

## **AU alumnus' book featured in New York Times**

11/02/05

Paul Ford '95 was featured in the Oct. 31, 2005 edition of The New York Times, in an article promoting his latest book "Gary Benchley, Rock Star." The Times described the book as "an edited and expanded version of [the fictional] Benchley's serialized rock chronicles -- a sort of Dickens-esque flourish for the digital age- - and few are as amazed by the outcome as Mr. Ford is." Ford credits the Alfred University faculty for helping him to pursue a career outside of his major (he graduated with a degree in English). "My professors were my guides -- they encouraged me to take risks," he said. "They followed the curriculum but pushed me to explore outside of it. That sense of intellectual freedom served as the foundation of my career as a writer, editor, and technologist." Ford is an associate editor of Harper's Magazine, the editor of Harper's Magazine Weekly Review, and the creator of the influential Web site ftrain.com. He is a frequent contributor to National Public Radio's popular "All Things Considered" program. Now living in Brooklyn, NY, Ford looks back on his time at Alfred with fondness. "There is something remarkable and genuine about the town of Alfred. It is an unusual, intimate place," he said. "[In particular], I miss the basement of the Herrick Library, where I would go to spend hours writing, thinking, and browsing the stacks [of books]."