

FIAT



DeGraff gazes at the stars Page 3

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF ALFRED UNIVERSITY

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Student Senate sanctioned Devlin-Gauthier, Cramer

By Thomas Fleming Editor in Chief

After investigating the delayed 2010 Student Senate elections, Director of Student Activities Dan Napolitano sanctioned Student Senate on March 20 to review and improve bylaws and election policies by October.

"I sanction that the Alfred University Student Senate, under the leadership of their current Vice President, conduct a review of their bylaws and policies in order to improve the competency of the process for future elections," Napolitano said in the March 20 report received via e-mail by the Fiat Lux. "Specifically, the Senate will be required to create an elections appeal process, develop a comprehensive timeline and further review campaign funding and posting policies. This sanction is to be completed by October 1, 2010."

The investigation and sanc-

tions were the result of a complaint sent anonymously by former Student Senate president candidate Nate Martell.

"With such a hodge-podge of errors...change seems necessary to ensure the strength and integrity of the Student Senate," Martell said of his reasons for filing the complaint.

Elections were delayed by a week this year due to a "miscommunication" between the Elections Committee, a standing Student Senate committee with no official oversight, and the Student Senate Executive Board. Other delays, such as technical issues with Blackboard, also plagued the 2010 elections.

Martell's complaint charged that several parts of the Student Senate constitution "were grossly and negligently violated in the contested election, overshadowing the validity of the supposed winner of the election." He also

charged that secret ballot voting rights were violated since some students were required to request access because of technical issues within BannerWeb, which could be viewed as a form of harassment since e-mails had to be sent in order to set up a ballot.

"I am calling for the resignation of the [p]resident and a new election in accordance with the student constitution," Martell stated in the complaint.

Findings in Napolitano's report concluded that the Student Senate and Elections Committee failed to follow procedures, including "proper protocol for electing, replacing, and training election committee members, insufficient planning leading to delayed voting and access denied to some students [on the BannerWeb] voting system,

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win Innovation Award

By Jessica Marello Staff Writer

At the annual Honors Convocation, winners of the Bergren Student Innovation Award are formally presented, as well as recognized at the Board of Trustees meeting in May. This year, there were a record high of twelve nominations, with half of them involving sustainability or green efforts. From twelve, winners Ian Cramer and Ana Devlin-Gauthier were selected.

"I am pleased that so many students are creating innovations that will move AU forward," stated Vice President for Student Affairs Kathy Woughter.

Projects considered for the awards seek to improve the quality of life for the Alfred community, faculty or students. The nominees were required to complete questionnaires and essays

about their projects. These were later reviewed by a committee consisting of the Vice President for Student Affairs, the Chairperson of the Student Affairs Board of Trustees committee, the Student Senate President or designee and the Director of Student Activities.

"I was surprised when I won the award but I always knew that it had a chance to win," stated Senior Ian Cramer. His idea for the Saxon Bike Hub Bicycle Lending Program won him the award. He had the plan since his first year but only brought it to the table in January of his junior year.

"In April, I presented the idea to student senate and they approved my special allocation request for \$10,000," Cramer said.

The program began last fall and was an immediate success.

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Winter has its final siege at Cannon and Barresi Halls





PHOTO PROVIDED BY BRANDON WARREN A large snow fort was erected Feb. 26 and 27 between Barresi and Cannon Halls. More photos can be found at thefiatlux.com.

By Thomas Fleming Editor in Chief

For students living in first-year residence halls, the Feb. 26 snow day and following weekend was the perfect time to build large snow forts and hold a siege against intruders.

"It was necessary to build such a large fort because our freshman class wanted it to be known that no matter how high upperclassmen and jocks think they are, they will not destroy the dreams of artists and engineers," first-year BFA student Brandon Warren said in an e-mail to the Fiat Lux. "If they do, we will bounce back with something that has a design twice that of before."

The fort was located between Barresi and Cannon Halls, surrounding a tree, and had walls that

Continued on page 7...

New Student Senate president attempts change

By Eric Hudack

Ana Devlin-Gauthier was announced the winner of the Student Senate Presidential election on March 3 during the Senate meeting.

Devlin-Gauthier was elected with 53 percent of the vote, while Peter Nyitrai received 26 percent and Nathan Martell received 19 percent.

Upon announcement of her victory, President Devlin-Gauthier proceeded to run the rest of the meeting. The transition, which would be considered by some as being far from ceremonious, consisted mainly of Devlin-Gauthier jumping for former President Amos Mainville's keys as he jokingly held them above her head.

At the March 3 Student Senate meeting, a new executive board was constructed. Senators actively nominated their peers to run for newly vacated positions. Even former President Main-

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Also inside...



Wit and Wisdom winner Liz Wager's poems featured Pages 4-5



Photos from Glam Slam Pages 4-5



Keep up with Student Senate on thefiatlux.com liveblog.

EDITORIAL

We say goodbye and you say hello...

Late March has arrived, and though we've had an unusually warm week, we'll inevitably receive more snow before the year is out. Plans are being laid for Hot Dog Day, comedians and concerts, parties, cookouts and graduation.

Though for some graduation is just another over-the-top ceremony that is months away, others of us are feeling the pressure of buying regalia, contributing to the senior initiative, guessing who will be the Outstanding Seniors and preparing to join the so-called "real world."

Among this latter group is a large portion of the executive staff of the Fiat Lux. While some members will be here to write, edit, lay out and produce next year, some of us will not. We have completed our last issue in our positions with bittersweet feelings.

Certainly the newspaper requires a lot of work, and it will be nice for us to pass this duty on to younger members so that we can enjoy our last few weeks in Alfred. Some of us are relieved that terms of a year or more are drawing to a close, and that we only have to train new members before we can have our weekends back.

However, we actively chose to apply for and take these positions and all the work that goes with them. We have each learned from what we have done with this paper, and we can all say we owe some of our best friendships and skill sets to the Fiat Lux, in addition to some of our longest weekends.

It is with this bittersweet feeling that we now pass the proverbial torch to the incoming executive staff. We could offer the cliche words of wisdom in exchange for the obligatory expressions of gratitude and wishes for our future success. However, we believe those are mutually understood.

Instead, we simply say that we are grateful for the opportunities we've been given and that we've taken. We are certain that the Fiat Lux will be in good hands, and that the new staff will learn to love (and occasionally hate for short periods of time) the newspaper and all that comes with it.

There is always room for improvement, and we hope that the new staff will take advantage of the opportunity to make the Fiat Lux an even better campus publication, both online and in print.

We expect that the new staff will continue to expand the newspaper's function as a watchdog, informer and storyteller, even in the face of some serious challenges, such as the possibility of losing an adviser who has been with the Fiat Lux for 13 years.

With all change comes both discomfort and the chance to rise to the circumstances.

Those of us who are graduating face more uncertainty than we've known for the last four years, but we have no choice but to face it and make something out of it. Those who will step up to the task of running the Fiat Lux face less uncertainty, but the new opportunity will also be a chance to learn and develop.

Okay, we tried not to be cliche, but we just can't help ourselves. We have the utmost respect for this newspaper, and we trust that the new staff will handle the work admirably. Good luck, and goodbye (or is that hello?)

FIAT LUX Next issue: April 5, 2010 Next deadline: April 1 by midnight Photo deadline: March 31 by midnight

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Editorial Policy: The Fiat Lux welcomes feedback from its readers. Letters to the editor will be subject to editing for space and content purposes. The Fiat Lux reserves the right not to print any letter. Letters must be accompanied by name, address and telephone number. E-mail: fiatlux@alfred.edu or mail letters to: Fiat Lux, attn: Editor, Powell Campus Center, Alfred, N.Y. 14802.

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OPINION

To lead or follow: a gray area

lan Cramer

Opinions Editor

From the moment we step on campus, we are enveloped by requests for our involvement in clubs, organizations, sports teams and other groups. This is especially true of small campuses like ours. Many of us answer the call and become involved in our respective areas of interest. Some of us choose to be leaders of these groups while others assume a lesser role as followers. Both roles are essential for the survival of the group and like a food chain or any hierarchical structure, a balance must be achieved. If this balance becomes askew and the population of a group becomes engorged with leaders, can this compromise the group? In the reverse, can a group be so starved for followers that it crumbles?

First we must understand what it is to be a leader. A good leader should be a good listener. A leader should be someone who is both organized and focused on the goals of the group. The leader should be available for his or her teammates, include others with the tasks of the group and be decisive and confident. (http://www.genv.net/en-us/dream_it/team_building/what_leader).

Do these sound like characteristics of a leader you follow or know? If so, good for you and

good for your group to be under such strong guidance. If not, you should be a bit wary of that leader. Be careful of their actions. It's your right as a member of that group to be critical at times.

A follower defined by Merriam-Webster is one in the service of another, one that follows the opinions or teachings of another or one that imitates another. But a follower is in no way the opposite of a leader. This definition does not restrict followers to silence or lack of free expression.

Dr. David Day is a psychologist from Penn State who has been studying leadership for the past 20 years. Through his studies and research he asserts that in terms of a leader or follower, "you're not one or the other. You can fulfill both roles even in the same situation." He continues by saying, "Leadership is a dynamic process...We have preconceived notions that leaders are always out in front directing the band, but the process...involves everybody on the team."

The greatest leaders were once followers and this process, as Day said, is dynamic. Your role can change so that one moment you're the leader and the next moment you have to follow the direction of another and listen to others' opinions. If this happens, leaders and followers have to take into account all options and should make the best decision

for the group.

Day mentions that leaders tend to get along with just about anybody and are termed "Social Chameleons." Even if there are members who you don't like or members who don't like you, the sign of a good leader is the ability to get things done despite aversions towards other members.

Can followers lead? Yes. Should leaders follow? Yes. Can a group have too many leaders? According to Day, the leader shouldn't strictly lead, they should assume both roles, so the answer to that question is no. All members of the group have to work together, take on multiple roles and work towards the ultimate goal of the group as a collective.

What are some ways you can improve your leadership? Day states that you must be self-aware and be open to honest feedback.

"If there are large discrepancies between how you see yourself and how others see you, that's a big red flag," he said.

A common flaw in potential leaders is the inability to accept this feedback. They dwell on the negative feedback and become defensive rather than self-reflective. Professionalism, responsibility and accountability are huge factors that play into how a leader is perceived and how that person can become a better leader.

Letter to the Editor: A congratulatory note

Dear Ana,

I would like to take a moment and publicly congratulate you on your victory this spring in the 2010 Student Presidential Election. Albeit the fact that all three of us (Peter, you, and myself) each yearned for the opportunity to be the next President, the student body has spoken and chosen their candidate. I am happy

for you in this victory both as a friend and fellow student in your opportunity to be our leader over the course of the next school year. I know that you will work tirelessly for the welfare of the entire student body. There are a myriad of issues and concerns that affect every student on a daily basis. I am glad that you will be at the helm of leadership in a position to emphatically

listen to each concern and with your enormous self-less service benefit campus life here at Alfred University. I sincerely hope for the best for you and am glad that there is such a wonderful person leading our campus. Again, congratulations on your victory.

Very Respectfully, Nathan Martell

Backspace a comic by Alfred alumni

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Faculty Soapbox: Stories on a dark night



By David DeGraff Associate Professor of Astronomy

What's the most spectacular vista in the natural world? Wouldn't it be great to look out your window and see the cliffs of the Grand Canyon, the surf pounding into the cliffs at Bur Sur or the waterfalls of Oahu? Wonderful, all of them, but here in Alfred we have the greatest vista of all: the night-time sky.

Every place on earth used to be able to see this spectacular sight. Vincent Van Gogh could include stars in the sky behind his "Night Café," a scene from the center of the city of Arles. In the

20th century we over-lit our cities and suburbs, spilling our artificial light. Pollution with light, just as ugly as stinking smokestacks or garbage in the grass. Now we have to get away from cities to see the sublime beauty of the Milky Way. Fortunately, Alfred is located far away from cities with their polluted ground, polluted water, polluted air and polluted night skies.

I remember the first time I stood in awe of the night sky. It was when I was six, a few months after Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon, deep in the woods in northern Quebec on a fishing trip with my father. The first night he woke me and told me to come outside. I had never seen so many stars. Besides the handful of bright stars and the endless stars just at the edge of perception, the Milky Way, looking like a band of smoke, split the sky in two. I could see the outline of the trees on the opposite shore. I could see the starlight glint off my father's glasses, I could see the whole thing perfectly reflected in the lake. I was no longer just in love with the moon. The whole universe just opened before me.

My first view of the night sky in Alfred was almost as great. I looked up at the constellations I knew so well, but they were harder to make out. There were too many stars, much more than I was used to. Cassiopeia, Perseus, Pegasus, Andromeda. Then I caught a faint glimpse of a smudge just above Andromeda's second star. The Andromeda Galaxy—the Milky Ways nearest neighbor, two-million light-year away. The stars here are so dark, I could see Andromeda with my naked eyes! The light I was directly looking at with my eyes had been traveling on its journey from Andromeda to me for two million years. When this light left Andromeda, two-million years ago, Homo Habilis was the smartest creature walking the earth. The most advanced technology was a broken rock. The patterns of stars in the sky don't mean anything. They're random. They're random, but they are spellbinding, and people all over the world see the same star-strewn sky. Where there is randomness, we see patterns, we make stories. That group is a hunter. Those groups are bears.

That's a bull. Gods and heroes. Adventures. Compare the list of constellations I named in the last paragraph to the characters in a movie opening April 2, The Clash of the Titans. Sam Worthington plays Perseus. Alexa Davalos is Andromeda and Polly Walker is Cassiopeia. We still tell these stories thousands of years later.

Stories in the sky go back much further than a few thousand years, though. Among the cave paintings in Lascaeaux, France, paintings made some seventeen-thousand years ago, is a room with paintings of many bulls. If you look at the constellation of Taurus (the bull) it's not hard to picture the animal. There's a triangle that could be the head, and two bright stars in front that could be horns. Fainter stars, that you can see in dark locations like Alfred, form the shoulder. Above the shoulder hang the Pleiades, a small cluster of stars, six of which are visible to the naked eye. One of the largest bulls in the Lasceaux cave has its face and horns in just the right position as our bull in the sky. Sitting just over the bull's shoulder are six dots, right

where the Pleiades would be. It seems people have been calling that group of stars a bull for seventeen-thousand years.

It gets better. In North Africa, China, Europe and the North America, people have told stories about a bear in the sky, all referring to the same groups of stars, all picturing them as bears with tails. Bears don't have tails. How could four cultures on four different continents come up with the same non-existent creature for the same random pattern of stars? The first people to leave Africa must have told that story, a story unchanged as Homo Sapiens began to spread across the globe 60,000 years

The night sky connects us with stories as old as humanity. If we lose our connection with the night sky, we lose our connection with our deepest past, our oldest stories, our first art. As the Alfred nights get warmer, take a blanket to a dark spot. Spend a few hours out there and take in the great view. Let the starlight wash over you, see the sky turn overhead, and listen to our oldest stories.

The Alfred Computer Guy: The obsolescence of television



At this point, it's no secret that the internet has changed the way we work, the way we play and the way we interact with the world. Ten years ago, the notion that the internet would provide anything more than some corporate placeholder pages, geocities eyesores and rudimentary shopping portals was far-fetched, but here we are.

A year or so ago, I was paying a pretty penny for a combo pack of high-speed internet and high-definition cable television. I started out fairly basic, but an additional TV outlet, an extra DVR and an HD channel package later, my bill was crossing the \$200.00 per month line. I needed to re-evaluate my entertainment options.

With my wife acting as a muse, it then dawned on me, "With Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, and a host of other content available for little to no cost, do I really need a TV provider at all?" It turns out, with some accepted headaches, the answer was "no."

By taking the TV out of my provider's bill altogether, I trimmed the cost down to a small fraction of what I was paying before. I then set about getting my home set up for internet-only content.

In the living room (with the

bigger widescreen HDTV), I connected my desktop computer's video card to the television using an S-Video cable and assigned a quick-access profile using ATI's control panel that allows for easy switching between the monitor and the TV. A wireless mouse and a shortcut to the On-Screen Keyboard application built into Windows XP later, and I had a working media center system. In the bedroom with the smaller television, I had to figure out something else. I wasn't willing to purchase another computer to use as a second media center - after all, my goal was cost savings. In the end, I found my answer with a product called Roku.

Roku is a digital video player for your television that connects to the internet via wired or wireless connection and, using a very basic GUI, allows you to browse and play movies from your Netflix Instant Watch queue. At a one-time cost of \$100 for the hardware, this was a financial hit I was willing to take and I've been pleased as punch with the quality, even over wireless.

Roku has also just released a developer SDK kit. This means more channels are being added all the time, including Pandora Radio, Facebook Photo browser, Flickr Photo browser and a host of 3rd-party custom content.

There are, of course, downsides to this setup. I don't watch shows at the same time or day that many of my friends and coworkers do. I have to get my "Lost" fix a day after everyone else and it can be difficult getting through an entire Wednesday workday without overhearing spoilers.

Additionally, my content choices are more limited than

those with a thousand channels. If it isn't on Netflix, Hulu or SouthParkStudios.com, then puter Guy". Mac, PC, Linux, OS/2

I'm pretty stuck. Still, Netflix is adding more and more television shows all the time including some great features BBC like "Doctor Who," "MI:5" and "Top Gear."

Ultimately, it doesn't feel so much like I'm missing out on things as I just have more control over my content choices. I find myself no longer getting stuck watching a show or infomercial I have no interest just because it's where I stopped flipping through the channels.

So is the transition worth it? If you're willing to maintain your network, invest in the necessary technology and approach the situation with realistic expectations, then the extra heft in your wallet will surely answer that question for you.

Do you have any questions you would like to ask? Send me an e-mail at: stone@alfred.edu Warp, NeXT... hit me with your with the subject "Alfred Com-

best shot!



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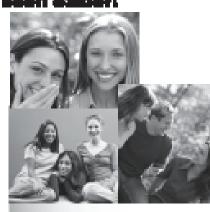
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Fix Your Bike Day on March 20



PHOTO BY DAVID LEMMO

(Above) The Bike Hub hosted Fix Your Bike Day on March 20 outside

Davis Gym. Tune-ups were free for students, staff and faculty.

Witty and Wise Poetry

By Leah Houk A&E Editor

Liz Wager, the winner of the first annual Phi Beta Kappa Wit and Wisdom Award, presented her essay "Why Do Personas Matter?" at the March 4 Bergren Forum. Wager's essay examined "the use of different voices and different characters within poetry," as she described it. In addition to the essay, Wager read some of her poems, two of which are printed below.



PHOTO BY ARIANNA CARINI

(Above) Wit and Wisdom Award winner Liz Wager presents her essay "Why Do Personas Matter?" March 4.

A cigarette, on being consumed

My dry husk, too tight, creases and threatens to rip. The column of heat shoots through me and I tremble, feeling lips peel away, sticky.

We were clones, stiff-necked in boxes with pressed white sleeves, clean-shaven. We perched like soldiers on the shelf, and I liked to pretend that I was the collective. the only true one, multiplied to the horizon: I was there in the beginning, and would be until the end. I thought that all the others were me, and I loved to die a billion times, my dead tissue reformed, wrapped again in warm paper.

But as I burn and crumble into gray snow, I confess that this feels a lot like permanence. With what little breath I have, in these final minutes, I sigh, realizing that I am just a cheap copy of the ideal. And, with a blink,

I'll be gone.

My smoke will linger in the purple evening, but it will soon dissolve into the mosquito night, the only fading trace of my simple existence. I could be churned down onto the smooth glass, or scraped into the sidewalk, or thrown from the grinding car, left to bounce along the new-wet street; and with each bounce. my orange eye will open less and less until there is too little light for me to see.

Golden Dragon Acrobats on March 16



PHOTO BY EUGENE CHAN

(Above) The Golden Dragon Chinese Acrobats performed to a packed Holmes Auditorium audience March 16.

Alfred Literary Festival March 25-27 By Melanie Baker

The 2010 Alfred Literary Festival, hosted by the Division of English and the Writing Center, will take place March 25-27 with various events across campus.

Contributing Writer

The festival returns after much popularity and a great response from the AU community and residents of the surrounding area. This year, the event will showcase the works of two visiting authors and one Alfred professor.

Emerging poet Jim Murphy will present a reading of his works at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 25 in the Knight Club. Fiction writer and Alfred English professor Rahul Mehta will give a reading following Murphy at 7:30 p.m., also in the Knight Club.

Friday, March 26 is packed with activities. All of the authors will participate in a book signing from 3-4 p.m. in Powell's Alumni Lounge. Later that day, fiction writer Megan Staffel will give the Keynote Reading of the festival in the

Gothic Chapel at 6 p.m. An open mic night will conclude Friday's events from 8:30-10 p.m. in the Gothic Chapel.

The festival will conclude on Saturday, March 27 with a Literary Roundtable Discussion from 2-4 p.m. in Powell's Alumni Lounge.

The literary festival continues to bring a vast array of literature and poetry to the Alfred community. All events are open to AU students, faculty and the general public.

Electrical storm

On August nights, when pressing heat and swarms of heavy air hang thick above your bed, and traffic lights outside your room birth forms that shift on darkened walls in ugly red and purple flames, you find yourself awake. You shuck too clinging boxers, crossly shed confining sheets, and pray the fan won't break.

These nights all pass the same, until one night you face the window, conscious of the ache of sunburned skin. A sudden burst of light breaks darkened sky and fragments in a flash that makes you stir with something close to fright. You watch the show with awe. The feathered slash of lightning does not echo into thunder, but rather bears another splintered gash, and then another, and another. Under mottled clouds the streaks of white combine and you, in stupid, juvenile wonder only stare, as worries leave your mind and time becomes irrelevant.

and nature, nothing more, the strange design of marbled evening, burning deep into your eyes—the muted fireworks that brought the ancient people to their knees.

And through the web of fiery rain in which you're caught you realize that you truly understand the marvels of the earth; and age has taught you swift dissection of the cryptic, grand, and interwoven meanings of the sky. You feel your wonder dimming with each brand of white that shudders through the dark. You sigh and shut your eyes, ashamed of how naive you used to be...

and yet, you can't deny how powerful it was when you perceived (when you were young, and quite alone) the magic of the storms. And you believe that now, since all that can be known is known, your life meant nothing more than it did then (when god-like sparks were very much your own) and it will never mean as much again.



Three of the best household cleaners are cheap, nontoxic to humans, pets and the environment (unlike most chemical cleaners), and can be found in most kitchens: vinegar, lemon juice and baking soda.

Vinegar: mix equal parts vinegar and water in a spray bottle and use to clean nearly any surface in your home. Although vinegar smells strongly when wet, the smell evaporates completely when the vinegar dries, and vinegar acts as a natural deodorizer and thorough disinfectant. It can even absorb strong smells such as cigarette smoke from clothing and furniture.

Lemon juice: sprinkle baking soda on half a lemon and use it to scrub nearly any surface. Lemon will clean, shine, deodorize and leave a pleasant smell. Lemon juice also works well as a bleaching agent. Squeeze lemon juice on stained white clothing and let dry in the sun before washing. The stain will be gone.

Baking soda: one of the best odor-absorbing products available, baking soda can take scents out of the fridge, bathroom, garbage pails and anywhere else you have unwanted odors. It also works well as a stain remover in toilet bowls and kitchen surfaces.

Alfred hosts Franz Nicolay

By Will Henry Staff Writer

If you were one of the lucky few who attended Franz Nicolay's solo act at the Knight Club, you understand the caliber of entertainment that took place. About an hour before Franz took the stage, I was able to chat with him about a variety of musical topics, ranging from his music specifically to, more broadly, the lifestyle of a traveling performer in today's industry.

Nicolay described his upbringing as one immersed in music; at the age of five he received his first violin and played melodies he had written instead of ones from his lesson books. He mentioned Sesame Street as a favorite show from childhood and his performances exhibit similar characteristics of blending both music and theatre together. One of these theatrical aspects of Franz as a performer is the way in which he adopts a strong stage persona, an ability that serves two purposes. The more obvious of the two is the energy that a grandiose personality brings to his presence on stage. Additionally, the distance a persona creates between the real Franz Nicolay and the entertainer Franz Nicolay allows any bad feedback he may receive not to affect him as much personally.

Nicolay draws on many areas of interest to create both his mu-

sic and his persona. There is a vaudevillian air to his presentation of music, which stems from his on-stage charisma and ability to turn unexpected mishaps into handcrafted pieces entertainment made specifically for the audience.

A perfect example of this occurred during his show at Alfred. Nicolay's accordion broke mid song, forcing him to continue the concert with only his banjo. Many of the songs he played after that time had never been played on banjo before. It is ad libbing like this that makes live music better than any studio album.

A gypsy quality is also present in Nicolay as a musician, and this seems incredibly natural and fluent for him. Themes of travel and sadness appeared throughout his set list and in every instance the images used seemed beautifully honest.

Possibly the most interesting part of my conversation with Nicolay was on the topic of the death of the music industry. He saw musicians from the early 20th century and before breaking into two categories. These were "patrons" who were commissioned by the wealthy, and "troubadours" who traveled and told stories for food, money and lodging. Only more recently has a third type, the "recording artist," appeared in music. Nicolay expressed the idea

that the recording artist lifestyle, which is built around a material object, may only be an anomaly of the past century and that the other two forms of musicianship may become more prevalent in the future. I found this view of the changes occurring within music industry incredibly optimistic and appealing. Live music has seen a spike in popularity over the past decade in our culture, with shows like American Idol, and its British counterpart Pop Idol, catching huge numbers of viewers worldwide.

Commissioned music is becoming more prevalent in film and T.V as well. Directors are often working with the same composer for many films, as is the case with the contemporary director Darren Aronofsky (Requiem for a Dream, The Fountain, The Wrestler) and his composer Clint Mansell. Franz Nicolay, however, views himself relating with the category of troubadour, a life of storytelling and travel.

Alfred hosted an incredibly well versed and well rounded performer. Franz Nicolay seems to experience the lifestyle of musicians of the past and he knows the history he is married to because of it. Keep an eye on the performer and if you missed out on the show or want to hear more, you can at: http://franznicolay.com/



Indie rocker Franz Nicolay serenaded his Knight Club audience wth a variety of instruments Feb. 19.

Glam Slam: 'Lady Gaga's Candy Wonderland' March 19







Drag queens and kings entertained the crowd during Spectrum's biannual Glam Slam dance party March 19 in the Knight Club. This semester's theme was "Lady Gaga in Candy Wonderland." Students came in costumes inspired by Lady Gaga, Candyland and Alice in Wonderland.

'Print Making Saturdays'

By Leah Houk A&E Editor

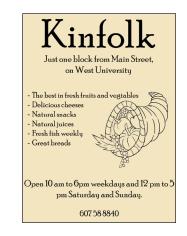
Junior Bryan Daly (at right with his print "Den Buddhism") and sophomore Dave Douglas had an opening March 20 in the Random Room Gallery at 26 South Main St. The show focused on different prints they had made during the semester.

"Print Making Saturdays was a show devoted to the work Dave and I have done while working together in the print shop every Saturday this semester," Daly said. "We started the tradition this year when we discovered that by working together we not only had each other to help us make choices about our work, but we were also much more relaxed. I think our work reflects that, and our opening, which attracted dozens of people and eventually became a raucous dance party, certainly did."

More photos from the opening can be seen online at www.thefiatlux.



PHOTO BY LEAH HOUK



FEATURES

Women's History Month

By Nickelina Noel Staff Writer

Women's History Month celebrates and recognizes brilliant women for their outstanding historical contributions, and Alfred University certainly participates in the month of celebration.

WHM was begun as Women's History Week in 1978 by the Commission on the Status of Women, an agency promoting equality and justice for all women and girls. Almost a decade later, Congress expanded the celebration to include the entire month of March.

Every year a theme and particular women are chosen to be recognized and honored by the National Women's History Project. This year's theme is "Writing Women Back into History." These themes recognize wom-

en's achievements in art, sports and politics.

"I'm more in favor of it than not," said History Professor Vicki Eaklor on the significance of Women's History Month. "I do think it gives us a chance to specifically remember the role of women not only in historical events but to remember there's such a thing as women's history that might not be defined in a

way as traditional history is defined," she continued.

Although many have questioned the significance of Women's History Month, Eaklor insists on its importance. "When you have anything with 'women's' in front of it, the response is often 'where's Men's History Month?' But for so long the only thing we studied was what might be called 'men's history.""

To celebrate this Women's History Month, the Women's Studies Department and the Women's Leadership Center will be sponsoring events this month including the Riley Lecture on March 22, titled "Girls Going Wild: Facts and Myths about Girls and Violence" by Dr. Chesney-Lind, a professor from the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

Spring break in North Carolina

By Ian Cramer Opinions Editor

I went to Pisgah National Forest in western North Carolina with the Outdoor Club for spring break. Every year the outdoor club plans a trip to somewhere south of Alfred in order to experience the outdoors in all its beauty. This is a trip open every year to students with all levels of outdoor camping experience.

We left Alfred at midnight on Friday, some of us more mentally prepared for a 14-hour drive than others. Several stops and four tanks of gas later, we pulled into a heavily wooded park with no cell phone service, no internet and nothing but fresh air. This was a shock to some, including me. Life would now be without any college essentials.

Once we pitched our tents and picked our tent buddies, we came to the sudden realization that we would be living, eating and sleeping with the same people for a week. I heard a few mutterings of, "Oh, we're sleeping on the ground?" and ""That's what we're eating?" Many of us were absolute strangers to one another and it felt like Freshman Orientation all over again.

We didn't drive 14 hours to sit around and make s'mores on the campfire, though. Activities that were planned for the week included hours of white water rafting on the Nolichucky River, zip-lining through the trees of the Great Smoky Mountains and for those of us who wanted the true camping experience, a three-day, 30-mile backpacking trip.

As one can imagine, the water in any river in early March is less than comfortable. Once we donned wet suits, splash jackets, helmets and life vests, we were ready to battle the category three and four rapids in teams of four to six people. As

we waded into the water and mounted our self-bailing rafts, the 42-degree water sent chills down our spines and reminded us that this was serious. The rapids came early and often, splashing us with spray. Fortunately no one had to be rescued from the water (unlike last spring) and a good time was had by all, despite some cold feet.

Unlike the rafting, I had never experienced zip-lining before, so I was very excited for it. An hour and a half drive only prolonged the butterflies in my stomach and kept us waiting and wondering what it would be like. Once all 15 people were strapped in, we started giggling like fiveyear olds. The feeling of flying in the trees is so unnatural, but so much fun. It was a great experience, one I highly recommend.

Only 3 members of the group departed midweek on a threeday hiking trip through the forests of Pisgah, myself included.

retained relative calm until 1975.

aspect of the country's history

The Lebanese Civil War is one

With a detailed map, a 40+lb pack and some useful advice from a well informed forest ranger, we set out. Day one consisted of roughly 10 miles of snow, slush, fallen timber, Black Mountain, switchbacks and fording a river. Dinner always tastes better if you've worked for it and that night, we worked for it. Hot dogs cooked over a camp fire with extra spicy mustard--yum! Gourmet fare out on the trail.

Day two started out the same as day one, but soon took a turn for torment, despair and misery. We knew that rain was in the forecast, and soon the clouds opened up and drenched us. Starting at 10 a.m., it rained all day until we finally made contact with a shelter, seven hours later. As you can imagine, everything was wet--not only the clothes on our backs, but the clothes and supplies in my backpack as well. My fellow hikers had packed their clothes and sleeping bags

in trash bags. What a novel idea! Getting warm that night was a task in itself when everything I was wearing was damp.

Day three began at 6:30 a.m. and we decided that because of how the previous day had ended, we would cut our hike short and make for a ranger station three miles east from our shelter instead of huff it back to camp nine miles south. Our map was our best friend and we found the station without a problem. With dirty, wet, smiling faces, we bummed a ride back to base camp and recovered enough to sit through 14-hours of travel back home to Alfred.

If you would like to participate in the outdoor club, you can e-mail forest@alfred.edu for more information or come to our weekly meetings on Tuesday's at 9:00 p.m. in the Kenyon-Allen room in Powell.

What the Hezbollah is going on in Lebanon?



Like many other countries, the current conflict in Lebanon is most often associated with Israel and Palestine. While this is not untrue, there is much more behind the situation than is often presented.

Like many territories controlled by the Ottoman Empire (which collapsed during World War I), Lebanon and Syria were bequeathed to a European power (in this case, France). While the two countries are now technically separate, they were often perceived as one and the same; the Lebanese Republic, created in 1926, was a sub-territory of Syria that was largely Maronite Christian. While the Lebanese Republic was later considered a separate entity, it was still associated with the French Mandate of Syria until independence was obtained in 1943. Despite initial French resistance (part of which included placing the newly elected Lebanese government in jail), international pressure paved the way for reluctant French acceptance. The first free Lebanese government was an attempt to balance the various ethnic and religious groups living in the state, but Maronite Christians still retained a majority of the power.

In 1948, following Israel's declaration of statehood, Lebanon originally planned to join Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and Saudi Arabia in attacking the new Jewish state. However, Lebanon backed out of this at the last minute. After the Arab-Israeli War (also known as the Israeli War for Independence), thousands of Palestinian refugees fled to Lebanon upon Israel's victory.

The ensuing tensions between Israel and its neighbors spread through Lebanon, as seen in the 1958 crisis. Egypt, whose Suez Canal was invaded two years earlier, sought Lebanese support against the Western world; Lebanon's Maronite population, however, refused to break those ties. The United Nations was asked to step in to investigate smallscale Muslim insurgency, and the United States was called in later that year. Once the situation was significantly deescalated, both the US and the UN withdrew. The more moderate government that was established after this crisis

that is very difficult to explain. It lasted from 1975 to 1990, and claimed between 130,000 and 250,000 lives in the process. Some experts believe it was a severe recurrence of the crisis of 1958, exacerbated by the rising presence of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in southern Lebanon. Others believe that Syria placed intense pressure on the Muslim population to fight against the largely Christian government. Whatever the exact cause was, the capital city Beirut was essentially destroyed and Israel invaded,

claiming to want only removal of

the PLO. This invasion, occurring

in 1981, is the primary reason

the militant group Hezbollah was

created.

The war drew to an end with the Taif Agreement, which enabled Syria to have a massive amount of control over Lebanese affairs. The following years consisted of attempted reconstruction, and no stable government has truly existed. In 2006, Hezbollah launched successful attacks against Israel from Lebanon, which was met with strong military campaigns from Israel against the country as a whole. Continued military skirmishes take place even now.



Photo provided by Wikimedia Commons

Like many Middle Eastern countries, Lebanon's ability for a peaceful future is almost entirely dependent on peace between Israelis, Palestinians and other Arab neighbors, particularly Syria. Israel largely blames the Lebanese population for Hezbollah's actions, which only pushes more of them away from accepting Israel. Furthermore, Lebanon must also address its future independent from Syria, something nei-

ther country seems particularly fond of.

The purpose of this column is to inform people about global events. While one article is not enough to fully explain a conflict, it is enough to provide the reader with the basics. It is my hope that when you are finished reading, you can readily answer the question, "What the (blank) is going on in (blank?)"

JUMPS

Sanctioned... continued from front page

poorly communicated expectations such as collection of petitions and enforcement of solicitation and posting polices."

Napolitano also found, however, that the "flaws were unintentional and did not give advantage to one candidate over the others nor did they serve to bias the voting pool in favor of any one candidate."

Napolitano recommended that the Elections Committee, which had inconsistent membership this year until the Feb. 10 Student Senate meeting, be formed at the end of the fall semester and that members should be required to meet weekly with the Student Senate adviser, Director of Student Activities or other administrator.

Concluding his report, Napolitano gave his thoughts on this year's elections process.

"These missteps could have easily derailed the election at many junctures," Napolitano said in his report. "The Student Senate, as a voice of the student body, must pay greater attention to the intricate details required for a credible election. Lastly, I commend the anonymous student for lodging the complaint in an effort to improve the process' integrity and transparency."

Innovation... continued from front page

Students can rent bikes during the spring and fall and store their own bikes during the winter. The Hub resides on the top floor of Davis Gym, where minor repairs can also be made.

Sophomore Devlin-Gauthier won the award for two projects she spearheaded, the clothesline project and the Alfred Uncovered Implied Nudity Calendar. The clothesline project was an opportunity for students to share personal stories throughout Powell during the fall semester by writing them on t-shirts and hanging them on the clothesline.

The calendar, inspired by similar endeavors by other universities, allowed twelve organizations on campus to be photographed almost nude in ways that related to their club. Devlin-Gauthier says it helped educate the students on having a healthy body image, as well as being a fundraiser for the participating clubs.

Devlin-Gauthier said, "I was surprised and honored to have won. All of the nominees were fantastic and I cannot thank the board of trustees enough for selecting my project as a co-recipient of the award."

The Bergren Student Innovation Awards are funded by the Board of Trustees in honor of Rev. Dr. Richard V. Bergren, Jr, assistant professor of religion and director of religious programs at Alfred from 1960 to 1968. Student winners honor Bergren's regard for students in their regard of issues throughout the Alfred community.

Snow fort... continued from front page

were six- to eight-feet tall. The fort lasted until at least spring break, when the sun and warmer weather claimed the fort and turned it back into water.

This fort, however, was actually the second version.

According to Warren, the first fort, standing at about four-feet tall, was built Feb. 26 by students Jack Lancto, Tyler Beaulieu, Wolfgang Corcoran-Mathe and Elliot Severn. That night, the fort was "reduced to rubble" by another group of allegedly drunken students.

Warren, with the help of students Ian Grosskopf, Jason Patrick, the fort's original builders, passersby and an Ade Hall worker took nine hours the next day, until 10 p.m., to rebuild the fort, making it taller and adding defensive measures.

"After having rebuilt this fort twice the height and even thicker than the first fort, it became much easier to defend," Warren said.

One of the original fort builders, Lancto, spent the night in the snow fort, complete with a sleeping bag and alarm clock, "to keep a restful watch on it."

Fending off jeers and accepting praise from other students walking by the tightly protected snow fort, the group successfully prevented another assault.

"We are all very thankful to those that helped, and we're glad our determination brought people together to produce this snow artwork," Warren said.

President... continued from front page

ville jumped in on the action, nominating several senators for executive positions. When nominated himself, Mainville said, "No thanks. I'm outta here."

It was a "fun" atmosphere that students claim has been fairly alien to Student Senate meetings for quite a while, a concept the new executive board is hoping to maintain.

"That's why we want to revamp it," Devlin-Gauthier said about the atmosphere of Senate meetings. "The E-board sets the tone. I mean, if we're bored during meetings...we need to be optimistic."

Devlin-Gauthier went on to stress the importance of an optimistic outlook when running Student Senate and said it starts at the top. A lot of candidates campaigned on changing the reputation of Senate as a giant ATM machine and Devlin-Gauthier has plans help make Senate more unified, including live performances by clubs at Student Senate and a pajama day.

"We have a lot of new ideas and the biggest challenge will be prioritizing them," Devlin-Gauthier added. "Even if it is not the most fun, we have to focus on what is the most important."

Today's Riley Lecture: 'Girls Going Wild'



PHOTO PROVIDED

Meda Chesney-Lind, a researcher from the University of Hawaii at Manoa whose work focuses on the experiences of girls who become enmeshed in the juvenile justice system, will deliver the 15th annual Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley and Charles P. Riley Lecture in Women's Studies at 5:30 p.m. March 22 in the Knight Club, Powell Campus Center on the Alfred University campus.

Her talk is entitled "Girls Going Wild: Facts and Myths about Girls' Violence."

Chesney-Lind's work also involves gender responsive programs and how girls express relational, covert aggression.

"We are honored to have Meda Chesney-Lind at Alfred University," said Kerry Kautzman, associate professor of Spanish and director of the Women's Studies Program at Alfred University.

"She is a recognized expert on girls and violence, and frequently presents on her work at national conferences," Kautzman said.

"In addition to her academic research, Dr. Chesney-Lind works directly with the juvenile justice system in Hawaii and thus can combine theory with practice in her presentations to our students, faculty and the community."

Chesney-Lind was selected to

deliver the 2010 Riley Lecture, Kautzman said, because half of this year's cohort of students who will graduate with a minor in Women's Studies are either psychology or sociology majors, and will thus find her work particularly relevant.

During her visit to AU, Chesney-Lind will also conduct a criminal justice institute for AU students.

The Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley and Charles P. Riley Lectureship in Women's Studies is presented annually on the Alfred University campus. Charles Riley and Elizabeth Hallenbeck Riley were AU graduates, Charles in 1935 and Elizabeth in 1936. Their daughters, Pamela Riley Osborn '62, Patricia A. Riley '65, and Melissa Riley generously sponsored the lecture series in memory of their parents.

Love and zombies: Juliana Gray's poetry

By Laura Reyome Staff Writer

Juliana Gray, assistant professor of English and recent winner of Syracuse University's Stone Canoe Award for poetry, joked about the prize: "The stone canoe sculpture is very heavy. I think it's made of bronze, so it's maybe 20, 25 pounds. I intend to work out with it in my office. Look for me with really toned arms this summer."

Before the summer starts and she begins her exercise regimen with her heavy prize, Gray regaled the campus community with a reading of love poems at the Women's Studies Roundtable on March 5.

Gray read from a variety of poems, including some that she had written and others written by female poets whom she admires. All of the poems dealt with the topic of love, but there were no "Roses are red, violets are blue" Valentine poems. The

poems spanned time and many ideas of romance, beginning with Sappho, the famous Greek poet.

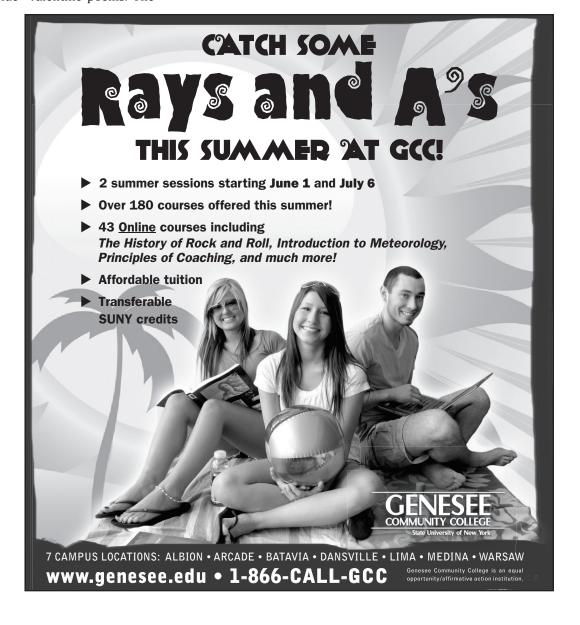
In her own poetry, Gray mostly meditated on the personas of other characters and their romantic lives. Her personas drew on mythology (Helen of Troy) and popular culture in poems such as "Nancy Drew, 45, Posts on Match.com." Gray did have a couple of poems that were more personal, though she says she leans away from that sort of poetry.

When asked about her history with poetry, Gray said, "I wrote my first poem probably in the first or second grade, and started taking it seriously as an undergraduate, when I took my first writing workshop."

Originally Gray did not see herself as a poet, but instead fancied herself a fiction writer. It was when she noticed that people tended to prefer her poetry that she dedicated herself to the art.

As for advice for undergraduate poets out there, Gray wrote, "I would advise aspiring poets to take a class from me! I don't think it's possible to teach students how to be great poets, but I can at least save them a few years of figuring out some hard lessons for themselves. I'd also advise aspiring writers to read-read everything, but especially poetry, if you're trying to write poetry."

Gray is currently working on a manuscript entitled "Roleplay," and has recently had two poems published in the anthology "Bright Wings: An Illustrated Anthology of Poems About Birds," edited by Billy Collins. Gray has a zombie poem in the works, inspired by her honors course, All You Zombies, and would like to attest to the fact that she is the AU Zombie Expert.



SPORTS

Alfred Rugby Club helps 'Jet' owner to move sign to new home

Staff Reports

For the third time since October 2009, the Alfred Rugby Club conducted a public service project for the Alfred community, this time on Feb. 28 for "Jet" owner John Ninos.

"The Alfred Rugby Club was a life saver for me," Ninos said. "I don't know what I would have done without them. I didn't know what I was going to do (about the remaining difficult items). My family and I are very grateful for their help."

The "Jet" had been heavily damaged by the Oct. 29, 2009 fire on Main Street that completely destroyed other village businesses. Ninos had been in the process of moving his business to a new location next to Community Bank on Main Street.

Ninos, however, ran into some problems. He had various commercial and other restaurant appliances that he had been unable to move with traditional means. Many were in the basement. All had been damaged by smoke

and water during the fire. Several weighed several hundred pounds. There was no easy way to move the items. It was then he called the Alfred Rugby Club.

Members of the Rugby Club went to work for Ninos, moving the very large, heavy items in very tight, confined spaces; things like cook stoves, refrigerators and coolers. The club had about 17 members working that day, and, in the span of about two hours, had cleared the remaining debris and moved the otherwise immovable pieces out of the building.

The Alfred Rugby Club has members from both AU and SUNY Alfred. Spring practice has already begun on Jericho Hill and membership is open to all Alfred college students on both campuses. The club plans on playing five weekend games this spring. In addition to public service, the club will also be hosting a showing of the 2009 rugby film Invictus on April 9 at Nevins Theater in Powell Campus Center.

For more information and



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BILL PULOS Members of the Alfred Rugby Club helped "Jet" owner John Ninos Feb. 28 to move the restaurant's sign to its new location on Main Street. The "Jet" took heavy damage from an Oct.

public service ideas for the rug- recently appointed secretary of Executive Board, at wpulos@

by club, contact coach Bill Pulos, the New York Rugby Conference

29, 2009 fire that destroyed the building directly adjacent to the restaurant's old location.

AU Equestrian Team competes in the Regional Championships

By Justin McCombs Sports Editor

The AU Equestrian Team competed in the Regional Championships at Cazenovia College on Wednesday the 17. Alicia

Pickett-Hale and Brittney Biegel both qualified for the Semi-Final Championships which will also be held at Cazenovia College on March 27 and 28. Below are the results from the Regional Championships.

Reining:

4th Lauren Pfeifer Open: 3rd Kristen Kovatch

3rd Kristen Kovatch

Advanced:

2nd Alicia Pickett-Hale

Novice:

4th Kristin Eklin 5th Hannah Certis 6th Michelle Applebaum Intermediate:

1st Brittney Biegel 7th Charity Chaffee 8th Katie LeSuer

Beginner: 4th Nick Munch

of emotions 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver full

Justin McCombs

Sports Editor

The 2010 Winter Olympics were full of many different emotions: glory, heartbreak, and sadly death as well. The games officially opened on Feb. 12 in Vancouver when Governor General Michaelle Jean declared the beginning of 17 days of international competition. The opening ceremony consisted of different performers such as Nelly Furtado and more than 300 Inuit dancers, but as these performances were going on, people had something heavy on their minds. Earlier that day, Georgian Nodar Kumaritashvili crashed during a practice luge run and died shortly after from injuries sustained in the accident.

Day two would put the games

into a better swing of things as actual competition would start. Notable wins came from Hannah Kearney of the U.S. in the women's moguls skiing, and also in short track speed skating, where Americans Apolo Ohno and John Celski were able to capture silver and bronze behind South Korea's Lee Jung-Su when Su's two teammates crashed just seconds before the finish. A new world record was set on day 4 when Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo of China received the highest score ever in short program figure skating. South Korea continued its success in speed skating as Lee Sang-Hwa would win the women's 500m race. Sang-Hwa squeaked past current record holder Jenny Wolf of Germany by just 0.05 seconds.

On the same day, Lindsey Vonn

of the U.S. took the gold in the women's downhill alpine skiing event. This was after Vonn's participation in the games was questionable due to a badly bruised right shin that she suffered during a previous crash in December while competing in Sweden. Vonn didn't let her injuries keep her down.

Another comeback story from American skiing came from Bode Miller, who won his first Olympic gold ever by winning the men's combined skiing event. Miller was ranked 7th in the downhill part of the event but wound up winning the gold after recording the 3rd fastest time in the slalom half.

Shaun White of the U.S. left viewers in awe as he threw down a beautiful double Mc-Twist 1260 to easily take the

gold in the men's snowboarding halfpipe event. The day before White won his gold, Australian snowboarder Torah Bright won gold in women's halfpipe. Bright was met at the bottom of the hill by her parents, who had secretly traveled to Vancouver to support their daughter, leading her to break into tears.

Canada breezed through the curling competition and took gold by defeating Norway 6-3 in the gold medal game. Another Canadian favorite was the men's ice hockey team. Canada was a heavy favorite but hit a road block early on as they were beaten by the Americans 5-3 in the first round of play. They eventually turned around their run with some convincing wins, including a 7-3 defeat of hockey powerhouse Russia. The Canadians ended up meeting the U.S. in the gold medal game, but this time they found revenge with a 2-0 victory. The U.S. was somewhat of a Cinderella story. Coming into the Olympics as the youngest team, nobody really expected a whole lot but led by tournament M.V.P. goalie Ryan Miller, the Americans would shock the world by even making it to the gold medal game. Although they only received silver, it was still an amazing run.

The closing ceremony occured on Feb. 28. Performers such as Michael Buble and Neil Young played while Michael J. Fox made an appearance as well. Canada received the most gold medals with 14. The U.S. ended with 37 total medals to lead in that category.

ALFRED SAXON SCOREBOARD

Team	Last Opponent	Result	Record	Next Opponent
Men's Swimming and Diving	NCAA Division III Championships		7 - 2 - 0	
Women's Swimming and Divir	NCAA Division III Championships		7 - 2 - 0	
Men's Track and Field	ECAC Championships	35th		
Women's Track and Field	ECAC Championships	no score		
Men's Lacrosse	Medaille	L, 8 - 9	2 - 3 - 0	Cazenovia
Women's Lacrosse	Medaille	W, 16 - 0	2 - 1 - 0	SUNY Maritime
Softball	Castleton State	W, 8 - 0	5 - 1 - 0	Pitt-Bradford

