in 2011. Though still young at 24, Wood was not as good as fellow youngsters and No. 3&4 starters Homer Bailey and Mike Leake, and Bronson Arroyo is too expensive to be on the outside looking in.

And then, on January 10th, the Reds "2012 Contender" identity was officially legitimized when GM Walt Jocketty won the third-party beneficiary prize in the "he said, she said" spat between Scott Boras and Ruben Amaro Jr. The Reds inked closer Ryan Madson to a one-year, \$8.5 million deal. Coming a 2.25 FIP and a 4/1 Strikeout-to-Walk ratio, and in an offseason which saw Heath Bell (good not great) get 3 years, \$27 million, Joe Nathan (washed up) 2 years, \$15 million and Matt Capps (Matt Capps) one-year and \$5 million, I must revert to an old cliché -- the Reds got a steal. Oh, and one more thing. Madson posted a 48.8\$ Ground Ball Rate last season; The Reds infield combined for a 2.8 dWAR. Don't expect much regression from the 31 year-old closer.

On the offensive side of the spectrum, Cincinnati should again place above league average at the plate. Assuming Dusty Baker is able to create upwards of 500 plate appearances for Chris Heisey's bat, the only gaping hole in the Reds lineup comes from the shortstop position, where Paul Janish needed a stellar season in the field (1.3 dWAR) just to scratch replacement level status.

It would have made sense for Cincinnati's name to be one attached to Jose Reyes during the Winter Meetings. While market value is often set on a what-have-you-done-for-me-lately basis, and Reyes' .337 batting average in 2011 — 45 points higher than his career clip of .292 — was probably an outlier, it appears Reyes' asking price may have been slighted by outside factors.

As noted by Fangraphs, Reyes and

Carl Crawford are nearly identical players. In terms of market value, Reyes' increased propensity for injury is offset by the scarcity of his position in comparison to that of Crawford. Yet the terms of Reyes' deal were for one year and \$30 million fewer than those handed to Crawford. One might infer that Reyes was adversely affected by Crawford's dismal first season in Boston. If this were the case, Reyes may have been undervalued by \$1-2 million a year per the terms of his deal; not an exorbitant sum of money to those who play a game for a living, but far from an insignificant amount to those who don't.

Without Reyes, Cincinnati still boasts an elite infield, albeit one with significant health concerns. While both Joey Votto and Brandon Phillips have been beacons of consistency and Votto is now objectively the best first baseman in the division, the Reds' October hopes may hinge on the ability of Scott Rolen and Ramon Hernandez to stay on the field. The optimist says both are due for injury-free seasons, the pessimist says one getting hurt is right up there with death, taxes and the Volquez predicament.

In regard to Hernandez, the terms of his deal (\$3.2 million) suggest he need produce a WAR around 1.0 to make GM Walt Jocketty look good, and Hernandez has doubled that production each of the past two seasons — while averaging just 94 games played.

The Cardinals' regression will be somewhat offset by the return of Adam Wainwright from Tommy John surgery and a full season of at-bats for postseason studs David Freese and Allan Craig. But Lance Berkman will not offer a repeat performance as the 9th best hitter in the game, and the best hitter of the decade is no longer around, so there will be regression nonetheless.

The Brewers are, well, poor — at least in comparison to competitors for the services of Prince Fielder and Zack Greinke. All things equal, it is unlikely Greinke will want to remain pitching in front of an inept Milwaukee defense which makes his BABIP an eyesore. The Pirates are improving, and the Cubs have Theo Epstein and cash, but the Reds are better than both those clubs in 2012.

As the one rule of October is that anything happens, a weakened NL Central and a strengthened Reds rotation make Cincinnati's current 2012 World Series odds of 25/1 rather enticing. If they do not make the postseason, please do not contact me. If they do, feel free to say thanks

Pinstripe Blues

ALEX HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

After an offseason which has felt like an eternity, baseball is again right around the corner. Since October, Albert Pujols and Prince Fielder have left their respective teams for \$200 million contracts, the Marlins offered a deal to every free agent with a pulse, and the Angels have become a powerhouse in the American League. But surprisingly one team that made almost no moves this offseason was the ever dominant New York Yankees.

The Yankees did make one surprise move, trading away star catching prospect Jesus Montero, who hit .328 with 4 home runs and 12 RBI in 61 major league at-bats last season. Montero was rated in the top 20 major league baseball prospects and most analysts and sports writers have deemed Montero to be the next big power hitter to come up from the minor leagues. Montero was traded to the Seattle Mariners for starting pitcher Michael Pineda, a 23 year-old right hander who posted a 9-10 record with 173 strikeouts and a 3.74 ERA in an impressive rookie campaign. On paper, this seems like a fair trade, as both teams got something they desperately needed. The Mariners got a real offensive threat to help their struggling offense and the Yankees got a solid starting pitcher who has the capability to become one of the elite pitchers in the league. The Yankees



PHOTO PROVIDED

also threw in reliever Hector Noesi to sweeten the deal.

Many would say that any deal with Seattle involving Montero should have landed King Felix Hernandez, who is due to hit free agency after the 2013 season. But the Yankees were in dire need of pitching help, and one could argue Pineda was the best arm to change uniforms this off-season. On the heels of the Pineda deal, the Yankees added veteran right hander Hiroki Kuroda, who has been a mainstay in the Los Angeles Dodgers rotation the past few seasons, to a one year deal.

So given the lack of noise made by the Yanks in free agency this off-season, the question is how are they going to fare in 2012? The answer lies

in the name of the game -- pitching. This season is not going to be based on how many home runs the Yankees hit nor their team average, but rather on a pitching staff that was a question mark for much of 2011. CC Sabathia is a bonafide ace, and should be good for 18-20 wins. Pineda was plagued by the worst offense in baseball last year, and the transition to one of the best offenses should translate to somewhere between 15-17 wins in 2012, if his other peripherals remain the same. Then the pitching staff becomes a little bit more questionable. Coming off a wildly successful rookie season in 2011, Ivan Nova will be expected to man the no. 3 starter slot. However, Nova is not yet a proven commodity. He was often bailed out

by excellent run support and for a while was only a pitcher who could last four innings. Has he grown out of this or will his win total again be a product of the team's surging offense? I would predict anywhere between 12 and 14 wins for Nova which is still respectable. Then we have recent addition of Kuroda who will be making the transition to the American league which I think will be a positive for Kuroda and could translate into more wins and more strikeouts. I would predict somewhere between 13 and 15 wins for him. Then there is Freddy Garcia, Phil Hughes and A.J. Burnett, each of whom will compete for the no. 5 starter slot. Hughes will be coming off surgery and trying to have a bounce back year, Garcia looking for another solid but unexpected year, and Burnett to finally reach expectations bestowed upon him when he signed that 5 years, \$82 million deal in 2009. I don't expect any of the above three pitchers to go above 12 wins on the season if that much. Let's face it, Hughes belongs in the bullpen as the future closer and always has, Burnett is over rated and over paid and Garcia is in the twilight of his career. So if you add it up, the new pitching staff forecasts somewhere between 95 and 100 wins which, with a collapsed Red Sox team, would mean the American East crown should potentially go to the Yankees. But what does this mean for the playoffs?

I would project the playoff teams to be the Yankees out of the East, the Tigers with their newly acquired Prince Fielder out of the AL Central,

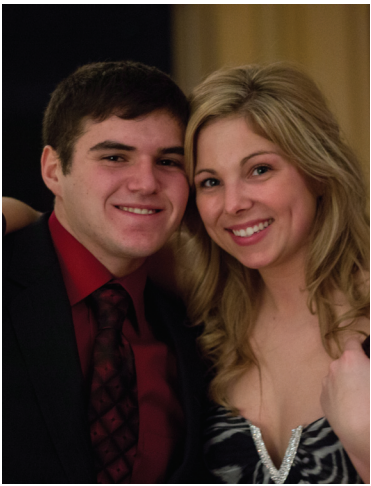
and the Angels with their newly acquired Albert Pujols and C.J. Wilson out of the AL West, leaving the Red Sox and the Rangers to fight over the wild card spot. Can the Yanks realistically take on these any of teams and make it to the World Series? I would say Pineda's right arm is going to determine that. If Pineda lives up to expectations and performs well then the Yankees have a great one-two punch that could put them in contention. But let's not forget that they Tigers have the MVP and CY Young award winner Justin Verlander and the Angels have now added C.J. Wilson to an already formidable staff. This is where the Yankees offense comes into play.

Let's start with Alex Rodriguez, who needs to remember he is in the midst of a \$275 million dollar contract and play accordingly. A-Rod has seen a decline in average and power over the past years and a variety of injuries have caused him to miss a fair amount of playing time. Then there is Mark Teixeira who has MVP ability, but needs to finally get off to a fast start if he really wants to have a great year. Consistently Teixeira has been a slow starter and the Yanks will need him to put up serious power numbers starbehind in a stacked AL East. Then there is Robinson Cano and Curtis Granderson, who must again put up MVP numbers to ensure a Yankees division crown.

Overall, the Yanks are looking pretty good for now, but the season hasn't started yet and the beauty of baseball is that you just never know.

Sports

MYOB Formal in Photos



PHOTOS BY AMANDA TUTILL



PHOTOS BY AMANDA TUTILL

Former Saxon Schuster is alternate official for Super Bowl XLVI

AU PRESS RELEASE

Bill Schuster, a 1981 Alfred University graduate, has been chosen as an alternate official for Sunday’s Super Bowl XLVI.

A veteran National Football League umpire, Schuster is among five officials listed as alternates for Sunday’s game in Indianapolis, IN, between the New York Giants and New England Patriots.

Schuster is in his 12th season as an NFL umpire, having begun his pro officiating career in 2000. He officiated his first NFL playoff game - a Wild Card contest between the Atlanta Falcons and Green Bay Packers, in January 2003. A member of referee Gene Steratore’s officiating crew,

Schuster was umpire for the AFC Divisional playoff game between the Patriots and Denver Broncos on Jan. 14.

Schuster graduated from Alfred in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in business. He played four seasons (1976-79) for the Saxon football team, during which he was a two-time All-American wide receiver who once held the school record for career receptions. An assistant coach on the 1981 team that earned the school’s first-ever NCAA playoff appearance, Schuster was elected into the AU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2003. His younger brother, Bob, was an All-American quarterback who played for AU from 1977-80.

A native and resident of Livonia, NY, Schuster is owner of the William Schuster Insurance Agency in Livonia.

Saxons Lacrosse Ready to Make Noise in 2012

CHARLIE ENGLEKA
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Well it’s February and lacrosse season is right around the corner. I had a chat with AU midfielder Brendan Murphy about the upcoming season and got even more excited than I already was.

Murphy, who is training to enter the U.S. Marine Corps, is a senior who has been selected as a team captain for the second consecutive season. The Saxons have been engaged in preseason practices for several weeks now. The uncommonly warm weather we have been experiencing in Alfred has done nothing but benefit the Saxons.

“We’ve been lucky enough to get outside a lot. When we’re inside, it takes us longer to get things down. Being on turf helps a lot”, said Murphy. The Saxons being ahead of schedule in their preparation for the season is a very good sign considering the conference AU plays in. With powerhouses like Stevens and Nazareth in the Empire 8, the Saxons can use all the help they can get.

Last season, AU got off to a very impressive 7-0 start. But that success did not continue for the latter part of the season as the men in purple and gold lost six of their last nine games. The Saxons unfortunately did not make postseason play despite their immense improvement with a 10-6 record compared to 3-11 the season



AU LACROSSE TEAM
PHOTO PROVIDED

prior.

Murphy and his teammates were not content with more than tripling their win total from the year prior. The captain midfielder expressed how the collapse in the second half of last season has left a bad taste in this team’s mouth. Murphy professed how he and his teammates plan on improving their record from last year, especially against conference opponents.

“No matter who we play in the Empire 8, we feel we can go out and get a win. There are games that we expect to win, and there are games we feel like we can win. We’re on our way up, we’re closing the talent gap”, Murphy commented.

A big reason for the massive improvement that AU had last year was the talent boost the Saxons roster underwent. Murphy explained how the already talented Saxons squad has

experienced another boost in skill level to rival that of last year.

The Saxons have added another talented freshman class along with a few veteran transfers, most notably big time acquisition Brendan Sullivan, a midfielder who was previously at Division I Navy. The Saxons also get back senior midfielder Dave Malave, who missed all of last season with a torn labrum.

The Saxons having Malave, Sullivan

and Murphy as their top middies provide AU fans with reasons for excitement. “This is the best team we’ve had since I’ve been here”, professed the two-time captain Murphy. This is also the biggest roster the Saxons have had in the last four years, which is a sign the program is improving.

Murphy confessed that he realizes that AU still isn’t the most talented lacrosse team in the Empire 8. In order to beat the ultra-talented teams like Stevens and Nazareth in the conference, Murphy explained, “We need to work harder than everyone. We need to sell out on groundballs, be in better shape and be stronger than everyone else”.

When I asked the senior midfielder what the biggest difference will be for this team compared to last year, the answer was simple; Matt Oakes. The accredited clinical instructor and certified athletic trainer in Alfred University’s Athletic Training program served as the strength and conditioning coach for the AU men’s lacrosse team this past off-season. The Saxons have never had the luxury of a strength and conditioning program to go by in the off-season before.

“Oakes putting in time and helping our endurance and getting us in better shape will be the difference this season”, exclaimed Murphy.

No matter how you want to look at it, there are many reasons to be excited for the Alfred University Saxons men’s lacrosse team this season.