



Fiat Lux



The Student Newspaper of Alfred University

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Fire in Knight Club wreaks watery havoc

BY ABBY TRIPP
MANAGING EDITOR

A fire in the Powell Campus Center Knight Club on Nov. 28 resulted in significant water damage to the Knight Club, Li'l Alf Café and Nevins Theater.

"There was a fire in the sound room," said Patricia Debertolis, director of Powell Campus Center.

The fire activated the Knight Club's sprinkler system; water from the sprinklers extinguished the fire.

After the fire was extinguished, the sprinklers remained on and water dripped down into Li'l Alf Café and Nevins Theater, said Debertolis.

The fire was discovered by a Physical Plant employee between 12 and 1 a.m. said David Peckham, assistant director of Physical Plant.

Immediately after the situation was discovered, "the water was shut off and a small crew of Physical Plant people were called in to clean up the water," said Peckham.

It is difficult to be sure of when the fire actually occurred, said Pat Schwartz, AU director of safety, security and telecommunications. The employee who discovered the fire recognized that there was a problem when he saw a strobe

light flashing in Powell, she said. She added that this would not have been an issue had the University not been closed for Thanksgiving break, saying that students or staff would have been in the building and immediately been able to contact emergency services.

"Some of the buildings [on campus] are centrally monitored," Schwartz said. If an alarm is activated in one of these buildings, emergency services are immediately contacted.

"It calls to a central monitoring station though a company we have hired," Schwartz said. This company then calls 911, she continued.

In buildings such as Powell Campus Center, where the alarm only rings internally, it is up to an individual in the building to contact Security; Security then immediately dispatches 911.

The University is slowly but surely phasing in central monitoring for all buildings on campus, Schwartz said.

The process is happening "a little bit at a time," Schwartz said. "It's a progression that's been happening," she added.

Because emergency services weren't dispatched, an investigation of the fire could not begin immediately at the scene,



PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

The ceiling in Nevins Theater sustained water damage following a Nov. 28 fire in the Knight Club.

SEE KNIGHT CLUB, PAGE 4

Students take issue with work-study cap

BY MATTHEW BUTTS
STAFF WRITER

Alfred University students are concerned about the manner in which their work-study awards are being dispersed. Many students feel that there should not be a cap on the amount that they can earn per semester, as long as it is not over the total amount they are entitled to for the entire school year.

"If it is your award, then you should be able to receive it when you want it," said Shandel Carter, junior psychology major.

The University has in place a completely new information system called BANNER, which disperses financial aid by term. When a student reaches his or her semester limit for work-study, the system will automatically cease payment to the individual, according to Director of Student Financial Aid Earl Pierce.

Prior to BANNER, Legacy was the system in use; it was also automated in terms of financial aid, but some of the intricacies were done by hand, according to Pierce, who said the change was needed.

Students also say that Alfred University had previously allowed them to earn more than their allocated amount and is not allowing them to do so this year.

The practice of not allowing students to earn more the semester amount was always in effect, said Pierce. "[We are] just monitoring what we've already had in place."

Earning more than the semester award is prohibited because it becomes an over-award, said Pierce. Years ago, students hardly worked over their assigned amount, but within the last few years, the number of students working over their semester award has increased. There were provisions that permitted for small amounts of over-awards, but with the introduction of BANNER, this can no longer happen.

"No one ever told us that we couldn't work over our hours," said Chantal Jackson, senior communications major.

Three notices about the changes in the work-study system were sent out early this semester. Every year memos are sent out to every employer on campus, and it was made clear what students could and could not do on the green interview card that every work-study student receives, according to Pierce.

Many students say that the way that the University communicates its work-study procedures are ineffective, especially through e-mail.

Jackson found out from her employer through e-mail that her hours were limited. "They should do a better job of making sure everyone knows," she said.

Work-study is federal funding with a University match. The federal funding portion is 75 percent of the award and the University handles the remaining 25 percent. When a student earns over his or her given award, the Department of Financial Aid then has to pay 100% of the wages, which the university wants to avoid, said Pierce.

Since work-study is a federal program, the university has to be compliant with federal guidelines and regulations. AU has beefed up the monitoring of financial aid awards because the University would be held liable if discovered by an auditor, according to Pierce. That is why over-awards are not encouraged – especially earning a year's award in one semester, which many students say that they wish was possible.

"I won't be able to work a lot next semester, so I will not be able to get my whole award," said Carter.

Students argue that often classes for the following semester clash with other schedules, which would make it too difficult to work. Participation in

SEE WORK STUDY, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

Members of the Middle Eastern Dance Organization entertain the audience as part of *Desert Rose*, a Nov. 19 performance that brought together the talents of several campus performing arts groups.

AU researchers' fuel cell technology gives hope for environmentally friendly cars

BY SHAUN LATULIPPE
DISTRIBUTION MANAGER

Fuel cell technology may some day be a practical alternative to gasoline with the help of Alfred University glass science researchers.

Mathew Hall, professor of biomaterials and glass science, delivered the last of this year's Environmental Studies Fall Speakers Series. He talked about the latest developments he and his colleagues are pursuing to make fuel cells available to all.

Fuel cells are a way of making oxygen and hydrogen produce electricity. Its only byproduct is water, making it a viable alternative to gasoline for fueling cars.

Using fuel cells in cars can drastically limit the amount chemicals in the air, like carbon dioxide among others, said Hall. The technology was first used during the 1950's for space

travel.

Many problems with fuel cells need to be solved before we ever see a fuel cell car on the road, said Hall. How can the massive amount of hydrogen necessary be stored in a car?

"I don't know about you, but I would rather not have a cylinder of hydrogen strapped to the back of my car," said Hall. "It's a bad thing."

Gasoline is just as dangerous as hydrogen gas; the risk of explosion is not any greater, said Hall. The trouble with hydrogen is having a safe place to store it. The solution Hall is hoping for is to store the gas in microscopic spheres of glass.

Hydrogen would be stored in the capsules until the gas is needed in the fuel cell, where it is released, said Hall.

"Traditionally getting hydrogen [to come

SEE ENS, PAGE 5

Movie buff moves through Herrick films

BY ADRIENNE EGGLENGER
PRODUCTION MANAGER

Do you know how many movies are in Herrick Library?

Richard Oppelaar does: 1088 videos and 106 DVDs.

Oppelaar, a freshman, knows because he is going to watch all of the movies in Herrick's collection. He's already watched 40 movies.

"Rich is a guy really into movies, open to all genres," said Matthew Cohn, Oppelaar's roommate.

Having always loved movies, Oppelaar thought watching Herrick's entire collection would be enjoyable. He started from the beginning of Herrick's collection, viewing movies from the 1930s, such as *The Thin Man* and *Mr. Hulth's Holiday*.

At first Oppelaar was watching two or

three movies a day. But with this semester ending, he has been watching about four movies a week.

He is trying to focus on his double major, mathematics and physics, and maintain a 2.75 GPA in order to keep his scholarship. For him, watching a movie is used as both a method of procrastination and a reward for doing his work.

"Rich is constantly watching movies. Although he has slowed down a little, he has been watching them almost religiously since school started. He still gets out, which is good; they just seem to be more of a way for him to spend a little extra free time," said Benjamin Duffy, Oppelaar's friend.

Oppelaar said he is a "huge movie buff." He grew up watching old movies with his mother and grandmother.

"I am interested in everything and want to be cultured in everything," said

Oppelaar.

Oppelaar's favorite movie is *Donnie Darko*, a cult classic that came out about three years ago. He said the best movie he has watched so far from Herrick's collection is *Dr. Strangelove*. The one that made him think the most was *5 Easy Pieces*, starring Jack Nicholson.

Throughout winter break, Oppelaar plans to view Herrick's movie list online, rent them and continue watching the movies at his home in New Jersey. He hopes to watch a lot of movies from the Herrick collection during break since he won't have as much school-work to do.

David Snyder, access services assistant in Herrick Library, found out that Oppelaar was viewing all the movies in its collection. He plans to get Oppelaar

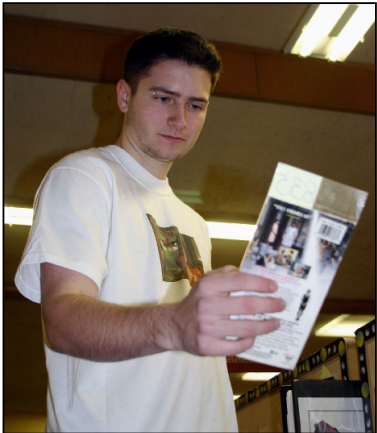


PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

Richard Oppelaar is working toward a goal of watching every movie in the Herrick collection.

SEE MOVIE GUY PAGE 5

Give to the Community Chest this holiday season and help locally

On Dec. 2, an e-mail was sent to all AU clubs and organizations by Patricia Debertolis, director of Powell Campus Center, and Wes Bentz, professor of chemistry. This memo asked for recipients' help in raising funds for the Alfred-Alfred Station Community Chest.

The Community Chest is a key source of charitable funding in the local community; funds from the Chest support 18 organizations that serve a variety of needs and concerns.

The Community Chest's 2004 fundraising drive has fallen short of its goal of \$34,350. In an open letter published in the Dec. 2 *Alfred Sun*, members of the Alfred-Alfred Station Community Chest Board, including Debertolis and Bentz, revealed that the drive had received pledges for 76 percent of the goal; that is, \$26,168 have been committed at press time.

A huge need still needs to be met. That is why we are now appealing to members of the Alfred University community at large to support this cause in any way possible.

The Community Chest helps fund a plethora of local programs that improve the quality of life and overall well-being of local citizens of all ages.

Community Chest dollars go toward the maintenance of a local Lifeline service. This service allows the elderly a direct link to emergency services through St. James Mercy Hospital.

The Senior Nutrition Site is another Community Chest-supported program that works to the benefit of local senior citizens by providing them with food and fellowship through a weekly luncheon.

The local chapter of the SPCA receives funds from the Community Chest, providing support for the area's four-legged citizens.

The Community Chest is a significant source of revenue for Literacy Volunteers of Allegany County. This organization helps work toward, at the very least, functional literacy for program participants. These literacy skills have the potential to open the doors to job opportunities. Additionally, with literacy, people can read and complete applications for public assistance programs that help subsidize a better life.

Several of the organizations funded by the Alfred-Alfred Station Community Chest work directly to the benefit of AU and ASC students, including local emergency services that monitor and provide for the safety of college students, faculty and staff.

Because of the tightly intertwined relationship between AU and the surrounding community, it is imperative that students involve themselves in charitable pursuits. The links between campus and community are strong; it must be shown that this relationship is valued.

Further, public safety organizations work to the direct benefit of students.

The Alfred Station Fire Department, a volunteer organization, was listed in the Dec. 2 e-mail as a major beneficiary of Community Chest assets. Because of the small size of Alfred's A.E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Company and ASFD, the two departments have an automatic mutual aid agreement. Thus, if an alarm goes off anywhere in Alfred, including on the AU and ASC campuses, Crandall and Alfred Station are dispatched to the scene simultaneously, ready to handle the situation at hand and ensure the safety of students, faculty and staff.

The fundraising drive is \$8,182 from the 2004 goal. This may seem like a scary number, but it is scarier still to those groups and individuals that will suffer because the money simply isn't there to meet their needs in the coming year.

AU students need to embrace this challenge and begin working to meet it.

Leaders of clubs and organizations can take action to begin fundraising campaigns, involving as many of their group's members as possible. Interested groups are encouraged to contact Bentz or Debertolis to put a plan in place.

Students not involved in clubs or organizations can and should support the fundraising efforts of their peers. In addition, they can look into donating money to the Community Chest; donations can be dropped off at the Alfred Pharmacy or the Canacadea Country Store. Alternately, they can be mailed to Alfred-Alfred Station Community Chest, Box 603, Alfred, N.Y., 14802.

These donations can be earmarked for the Community Chest beneficiaries of the donor's choice, if so desired.

Whether or not donating money is an option for you, it is worth considering a donation of time, energy and enthusiasm. Many of the organizations funded by the Community Chest are fueled by volunteer efforts – give of yourself by spending an afternoon at the SPCA, driving senior citizens to Nutrition Site luncheons at Union University Church Center or tutoring an adult who is pursuing literacy. There are dozens of other opportunities for AU students to interact with those in the local community who may need a helping hand and could certainly use the support of a caring heart.

Before going home for a month, do something to better the next 12 months for the community that opens its arms to you for so much of the year.◊

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The *Fiat Lux* supports the perpetua-

The dreaded “L” word

Ah, love ... ain't it grand? I guess it depends on who you ask. Whether it's a daisy-and-dew-drop love or a crying-into-your-soup kind of love, we've all fallen into it at one point or another. It's that desire for another human being that drives you to do and say things you'll cringe about in the future. It makes you into a fool. It keeps you awake at night, it consumes your days and it all but drives you mad. It impassions you, enrages you and excites you ... good or bad, I suppose the experience is quite grand.

As a senior at Alfred University, I have witnessed many relationships go from sappy beginning to bitter end before my eyes. I've watched friends and classmates pass from infatuation into romance, and then from love into heart-break. I've listened to numerous stories about how great it once was and of how the current turmoil in the relationship is nothing compared to how wonderful it was in the beginning (yadda, yadda, yadda).

As a perpetually single woman, I tried my hardest to understand why my friends (and no, they are not all female) couldn't just move on. If a relationship is obviously over, why grasp so desperately on to someone that doesn't want you any more? I wanted to shake them and say "snap out of it ... it's over,"

but I knew it would have no effect. I figured if they wanted to choose weakness over strength, that's their problem, not mine.

Well, I'm here to admit that poetic justice has been served. It took me a while but it finally happened – the big “L” hit me with gale force this summer. Now, months later, I sit and wonder how the hell I fell into that trap. This wasn't supposed to happen to me! I'm the level-headed one (with the slight problem of occasionally being a know-it-all). How could I let myself be duped?

After many nights of mulling over the injustice of unrequited love, I've reached the only possible solution I can come up with; love is completely illogical – it's not something that I can simply solve by using reason. Why can't I just "get over it" like I wanted my friends to do? Well, it's obvious isn't it? Love is a grandiose disaster.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm sure that mutual love is fantastic. To all of you people in happy relationships, congratu-freaking-lations.

For the rest of us, it's only good as a catalyst for writing really good songs that will hopefully someday make us famous (Oh, and it also justifies the embarrassing act of crying during Hallmark commercials). ◊

LILA BALLIETT
STAFF WRITER



LILA BALLIETT
STAFF WRITER

It doesn't affect me. Although I think it helps the situation that they still have the option to walk across the stage in May.”

Amy Tischler
Art and Design

Don't understand a thing about Christianity, Islam, or Buddhism, crept out around gays, think jocks are idiots, or art students have had a few too many “special brownies”? Invest time in understanding those cultures and people.

Some may ask, “Aren't you contradicting yourself? Isn't closed-mindedness a part of diversity?” I say, “Nope. Word nerd strikes again!” Accept the closed-minded, not the –ness. A person's a person; you don't have to accept their actions – just try to understand who they are.

I encourage you to stand out amongst the ignorance and embrace the desire to change close-minded ways of thinking. Question your standpoint, discover why you don't agree. Find answers and common grounds. That's why we're here at college. Professors will even tell you that we learn more outside of the classroom than in.

So take advantage of your time here. Whatever you do, please know that there will always be people who have different ideas from yours. Accept that fact, move on and take time to learn about who they are. We're all in this Alfred bubble and have to live with each other for x amount of semesters. Let's all make it a bit more pleasant and let our words mean what we say, that this really is a great campus to be on that welcomes all people. ◊

CHELEA FORBUS
GUEST COLUMNIST



CHELEA FORBUS
GUEST COLUMNIST

Celebrate diversity, not differences

I went to a Spectrum meeting on Nov. 17 for its “Religion and Sexuality” discussion. My roommate asked me to go and represent at least one voice from the Christian community. I was a little apprehensive because those who know me well know I'm generally the non-confrontational, quiet type (though moments of random quirkiness do peep out every so often as many also know!). But pushing my anxieties aside, I was honored that my roommate asked me to help clear common misconceptions of spirituality and sexual orientation and to help dispel lines drawn between the two.

At the meeting, people were so nice and open to what everyone had to say, regardless who believed what. So in my idealistic fashion, I thought, “Why isn't the rest of the campus like this?”

To begin my train of discussion, I quote Scott Stapp, formerly of the band Creed, in a magazine article I read: “I'm not a Christian musician, I'm a musician who just happens to be Christian.”

Maybe because I'm a word nerd (a.k.a. English major) I see the huge distinction between the two. It got me thinking about the persecution one receives just for who they are. Let's face it, persecution hurts, sucks and is all around us. Each of us has undoubtedly fallen victim to it at one time or another in our lives.

How many times have you categorized someone just by their beliefs, culture, race or sexual orientation? “Oh, they're trying to shove their beliefs down my throat,” says the skeptic. “She's so ignorant because she's from insert-inner-city-here,” says the businessperson. “I can't believe they voted for a Republican!” exclaims the liberal. “Ugh, he said hi to me again; I wish he would quit hitting on me,” says the straight male. Alfred is so open-minded that we're close-minded. We're blinded by our own ideas without taking others into consideration.

Sure, we're all not going to get along and agree on the same issues, but there are things called “agreeing to disagree” and “letting bygones be bygones.” Instead of being a problem, help with the solution and dissolve the lines we've created around heavy issues and stereotypes. Take the election for example. I have never

Roving Reporter

Last spring's decision to eliminate December commencement has affected many juniors and seniors for numerous reasons.

As a junior or senior, what are your personal thoughts on this issue?

Quotes and photos by Melissa Williams and Michelle Clark

“It sucks because I actually have to stay another semester and I officially graduate next December but don't get to walk until May. It would be nice if I could walk when I am actually graduating!”

Ben Wiley
Art Education

“That's horrible! Why is this school always bulls**ting on money? Wow, that's horrible, man. This school is always like, “Oh, all this money.” Why they gotta do that?”

Anes Osmic
Business



Amy Tischler
Art and Design



Ben Wiley
Art Education



“I don't like that students are unable to walk in December. I think it is unfair. They either don't get an actual ceremony or they have to come back. I think it is because the University is low on money but this isn't the way to save money.”

Jess Rabinowitz
Fine Arts



“That's horrible! Why is this school always bulls**ting on money? Wow, that's horrible, man. This school is always like, “Oh, all this money.” Why they gotta do that?”

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The *Fiat Lux* supports the perpetua-

tion of a broad and liberal education conducive to free speech. Only unsigned editorials reflect the opinions of this newspaper. All other editorials reflect the author's opinion.

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From the Editorial Board

Apology for printing offensive humor column on Nov. 2

In the Nov. 2 issue of the Fiat, we printed a humor column titled “Yelling fire in a crowded residence hall,” which was written by staff writer Eóin O’Neill. This column has caused quite an uproar, especially but not exclusively among volunteer fire fighters, and rightfully so. The column was rude, disrespectful and in poor taste.

So how did it get into the paper? Oversight by editors. We talked with the writer and gave him guidelines for major revision. He added two paragraphs and gave us the slightly revised column. Several editors missed this version during editing and page proofs.

Let us make this clear: We missed the second version of the column in editing and page proofs, and that led to it being printed. For this we apologize, and we have since improved our production process so that such mistakes will at least be reduced – we hope to eliminate this particular kind of mistake by making sure the appropriate editors see each and every story without fail.

It should be noted that columns do not reflect the opinion of the Fiat. That is reserved for unsigned editorials such as this one. But

Letter to the Editor

Column was appalling; fire fighters deserve the respect of the community

Dear Editor,
I am writing to tell you how appalled I am by the article titled “Yelling fire in a crowded residence hall”.
I just want to let you know that I am a member of the fire department and I have been for a year now. I have never heard of such a monstrosity in my life. I don’t think that, after this article, the campus will understand how the fire department runs.
We are volunteers who take time out of

our lives to go see if everyone is safe, even on false alarms. We do not have our own fire trucks parked at our houses. We come from all over the town of Alfred and neighboring towns.
We drop everything to come to a residence or a campus building to see if there is any type of problem with any of the people that live there or who happen to be in the building, and we also check to see if the building is safe.

We try to get there as quickly as possible, which is usually within 10 minutes. (I have timed many of our calls, this is an overestimate.) It will never take us more than three hours at one call, we can even get fires out in under this time. I don’t know where these times (it was mentioned in the article several hours and 45 minutes to respond) came from when Eóin O’Neill wrote this article.
We at the fire hall care so much about

the community and our members that this article cannot just be forgotten. It would really clear up many people’s minds if a retraction article were written (minus the lack of veraciousness) about the fire hall.
An article also including the kindness of the people that volunteer (and fake up at all hours of the night to check on people), and outlining operating procedures that the Fire hall follows would be good.
An article showing appreciation for the

fire hall and thanking us for all that we have done sounds more like an Alfred University thing to do. After all, we are all part of this close-knit community.
Good luck with this and please expect more letters to come.

Kaitlyn Morse
Junior, biology and chemistry

Swastika found on Seidlin Annex/Engineering Laboratory - no leads on culprit

BY JERNEE JOHNSON
STAFF WRITER

The recent appearance of a swastika on AU’s campus has received mixed reactions from the AU community.

The swastika was spray-painted in black on the side of the Seidlin Annex/Engineering Laboratory, next to the little-used stairway that leads down to the Physical Plant. It was in between what appeared to be a Star of David and another symbol that could not be identified.

“The painters who removed the swastika said that it looked like it had been there for a while,” said Kathy Woughter, acting vice president for student affairs.

This is not the first time that Alfred has encountered symbols of hate. According to Larry Greil, professor of sociology, chair of social sciences and AU’s Hillel advisor, about six or seven years ago someone knocked over the Hillel sign in front of the organization’s house on Main Street.

Hillel is a national student organization that promotes Jewish life. Its AU branch promotes Jewish culture and sponsors educational events on campus.

Greil said this act of vandalism was never proven to be anti-Semitic. The same night of the Hillel House vandalism, other acts of vandalism on cam-

pus property were reported, he said.
According to AU President Charles Edmondson, swastikas have been appearing more frequently around the world in the last couple of years. It is not the first time a swastika has appeared on a college campus, he said.

“They have appeared three times at SUNY Geneseo this year,” he said.

Although most students did not seem to realize a swastika was drawn on campus, those who did failed to report it, said Woughter.

Woughter said she wishes that the first person who saw it would have called to report it so that something could have been done immediately.

“People need to pick up the phone and call,” she said.

Woughter said she called the Physical Plant to have the symbol removed. But she said that by the time she found out about it, it had already been removed. It was reported to the Physical Plant by Mary MacMichael, secretary to the president, said Woughter.

As with any type of graffiti, the swastika is being treated as an act of vandalism, said Woughter. According to Pat Schwartz, director of safety, security and telecommunications, if the person responsible for drawing the swastika turns out to be a student, he or she could face campus and village

judicial charges. If a student was responsible for drawing the swastika, Student Affairs would try to talk to that student about the act of vandalism, said Woughter. The student would also face judicial charges and go through a hearing in which he or she would be fined for the damages.

Alfred Village Police Chief Scott Cicirello documented the crime. Both he and Woughter said they eventually hope to find the perpetrator. Although they have no leads, security guards are patrolling more frequently in an attempt to catch the person in the act, said Schwartz.

“We have our eyes open,” she said.
AU sophomore Robert Frankel, who is Jewish, said two thoughts came to mind when he saw the swastika. The first: the person who drew the swastika believed in what the symbol meant – that Jews are not welcomed at AU. The second: the person did not want to get caught since the symbol was in such a “closed-off” space.

Overall, he said he was surprised by the swastika. “I didn’t expect something like that to be on such a liberal campus,” he said.

Jeffrey Spiro, AU’s Hillel student president, said that although he was surprised by the swastika, he does not believe it represents AU students’ view toward Jewish people. Spiro said he is not even convinced that someone in the AU community drew

the swastika.
“We cannot say that it was someone from the Alfred community that drew the swastika,” he said. “We have no evidence.”
Some professors said they hope students understand just how dangerous this symbol is. Not only is it used to incite hatred against Jews, it is used to incite “universal hatred” against blacks, Hispanics and anyone else who was thought to be impure, said Lou Greiff, professor and chair of the English department. He said he is not sure if young people today know the significance of the Holocaust and the swastika. Greiff also said he wonders if the person who drew the swastika knew its implications, since it was drawn incorrectly.
Symbols of hate like the swastika make many students feel powerless, according to Dan Napolitano, director of student activities and coordinator of ALANA affairs. This is why groups like Students Acting for Equality (S.A.F.E.) are helping students clear up ignorance about different ethnicities and lifestyles, he said. This is also why Hillel sponsors programs every spring, such as a Holocaust Awareness event, to educate the community about Jewish culture, he said.
In addition, special AU class offerings can help, said Frankel. ◻

Matter in a material world discussed at Nov. 18 Bergren Forum

BY GERALDINE GENZARDI
STAFF WRITER

Materials play an important role in our past, present and future, said Thomas Seward, director of the NSF Industry-University Center for Glass Research and professor of glass science at the Nov. 18 Bergren Forum.

“Our material world affects how we view life,” he said.

Seward presented “Materials in Our Material Culture,” discussing the development of materials and progress of materials for the future. The term “material” refers to every solid object we encounter every day, he said.

Seward focused on how materials relate to our lives and why they are so important on a day-to-day basis. The physical universe is made of energy and matter: gases, liquids and solids. The solids are the materials that interact with us, he said.

“Our realities are influenced by our physical bodies and the materials we encounter,” said Seward.

In the past, earthen materials were found by shores of water, dug up from the ground or found in forests, he said. These materials were modified or used in combination with other materials. For example, a piece of stone and wood would be combined to make a tool or weapon. Skilled craftsmen were

valuable in early communities because of their ability to join certain materials together. Different uses came from the various combinations of materials, and new materials were found and developed. From these new combinations of materials, clay, glass, metal, fabric and much more were made. Industries like iron, steel, glass, and paper have grown from these discoveries and have had a tremendous effect on economic systems.

“Much of modern economics relies on materials,” said Seward.
The future for new and better materials is a bright one, said Seward. Material scientists hope to improve things like security, the air quality, transportation, health and defense.

When it comes to transportation, material scientists are looking into ways to store and transport hydrogen gas instead of using gasoline, said Seward.

“We can think of many areas where materials can improve our quality of life,” he said.

Windows in buildings are being improved to control heat from escaping, which saves energy. Coatings provide this function. “Smart windows” are available to those who can afford them. They react with pollutants in the air that decompose them, which creates better air quality, according to Seward.

There is a lot of time and money that goes into developing advanced fabrics for the military, fire fighting and other jobs that pose dangers, said

Seward. There are developments in fabrics that sense temperature and are capable of monitoring where people are, he said.

Even uniforms that can be hindering and bulky are being improved upon. New uniforms are becoming lighter, have evaporated cooling, repel liquids and do not allow gas to penetrate. They are also able to decompose chemicals to counteract the environment someone is working in, he said.

Sports also play an important role in the development of materials, said Seward. For example, the pole-vaulting record in the Olympics has increased drastically, in part due to the evolution of the pole and its make-up. Tennis rackets, skis and mountain bikes also help in the advancement of new materials. “Sports push the forefront of materials,” Seward said.

Nanotechnology, which refers to using devices on a very small scale (nanometers) to develop new materials, has allowed for one of the most interesting advancement in materials, he said. The bio-fluidic cell has the ability to check the status of a person’s health after being inserted into their body, according to Seward.

There have been great strides in the development of materials, and there will be more progress as technology becomes more advanced, Seward concluded. ◻

Student Senate Update

BY ASHLEY SWANSON
STAFF WRITER

The Middle States Accreditation team (MSA) came to evaluate Alfred last April. The MSA can make “recommendations” that the school must follow. Alfred passed the evaluation with four main suggestions from the MSA. These suggestions were for AU to improve the school’s identity and mission, governance, communication, and objectives.

Dan Napolitano, director of student activities, is heading the communication part of the Oversight Committee, which is seeking feedback from students on how informed they feel. The committee plans on learning how students prefer to be communicated with and is looking for feedback.

Julie Tharrett, president of Middle Eastern Dance Organization, made a Special Allocations request for \$250. It was approved on Nov. 17.

Zack Smith for College Bowl made a request of \$200 for the competition next February. Smith did not hesitate when asked the square root of 253 (approx. 15.9). Senate approved his request unanimously.

Confusion over monetary accounts has been

resolved. The Special Allocations budget started with \$10,544. \$3000 that should have been included was found in another account in Carnegie and will be added. Another \$2500 will also be added due to an increase in Senate’s funding, putting the original budget at \$16,044. Of this, \$2000 went to the H/EOP conference, \$700 to A2A, \$250 to Middle Eastern Dance Organization, and \$200 to College Bowl. With the budgets for the executive board and Polygraphic Productions, the special allocations account is at approximately \$11,000.

A finance proposal was drafted to find ways to use money left unspent by organizations in the last few years that has accumulated in a rollover account.

This money has added up to total over \$20,000. This money is to go back to clubs and organizations. Any club eligible to apply for a budget was eligible to apply for this money. Proposals were due Nov. 29, and the presentations for these requests were to be made on Dec. 4 and decided by the finance committee. President Ian Phillips and Student Senate Advisor Patricia Debertolis.

The committee will decide whether to approve the proposals and, if so, how much to approve. Senate

approved this proposal on Nov. 17.
Phillips was to meet with Joyce Rausch, Kathy Woughter and President Edmondson regarding student fees. This meeting was pushed back due to schedule conflicts and once they get the numbers hammered out there will be a campus-wide email.

Vice President Katie Kiely is looking for workers in the Ade recreation center. Find her during her office hours for more info.

An election committee was appointed on Dec. 1 to control the presidential and vice presidential Senate elections.

They are faced with the challenge of getting people to vote, creating and distributing petition forms and generally overseeing the elections for Senate President and Vice President. The committee will consist of Caretta Morris, Phil Feichtner, Emma Buckthal and Rosie Garcia.

Debertolis has forms for renewing spring semester meeting room reservations. Reservations are not automatically renewed and clubs must re-ask for space. Get forms from her in the Student Activities Office. Applications for using the Knight Club are also available. Reservations must be made by

December 17.
Hot Dog Day Committee Chair applications are available. The chairs (usually two or three) are the chief coordinators of Hot Dog Day.
The Alfred-Alfred Station Community Chest is a local charity that helps fund the fire departments, programs for senior citizens, SPCA, and other programs. Please consider it as the recipient for charitable fundraisers. If you would like to help with raising money, contact Debertolis.

Damage caused by the fire in the Knight Club should be taken care of, before spring semester.
Issues brought up are being passed on to the Food Committee. People would like to know about having plastic cups for “juice on the go,” because people take cups anyway. The microwave in Li’l Alf is bad and getting worse, and a newer model is needed. Money “can’t be that tight.”
On Dec. 1, Morris won the title of “most open forum issues for one week.”

Poder Latino is looking for people to be involved in *Raices* – dancers, techies, and more. Signups are at the info desk, or go to a Poder meeting, next semester on Mondays at 6 p.m. in the Multicultural Suite. ◻

National News

Report: 44% of Americans medicated

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 40 percent of Americans take at least one prescription drug and one-in-six takes at least three, the government reported Thursday.

“Americans are taking medicines that lower cholesterol and reduce the threat of heart disease, that help lift people out of debilitating depressions and that keep diabetes in check,” Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson said in a statement.

The annual report on Americans’ health found that just over 44 percent of all Americans take at least one prescription drug and 16.5 percent take at least three.

Waxman report: Abstinence courses flawed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federally-funded abstinence education programs that are used in 25 states contain false and misleading information about contraception, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases, said Rep. Henry Waxman.

A report Wednesday from the California democrat said 11 of the 13 most widely used programs underestimate the effectiveness of condoms in preventing pregnancy and the spread of disease, exaggerate the prevalence of emotional and physical distress following abortion, blur science and religion or get fundamental scientific facts wrong.

Bus driver fired for stem cell remark

GRAND ISLAND, New York (AP) — An elementary school bus driver was fired after sharing a statistic she had read about embryonic stem cell research with students, then encouraging them to tell their parents about it.

Julianne Thompson, 42, told students in November that actor Mel Gibson had said in an article that embryonic stem cell research had not produced a single human cure in 23 years.

Some parents complained and school officials in the Buffalo suburb fired the driver.

World News

65 missing after Chinese landslide

BEIJING, China (CNN) — At least 65 people are missing after a landslide hit China’s southern Guizhou province, according to state-run media.

The landslide, which struck the mountain village of Zuojiaying in Nayong County at 3 a.m. (2 p.m. EST) while residents were sleeping, damaged 25 homes and “affected” 108 people, according to Xinhua news agency.

It said 31 people escaped and the search for other villagers was under way. The county’s officials have sent rescue workers to the village, Xinhua said.

Villagers set pipeline ablaze

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) — Angry villagers have barred repair teams from a leaking oil pipeline run by a Royal Dutch/Shell Group Cos. subsidiary in Nigeria’s southern oil region and set it ablaze, the oil giant said Thursday.

The leak on the 18-inch pipeline transporting crude from onshore oil fields to the export terminal on Bonny Island, on Nigeria’s Atlantic coast, was first reported November 27 at Egbeda village in Rivers state, Shell said in a statement.

All efforts since then to send repair teams “have been frustrated by community militants,” spokesman Don Boham said in the statement.

“The Pros Speak,” first AU art career event, a success with students

“The Pros Speak: Advice for Emerging Artists and Arts Professionals,” a career development event for artists sponsored by the Robert R. McComsey Career Development Center, was held Wed., Nov. 17.

The event was the first of its kind, created specifically for Alfred’s visual and performing arts students.

Activities consisted of four sessions: a presentation on preparation for graduate school and university teaching careers by the College Art Association (the nation’s major professional organization for artists, art historians, and other art-related professionals and institutions), a panel discussion with a diverse group of arts professionals, an information and networking session with over 20 artists; curators; museum professionals; art centers; graduate school art programs and other art organizations and student portfolio reviews with 11 arts professionals.

Many Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts alumni returned to Alfred to represent their organizations and share

their experience with current students.

The day-long event drew more than 350 students and faculty. A panel discussion and information table session in the Knight Club was standing-room only, with over 300 in attendance.

Forty students attended the College Art Association presentation, and 47 students took part in portfolio reviews during the afternoon.

Response to the day’s activities was overwhelmingly positive from students, art faculty, administrators and guest arts professionals.

There was a tremendous show of support for the event from the beginning to end. Students, art faculty and art administration worked with the Career Development Center to plan and promote the event, student volunteers served as hosts to each visiting art professional and professors brought entire classes to the event.

School of Art and Design Dean Joseph Lewis, III provided opening remarks for the panel discussion. ◻



PHOTO BY NANCY WILLIAMS
Art students review material provided by one of over 20 organizations represented at “The Pros Speak: Advice for Emerging Artists and Art professionals.”

World AIDS Day



PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

Seniors Mary Karen Mwroka and Meira Gottlieb participate in a Dec. 1 candlelight vigil held on the AU campus as part of World AIDS Day activities. The vigil, sponsored by Spectrum, was one of several campus events held to raise awareness of the disease and its impact, both in the U.S. and around the globe. The theme for this year’s World AIDS Day observance was “Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS.”

With *Not Monsters*, AU professor explores why men molest children

On the surface, they seem like everyday, ordinary men, people you’d know from work, or your neighborhood. But the nine men profiled in *Not Monsters: Analyzing the Stories of Child Molesters*, a new book by an Alfred University faculty member, are all convicted child molesters who were serving time in prison for their crimes at the time they were interviewed.

The book by Pamela Schultz, associate professor of communication studies at Alfred University, will be released next month by Rowman and Littlefield.

In it, Schultz explores what motivated each of the nine. “*Not Monsters* documents the stories of nine convicted child molesters through one-on-one interviews, listening to what offenders have to say about their crimes and exploring the roots of these behaviors from a social constructionist perspective,” according to the publisher.

“Their words paint a compelling and frightening portrait of how sexual abuse works in Western culture to perpetuate a political and social system of dominance and control.”

Schultz said the nine men volunteered to be interviewed. All were inmates in a correctional facility and members of a sex offender group. Schultz met them when she co-facilitated some of the group meetings with corrections counselors.

There are no women profiled for two reasons, Schultz explained. “First, the vast majority

of convicted child molesters are male. Although we do know there are women who molest children (e.g. Mary Kay LeTourneau) – possibly up to 20 percent of all offenders are female – they are harder to find for a variety of reasons,” she said.

Fewer victims are likely to come forward to accuse women of child molestation. If the victims are male, there’s that old stereotype that says every boy fantasizes about having sex with an older woman,” Schultz said. Additionally, “Our society seems to vilify men who molest kids, while obliquely excusing women for the same crime. It’s horrifying when a 35-year-old man has sex with a 12-year-old girl, but somehow we don’t think that a 35-year-old woman who has sex with a 12-year-old boy is as bad.”

The other reason Schultz focuses on men’s stories is personal. “I was molested as a child by a man, so underlying my research was the desire to learn what motivated my own abuser,” she explained.

Schultz chose the title – *Not Monsters* – because she believes empathy for offenders as well as their victims is the key to combatting the crime.

“There is no excuse for molesting children, but there are reasons for it,” Schultz said. “After all, once upon a time, these perpetrators were children themselves, often abused, neglected kids with no resources and no way to make sense of their own victimization, so they grew up to externalize their problems and use children as conduits for their own inadequa-

cies as men.”

She said the “way in which society insists on painting all child molesters as ‘monsters’ is problematic. Because we consider them to be subhuman, we don’t care to know anything about what might motivate their actions. Thus, the assumption that all child molesters are completely irredeemable undermines our ability to fight against the crime because we don’t understand the dynamics.

“Sooner or later, most of these perpetrators will leave prison, and a great number of them will have received no in-prison counseling or therapy. Then, they are out on the streets again, on their own, isolated (which is often one of the factors that lead to their impulse to molest in the first place), and – subsequently– more kids are put at risk.”

Robert E. Longo, an independent consultant and trainer for Sexual Abuse Prevention & Education Resources International, wrote, “*Not Monsters* is a valuable book that is both well written and highly informative. Pamela Schultz has done an excellent job in providing straightforward information about the impact of sexual abuse on victims as well as on men who sexually abuse children, looking critically at the motivation behind their behavior ... *Not Monsters* provides a daring look into child sexual abuse and furthers our understanding of this public health problem, lending support to the national efforts to prevent child sexual abuse.” ◻

Brentwood Stables co-owner Richard Backer dead at 58

Richard E. Backer III, co-owner of Brentwood Stables, home of the Alfred University equestrian program, died unexpectedly Saturday, Nov. 27, 2004.

Dick and his wife, Becky, who is the AU equestrian team coach and an instructor in physical education, have owned the Angelica, NY, stables since 1990.

While Becky coached and taught riding, Dick helped to manage the farm and stables.

Born January 19, 1946 in Dover, NJ, Dick Backer was the son of Richard E.

and Betty Morse Backer. He married the former Daphne R. “Becky” Hammond on May 16, 1970, in Ithaca, NY.

A graduate of Ithaca High School, Dick received his bachelor’s degree from Ithaca College and for several years worked in the advertising department of the *American Agriculturalist* magazine, and then as an equipment salesman for New Idea farm machinery in Central New York.

The family has resided at 2 South St. in Belfast, NY, for a number of years. Dick was a past member of the Belfast

Volunteer Fire Department and a past member of the Farm Bureau. He was an avid reader and loved to hunt and fish.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Dick is survived by a son, Joseph D. Backer, and a daughter, D. Gretchen Backer, both of Belfast; two brothers, Joseph William (Roxanna) Backer of Castile, NY, and Jeffrey A. (Allison) Backer of Atlanta, GA; two sisters, Karen Lynn (Edmund) Dellert of Ithaca and Susan (Jeffrey) VanDeCar of Hinsdale, NY; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, Richard E.

Backer IV.

Calling hours were held at the Treusdell Funeral Home on Main Street in Belfast from on Nov. 30.

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, December 1, 2004. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Belfast.

Memorial gifts in Dick Backer’s name may be made to the Belfast Rescue Squad.

Condolences may be sent to Becky Backer, 2 South St., Belfast, NY 14711. ◻

...Knight Club

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

as would usually be the case, according to John Coburn, chief of A.E. Crandall Hook and Ladder Company.

“We were never notified,” Coburn said. He added that he learned about the incident when contacted by a member of the Alfred Village Police Department.

Schwartz clarified this, saying, “They did call and notify the emergency dispatch that there had been a fire.” From there, she said, “[Dispatchers] notified the chief there had been a fire ... I believe Alfred police also called it in.”

“I asked the fire investigator to take a look at it,” said Coburn of the Knight Club.

Coburn himself visited the scene of the fire a few days after it took place.

“There seemed to be quite a bit of water damage,” he said.

“Most all of the damage is water damage,” said Peckham. Affected spots included the carpet and dance floor in the Knight Club, the ceiling tiles and paint in Li'l

Alf Café and the paint and wallpaper in Nevins Theater.

It is still unclear how much of the technical equipment stored in the Knight Club was damaged by fire, water or both.

“It’s too early to tell what’s lost and what’s not,” said Jonathan Owen, senior engineering major and tech chair of Student Activities Board.

The fire will not have a significant effect on SAB programming, Owen said.

“We’re still going to have events up there,” Owen said. Until amplifiers and other equipment are examined more closely, he said, SAB will use its portable sound equipment.

On Dec. 2, Owen gained access to the sound room to begin assessing the damage.

“Pretty much everything got soaked,” he said. Even plastic containers with closed lids had water in them, he added.

“One container was sitting open, and it’s just completely full of water,” he said.

In the week following the fire, Debertolis allowed groups back into the Knight Club “on a limited basis.”

The dance floor, however, was deemed unusable. Because of this, SAB concerts will be moved to a differ-

ent location within the Knight Club, said Owen. The change should only be temporary, however.

“My understanding is that it’s going to be ripped up and replaced, most likely over winter break,” said Owen.

As of press time, the exact cause of the fire was yet to be determined.

“[It was] not classified as suspicious,” Debertolis said. Joseph Szeliga, a volunteer for the Allegany County Fire Service, was put in charge of the investigation. When contacted for comment, he said that it was against county regulations to discuss the progress of the investigation.

Schwartz said that she was awaiting a full report on the investigation.

Representatives of the University’s insurance carrier also investigated the fire.

“We’ve had the insurance company here,” Schwartz said. She explained that, although firefighters were not called to the scene, the insurance company would proceed as normal with the University’s claim.

“We didn’t know immediately,” Schwartz said of the fire. “The insurance company understands.” ◻

Weird News

What size condom should you wear?

BERLIN (Reuters) - Most German men wear condoms of the wrong size, a condom distributor said on Wednesday, after asking more than 2,500 men to measure their erect penis.

"People measure their feet when they buy shoes. Why shouldn't they measure their penises? A man would not wear children's shoes," said Jan Vinzenz Krause of Vinico, which released the study's findings on World AIDS Day.

Most condom boxes in Germany indicated size but men, due to embarrassment or vanity, rarely checked or just bought those marked "extra large," he said.

Vinico's survey recommended various brands to be used - depending on the endowment of the wearer.

The study found the average erect penis size was 14.7 cm (5-3/4 inches), with 40 percent of participants reporting lengths between 12 and 15 cm (4-3/4 and 5-7/8 inches).

When compared with the condoms normally used by the participants, the results showed only 18 percent wore the right size, with nearly half squeezing into condoms that were too small and 34 percent trying to use those that were too big.

Four-legged volunteer rings bell for charity

OLATHE, Kan. - The Salvation Army's 20,000 shiny red kettles and trademark bell-ringers are easy to spot, but one helper stands out — on four legs.

Providence, a 6-year-old German wire-haired pointer, is in her third season as a Salvation Army volunteer.

She's able to do all the things her colleagues do. Providence rings a bell with her mouth and has also learned to take donations and put them in the kettle.

"This is not a drooly-mouth dog," said her owner, Penny Shaffer.

For a while, however, it looked as though the dog's charity work would end.

In April, a tumor was discovered on the roof of her mouth. It was removed, but another one appeared 12 days later.

"They gave her zip chances," said Shaffer.

Surgery removed Providence's second tumor, three teeth and part of her upper jaw. Her jaw was reconstructed, and she had to be on a feeding tube for more than a month while she healed.

She went through 18 radiation treatments, and there's been no recurrence of cancer.

And on Thursday, Providence returns to her bell-ringing post.

Foreign-born exotic dancers lose jobs in Canada

OTTAWA (Reuters) - The Canadian government, under fire because one of its ministers has been accused of giving preferential treatment to a Romanian stripper, said on Wednesday it was scrapping a program that handed out temporary work permits to foreign-born exotic dancers.

Human Resources Minister Joe Volpe said it was clear that not all Canadians supported the program, which granted permits to around 660 foreign strippers to work in Canada last year.

"I didn't feel in the slightest bit comfortable with the program and I didn't think there was any justification for it," he told reporters.

Immigration Minister Judy Sgro is facing daily calls to resign over her decision to grant a temporary residency permit to Alina Balaican, a Romanian stripper who had worked on Sgro's election campaign earlier this year. She also extended Balaican's expired work permit.

Sgro denies she has done anything wrong, saying she acted on humanitarian grounds.

But opposition legislators complain that the speed with which Sgro helped Balaican contrasts with the long wait facing other applicants for temporary residency. Canada's ethics commissioner has already been asked to examine the case.

Community Radio students produce ‘darn good listenin’

BY AARON MARGULIS
COPY EDITOR

In Community Radio, taught by Assistant Professor of Communication Studies John Davis, students have learned how to create original radio programming, focusing on matters concerning Alfred and Allegany County.

"Most radio is just a wasteland," said Davis, citing syndicated public radio programs *Car Talk* and *This American Life* as some exceptions. "I want the students to learn how to use [radio production] equipment, but also how to make interesting radio."

The class has produced four half-hour programs, which air on 89.7 WOLF on Sundays at 8:30 p.m. and are available online at <http://people.alfred.edu/~acr/>. Production is done in a small studio under stairs in Seidlin Hall and sometimes in WOLF's Studio B. The class is now working on a fifth and final show.

For each cycle, the class has brainstormed story ideas, then individuals or partners have researched, interviewed for and edited five-10 minute pieces. Producers have been chosen to put the pieces together to make each show.

"It's darn good listenin'," said senior English major Kristina Hartzell.

Funding for consumer-grade minidisk recorders and audio editing software came from the AU Office of Research and Sponsored Programs in the form of a service-learning grant. The grant required that the content of the shows be related to the Alfred or Allegany County community and that students engage

themselves in the community, according to Davis. The third and only other major requirement of the course was that each story be both informative and entertaining.

"There are things happening in our community that we don't hear about," said Davis. "Almost every show, I've learned something that I didn't know about the community beforehand."

The eight students in Community Radio, a 400-level communication studies class, came into the fall semester with widely varying levels of experience in sound production, interviewing and writing.

"It was a good thing having a mix, not only communication studies majors, but people from the art school," said Davis. "If you can mix liberal arts students, art students and engineering students, you get really interesting results."

Brian Goodsell, a senior graphic design and expanded media major, had some production experience prior to taking the course.

"I have a radio show right now. I've done audio editing. I've done the sound art thing for a semester. And I can definitely see where the art and information overlap," said Goodsell.

He credited the class with getting him out of the computer lab and into the community.

"I've learned a lot about how to talk to people, how to pry their minds ... discovering how to find common ground with these people who are supposed to be your subjects. You learn how to schmooze," said Goodsell, who has done pieces on the history of the Village of Alfred and on Alfred's Seventh

Day Baptists.

Hartzell and Kelly Donohoe, sophomore fine arts major, teamed up to do a piece on Pollywogg Holler, an off-grid eco-lodge in Belmont that serves as a bed-and-breakfast, winery and restaurant, built and run by AU alumnus Bill Castle and his family. Socializing around a campfire, they had a conversation with two students from Alfred State College that they said affected their views on community relations.

"I think there needs to be more cross-campus relations," said Hartzell, who said she would like to pursue a career in documentary radio. "We all need a little more understanding, and of town residents too," she continued. "I think it's really important for college students to get in touch with the community they live in. I don't think you get a full education if you isolate yourself from everyone outside your demographic of liberal arts college student."

Davis echoed Hartzell's sentiments, saying, "The students who did stories that involved the most interaction with people off-campus have ... really learned something about people in this community, because it's one thing to live here on campus and not have to have much interaction with people off-campus; it's another to have to speak with and interview them."

Radio programs that require brainstorming, research, interviewing, editing and production are generally considered to be more difficult and time-consuming to produce than most commercial radio programming, but some class members see a place for it.



PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

John Davis, assistant professor of communications, in the production studio used by students from his Community Radio class. The half-hour show produced by the class airs Sundays at 8:30 p.m. on 89.7 WOLF.

"I think it's a challenge for people to make it, but in the end it's really rewarding for the people who make it and the people who listen," said Donohoe. "It challenges you to think. People aren't used to sitting down in front of a radio and hearing a story. It's a forgotten form of communication."

Hartzell said she thinks satellite radio will offer a place for this type of programming.

"With the emergence of satellite radio, there's going to be a great need for content," she said. "There's a place for it because there will always be people who appreciate good, quality programming."

Davis said he hopes that Community Radio will lead to more production courses in the Department of Communication Studies.

"We'd like to do both radio and video production, and we think that our niche is that we already teach the theory and research related to broadcasting," he said. "It's really the next step to teach production skills."

The equipment has been more than adequate for the eight-person class, and it would probably be adequate for as many as 15, said Davis.

Davis would like to teach Community Radio or a different radio-related course once a year, but that it would likely be contingent on the department getting another faculty member.

"Broadcast is a dying medium. It's dying because it's boring. We need someone to shake things up," said Davis. "If this helps even one student to see how radio could be different, then it's met one of its goals." O

...Movie Guy

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

to do a movie pick of the week for Herrick.

"This would be a great opportunity for our patrons to learn more about our growing recreational movie collection," said Snyder.

When Oppelaar is not watching movies, he is skateboarding or snowboarding. He is a member of both the skateboarding club and the snowboarding club. Oppelaar himself owns over 200 videos and 70 DVDs. O



PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

Some movies Richard Oppelaar will be watching.

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out of the glass spheres) is difficult," Hall said.

So researchers have come up with a creative way to extract the gas, said Hall. They would heat the gas with light. When the spheres come in contact with the infrared light, said Hall, they release their gas at a much faster rate.

While some of this technology is being refined, it shows promising results, according to Hall. The capsules are extremely strong and capable of holding highly pressurized gasses. They are very cheap and can be made by the ton, said Hall. When the capsules lose their gas, they can be taken out of the vehicle and are refilled for later use.

True meaning of holidays not found at the mall

The holidays are here with the packages that follow. When I say packages, I do not mean the nicely wrapped ones with big ribbons that sit under Christmas trees; I am referring to the packages of stress and, of course, happiness, too.

With the holidays, people experience everything from traveling to shopping to visiting with family, but still try to find the spirit and true meaning of the season.

For most college students traveling is a must around the holidays, especially if you live four states away, as I do.

Over the Thanksgiving holiday, I flew home, and I do not like to fly around the holidays. But it is just one of those things I always end up doing.

While traveling home, I experienced both stress and happiness.

The stress came when my Thigh Master (which is a small exercise tool) was pulled out of my bag in the security line. The man scanning the bags told me that he needed to look into my bag, so I said, "Help yourself."

As he dug his hand through my bag, he pulled out the thigh master, saying he thought it was a karate weapon or something.

Everything was fine, until the guy checking my bag yelled "Ron, Ron..." (laughing) it was just this exercise thing! He was yelling to his co-worker.

As I stood there waiting for the people in the line to glance my way, I could only laugh with the slight embarrassment I was feeling as I gathered my bags and headed to catch my flight. My happiness came when the plane landed in Charlotte.

Though traveling is stressful, or embarrassing, we still have the shopping and family.

Shopping around the holidays is hectic. People

fight and mothers go crazy to get their children the "toy of the year." Remember the year people were flipping out over Tickle Me Elmo? People paid a high dollar for that little stuffed animal that laughs - it is amazing what people do around the holidays.

The day after Thanksgiving, as we all know, is the biggest shopping day of the year. People go insane, and I sometimes wonder if the holidays bring out abnormal human behavior. What happened to sitting by the fire and stringing popcorn? Those days seem to have faded and gone.

That leads me to family. Our families are why most of us go home to spend the holidays. However, getting home to family can be just as complicated as finding a parking spot at the mall around the holidays.

Whether we park close to the mall or far, we always make it into the mall.

So, no matter if you are close to or far away from your loved ones, you will always make it one way or another.

Happiness can be found during the seasons that are often stereotyped as stressful. It can be hectic, but that is life, with this holiday season we should try finding the true meaning.

Surely the true meaning is not fighting over toys, getting upset in the security line at the airport or arguing with family over pointless things.

The true meaning is different to each and every person, but it should all fall along the lines of appreciating what we have and not wishing for the things we can't have or complaining about what we do not have.

Enjoy the season, stand under mistletoe, make a snowman, tell friends and family how much they mean to you and have a great holiday season! O



JESSICA HENDERSON
STAFF WRITER

...Work Study

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

extra-curricular activities such as clubs and student organizations, study abroad, off-campus practicums and independent study may hinder the possibility for students to fully commit to work study.

Work-study does not "roll

over"; therefore, students who do not earn their full work-study amount simply do not receive the full award.

"Students are pretty busy people," Pierce said, "Most of our students do not even earn the whole award because it does not fit into their life." The most important thing, said Pierce, is that "college is about getting a degree." O

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Men’s winter wardrobe guide: The dos and don’ts of winter fashion

Dos

Turtlenecks
They’re thick enough to keep you warm during the harsh Alfred winters and also offer a nice break from the standard scarf. Wearing a turtleneck shows fashion sense and sophistication and offers a great compromise during those business casual days.

Winter Hats
Keep it simple. Try to stick to something that suits your style. More often than not, steer away from the multicolored, patterned hats that make you look more like a clown than someone trying to keep warm. Hats make the wearer look confident and sporty while offering a great alternative to a jacket hood.

Polar Fleece
It’s not a bad idea to throw on a polar fleece underneath a thinner winter jacket. Make sure your fleece isn’t too big underneath your jacket or you’ll look lumpy with too many layers on. Finding the right fit is important.

Socks
Thick wool socks are a plus when walking down Academic Alley to class.

Keeping your feet warm may be the hardest part of dressing for winter’s harsh conditions, so be sure to look out for socks with reinforced toes and heels – they’re made for winter weather.

Scarves
Winter’s bitter cold and the need for winter accessories can be solved with any scarf. Scarves are seasonal fashion staples that finish off any winter outfit with sophistication and purpose. If possible, get more than one scarf to accent colors and styles.

Don’ts

Socks
Never wear two pairs of socks at once. You may think it’s a good idea until you sit down at the beginning of class and realize that everyone is sitting across the room because your feet stink.

Earmuffs
Earmuffs are cute on little kids and babies, but not necessarily college students. Unless you are really confident in your earmuff-wearing ability, I don’t recommend it.



TIM
INTHIRAKOTH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Neglect Hygiene
With a short supply of flu shots and too-close-for-comfort living conditions, never leave your room without a stash of tissues. Not only are you going to be annoying your classmates with constant sniffing during class, but runny noses are a bit unbecoming.

Shorts
Guys, even if you pull them down really low, it doesn’t make them pants. If it’s snowing, temperatures are below freezing and you’ve got more snow on your leg than there is on the ground, it’s time to retire the summer shorts.

Sandals
Shower sandals should stay in the shower. Snow and sandals don’t mix. There’s no traction, warmth or benefit to wearing sandals during the winter months other than saving a few seconds of dressing when heading out the door.

When shopping for your winter wardrobe, make sure to take your time, find the right fit and select items that suit your style. Despite what fashion experts may say is in, you are the only one who can determine what fits your style and personality best. Just be sure not to wear anything hazardous to your health. Be comfortable and confident and remember to stay warm! ◊

The key to passing finals: Sleep and study

Can the amount of sleep you get each night affect your grades?
According to AU health center medical personnel and psychology professor Lou Lichtman, it can and does.

“If you have studied, your ability to recall what you’ve studied will be better if you get a full night sleep,” said Lichtman.

How many hours of sleep do you need in order to maintain an optimal amount of memory? For the typical college student, it is about nine hours and 15 minutes, said Lichtman.

Most Americans get much less. The majority of Americans get, on average, less than seven hours of sleep each night; college students get an average of 6.1 hours of sleep each night, according to Lichtman.

“Experts in the field feel that as a society, we don’t have a sleep debt,” said Lichtman.

The most important part of the sleep cycle for memory is the Rapid Eye Movement (R.E.M.) stage, which people miss when they undersleep. There are five stages in the cycle. Stages one and two are the light sleep stages, stages three and four are the deep sleep stages and the R.E.M stage is the dream phase of sleep.

Loss of R.E.M sleep can impair memory. Experts say that our memories are stored and consolidated during R.E.M sleep and that extraneous things are discarded as a form of maintenance. Seventy percent of R.E.M sleep takes place in the second half of the night. When we lose sleep, we lose this portion of our sleep cycle, which impairs memory storage and consolidation.

The damage seems to be done to the most recently acquired information. Research shows that memory impairment affects newly acquired memories with little to no effect on older memories.

Too little sleep can also affect our cognitive ability the next day.

Our ability to do “vigilance tasks,” which relate to paying attention to things such as driving and equipment use can be severely impaired by fatigue, said Lichtman.

Research has shown that being awake for eighteen hours is comparable to having a blood alcohol content of .05 percent and that after twenty-four hours around .10 percent. The legal limit for driving is .08 percent in most states.

The Crandall Health Center sees an increase in fatigue related injuries around finals, such as lacerations and burns in the art studios and kitchens.

Sleep also plays a role in physical health. Research shows that

as little as four hours of sleep on a single night can temporarily impair the functioning of the immune system of an average person, according to Lichtman.

Symptoms of illnesses can be seen in people who have had too little sleep. The Crandall Health Center has a hard time diagnosing problems such as upper respiratory infection because some symptoms relate to sleep deprivation.

Inadequate sleep will also delay recovery from many similar ailments.

With finals on the horizon, here are some tips to stay healthy from Dr. Lichtman and the staff at the health center:

Don’t think that staying up all night studying is all there is to learning; get R.E.M.s to help retain what you studied.

However, don’t use this info to justify going to sleep instead of studying because you procrastinated until two in the morning.

Sleep is very important, but obviously studying is the first step to passing a final. If you don’t study, don’t bother worrying about how much sleep you get; you are probably better off studying a little longer to pass a final than getting nine hours and 15 minutes of sleep.

Try to follow your “circadian rhythm.” Everyone’s is different, but essentially when you feel tired, go to sleep and when you wake up, get up, don’t use an alarm clock. Obviously this is very difficult for college students, because our beds are far more warm and comfortable than classrooms and the cold, windy, horrible outdoors.

If you find yourself falling asleep when you don’t want to, or immediately upon hitting the sack, then you have a sleep debt. If you find yourself making up for sleep on the weekend, you have a sleep debt.

In a perfect world you get enough sleep every night and that same amount every night. Consult the health center if you feel you have a serious problem.

More tips can be found in a booklet available at the health center. Here are a few: Sleep in a cool, dark, and quiet place. Sleep only at night.

Limit caffeine and sugar intake before bed.

Try to avoid drinking a lot of anything so you don’t have to pee.

Avoid heavy meals near bedtime. Exercise for at least twenty minutes three or four times a week. Do something “pleasurable” for thirty to sixty minutes before going to sleep.

Avoid alcohol before bedtime; it interferes with REM sleep. ◊



GREGORY BOGLE
STAFF WRITER

Make-up tips for the holiday season ... and for the whole year

JESSICA ECOCK
STAFF WRITER

Come on Baby, Light My Fire

Fire is often viewed as a dangerous element, but when it comes to makeup, a little heat is a good thing.

An eyelash curler is a necessity in any makeup kit. Curling will instantly open your eyes and make your eyelashes appear longer.

Quickly run a lighter along a metal eyelash curler. Then open eyes wide, place curler to the top lash line and squeeze. The heat acts as a booster to the mechanical tool, curling lashes easily just like a heated curling iron for hair.

Another good use for a lighter, or a match for the more skilled makeup artist, is to heat eyeliner. Take regular kohl eyeliner and place it above the flame for only two seconds. Two seconds will soften the tip, any longer will melt it.

Pull the outer corner of your eye taut and run the eyeliner close to the top lash line. Don’t worry if you are shaky. You can easily erase mistakes by wetting a cotton swab and gently rubbing away any unsmooth line.

Heating the liner gives it a wet look without the worry of using liquid eyeliner. If you are nervous about playing with fire, heat up the eyeliner by rubbing it in the palm of your hand.

Beauty Fact #1: Most kohl eyeliners have slight traces of arsenic in them. Cosmetic companies say we won’t be hurt by this, but is beauty worth the risk?

Shadow Boxing has Never Looked so Good

Any woman could conquer the world with the right eye makeup.

An easy way to look glamorous, or more awake, whichever your goal is, is to shadow your eye makeup.

Take two eye shadows in different shades of the same color and apply the light one from lash line to the crease of your eye. If the shade is light enough, like beige, color all the way to your eyebrow.

Take the deeper shade and apply to the crease and slightly higher. Blend for a look that adds depth to your eye. Then add a highlighter, which is either a white or light beige eye shadow or pencil under your brow bone. This catches the light and enhances your brow bones. Brows frame the face so keep them groomed, especially before applying highlighter.

Cheek bones aren’t the only bones that can change the look of your face, so next time, remember to highlight your brows!

Want to look sexy? Who doesn’t? Take black eyeliner and apply within the inner rim of your eye. Some say it will make your eye look slightly smaller, but it will look instantly sexier. This method brings out the color in your irises. Feeling funky? Replace the black with a navy blue liner. Feeling frisky? Replace blue with an olive green or a dark metallic silver.

Beauty Fact #2: Blue liner makes the whites of your eyes look whiter. They also compliment every eye color, but a navy liner paired with a brown eye is a beautiful thing.



PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

Used correctly, make-up can enhance your holiday look. There are a number of helpful tricks you can apply to make-up application.

Don’t Give Me No Lip, I Got Enough of My Own

How to get the full lips you want without collagen.

Want fuller lips? Line the very edge of your lips with a pencil that matches your natural lip color. Don’t go overboard and line the skin. Ever see actress Debra Messings’ drawn-on lips in photos? If you can see it in pictures, the person standing next to you will be sure to see your fake lips, so keep it subtle.

Fill in lips with the color of your choice, just remember lighter shades and glossier shades will attract light and make your mouth appear larger. Darker shades and matte lipsticks down-play large lips.

Blot after applying, and add dabs of gloss in the center of the lips. Your mouth will appear voluptuous and scrumptious. Make sure you have a reason to use these mistresses of power.

Beauty Fact #3: Makeup remover is only baby oil and water, so make your own and spend that money on a good friend... or more makeup.

Been Around the Block A Few Times

Can’t find the makeup you need? Where to look and how to get help.

Some girls may feel they cannot find the right shade of foundation anywhere. The first step is to make sure you are shopping where many people with the same skin tone are shopping. Cosmetics companies, like any other company, sell their products demographically. Just as Lord & Taylor and Bergdorf Goodman’s gives you the glorious gold plated makeup case and Macy’s gives you a handshake

and a cloth case that fits one lipstick, everything is based on money and race. So shop where you are the majority, it will only be easier for you to find the products you need.

If that doesn’t help, go to a makeup counter. Many companies have a wide variety of shades ranging from very pale to very dark. Companies are starting to explore creating your shade specifically for you.

Want cheaper makeup? Revlon now boasts they have over 150 shades of foundation. Also try a store where you can play with the makeup so you can experiment before you buy the product, such as Sephora; the FAO Schwartz of makeup.

If you do find a shade you think is right for your foundation, test it out on your wrist. The color should match. Sound weird? Your wrist is they same shade as your face before any sun changes the color. Therefore this is only a starting point. Test on your jaw line for a make-up match during the warmer or tanning bed seasons.

To find the right shade of blush pinch your cheeks a few times and match the color. Your blush should make you look slightly flushed which is what the pinches recreate.

Beauty Fact #4: Makeup can make you happier! Appreciate your own beauty and how makeup can enhance it. Don’t be afraid to experiment and wear that sexy red lipstick if it makes you feel better about yourself, even if it’s only around the house. ◊

Breakfast far too often overlooked

Rise and shine. It’s breakfast time.

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Many people skip over the meal for numerous, reasons though. Whether or not they realize it, they are harming their bodies more than they are helping.

Your body, as well as your brain, runs on glucose, a simple carbohydrate providing you with energy needed throughout the day.

The brain needs a constant supply of glucose in order to function. If your body does not receive adequate amounts of this essential nutrient, it begins to break down stored carbohydrates, working harder than your body should.

This makes concentrating in class more difficult because you are focusing on your hunger instead of your studies.

Say the last time you ate was 10 p.m. the night before. If you wait until lunchtime to eat your next meal, you have gone at least 13 hours without any form of energy nutrients. Your brain does not produce its own glucose, so it relies upon blood glucose. If your blood glucose is low, which it will be in the morning, your brain can not function properly.

Breakfast seems to be an imperative ingredient in a healthy lifestyle. So why are so many people skipping over the most essential meal of the day?

Many argue that they are just too busy to eat a meal. When random students on campus were asked why they miss out on this important meal, a wide variety of responses were produced.

Replies such as having early practice, staying up late studying, valuing sleep more than a healthy diet, sleeping through the alarm clock, being too lazy to wake up ten minutes earlier to prepare such a meal – all seemed to be common remarks among the students.

These students would rather deprive themselves of food for their brains than tap into their sleeping habits or extracurricular activities.

Perhaps there is a misunderstanding as far as what breakfast can consist of. Some people are under the impression that breakfast implies a well-prepared entrée. Three eggs over easy, hash browns, side of bacon, sausage and ham with two pieces of extremely buttered toast as well as a coffee and biscuit.

Breakfast can be much simpler. A low-fat cereal bar, fresh fruit, yogurt or dry cereal can all provide your brain with an adequate amount of glucose. These meals are quick, easy and require little to no preparation.

A suggestion to all you breakfast skippers out there: try eating breakfast for a week and tally the differences in your daily activity. See if you notice any improvements in your classwork, athletic performance or work ethic. Guaranteed some, if not all of your routine daily activities will become easier because of a change in eating habits.

If that’s not the case, at least your crush sitting next to you in poetry class will not be distracted by the loud rumbling in your tummy. Think about it. ◊



MICHELLE CLARK
STAFF WRITER

Footwear guidelines for staying safe in winter

BY JULIE THARRETT
STAFF WRITER

The hills of Alfred University can be hazardous due to the accumulation of winter ice and snow.

AU Grounds Supervisor Richard Walker advises students to be prepared for the season by watching where they walk and wearing boots with good treads.

"These are the boots I wear," Walker said, as he lifted a tan work boot with deep treads onto his desk.

Alfred University has over 2000 stairs on campus, and only eight staff who attend to snow removal, according to Walker.

Although Physical Plant staff works hard to ensure the safety of the AU community, people still need to be cautious of dangerous areas.

Winter lasts the majority of the academic year at AU, and yet so many students fail to wear supportive, tread-bearing boots for trekking on the campus paths, said Walker. Wearing the proper footwear for inclement weather cannot only help students avoid injuries, but cold feet.

Although sturdy, tread-bearing boots are important, there are other precautions that students can take, such as watching where they step in order to avoid ice and packed down snow that can be slippery, said Walker.

Black ice may be hard to spot because it is trans-



PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

Wear supportive, tread-bearing boots for trekking on campus. Flat soled shoes, third from the left, are the most effective footwear for Alfred's harsh winters.

parent. However, it can often be seen when close attention is paid because it tends to glisten. Also, students can plan ahead to avoid injury by leaving for class earlier to allow for extra time to get there, he said.

According to Student Senate President Ian Phillips, the most dangerous places on campus are located anywhere there are significant inclines or

declines, such as the green monster, the long stairway by the football field.

"Flat ground is the only safe place really," Phillips said with a smile.

Phillips added that AU is not alone. Complaints about dangerous campus paths surface every year at many universities in the northern U.S.

"Freshman year I fell on at least 10 occasions, but

since then I have gotten used to it ... I've taken to wearing other things besides Birkenstocks," said Natalie Westerman, a junior electrical engineering major.

The grated stairs found throughout campus can be especially hazardous because they allow snow to become packed in-between the spikes, which creates slippery stairs, said Westerman.

"Many people refer to the grated stairs as 'death traps,'" she said.

Jeff Norton, a resident assistant in Bartlett Hall, says that everyone falls approximately two times per winter due to the lack of proper footwear.

"Some people aren't thinking and don't want to put on boots," Norton said.

If people simply invested in a pair of supportive shoes with good tread, they would be much better off, he said.

Warm clothes are important during the winter, but effective boots may be even more useful for AU students. Although boots are helpful, students should still be aware of slippery sidewalks and ice.

If students are aware of their surroundings, avoid dangerous pathways and wear effective footwear, the winter months will be much safer and more enjoyable, Walker said.

If there are places that need to be plowed or salted, students should e-mail a work order to Physical Plant at workorder@alfred.edu, said Walker. ○

Double Dutch competition challenges students

BY JESSICA ECOCK
STAFF WRITER

"Double the rope, double the fun," said Isiah Burnett, junior.

Friday, Nov. 19 turned over Shades' second annual Double Dutch Competition.

"We do this as a fun event to bring people out to learn about Shades in an informal setting," said Sherill Anderson, junior and vice president of Shades. "Hopefully this will bring people to our meetings, and if not, we're happy to see people come out just for this event."

Close to 30 people came from both AU and Alfred State College, eager for either a trophy or a chance to learn how to jump Double Dutch style.

The group was allowed an hour to learn and train. Even spectators, intending only to watch, were encouraged to test their coordination.

"I used to do it at home in New York City, and that's why I came out today," said Annie Chih, sophomore and winner of the "Best Beginner" contest.

The "Best Beginner" contest started when close to ten brave jumpers, one by one, waited for the right moment when the two ropes opened up and they could leap in.

Every person had three chances to stay untangled in the rope, and the person with the highest amount of steps was declared winner. Whether they finished one step or ten, there was applause and cheers from all.

The next contest was the "Advanced Jumper" category. There were fewer contenders in this category. Jumpers of this caliber needed to be physically fit and experienced.

"I love jumping, but I forgot how tiring it is. My legs are hurting," said Nina Belfield, junior, a contestant in the competition.

Many competitors had done Double Dutch since they were children, and the flow swiftly came back.

"Jumping keeps you fit and it brings out the little girl in you," said junior Dejoron Campbell.

Campbell triumphed as the most advanced jumper, showing the little girl inside of her still remembered all of her jumping skills.

Jumping rope is used as an exercise technique and with good reason; it takes energy, a strong

will and coordination to jump successfully. Now imagine how difficult it is to get inside of two ropes revolving at the same time.

The competitors for the "Longest Jump" contest had to force themselves to physically jump for as long as they could and also force themselves mentally to not give up when their legs yelled at them to stop.

This being the third event of the night after an hour of practice, the jumpers were even more challenged to stay in the ropes. The competitors all struggled while sweat shone on their faces, determination set in their brows, all fighting the urge to quit.

When their second chance came up, only a few brave souls even attempted another round. The victor was Stephanie Thompson, a sophomore who jumped for over a minute and a half.

And you thought "Strawberry Shortcake" and "Fudge, Fudge" were hard. Those elementary jumping rhymes you had to bounce in a circle for are nothing compared to tricks such as "Scissors," "Typewriter," "Pop up," "Around the World," "Sleeping Beauty" and "Criss Cross." And did I mention there are two ropes?

In the fourth and final challenge, the jumper had to be ready in the ropes while a mediator shouted out the names of tricks. The jumper had to promptly perform it, jumping at normal speed until the next trick was called.

To accomplish these tricks, such as "Scissors," which entails jumping up with one leg out then crossing your legs, one has to be talented and athletic. The most talented jumper of the contest was also Thompson, the winner of "Longest Jumper."

"It's kind of difficult, but once you get it, you just learn how to jump with the rope," said Thompson. "It's not only the jumpers. You need really good turners to aid you; you're not by yourself. You have to listen to each other. Like with everything, else you need to focus and concentrate."

One rope may be fun, but two can be even better. Just ask any enthusiastic Double Dutch competitor or spectator.

"It's fun and it takes a lot of work. You have to like to do it; you have to love to do it," Thompson said. ○



PHOTO BY GAIL RAMSUNDAR

Annie Chih, left, won the 'Best Beginner' category at Shades's Double Dutch Competition on Nov. 19. Dejoron Campbell, right, was the victor in the 'Advanced Jumper' category. Stephanie Thompson, middle, won for the 'Longest Jumper' category. Shades sponsored the event to bring people out to learn more about their organization in an informal setting.

Hip Hop Troupe



PHOTO BY MELANIE BRAUN

Members of the Hip Hop Troupe perform as part of Middle Eastern Dance Organization's *Desert Rose*. Proceeds from the evening benefited Planned Parenthood of the Southern Tier.

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Horoscope for the Week of

Dec. 6 – Dec. 12

Courtesy of www.astrology.com

Sagittarius

(Nov. 22 – Dec. 21)

Toward the middle of the week, you're going to realize that you have a lot going on in your subconscious. Pay attention to that. On Saturday or Sunday, share your dreams with your friends. Sometimes they're remarkably good at interpretation.

Capricorn

(Dec. 22 – Jan. 19)

Tuesday and Wednesday are going to be all about work. (A word to the wise: don't ask for a raise this week.) Thursday and Friday will be all about your friends. Keep in mind that your friends can help you in your current situation.

Aquarius

(Jan. 20 – Feb. 18)

On Wednesday, you're going to connect with someone you thought you had nothing in common with, and that's going to make you feel confident as well. Clearly, you are coming into your own. The weekend will be defined by a feeling of accomplishment and expansiveness.

Pisces

(Feb. 19 – March 20)

You are the friend that people call when they need something, especially on Wednesday. It's nice to feel useful and all, but there's a chance that later in the week you're going to start to feel a little, well, walked all over. You are a friend, not a doormat. Keep that in mind over the weekend.

Aries

(March 21 – Apr. 19)

The next couple days will see you focused almost exclusively on getting things done. By Friday, all work and no play makes a person a bit dull-headed, but there will be plenty of time for having fun this weekend. On Saturday, you're going to meet someone from some exciting, far-off place, and Sunday will be full of adventure.

Taurus

(Apr. 20 – May 20)

The excitement of that little dose of romance is going to carry you into the middle of the week, and it will make the routine of your life seem a little less, well, routine. On Sunday, if you get the feeling that something is too good to be true, it is.

Gemini

(May 21 – June 21)

By Wednesday, you'll be having so much fun with a good friend — or a possible love interest — that you'll forget all else. You are going to be happiest this week when you're doing things for this special person in your life, and soon you'll find that they're bending over backwards to do favors for you, too.

Cancer

(June 22 – July 22)

Toward midweek, a minor crisis at home is going to distract you for a day or two, but it won't be anything you can't fix. Where things get weird is on Thursday or Friday, when a big decision is going to leave you completely at a loss. Take the whole weekend if you can.

Leo

(July 23 – Aug. 22)

On Wednesday, an evening out with friends is going to take a slightly romantic turn. On Friday, a conversation with a close pal is going to have you seeing something in a whole new way. And on Sunday, there's a chance someone's going to fall for you at first sight.

Virgo

(Aug. 23 – Sept. 22)

You are amazed at how much you're getting done these days. A couple weeks ago you had a to-do list several miles long. Now you've crossed almost everything off of it. You should be happy for yourself, of course, but don't go hog-wild with the celebrating. Tuesday or Wednesday you're going to have the urge to do some impulse shopping, but that's not going to be the wisest move.

Libra

(Sept. 23 – Oct. 22)

Basically, you're a natural leader. You know what else you are? A love magnet. At least, that's what you are this week. Tuesday and Wednesday should be especially exciting and full of flirtation — with people you know and perfect strangers alike — and, even though Thursday is going to return you to more material concerns, the weekend is going to be all about expressing yourself and exploring new terrain (emotional and otherwise).

Scorpio

(Oct. 23 – Nov. 21)

You'll emerge from your cave of quiet thoughts on Thursday. Later in the week, you'll be somewhere — at work, at a party — saying something when you'll realize that everyone in the room is hanging on your every word. You are the de facto leader in any situation.

BY JOHN TOMMASINO
STAFF WRITER

To say that Oliver Stone's *Alexander* is bad is to understate the obvious.

Stone's quasi-historical biography of the ancient world's greatest leader is not just bad — it's atrociously awful.

To call the pretentious, melodramatic and inane *Alexander* merely bad is giving cinematic turkeys like *Battlefield Earth* and *Plan Nine from Outer Space* a bad name.

I've been intrigued (some would say obsessed) with *Alexander of Macedon*

since 1993. I have a collection of over fifty books chronicling the life of the conqueror. I've played war games based on *Alexander's* battles. I have a tattoo of *Alexander* on my left shoulder. I even run an Internet site devoted to the Macedonian King. Needless to say, I've been anticipating this new film for a long time. This film isn't just an insult to intelligence — I felt like my intelligence and knowledge of *Alexander* were being raped.

Stone rewrites history unabashedly. Philip of Macedon (Val Kilmer) gives his son *Alexander* (Colin Farrell) a lecture on

kinship relating tales of mythical heroes like *Oedipus*, *Achilles* and *Jason*. But the script is so simplistic and juvenile that it reads like an excerpt from *Greek Mythology for Dummies* or *The Idiot's Guide to Classical Literature*.

Farrell portrays *Alexander* as a weak, doe-eyed pretty boy whose only wish is to satisfy his domineering mother *Olympias* (Angelina Jolie). I wondered, was this some conspiracy theory by Stone like "Behind every dictator is a smothering mom?" Maybe this is a thinly veiled swipe by Stone at *Barbara Bush*?

Jolie's performance comes across as sophomoric at best. I'm talking high school drama club sophomores.

Her phony Balkan accent is flat-out laughable, as are the confusing Scottish accents adopted by Farrell and his army. This is supposed to be a film about Macedonians, Persians and Greeks. But since Stone threw out the history book before the cameras started rolling, who's keeping score?

Cameos by veteran British thespians Christopher Plummer and Anthony Hopkins do nothing to advance the plot. It just seems like any time a Hollywood director wants something to be taken seriously in a film, he hires a British actor to deliver the lines.

There's nothing convincing in this film. The costumes look like

costumes, the sets look like sets. That lighthouse and harbor in *Alexandria* — CGI! Every head of hair is perfected, shampooed and coiffed. This is supposed to be 333 B.C.E.!

The most convincing part of this film is the recreation of the battle of Gaugamela, which occurred in the modern day nation of Iraq. But Stone overuses computer-generated effects so much that one cannot truly suspend disbelief for a moment! You can tell that the thousands of soldiers lined up in formation were merely duplicated by somebody sitting in front of a console. There's no real tension in this battle. It's all style but no substance.

Stone also butchers history as he sets up the battle. *Alexander's* generals are arguing that his strategy won't work. But historically, *Alexander* and King *Darius* of Persia fought two years before Gaugamela at a place called Issus. The Macedonians used relatively the same strategy then: take out *Darius* — the ancient version of "Shock and Awe." But since Stone cut Issus from the script, he needed to make the battle more dramatic somehow.

Even if you're not familiar with *Alexander's* story, you'll be lulled to sleep at the snail's pace of this movie. I got my money back. But don't waste your time when you could be reading a good book about *Alexander* and actually learn something. I recommend Mary Renault's *Fire From Heaven*. ◊



Photo Provided

From sentimental classics to off-the-wall favorites, there's a Christmas movie for everyone's tastes

BY SHADRA BRUCE
STAFF WRITER

There are only 18 more days until Christmas, but that is still plenty of time to fit in watching all of your favorite holiday shows!

In addition to being a full-time student at Alfred, I am also a mother of five kids. Christmas takes on new meaning when trying to please a crowd consisting of a two-year-old, a four-year-old, two 14-year-olds, and an almost-18-year-old.

Christmas is our favorite holiday, and one of our favorite traditions is watching all of our favorite Christmas shows, from the newest releases to the best of the classics.

Every December, a barrage of movies hit the theaters, including new Christmas movies hoping to become yearly favorites. The 2004 releases include *Surviving Christmas*, starring Ben Affleck, Christmas with the Kranks, starring Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis, and *Polar Express*, featuring the likeness of Tom Hanks.

Polar Express is a fun movie with great visuals—almost like being in a video game instead of a movie. Based on the book by Chris Van Allsburg, this movie is about a boy who wonders whether or not to still believe in Santa Claus. As he is lying in bed wondering, the *Polar Express* zooms in and speeds him off to the North Pole.

It is a magical story about choosing to believe, about whether or not growing up has to mean growing out of your

beliefs.

The technology used in the film makes the animation more believable, but not necessarily better. In fact, it has a kind of Tim Burton quality to it; the characters seem surreal. While it will be a fun one to watch, it certainly won't be one our family adds to its annual holiday must-watch list.

In fact, I would suggest that if you are planning to hit the theater over break, skip the Christmas movies altogether and put your hard-earned money on *Finding Neverland* (Johnny Depp is never a miss) and of course, *The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie*.

It is not the new movies that make the Christmas season, anyway. Each year, our family digs out the box of Christmas videos (some of which are finally being replaced by DVD) and watches them while we bake cookies, decorate trees or just sit and enjoy.

Miracle on 34th Street (the 1947 version) does a much better job than *Polar Express* of reminding us we're never too old to believe. Although there are many versions of *A Christmas Carol*, the 1951 version starring Alistair Sim — not colorized — is the best.

And it just would not be Christmas without seeing James Stewart in *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946).

Although I don't make the kids suffer through them, I also watch *Holiday Inn* and *White Christmas*, my two favorite Bing Crosby movies, at least once every Christmas. There is nothing like Bing Crosby singing "White

Christmas."

The animated classics are the best treat. For our family, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* is the favorite, but we've worn out videos of *Frosty the Snowman*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, and *Yes, Virginia, There Is A Santa Claus*, too.

You are never too old to enjoy these shows, whether you catch them on TV or own the video. There's just something about them that transports you into the world of Christmas.

Of course, no Christmas would be complete without some good holiday comedy. Topping my list are *Home Alone*, *Jingle All the Way* and *Scrooged* (starring Bill Murray). If you haven't seen *Scrooged*, it's a great, up-to-date version of Dickens' *A Christmas*

Carol.

Perhaps my favorite Christmas movies are the ones that are not actually considered Christmas movies. They are the ones my husband and I watch with the older kids when the younger ones have gone to bed, and have become favorite later-night enjoyment during the holiday season.

My off-the-wall Christmas favorites are *Die Hard* (the trilogy starring Bruce Willis) and *Lethal Weapon* (1-4, starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover). They even have Christmas music in them!

So while you're busy trying to be nice, not naughty, and stay on Santa's good list, pop some popcorn, grab some of your favorite holiday movies and let yourself get lost in the spirit. ◊



Photo Provided

Peachtree Road infused with Southern flair

Elton John and lyricist Bernie Taupin go for more soulful style

BY ABBY TRIPP
MANAGING EDITOR

Sir Elton John has gone country.

At least, that's the impression a listener would get upon first hearing his latest album, titled *Peachtree Road*.

Elton has several houses throughout the world; in the last decade, most of his time has been spent at his Atlanta, Ga., estate. This southern influence comes through loud and clear in *Peachtree Road*.

As usual, the entire album contains songs penned by the ever-prolific team of Sir Elton and lyricist Bernie Taupin.

This time around, however, they opted for a mellow and soulful sound evocative of multiple influences — southern rock, country and gospel, just to name a few.

"Turn The Lights Out When You Leave" is the song on the album that immediately calls Nashville musicians to mind with a slow and swingy rhythm and the slightest twang. The lyrics here are straight-up country: "You can take the car/But you won't break my heart." They beg one question, though. Is Elton John in fact gently mocking the country genre?

Taupin penned "Weight of the World," the opening song on the

album, with Elton John's life story in mind. The "weight" here came, of course, in the form of the singer's once-wild ways, which he's since let go of in favor of a cleaner lifestyle.

And a mellow-er lifestyle, if "Porch Swing In Tupelo" is any indication. This love song to the Deep South has a gospel-inspired backup track and lyrics evocative of warm breezes and lazy small-town afternoons.

A few of the songs on *Peachtree Road* seem representative of slight hangovers from the late '90s, when Elton was working in earnest on *Aida*, a Disney-produced Broadway musical based on the Verdi opera of the same title. Case in point: the final song on the CD, titled, "I Can't Keep This From You."

Again, the song makes use of gospel choir backup vocals. Further, a Hammond organ is thrown into the mix. The song misses the boat, however, if it's attempting religious inspiration — the organ sounds more like a synth line in a modern musical. Add to this the composition itself,

and it seems clear that a theatrical vibe is at work. While Elton John himself performs this song beautifully, it would be just as legitimate coming from the lips of Adam Pascal.

Overall, the album is very strong.

At long last, Elton John lets go of fevered and frenzied piano playing in favor of simpler, more soulful tunes.

Part of the change in his music can be attributed to a surgical procedure performed in the late 1980s to remove two benign growths from his vocal cords. The side effect was a deepening of his voice. This new sound allows him to perform gospel- and country-inspired pieces that would have likely eluded him thirty years ago.

With a Vegas stage show in the works, Elton John won't be "retiring" anytime soon. Nonetheless, at 57, he has at last settled into a mature and relaxed sound. *Peachtree Road* attests to this and offers up the perfect soundtrack for an afternoon spent on the wraparound porch, mint julep in hand. ◊



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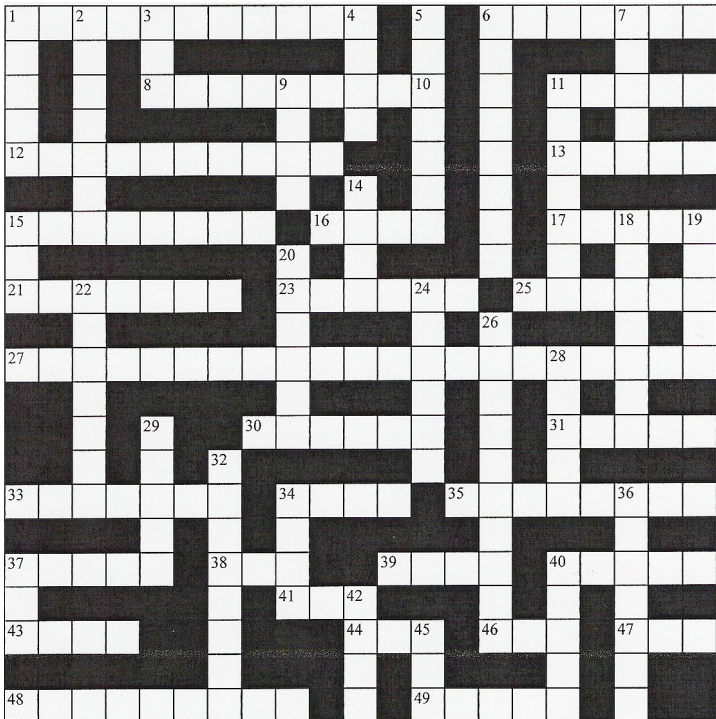
BY JEN UNISLAWSKI
A&E EDITOR

Across

1. Kwanzaa is a celebration of the first harvest, or these (2 wds.)
6. According to height standards, Santa's elves could be considered little people, or these
8. Incan god of the Sun that is honored at a winter solstice festival called Inti Raymi
11. Buddhists celebrate this day around December 8
12. In Hebrew, the word Hanukkah means this
13. African value of unity
15. According to the code of Jewish Law, these can be a maximum of 20 cubits high
16. It's very warming in cold weather
17. Makes tasty treats
21. See 11 across
23. Potato pancakes; popular Jewish dish
25. Holiday verb
27. In Israel, the letters inscribed on each side of a dreidel mean "____ here." (4 wds.)
30. From the Latin word for "coming;" a period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ
31. Goes ahead of others
33. The highest candle that is used to light the other candles on the menorah
34. Ancient menorahs were made of this
35. Unbalanced, as in an argument
37. One of the colors of Kwanzaa
38. The miracle of Hanukkah is that this burned for eight days instead of one
39. Some Christians have a type of this as their main course on a holiday
40. Wranglers and Cherokees, for example.
41. Past tense of lie
43. "Pere ____" French for Kris Kringle
44. Our country of residence
46. To feel ill or have pain
47. Internet connection
48. The Hanukkah menorah is called this in Israel
49. Fortuitous

Down

1. Water overflow
2. Month long Islamic celebration
3. To pull behind
4. Foot garment
5. An African celebration, created in 1966
6. Between 1997 and 1999, the first day of Ramadan occurred in this month
7. As opposed to a DVD
14. Something, such as odors, carried through the air
15. Spanish for sea
18. Professor of Black studies at California State University who created Kwanzaa
19. Quick
22. Spanish for beautiful
24. A gathering or activity
26. Began as a feast day for Saturn in December in Ancient Rome
28. Christmas legend says that Santa lives at one of these
29. It's hard to get out
32. The study of religion
34. A narrow, confining room
36. Four-sided spinning top
37. Partners with tonic
40. "It shakes when he laughs like a bowl full of ____"
42. Wiccans recognize eight seasonal days of celebration, including this one during the winter solstice
45. "Merry Christmas to _____ and to _____ a good night"



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TOW, 4. SOCK, 5. KANZAZA, 6. DECEMBER, 7. VIDEO, 14.
48. HANUKIAH, 49. LUCKY **Down** 1. FLOOD, 2. RAMADAN, 3.
FOWL, 40. JEEP, 41. LAV, 43. NOEL, 44. USA, 46. ALI, 47. DIS-
SHAMASH, 34. CLAY, 35. ONE-SIDED, 37. GREEN, 38. OIL, 39.
A GREAT MIRACLE HAPPENED, 30. ADVENT, 31. LEADS, 33.
JAWA, 17. BAKER, 21. ROHATSIU, 23. LAIKES, 25. UNWAP, 27.
BOHDI, 12. DEPLICATION, 13. UMOLA, 15. MENORAH, 16.
Cross 1. FIRST FRUIT, 6. DAKARE, 8. WIKACORAH, 11.

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By Beth Stone

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Annual basketball game benefits AIDS Rochester

BY BETH STONE
COPY EDITOR

During the first minute of the Ninth Annual AIDS Charity Basketball Game held in Alfred State College's Orvis Gymnasium on Nov. 13, the home team got the tip-off and started a scoring spree that would continue throughout the game.

The AIDS Charity Basketball Game is an annual event that started nine years ago. Each year the event raises money for AIDS Rochester, Inc. AIDS Rochester, Inc., uses the money to provide prevention awareness to high-risk populations, free condoms and treatment for infected individuals.

The event runs very smoothly each year and may seem effortless. But a large amount of effort goes into it, and before any of the players can even touch a basketball, a lot has to be accomplished to make this charity event a success.

Planning for the event starts two months in advance of the game. Alfred University's UMOJA and ASC's Black Student Union (BSU) co-sponsor the event each year. Jessica Ecock, a senior and secretary of the UMOJA executive board, explained that the event involves a lot of planning and requires that the two clubs meet once a week outside of their regular group meetings.

"From the beginning of the year, we know that this is our biggest event, so we plan early," Ecock said.

The first order of business was to get donations for the AIDS Charity Raffle. Early in the semester, UMOJA and the BSU went to local merchants to secure donations.

This year the donations, over 20 in all, came from Main Street merchants and businesses in Hornell and Alfred Station. The donations included items as varied as gift certificates, gift baskets and champagne. All of the proceeds from the raffle also go to AIDS Rochester.

The groups also needed to come up with a T-shirt design for the student basketball players to wear in the game. This year the t-shirts, which were made by the Kampus Kave, featured each college's colors, the name and number of each player and a red ribbon on the front.

The groups also worked on putting together the halftime show, publicity for the event and the after-party, which was free of charge to any-

one who attended the game. This year, the two groups even provided shuttles from AU to ASC to try to get more people to come out and support their cause.

Funding for the event came from both organizations' budgets. However, this year there was not enough money to cover all the expenses. Instead of letting a lack of funds ruin the event, members of the executive boards decided to give money out of their pockets. Devin White, the president of UMOJA, said that it was important to make sure the charity game took place and didn't mind providing some of the money for the event.

While the clubs attended to the details, the student coaches recruited players to represent their respective colleges on the court.

To be eligible to play in the charity game, players could not be on either of the schools' basketball teams and had to prove themselves at tryouts.

Alfred University held tryouts for two weeks, with practice every other day, cutting people as they went. ASC took a different approach, holding only one day of tryouts. If a player made the cut, they continued with three months of practice to prepare to take on Alfred University. Steve Manuel, ASC's student coach, explained the demanding practice schedule.

"We come into this game wanting to win every year, so we aren't going to slack off," Manuel said.

About 15 students from each college made the cut and went on to play in the big game. This year, ASC played a more aggressive game, sending AU to the line to take back some much-needed points. At half time, ASC was up more than 10 points.

During halftime, the Alfred Steppas came out onto the court to perform. They were dressed for the occasion, wearing basketball-inspired



GRAPHIC BY MELANIE BRAUN

uniforms with matching sneakers and hats. They even had their nicknames on their jerseys. After their performance, the raffle and the slam-dunk contest were held, and donated prizes were given to the winners.

Although AU entered the second half of the game down 10 points, Quentin Bryant, AU's student coach, seemed confident of his team's ability to pull through and take the lead.

"I've got a couple tricks up my sleeve. Right now we are just playing weak but we can pull it off," Bryant said.

Despite AU's best efforts to overcome, Alfred State eventually won, with a 64-55 final score, continuing a three-year winning streak. This year's game raised over \$2,000 for AIDS Rochester, Inc. ○

Women's hoops optimistic after quick start

BY ALEX RASKIN
SPORTS EDITOR

By the next time the Alfred University women's basketball team plays a home game, there is a chance they will have surpassed last year's win total of five games.

While eclipsing last year's win total does not sound overly impressive, the Saxons are a much a different team than a year ago.

Coach Michele Finn has many reasons to be confident this year, one major reason being the return of several key starters.

"Our returning starters – Michelle Kelly, who has been a huge standout for us, as well as Meg Coddington – have stepped up their play and their leadership," explained Coach Finn. "They're very positive and very focused."

Kelly is already averaging over a point a game more than she did last season when she was a junior. She also dropped in 19 points while handing Hilbert its first loss of the season. That Nov. 23 game showcased Alfred's low-post

prowess as Coddington, junior center Kylene Knoll, junior forward Stacey Bradley and senior forward Colleen Lyons combine for 20 points and 29 rebounds with the junior, Coddington, grabbing 11 of those boards.

The *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* might have been mistaken when they claimed that "the frontcourt isn't overly deep," on Nov. 17.

Not too many schools can boast five players above 5-foot-10 like Alfred can.

What makes the frontcourt especially dangerous is Coddington's 51.2 percent that she shoots from the field as well as Knoll's 88 percent free throw mark.

What the *Democrat and Chronicle* did manage to appreciate in their women's basketball preview was the Saxons' backcourt.

"[Their] strength is in the backcourt with four letter winners and two starters returning." Aside from Kelly, who teams with Coddington and junior guard Patricia Affeldt as Alfred's captains, there is Megan Sampsell, who leads the

team by averaging a remarkable 37.2 minutes per game. Another key backcourt development has been sophomore Denae Foster.

"Foster did not see a lot of playing time as a freshman," explained Coach Finn. "Now she's starting and giving us a big spark with her intensity, leadership and just being vocal on the court."

In addition to the intangibles of the game, Foster is doing a little bit of everything on the court with 5.4 points per game, 2.8 rebounds per game, and .8 assists per game.

Coach Finn did not go into this season without adding some more firepower, though.

The Saxons have brought in some interesting freshmen. Amanda Williams is a 5-foot-8 guard from Cuba-Rushford who averaged 17.7 points per game and 8 rebounds as a senior. Alfred also added a six-footer in Catherine Hoffman from Genesee Valley High.

Hoffman dropped in 14.3 points per game as a senior in high school and has the ability to play on the perimeter or down low.

The Saxons will certainly

need to have all of their players, veterans or rookies, playing great basketball when the team finally gets back home in 2005. That's when the Saxons play their toughest conference competition, which includes Hartwick, Utica and last year's ECAC Upstate champions as well as the winningest program in Division III history, St. John Fisher.

"We have a really important stretch of games when we get back [next semester]," said Finn.

"We should have beaten Hartwick last year, and we lost to Utica," he said. "But we'll need some fans against those two and St. John Fisher, of course."

So with last season's disappointment behind them, and a hot start under their belt, what are the expectations for the Saxons?

"We set our limits high," said Finn. "We want to be in the Empire 8 tournament and we want to be playing our best basketball in January and February. That's our goal."

The Saxons next game is on Dec. 7 at Genesee at 7 p.m. ○

Christmas pink slips

Dear Santa,

I feel guilty for even writing this to you because I have been so blessed this year. Between the Sox and Pats winning championships, Jason Giambi's testimony and *Desperate Housewives*, there is nothing you can give me that would make me any happier. Instead of presents this year, all I want you to do for me is to make sure the following people do not have jobs when the new year rolls around.

To begin with, I'd very much like to see Syracuse coach Paul Pasqualoni get canned. Admittedly, he brought the Orange to some impressive years, including a 1992 campaign where they finished sixth in the country after upsetting Colorado in the Fiesta Bowl. Syracuse even earned a co-Big East championship this year by upsetting heavily favored Boston College over Thanksgiving weekend.

Why didn't Syracuse win an outright title? They lost to Temple. The Orange lost to a team that is so bad they were kicked out of the Big East, which is a football conference that is struggling to keep teams in the conference anyway.

While Pasqualoni has managed to save his job the last few seasons with some big wins late in the year, not even his victory against BC can overcome his loss to the Owls.

Speaking of college football, let's fire Alabama athletic director Mal Moore for hiring Mike Shula instead of Alabama alumnus Sylvester Croom.

Rather than hire Croom, who had turned the Packers into the third best running team in the NFL as the Green Bay running backs' coach before becoming Mississippi State's head coach this year, they hired Shula, who had been the quarterbacks' coach of Dolphins. Yes, Moore chose the man who turned Jay Fiedler into the unremarkable quarterback he is today over the man who turned Ahman Green from a backup in Seattle into one of the best backs in the league with Green Bay.

Croom, the first black football coach in the history of the SEC, will now have an enormous recruiting edge over the other SEC schools, including Alabama, who refuse to integrate their head coaching positions. As Croom picks up recruits from Mississippi, he will also get kids from his home state of Alabama, as well as the South's best black football players, who will no doubt be eager to play for the man who broke the color line in the SEC.

College football isn't the only sport that needs a house cleaning. The NHL lockout could have been prevented ten years ago by not over-expanding the league. Instead Commissioner Gary "We need two teams each in Florida

and L.A." Bettman ruined the league by adding teams to places like Columbus and Nashville, which have no hope of filling their arenas. Without this mess, the league might still be making a profit, and the owners might be able to pay the players what they promised them. So fire Bettman too, please.

Also, maybe Jeremy Giambi and Randy Velarde should fire Victor Conte and BALCO. For the most part the names that have been linked to BALCO and their steroids have been a star-studded list including Bonds and Sheffield. Finding out Giambi and Velarde were on steroids is like finding out that Julia Roberts has been taking acting lessons. No matter how much help they get, they still stink like Sam Adams's jock strap.

Without going into reasons why, fire these people too: Michael Irvin, Rob Dibble, the entire cast of *Blue Collar TV*, Woody Paige, the producers of ESPN's *Dream Job*, Jon Miller, Joe Morgan, Bill O'Reilly, Tom Tolbert, everyone responsible for getting Howard Stern taken off the air and Jim Rome.

If you do not fire any of these people, please fire Stuart Scott. *Sportscenter* used to be a concise thirty-minute news broadcast where the anchors never overshadowed the story. I missed a Celtics highlight last week because Stuart Scott took too much time doing *Sportscenter Def Poetry Jam*. Every time he says "dirty, dirty" or "hater in the house," a little part of me dies. Okay, Stuart, we get it: you're an idiot. Now can we please listen to a highlight without hearing made-up Bible verses or quotes from a Fat Joe song?

Thanks for doing me a solid, Santa. If you fire these people, you won't hear me complain when you parachute into the Fiesta Bowl.

Your Fan,
Alex

P.S. I'm graduating in May, and I could really use a job of my own, so please fire somebody in a position I might like to fill. ○



ALEX RASKIN
SPORTS EDITOR

Softball team holds raffle to fund Florida training

BY CRYSTAL CRAFT
STAFF WRITER

The Alfred University women's softball team has the AU community pumped up about supporting its spring training in Florida.

The softball team is excited about playing in the warm weather, getting to know each other, playing competitive softball and becoming not only a team but a family, according to head coach Jaime McLaughlin.

The 18-member softball team sold raffle tickets, hoping to raise enough money to go to Florida for spring training March 5-12.

The winners of the raffles were Tammy Gelsler of Scio, Doug Kelp of Alfred, Gretchen Weidner, an AU Student, Karl Granter of Almond, Kelsey Curran from Alfred Station and Linda Sootheran.

Each of the winners will receive a \$25 gas certificate in the mail from Short's gas stations in Alfred or Wellsville.

Selling raffle tickets was just one way for the team to come up with the necessary money to make the trip a reality. Throughout the



PHOTO BY CRYSTAL CRAFT

The women's softball team is raising money to go to Florida over spring break. The team members will play 10 games to prepare themselves for the spring season.

year, the team collects empty ink cartridges from computer printers and recycles them for money.

Brittany Curran, a junior pitcher, took part in the spring training

last year.

"It's a lot of fun," she said. "We play 10 games down there, it's good competition and it's a great bonding experience for the team."

improve its game during the season.

The team would like to thank all of the people who have supported them so far. ○