

September 13, 2020

News Section

Voting in the Presidential Election: What You Need to Know

By Dale Mott Slater

The clock is ticking for voters to ensure that their paperwork is in order before the presidential election. With tensions high and poll numbers close between Biden and Trump, being prepared to cast a vote is the most valuable way for citizens to make a political stance-even more than flying a flag or slapping on a bumper sticker.

Registering

U.S. citizens aged 18 or older are eligible to vote. Registering is the first step. Vote.gov is the federal government's official website for voting, and it's where you can begin the registration process. You select the state that you're a resident in when you register--not the one that you're living in currently. If you aren't sure where that is, it's probably wherever your driver's license is from. Every state has different requirements and deadlines for registering. For example, New York residents must be registered by October 9th in order to participate in the presidential election. Generally, states ask that you supply multiple methods of identification. NY asks for your driver's license, zip code, and the last four of your social security number. This can be done online, by mail, or in person.

If you aren't sure if you're registered or not, you can use the Check Your Registration tool at Vote.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing voter turnout.

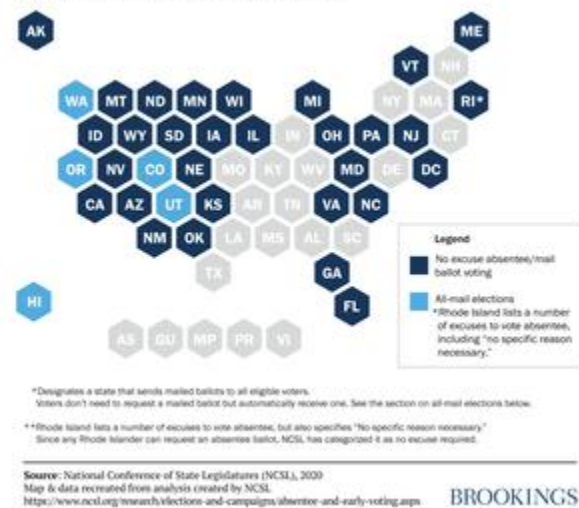
Mail-In Ballots

Because of health risks during the Covid-19 pandemic, mail-in voting is anticipated to be relied on heavily for the 2020 presidential election. However, many people are not familiar with voting by mail. Data from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission shows that 23.6% of Americans voted through the mail for the 2016 presidential election.

To vote by mail you need to know what your state's policies are. Some states use all-mail election systems, which means all eligible voters receive a ballot in the mail automatically. Other

states offer absentee ballots without requiring a reason for the request, which means you can go online and request a ballot in the mail with no problem. States such as New York only offer absentee ballots to citizens with excuses they deem worthy, like being overseas. The graphic below shows what method each state uses.

Table 1: States with No-Excuse Absentee Voting



Once you have your ballot, it's important to fill out and sign it correctly. An analysis by NPR posted last month shows that over 550,000 mail-in ballots for the presidential primaries this year have been rejected due to mistakes. Of them, 84,000 were from New York City.

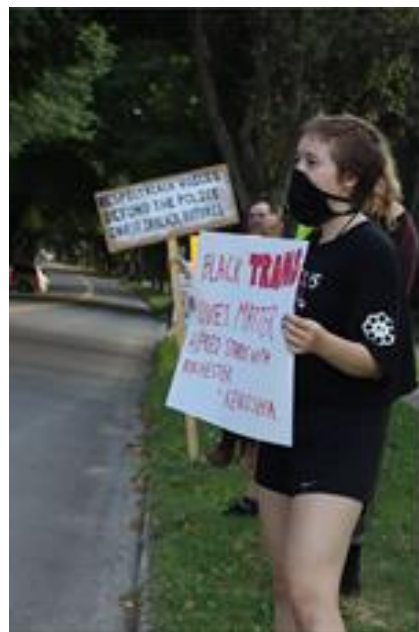
Voting in Person

If you didn't vote by mail, you'll have to vote in person. The presidential election takes place on the 3rd of November. Citizens are assigned polling places where they're expected to vote. You can check to see where you need to go by using the Find Your Polling Place tool on the

National Association of Secretaries of State website NASS.org. If you need to change your polling place, requests can be made online. Otherwise, just show up during your location's hours and wait in line until you're able to cast your ballot.

The Village's Stand

By Sam Sage



The Village Bandstand has been the centerpiece of many events in Alfred's history, most recently the demonstrations hosted by Alfred for Racial Justice—a group that began these gatherings earlier this summer in solidarity with the mainstream Black Lives Matter movements.

Alfred for Racial Justice originally hosted a small group, but as time pressed on, where once there had been enough people to lightly spread the message, there grew a small platoon. Through August and now through September, on Wednesdays from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm, college and village residents alike take a stand against racial injustice and police brutality.

(Photo by Piper Lilley)

At the Village Bandstand, the demonstrations are open to anyone and they are encouraged to join for as long as they are

able. The old picnic table serves as a place where anyone, be it a friend, neighbor, stranger, can grab a pre-made sign or make their own and join the demonstration. As the people began filtering in, it could be seen--from the residences dotting Main Street to the sister campus of Alfred State--that many fashioned their own signs. Their signs, made from whatever vessel was on-hand, were decorated with the various mottos and mantras of the protests. Although the signs were eclectic, all were unified in the call to action. As one sign had said, "Bigotry will not go unchallenged."

"If the protests could evolve into productive discussions about concrete policy changes that would support our students of color--conversations led by activists and students--that would be ideal," explained Dr. Robert Reginio, an English professor and attendee of the protests at Alfred University. "Oftentimes, these activists are not dealt with as partners or collaborators who deeply care about AU, ASC, and Alfred. That has been profoundly disappointing. They would[n't] continue to exhaust themselves for months on end if they did not care about our town and the two campuses. That dedication needs to be respected. They deserve a place at the table."

Alfred for Racial Justice has expressed continued interest in getting Alfred students and neighbors involved in signing petitions, calling local and state representatives, voting, donating to bail-out funds or organizations, and shopping at Black-owned businesses as a start to everyday involvement in change.

"We'd love to see the creation of a community of anti-racists- whether you're attending protests or doing the work on your own," offered Alfred for Racial Justice, and then acknowledged, "Though numbers are a great way to measure success, the real impact in this movement happens when protesters work racial justice into their areas of expertise and help develop an anti-racist community and mindset."

However, it is evident to all the activists and attendees that further work needs to be done. It needs to be opened into a broader conversation to include students from both campuses and the members of the Village.

"The BLM movement is forcing this kind of reckoning, getting us as individuals and as a society to pay attention," said Dr. Melissa Ryan, an English and Social Justice professor at Alfred University. "And this is not just about policing—it's on each of us to pay attention close to home, which for a lot of us means higher education generally and Alfred University in particular."

Alfred is not exempt from the controversial nature of this movement, and therefore is in a unique position. Split between two ideologies that have come to a head, or are in the current trajectory to do so, it presents an opportunity for conversation and change to happen on the personal level.

"Changes at the local level can then build on up the line. People need to focus on local politics, support progressive candidates down-ballot. Forget the theater of national elections and listen to the lived historical experiences of those in your community," proposed Dr. Reginio, who added, "I would say to AU students of color: a faculty group called the Anti-Racist Action Collective is working diligently along these lines."

Party Scene or Quarantine?

By Dale Mott Slater



Partying persists despite Alfred University's attempts to keep classes in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic. The alternative perspective believes that being unable to party is "not necessarily healthy" for mental wellbeing.

Last weekend AU's President Zupan and Alfred State's President Sullivan strolled through town checking out the party scene. Long before the sun set on Friday night student-rented houses began to bump with blaring music, streets bustled with hollers and cheers, and games of beer pong were set up in yards. The following

Monday, Alfred sidewalks were littered with trampled masks and crushed beer cans. When worrying about campus closure, off-campus partying is President Zupan's biggest concern.

A community member (who wishes to remain anonymous) reportedly attending gatherings in Alfred claimed that partygoers "think they're untouchable." The individual also guessed that partiers aren't considering the potential consequences of their actions but are focusing only on their desires to let loose. Being unable to socialize and release the stresses of school under restrictive pandemic mandates worried the citizen, who further claimed that for many students partying is like a lifeline in the stressful and otherwise uneventful college life of Alfred.

AU began testing students for Covid-19 last week. In the two batches of students tested (totaling about 260) all results were negative. Because partying happens largely in off-campus homes, students living off-campus are being tested first. State-wide metrics from New York State's Department of Health released August 28th ruled that if a college has 100 or more active cases of Covid-19 within a 14-day period or if there's a positive test rate of 5% or higher all students and staff must go on a two-week quarantine. However, students will be sent home if there isn't enough space within the area to properly quarantine everyone.

This was the case at SUNY Oneonta when over 300 cases of the virus were found at the college within the first two weeks of the semester. The spike in positive cases was attributed to a series of large parties (particularly in fraternities and sororities) and close contact in library spaces. As of Sept. 7, all of their on-campus students should be moved out of their dorms and classes transitioned online for the remainder of the fall semester.

Members from across the community have been coming together in meetings led by Mayor Becky Prophet to ensure students are staying safe. Because President Sullivan was unable to comment, Zupan recounted that Sullivan is "bringing down the hammer" on students that do not

follow safety precautions, warning party-goers at the Hockey House that if he finds them partying again he will bypass the school's judicial process and send them home.

President Zupan says he isn't afraid to take the same actions but is focusing his resources on educating the student body. "You can't communicate enough and from enough different angles." From roving ambassadors to a tip line, Zupan hopes he can convince students to sacrifice their raging weekend plans for the greater good of the university and the many people it supports.

Opinion Section

What is the point of All Lives Matter?

By Alpha Bah



(Photo by Piper Lilley)

All Lives Matter is often the glib response you'll hear from certain individuals when Black Lives Matter is brought up. At this point, it's clear why this sort of rhetoric is problematic. It assumes that BLM means black lives are worth more than other lives when the brutality displayed by the cops towards black people says otherwise. Countless allusions have been made to show the absurdity of All Lives Matter. Here's a common one, if a house is burning in your neighborhood and the

firefighters arrive to take out the fire saying "all houses matter," at that moment would be ludicrous. A more convincing one would be, "yeah, stop killing us, we're getting brutalized by the cops."

But that's the point of All Lives Matter, isn't it? It's not supposed to make sense or serve as a counterargument to BLM. It's disingenuous rhetoric meant to distract from Black people's pursuit of justice and equality in this country. So it's not enough to explain why All Lives Matter is problematic because, to some extent, people who say that know they are engaging in bad faith. Are we surprised then that people who say "All Lives Matter" also say "Blue Lives Matter"? We are up against not just misinformation but a distortion of reality that is built on fear, paranoia and distrust in our most basic institutions. The most extreme version of this has been the rise of QAnon.

To be brutally honest, we do not have time to merely refute the constant barrage of Trumpist talking points. Black people are still being murdered in the streets by police officers. Officers who are also collaborating with white vigilantes in the case of Kyle Rittenhouse. (this is nothing new, white supremacist groups have steadily infiltrated police departments all over the country for years) There is still no justice for the murder of Breonna Taylor, who was killed by police

officers in her own home. What's so frustrating is knowing for a fact that there is going to be another Breonna Taylor, Jacob Blake or George Floyd. The same people who stand with the All Lives Matter movement have tried to justify their murder in any number of ways including painting them as criminals, defending the use of deadly force by police.

The future for black lives seems hopeless because this has been going on for years. The question now is, what can we all do individually and collectively to bring an end to this? I think one of the many things we can do as an institution of higher learning is to center the debate around black perspectives. That means talking about what it means to defund the police, what Angela Davis and so many other Black activists mean by Prison Abolition, and finally, having a broader conversation about how systems like policing in America work. That is one way that we not only refute talking points like All Lives Matter but also set up a counter-narrative.

Black Lives Matter: On Interstate 90

By Andrew Wiechert



(Photo by Andrew Weichert)

My wife and I bought a school bus almost exactly a year ago. It's now since transformed into a twenty-two-foot-long, one-bedroom, half-bathroom apartment that's primarily used for escaping from COVID-isolation. It's green with a little purple, and you can't miss it. That's why we drove it across the country and back with the words, "No Room For Hate On This Bus – Black Lives Matter" painted on the rear window.

It started out in frustration. We doubted our right to help speak for other people. "This is an opportunity to send a message," we thought.

As everyone who wishes to support this cause knows, COVID-19 has created such an enormous pull that parallels or eclipses other important topics in the news. Our own president eclipses important topics in the news. In many ways, this is a perfect storm of preventing people from being heard. You'd have to get out of the house, gear-up, mask-up, and protest on foot. Social gatherings are a touchy subject even without the mention of a protest demonstration.

Maybe instead, you'd reach out to friends on social media, telling them to do the same and creating a platform for donations. I know plenty of other white people like myself who constantly navigate awkward, abrasive, but necessary conversations with their family members. Everyone is reinventing how they support this cause. Unfortunately, during our trip, other people across the country had something much worse to add to the conversation.

Most of what they gave instead came in the form of a certain finger held up, followed by all of the assumed bumper stickers you'd imagine as they sped away. I'd usually go with my window down while driving the bus, which is a disappointment when someone wanted to discuss equality in America while they shout inaudible nonsense from behind the glass. The best part was the extra anger piled on when they saw two white people inside. We even had folks in Montana yelling, "Yankee!" at us.

Luckily for us, and more so for humanity, all of that hate could never eclipse the amount of brief, but positive experiences we had. We spent three weeks on and off the road, camping alone in forests, so it naturally came in the form of drive-by honks, followed by fists out the window, or sometimes a peace sign. We even pulled some smiles and waves out of the people not paying attention. There were points in Chicago where it felt like we had a tiny, minute-long parade of a dozen cars, each one honking and cheering, each hand out the window a different color.

The support is out there. If you reach for it you will find a hand reaching back and you can make a difference in more people's lives than you think. You can find a way. Look at every single way the virus impacted our lives and how we constantly keep adapting to it. We can all harness that same effort to affect change and ultimately make some really good friends.

ACAB: Why We Say It

By Jeanni Floyd

The Black Lives Matter movement was sparked in February 2012 by the tragic murder of Trayvon Martin. Though it was not as popular then as it is now, the movement was still very prominent.



The movement spiked again in 2016 when Donald J. Trump became president. Finally, this summer the movement was revamped due to the unfortunate murder of George Floyd. His killing gave the movement so much publicity that some call it the second Civil Rights movement.

(Photo by Piper Lilley)

During this movement, lots of phrases have been made more common to combat racial inequality but more specifically racially targeted police brutality. The one phrase that has gained a lot of attention and pushback is ACAB or the numeric version 1312. ACAB stands for All Cops Are Bastards.

This phrase has received a lot of backlash, with many people questioning why it's said. Most commonly people say, "I know someone who is a cop and they're a good person.", "What if there is a cop that supports Black Lives Matter?", "It's not all cops. It's just a few bad ones." or "They're just doing their job," which are valid points. However, the phrase is very misunderstood. Just like people need to understand that just because we say Black Lives Matter does not mean that other lives do not, people need to understand that ACAB is a holistic view of the policing system and does not target every individual officer.

The United States was not fully equipped with a policing system until 1880, fifteen years after the emancipation proclamation was signed to free slaves in the country. Though some say that this has no correlation, the police force was called "Slave Patrol" in the south until the early 1980s. This means that the police system was created to patrol, incarcerate, and kill black and brown people. Although that time has passed, this idea behind the police system has not changed. People often say that the job of an officer is to protect and serve, but given the brutal killings of Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Tanisha Anderson, Elijah McClain, Michael Brown, Travon Martin, Tamir Rice, Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Daniel Prude and Philando Castile, they are not doing their jobs, making them a bad cops.

Now, at this point, some people would say, "Well not all cops are bastards." Once again, fair point--but you must break down the word bastard to have a full understanding. The biblical definition is "a child born of two people that are not married," which in this case saying that not all officers are bastards would be true. However, there are two definitions. Bastardized: a system that was in place but is now set to fail. Or in other words, corrupt. Given that the police system was put in place just to patrol black and brown people, that makes it a corrupt system or a bastardized system.

In short, the reason people say ACAB is because once a police officer puts on their badge, they become compliant to a system that belittles people of color when their job is to protect and serve. ACAB is a holistic view of the police system and not nitpicking at every individual officer. Black people are disproportionately killed by police and it is a severe problem that is due to generational and systemic racism.

We say ACAB for those that we have lost due to said racism. For Breonna while she was sleeping, for George and Eric because they couldn't breathe, for Ahmaud because he couldn't finish his jog, for Tony because he was black and openly trans, for Tanisha and Daniel because they had untreated mental health issues, for Elijah because he was walking home, for Michael because he was walking down the street with a friend, for Travon because he wanted a bag of skittles and iced tea, for Tamir because he was playing with a toy gun, and for Sandra and Philando because of a traffic ticket. Not to mention countless more. We say ACAB because the system failed them, and we will not stop until they get justice.

No Justice, No Peace

All Lives Can't Matter Unless Black Lives Do

By Isa Hamilton



All Lives Matter is the counter-argument against Black Lives Matter, the movement against violence directed towards black lives. The statement itself proves that all lives do not matter. The purpose of BLM is to point out the mistreatment of black people and how often their lives are not equal to those that aren't black. It's not taking away the value of anyone else, only trying to uplift black lives. Basically, when someone says, "All Lives Matter", they really mean, "Who cares?"

Saying it ignores the problem

When you think and look at how everyone is treated compared to black people, it's hard to stand by All Lives Matter. The existence of organizations led by white supremacists like the KKK (which are still active today) is proof that black lives are far less valued than other lives. Telling a black person that all lives matter as a rebuttal to black lives matter can be another way of trying to erase the tragic history of black people and covering it up by trying to sound thoughtful.

To say that black lives matter is not to say that other lives do not. Indeed, it's quite the reverse—it's to recognize that all lives do matter, and to acknowledge that African Americans are often targeted unfairly.

The disadvantage in the system

Black lives have a disadvantage within the system. Minorities in general do not have the same advantage when it comes to things like education. Edbuild writes that “Even after accounting for wealth disparities, the United States invests significantly more money to educate children in white communities.”

There is a 23 billion-dollar gap between the educational funding given to white school districts versus non-white despite serving the same number of children. If all lives mattered this wouldn't be a problem. This is the meaning of BLM. Why should white people get more funding and more attention than black people? Black people deserve the same chances with education as white people, and that's what Black Lives Matter means.

Say their names

Saying the names of victims of racialized police brutality out loud highlights the many lives of black individuals that have had their lives taken unjustly. Just to show how often it happens, here are the names of people whose lives were recently taken at the hands of police brutality:

George Floyd MAY 25 2020 Killed by a police officer for allegedly trying to use a counterfeit 20 dollar bill.

Dijon Kizzee AUGUST 31, 2020 was shot and killed by a police officer during protesting.

Breonna Taylor MARCH 13, 2020 was shot and killed while sleeping in her home.

Damien Daniels AUGUST 25, 2020 was killed by 3 police officers after a call concerning his mental health.

Anthony McClain AUGUST 15, 2020 was shot and killed by police officers during a traffic light search.

Julian Lewis AUGUST 7 2020 was killed by a state trooper while driving.

Rayshard Brooks JUNE 12 2020 was killed after a complaint that he was sleeping in his car.

Barry Gedeus MARCH 8 2020 was killed while riding his bike.

These names are only a small portion of the black lives taken from what was supposed to be protecting them. Unless black lives matter, all lives can't.

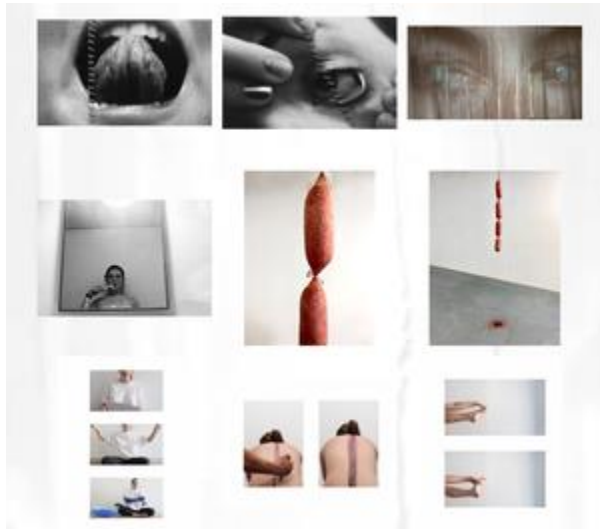
Art Section

Spring Senior Shows Go Virtual

By Katie Alley

This past spring, seniors in the School of Art and Design held their thesis exhibitions online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Traditionally, the Master of Fine Arts exhibitions and Bachelor of Fine Arts exhibitions are held on Alfred University's campus and draw in a large crowd of art enthusiasts. When AU moved to online instruction for the remainder of the spring semester on March 16th, this meant no more large crowds in Alfred and no more in-person show openings. Art students were particularly challenged with creating and displaying work while distanced from their studio spaces.



“The shift to online senior shows was definitely rough to start,” said Sarah Busch, a 2020 BFA alumna who works in three-dimensional mediums. “It was learning to connect with my peers and professors in a different way.”

Seniors turned to their computers for the feedback they needed to wrap up their thesis. Artwork was finished to the best degree feasible and photographed for a website dedicated entirely to the thesis exhibitions. On the website, each artist had a page that displayed images of their work, descriptions of their pieces, and their artist statement.

“I had a lot more time dedicated to writing my thesis,” Sarah Busch said. “While we weren’t all together, I had a lot of peer support in finalizing the work.”

Other students felt as if their senior year should not come to an end online. BFA candidate Gillian D’Ambrosia opted to take a leave of absence for the spring semester after the switch to online instruction and is now back on campus completing her painting thesis this fall.

“For me personally, I felt like I had more work to do. I really value having an art community and felt as if I could not support my practice in a home setting excluded from other people,” Gillian said.

Online art classes were a challenge that students in the School of Art and Design never expected. However, the COVID-19 pandemic may have opened the art world up to new online exhibition opportunities.

“Honestly though, it was something I can’t say I would want to do again because I am not proficient when using computers and other programs,” Sarah said.

“I feel like they should bring the senior show website back even after Covid-19 because having an online gallery is nice for people who cannot see the shows in person,” Gillian said.

The 2020 Senior BFA Exhibitions can still be viewed at seniorshows.alfred.edu.

Entertainment Section

Princess Mononoke: A Narrative Masterpiece

By Alpha Bah

Princess Mononoke is an animated film by Studio Ghibli that follows the main protagonist Prince Ashitaka after a boar threatens to destroy his village. He kills the boar but it taints him with a curse that forces him on a journey to find a cure. His journey takes him to an ironworker town beset by enemies both human and animal. This movie is brilliant for two main reasons—the character work, and the themes.



The characterizations in Princess Mononoke are brilliant because nearly every single character isn't inherently good or bad. Ashitaka starts out trying to find the Great Forest Spirit to cure him but is dragged into a conflict between two sides: San along with the nature spirits of the forest and Lady Eboshi and the Inhabitants of Iron Town. Ashitaka doesn't pick a side and tries to dissuade both sides from destroying the other. Lady Eboshi, who is relentless in her attacks on the forest for iron, is also shown to be compassionate. She takes in the rejects of society—prostitutes and lepers—and gives them a second chance in Iron Town.

“In a lesser film, Eboshi would be the primary antagonist. Instead, she is this: a nuanced symptom of a larger problem, and a terrific character in her own right,” said Simon Jimenez, a writer for Tor.com. Similarly, San is raised by the wolves and cares deeply about them. But the humans threaten their existence, and that puts her in direct conflict with Lady Eboshi.

Besides the amazing animation, the theme of man versus nature is explored not in a black and white perspective that's common in children's movies, but with nuance just like the characters. As a result, this movie can be enjoyed by every age group. The environmental message that's present all over the film is particularly important with the way climate change continues to affect the world. If you're looking for a visually stunning animated masterpiece with good characters, great storytelling, and a captivating message then give Princess Monokoe a watch.

Sports Section

Student Profile: Raeqwon Greer

By Jamall Lewis



As expressed by William Shakespeare, “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them.”

Raeqwon Greer has a story that attests to all three. Greer was born into a single-parent household to a mother that was just thirteen-years-old. After giving birth, she was ultimately forced to move out on her own and fend for herself and her child. Greer described his relationship with his mother as a partnership. To

him, she is a superhero that has taught him most of what he knows.

For the majority of RaeQwon’s life, he has resided in Buffalo, New York. Buffalo can be a challenging place to live. Being impoverished isn’t something to glorify, yet when you excel, it feels like a dream. Greer is a first-generation college student that’s done nothing but persevere.

When asked what values come from football Greer answered, “When a person plays football they should always gain. What I get from the game is a sense of structure as well as discipline.”

Beginning tackle football at an early age is ideal in the area that Greer grew up in. Being a star at five years old is slightly unordinary. He played running back and linebacker for the youth football Buffalo Wolverines. He was known city-wide for his big hits and playmaking ability. His team won the championship in three-peat fashion in his last three seasons. The winning continued into high school where he would go on to attend New York state powerhouse Canisius High. Weighing in at about 100 pounds he played freshman football and won the championship. The following season, he had a minimal contribution, yet won a state championship at the varsity level. Heading into his junior football season he weighed in around 185 pounds, ready for action. He finished the season off with 33 tackles at cornerback and had a mediocre 8-3 season.

Greer began his senior season at 220 pounds. He was a captain on a very good football team and he understood what stood in the distance. “I knew I had a chance to be a part of something special and win it all,” said Greer about taking responsibility for his team’s success.

He was then given the opportunity to grow his legend in a single season. Canisius finished the year 10-2 and won a state championship. Greer was a staple on both sides of the football and played a pivotal role in the season. From cornerback, Raeqwon had 58 total tackles, four interceptions, and a forced fumble. In the last four games alone including the championship, he had 511 all-purpose yards to go along with six touchdowns. Greer earned MVP of the league

championship game and the state championship game. He also earned second-team All-Western NY for running back.

The transition from being a senior in high school to being a freshman attending Alfred University was swift. He would change from cornerback to strong safety, due to his versatile style of play. Not a starter from day one, but destined to be, Greer picked up the starting spot just before the season's first game. In a system that's stimulating and challenging it's very seldom that freshmen start. Greer made a plethora of plays and earned all-league honors year one. When asked about the mental aspect of the game he responded with the following:

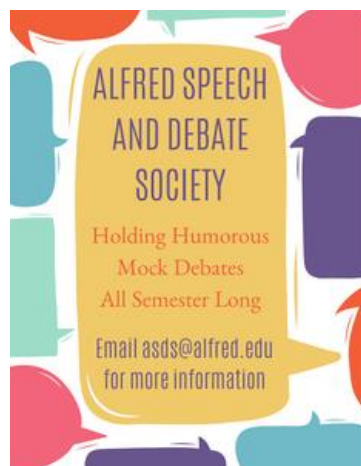
"The mental aspect of the game is 60%. You can be as fast and as strong as you want, but if you do not have a diverse mindset you'll be thrown off easily. Personally, I never want to lose. I hate letting people down. As far as my brothers and my coaches, that goes with my values of family first".

Greer may put others before himself, but he is greedy on the field. In his junior season he had 93 tackles, ranked 12th nationally at his position. Greer was also the Defensive Player of the Year I named all ECAC. After his senior season was canceled the grind never stopped. He chose to prepare for classes and continue to lift and train, maintaining great mental and physical strength.

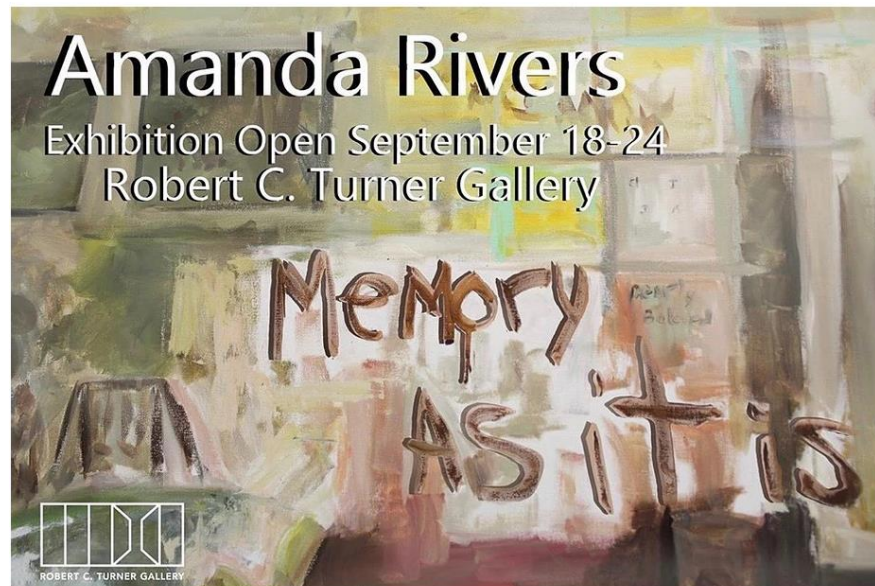
The Alfred University program plans to play a 5 game season in the Spring of '21.

Advertisement Section

Alfred Speech and Debate Society



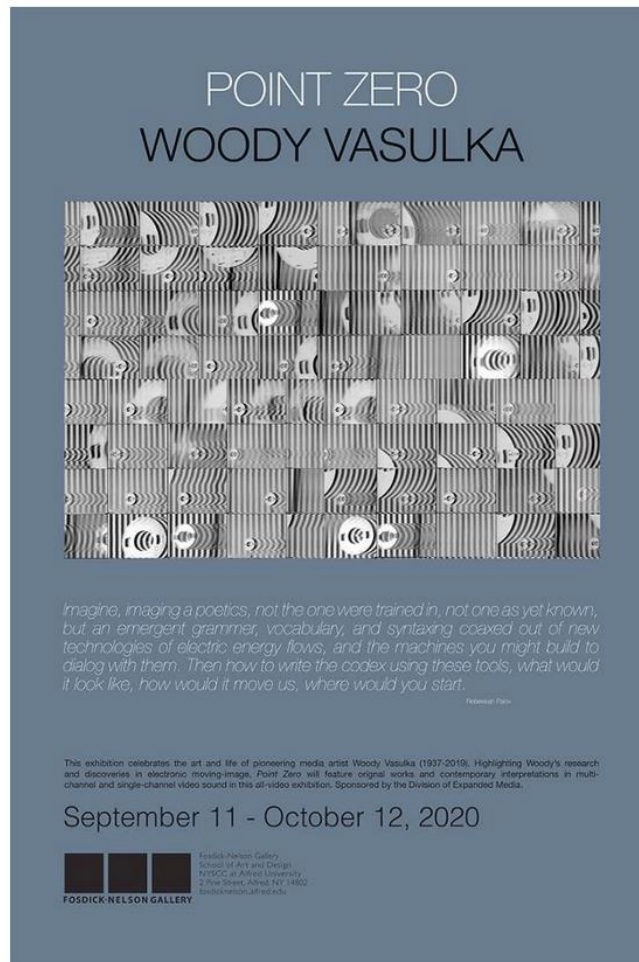
Memory as it is



Annie Jump and the Library of Heaven



Point Zero



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