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December 4, 2001

Fiat Lux

The Student Newspaper of Alfred University

Inside



This one s for you!

AU searches for distinctive traits

BY ASHLEY BRENON
A & E EDITOR

What constitutes the hallmark of an Alfred University education?

The administration at AU, like the administrations at many higher educational institutions, are asking themselves critical questions like this one in order to stimulate gradual positive change.

"Like any complex organization operating in the moment, we are also thinking about where we want to be ten years from now," said Provost David Szczerbacki.

"The president has directed the deans to discuss with faculty how we might change the Alfred University academic environment to increase public awareness of our distinctiveness," said Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Bill Hall.

Although nothing has been decided for sure, several ideas have made it into the discussion stages.

Understanding that a university's faculty is its most valuable asset, AU has formed a committee dedicated to recruiting more qual-

ity faculty members.

The organization of the engineering programs is also being evaluated. Currently, mechanical and electrical engineering programs are within the College of Engineering and Professional Studies, while the ceramic engineering program is within the New York State College of Ceramics.

Perhaps the most relevant aspect of the administration's discussions for students is the idea of the shared experience. Richard Thompson, dean of the College of Art and Design, and Hall are leading the discussions on this topic.

Administrators throughout the country are seeking shared experiences for their students. Szczerbacki advises that the idea of a shared intellectual community

doesn't refer to a "one size fits all" approach. The goal is to create unity. Student Senate and Faculty Senate are involved in proposing ideas and giving feedback regarding how Alfred can achieve this goal.

In the most general sense, all students are already required to take general education classes and participate in freshman forums. All students go through orientation together.

The administration is considering introducing more intellectual discussions within orientation. Last year for the first time a faculty member spoke at freshman convocation as Bob Myers, professor of anthropology and public health, gave a discussion on violence. The administration is con-

SEE ALFRED, PAGE 4

Art auction raises \$17K

BY BRET ERICSON
STAFF WRITER

The Alfred Art Auction, a charity event to benefit the New York City Central Labor Council, was organized by Alfred University art students shortly after the events of Sept. 11. Arranged by four seniors, the auction was an attempt to bring the Alfred community together.

Two hundred fifty pieces were available in the silent auction, which ran from Nov. 14 through Nov. 17 at its Main Street location, and 60 in the live auction on Nov. 17 at Nevins Theater.

"It was really important for me," said Lindsay Stern, a sophomore art student who assisted with the production. "It was kind of cathartic, not just sitting around watching CNN and doing nothing."

The event, which raised nearly \$17,000, included work by Alfred students and faculty as well as donations from artists outside the community.

Donated art included works in various two-dimensional and three-dimensional media, as well as electronic art.

"It was all Joanna's idea," said Jesse Eustis, an installation art student and one of the coordinators. He was referring to Joanna Kadlubowska, a ceramics student who both developed the concept and worked to involve the community.

The decision to donate the proceeds to NYCCLC was made after much discussion between the coordinators.

"So much already seemed to be being done to address the immediate consequences of Sept. 11, we decided that we wanted to direct our assistance toward the more long-term effects," said Eustis.

NYCCLC is a non-profit organization representing various labor unions in New York City.

Over 60 students and faculty volunteered to assist with the production of the event.

SEE ART AUCTION, PAGE 7

Brrrr, Cold Turkeys!



PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND
Rose Baum, left, and Jennifer George dress as turkeys to promote the Great American Smokeout before Thanksgiving break.

Panelists tackle anthrax threat

BY JUDY TSANG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The primary goal of "Anthrax: What You Need To Know" discussion is to present the truth, and dispel the misinformation given on anthrax, among other useful information, said Assistant Professor of Biology Jean Cardinale.

A roundtable discussion featuring eight panelists with expertise in various areas concerning anthrax was held last Thursday in Holmes Auditorium. Starting off the forum was an informative lecture on the origins of anthrax and other related material by Cardinale.

Anthrax is caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, Cardinale said. These bacteria are a naturally occurring bacteria found in soil or in the wool and hides of mammals such as lambs and cows.

Humans become infected with anthrax by coming in contact with

these animals, usually through the skin. Generally, people working with hides and wool become infected, as anthrax is a natural part of industrial, agricultural and laboratory work.

Cardinale explained that anthrax can be contracted in three ways: cutaneous, through a break in the skin; gastrointestinal, ingestion of infected undercooked meat; and inhalation of the spores through industrial processing of contaminated wool, hair and hides. Ninety-five percent of all cases are contracted cutaneously.

If anthrax is contracted, symptoms occur within the seven days, and would be easily treatable if caught early enough, said Cardinale. Symptoms are flu-like, including nausea, vomiting and other signs of the common cold. Cutaneous anthrax can easily be seen as a cut or break in the skin and is painless.

Anthrax is used as a biological weapon because it is associated

SEE ANTHRAX, PAGE 3

Rally for America

BY BRANDON THURNER
STAFF WRITER

The purpose of Veterans Day is to honor those who wear the uniform, both past and present, as personal sacrifices made by veterans play a key role in the existence of the nation.

Both Alfred University and Alfred State College students gathered together this Veterans Day to show their support for veterans in a "Rally for America." AU's bandstand, located on Main Street, played host as the small crowd of students and faculty discussed their views on the holiday and veterans in general.

Attending were members of the College Republicans from both AU and Alfred State College, and Mayor Gary Ostrower, professor of history at AU.

According to Michael Topp, president of AU's College Republicans, the reason for staging the rally was "to honor veterans and show collegiate support for the nation's troops."

Topp stated that the small size of the group allowed for intimate conversations. Topics discussed included honor and respect for those in uniform, and supporting the nation as a whole, especially in this time of need.

Thinking of American troops on Veterans Day 2001 also drew added significance since the date fell on the two-month anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Ostrower realized the event's timing and attended the rally to show his support for the Alfred community as a whole. While there, he gave an impromptu speech about the origins of Veterans Day.

Ostrower noted that until about 30 years ago, Armistice Day had been the official name of the holiday. The day had been originally created to commemorate the closure of World War I.

SEE RALLY, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY JANET MELIN
Students performing in *The Crucible* rehearse for last week's performances. See page 14 for the review.



Fiat Lux

AU looks to future

Life at AU may seem pretty mundane for most of us, going to classes, doing homework and the like.

However, it appears that some exciting work is being done behind the scenes to improve the experiences of each and every AU student.

A front-page article in this paper explores the work that is being done by the administration to identify the hallmark of the Alfred University experience.

Such news takes one away from the realm of the day-to-day, and brings on thoughts of a more abstract nature.

What does Alfred University mean to us? Why are we here, and what do we hope to gain from being here?

It is these questions that are being pondered, and answers being sought that would put a distinctive mark on an AU education.

Discussions to this point have included recruiting more of the quality teachers that Alfred is known for and a more interactive and improved orientation program.

Another idea is expanding the capstone projects already in place, such as senior shows, design projects and business plans.

Also discussed is an increased emphasis on study abroad opportunities.

Moves such as these would only serve to enhance our education here at Alfred, and would be something to consider.

Bringing students together in shared experiences, from orientation to major projects and beyond would strengthen the bond that we all share, and make Alfred an even more special place to all of us.

But perhaps the best thing to realize is that Alfred University is looking toward the future in a positive way, and is looking for ways to make this a world-class institution.

We encourage these discussions to encompass all aspects of campus life and to include many different groups, from administration to faculty to staff to student groups and individual students.

Part of what makes Alfred great is the sense of community created by the convergence of these groups, and this community should be used to its full advantage as AU moves forward to a prosperous future.

Editor's note: When the *Fiat Lux* learned that Gail Walker would not be returning to teach at AU, *Fiat Lux* advisor Robyn Goodman really pushed me to acquire some coverage on how the campus, especially students, is dealing with the absence of one of the most popular professors on campus. Not really realizing how serious the situation would become, I couldn't come to understand why such a story is really that important. Furthermore, I didn't want Doc Walker to feel as though the *Fiat Lux* was prying into her private life.

However, as I researched for last issue's article on the campus' reaction to Doc Walker's absence, it began to hit me why this would be so important for the community to read.

As the weeks wore on, I learned that Doc Walker's leave of absence was much more serious than just a rest period for her. Doc Walker asked the *Fiat Lux* to consider a submission of hers to be published. We agreed that despite its length, we cannot edit her powerful message. Her letter can be found on page 8.

With great support and help from Robyn, the *Fiat Lux* decided to compile letters and messages from members of varying parts of the community speaking of Doc Walker and their experiences with her. It certainly wasn't the easiest thing to do during the most hectic time of the year, but it proved to be relatively effortless with so much enthusiasm from the community.

To all those that contributed despite the stressful week of closing out the semester and the added on stress of my last minute pleas, thank you for making my job easier and helping to let the campus know how much we miss Doc Walker's energy here.

Darlene, your help has been incredible. Much thanks to you. Reading all these stories taught me that Doc Walker's absence is greatly missed, as a professor, a peer, a mentor, a friend. It's such a joy to see the Alfred community come together and show another community member such great support.

I invite anyone wishing to voice their thoughts and messages to either send them to *Fiat Lux* as a letter to the editor or to the Psych Division. I understand that many cards have already been left there for Doc Walker to receive.

Doc Walker, this one's for you.



Fiat Lux

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The *Fiat Lux* supports the perpetuation 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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COLUMN

Editor enumerates policies

BY JUDY TSANG
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



More often than not, I have assumed that everyone understands the policies and workings of the *Fiat Lux*. Whenever someone confuses a column or an editorial with an article, I cringe.

But then again, not everyone is a communication studies student, and so here I'll try and spell out as much of the *Fiat Lux* policies as possible.

First things first, what's the difference between an article, a column and an editorial? An article is a factual news story a journalist reports after research, investigation and interviews. It is objective and cannot be biased in any way.

However, columns and reviews present the opinions of the writer, and only the writer. Reviews simply give the opinions of the writer of the impression he or she received from performances, audio CDs or books. Reviews are not always positive and praising; they cannot be. The reviewer is to write of how they honestly feel. We never intend to personally attack anyone.

Letters to the editor are also writings that represent the opinions solely of the writer. The editorial — or editorials — of the *Fiat Lux* is the only piece in the paper that shows the thoughts and viewpoints of the *Fiat Lux* executive staff as a

whole.

Although it may be easier to avoid criticism by sending in a letter to the editor unsigned or by an anonymous writer, we cannot publish opinions that are not attributed. All letters to the editor must be signed, and we reserve the right to edit for clarity, brevity and fair play.

Oftentimes, submissions to the editor have been turned away due to a number of reasons. Two of the main reasons for these denials have been publicity requisition and conflict of interest.

We do not serve as a free publicity vehicle for any organization. That is why we sell advertising space. If any group is putting forth an event that is newsworthy, we try our hardest to cover it with our reporters.

And that is another important point to keep in mind — sending out our own reporters. While a member of a certain organization may be most knowledgeable to report a certain event or topic, the *Fiat Lux* does not allow for anyone participating in an event to report the event due to a conflict of interest. A conflict of interest hinders the possibility of good reporting because he or she may have a vested private or personal interest in the group or activity and thus may influence the way he or she reports.

Most people forget to read the fine print down below in our staff box, but our editorial policy is stated. The *Fiat Lux* is a stu-

dent newspaper that supports the perpetuation of a broad and liberal education conducive to free speech. Free speech means we are constitutionally protected.

Contrary to the negative stereotype of modern journalists who compromise their morality and jobs to obtain a story or other benefits, we, at the *Fiat Lux*, try very hard to abide by a set of ethical regulations set by the Society of Professional Journalists.

There have been numerous occasions where the *Fiat Lux* has received letters or e-mails asking why there is a lack of coverage on specific sports, events, etc. The reason, unfortunately, is quite simple. We do not have the resources to cover everything we would like.

There are only a handful of students who work incredibly hard to produce a publication every two weeks. If you haven't noticed, in every issue there are the same writers penning articles for the *Fiat Lux*. That is not to say we are elitist and we only accept certain writers; we only have so many writers that actually come to us.

Remember, the *Fiat Lux* is a publication by the students. We are always in need of writers and photographers, as well as students interested in the production side of a newspaper.

The more participation from campus we receive, the more diverse and broad the *Fiat Lux* can be. ☐

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Statement by the Alfred Quakers

Dear Editor:

With deep respect for those who have lost their lives at the hands of terrorists and for all of us who mourn them and for those who, even now, are fighting to eliminate the threat of terrorism, we of the Alfred Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends — called Quakers — Alfred, New York do declare our considered and moral opposition to all war, violence, revenge and retribution. The United States has a right to seek justice and there are just means to do so, both at home and in the community of nations around the world.

Terrorism is abhorrent, and most people will cooperate to eliminate it. We put our faith in the behavior that promotes peace, that recognizes God in every person, and that is guided by the Spirit who loves all people. We cannot agree that killing others — including innocent children and bystanders — is just. Instead it creates a still greater terror elsewhere and promotes further war.

We believe the United States should substantially lessen our reliance on weapons exports, economic and tactical support of undemocratic governments, violent entertainment, continual international warfare, terrorist training and all behaviors which are not based in respect, commu-

nity and peace around the world.

Without such changes, we believe the world will become increasingly dangerous and our own lives increasingly insecure. Our system of laws and model of government should provide hope and inspiration to the rest of the world, not violent repression.

We of the Alfred Quakers find our greatest security in supporting liberty, justice and human rights, abroad as well as at home.

Sincerely,
Alfred Monthly Meeting

College Republicans respond

Dear Editor:

Recently you printed a Letter to the Editor from Alfred resident Edward McCamy. He wrongly accused the College Republicans of lying, trickery and extortion.

What we, the College Republicans, assume is that Mr. McCamy is the gentleman who grabbed the box in which we were keeping the money made and attempted to run off with it, judging from the incidents described in his letter. We find his actions particularly ironic as he attempted to take the money and then wrote how we aren't ethically healthy.

Another point we wish to bring up is how he wrote, "Questioning the solicitors, I learned they knew nothing whatsoever about how the Sept. 11 victims would

get the money." The students seated at the table when Mr. McCamy began yelling at them were not sure if the money would go through the Red Cross or through the Sept. 11 fund.

The next point we'd like to make is that there were signs posted stating who we were and what we were doing. This endeavor, then, cannot be qualified as a "gambit" as Mr. McCamy stated.

Lastly, Director of Student Activities Dan Napolitano approved each and every decision we made as a club, including splitting the money from the bake sale 50-50 between the Sept. 11 fund and the College Republicans.

It was incredibly unfair for Mr. McCamy to write the aforementioned letter without first speaking with our club and we took offense that he would call a bake sale a trick. No one was out to steal, bribe or trick anyone. We were just attempting to do a good deed and send half of our profit to New York City and Washington, D.C.

Sincerely,
AU College Republicans

Seasons
Greetings
from the
Fiat Lux!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Soccer team slighted

Dear Editor:

This past soccer season, the Alfred men's soccer team was not given an NCAA tournament bid based on a technicality.

The AU men's soccer team tied Rochester Institute of Technology in its regular season match, as well as in the Empire Eight, and was named co-champions of the conference. However, RIT, which was ranked tenth in the region — compared to Alfred, ranked seventh — received the NCAA automatic bid for the conference. It received a bid based on the NCAA's tie-breaking rule of goal differential, which is the difference between goals scored for versus goals scored against, and won by a slim margin of approximately one goal.

As a forward for the AU soccer team, I feel that this is absolutely ridiculous. Not only did AU have a better record at 12-1-2 and a higher regional ranking, but it ranked nationally for many categories. Not getting a bid based on the tie-breaking system that was used instead of having a playoff game between the teams was absolutely absurd.

The NCAA tournament is

meant for the best teams in the country to face off and compete for an ultimate national championship. However, this year that was not the case because AU was not given a bid. And although the AU-RIT regular season game ended in a draw, anyone that saw the game could say without a doubt AU was a much better team, out-shooting RIT 30-15.

I know I'm definitely partial to the AU team, but I think what happened to us this year was a disgrace. Something needs to be done about the NCAA's tie-breaking system so this will never happen again.

Sincerely,
Kevin McGee
Class of 2002

Off-campus students do laundry, too

Dear Editor:

Now let's get to the dirty stuff. That is, my clothes. You see, I live off-campus and, like most other AU students, I do not have access to my own washer and dryer.

In past years, AU students

washed their laundry at The Commons. But this year, every time I've attempted to do my laundry, [the Commons] has been locked. It's hard to find time to do laundry and, when I try to do so, it's not open.

Ford Street apartment residents can get in to The Commons with their room keys. So I assume anyone with a key to on-campus housing is able to get in and do laundry. That is why this is a problem for all students living off-campus.

I wish AU would either open the doors again or give everyone keys.

Sincerely,
Erin Sands
Class of 2002

Female teams overlooked

Dear Editor:

In your Nov. 13 issue AU women's basketball was covered with only a blurred picture. On the other hand, the AU men's basketball team was covered with a well-written article. Even club hockey had an article written about it. The women's basketball team deserves more support from the student paper.

As a member of the basketball team, we receive less emotional support from the AU community. It is frustrating to receive little support from the student paper as well. The AU community should provide equal support for all teams.

To credit the *Fiat*, its coverage of women's sports is usually well done. But in its latest issue, the photos favored the men's teams. The swimming and diving teams photos were of men swimmers and divers only. No photos were taken of the equestrian team, most of whom are females.

Underneath the men's basketball picture the caption was positive, with no mention of the team's previous record, 14-11. Underneath the women's basketball picture there was a reference to the women's subpar record last year. There should equal coverage between the men's and women's basketball teams. It only seems fair.

Sincerely,
Brenda Mulligan
Class of 2004

Health issues are important

Dear Editor:

The Nov. 13 *Fiat Lux* article

"Nonoxonyl-9 reexamined" reported that nonoxonyl-9, the spermicidal lubricant, does not help prevent the HIV virus because it creates a pathway for the virus by irritating the tissue along the sides of the vaginal tract.

I appreciated this article because students should be aware of the harm they could do to their bodies. Sex is an important topic, especially on a college campus.

There should be more articles, and perhaps a column, dedicated to sexual health awareness issues. I thought the writer, Catherine Kevelt, proved her point well, especially since she had a lot of academic support from the Centers for Disease Control.

I was especially impressed that Kevelt also conducted a survey that proved students do not know enough about the contraceptive most commonly used.

The HIV virus is not something to fool around with. I am glad someone wrote a story on nonoxonyl-9 so carriers of the HIV virus do not continue to use this harmful spermicidal that can create lesions and "increase potential for an increased risk of HIV transmission."

Sincerely,
Tina Pignatelli
Class of 2004



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MICHAEL TOPP

Sophomore Melanie Culp sings as part of the Rally for America on Nov. 11, Veterans Day.

...Anthrax

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE with high mortality. It is highly effective if it gets into the lungs, but it does take a substantial amount of spores for infection: 8,000 to 50,000 spores, Cardinale said.

She continued by explaining the difference between "weapons grade" anthrax and non-weapons grade anthrax. Spores need to be prepared properly in order for anthrax to be easily inhaled — no more than two microns large. If the spores are wet or prepared incorrectly, they clump together making the anthrax bacteria ineffective. Cardinale likened this to throwing salt grains into the air; they will not remain in the air to be easily inhaled.

While there is a vaccine available for humans, Cardinale was reluctant to support the usage of

it. The schedule for dosage is extremely intensive and there is no safety data available. Currently, the vaccine is used by military and medical personnel, and is not ready for public use. Of the 1.86 million doses given in the last decade, about five percent produced an adverse reaction. Cardinale pointed out that this is very serious.

While there is a vaccine for animals, it is not safe to use on humans as it may initiate a disease.

Cardinale stressed not to steam iron or microwave mail suspicious of containing anthrax — this could only lead to fires. Besides, during an experiment where anthrax spores were microwaved on high for four minutes, only 80 percent of the spores died. That still leaves 20 percent.

"It's not easy to kill spores," Cardinale said. But there are several ways to: using an autoclave

machine to combine temperature of over 121 C and steam; overnight soaking in five percent formalin or two percent formaldehyde; or using e-beam or gamma irradiation.

After Cardinale's informative lecture, panelists were brought on stage to tackle questions from the audience. The panel included Rosetta Brown-Greaney, AU's director of health center; Michael Congdon, manager of the Post Office Operations for the Western New York District; Linda Henshaw, infection control coordinator at St. James Mercy Health in Hornell; Lisa Lang of Jones Memorial Hospital; Pepi Leids, field veterinarian of the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Division of Animal Industry; Gary Ogden, director of Allegany Public Health; John Tucker, director of Allegany County Office of Emergency Services and Cardinale, herself.

...Rally

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE but is now a blanket holiday for all American veterans and wars.

Becca Wurst, a member of AU's College Republicans, felt that remembering the nation's veterans is a small sacrifice to make.

"The men and women in uniform are willing to risk their lives for the welfare of others," she said. Wurst felt this fact is especially important to remember, as other nations do not enjoy the same support as the United States.

Despite the positive atmosphere provided by the rally, dissent in the nation still exists. The nation's democratic ideals allow such free expression to take place and even encourage disagreements, commented Wurst.

A young woman who opposed the United States' involvement in Afghanistan and all other wars used this American right. She walked by the rally and articulated

her beliefs of making peace instead of war.

Ostrower feels the United States' "commitment to guaranteeing a right of speech" is unmatched and should be appreciated by all citizens. This fundamental right to disagree with one another separates the United States from most nations in the world.

Also of note is the idea that veterans should be remembered on more than the two designated holidays each year. Topp stressed this important belief and detailed possible remedies such as visiting the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post, playing chess and talking with members.

Honoring those in uniform has not always taken place enough to commemorate the invaluable services rendered by the nation's armed forces. However, the students and faculty at the rally seem to have found an outlet for expressing their gratitude for the deeds accomplished by members of the United States military. ○

nately the fear factor is there," Henshaw said.

Congdon explained the procedures postal employees have taken since the anthrax scare. Nitro gloves and masks are available for employees, and the cleaning procedures have been changed, with increased vacuuming and use of 10 percent chlorine solution. In addition, mail services are using e-beam technology to sanitize mail.

The first biological weapon was small pox, used was in 1756 by the English on Native Americans because it was extremely contagious, Ogden said.

However, the small pox vaccine will not be used unless absolutely necessary because there are too many side effects. Cardinale pointed out that a single case of small pox would become an international emergency since the world has become smaller with the frequent traveling. ○

Culture of the “Quiet People” revealed

BY ALISON SAVETT
NEWS EDITOR

John Buckwalter, interim dean for arts and sciences at Alfred State College, let students, faculty, staff and community members at the Bergren Forum Nov. 15 into his world of “The Quiet People: Mennonites and Amish in North America.”

“I’d like to give you an insider’s look at a group that has been a very quiet people,” said Buckwalter. “They avoid the public spotlight; they’re in the background of society.”

The Amish, first called Anabaptists, have been around since 1536. Anabaptists, Buckwalter explained, are not an anti-Baptist movement.

“We are a group that chooses to be re-baptized to identify with a group of believers,” he said.

The Anabaptists, later called Mennonites, decided to do what is called “believer’s baptism” as opposed to infant baptism.

“Baptism is only done upon confession of faith,” he said. “Adults determine life’s direction on their own.”

Buckwalter feels that they are a group of liberal Bibleists out to restore early church patterns. These patterns include costly discipleship, church discipline and peace and justice in daily life.

“We are called to follow Christ daily in life,” said Buckwalter about costly discipleship. “[Peace and justice mean] we also have a sense of not just refusing to kill a

person, but refusing government interaction because the government kills people.”

Clarifying church discipline, Buckwalter stated that a person who is not abiding by local church decree will be confronted first and if their behavior continues, they are excommunicated.

Faith is expressed in practical terms. “Doctrine has been secondary to our faith in life,” he commented.

These rules have been around Buckwalter since he was a child, born in Lancaster County, Penn. This is an area most well known for their vast numbers of Amish and Mennonite people.

Buckwalter has traced his ancestry back to 1713, when his relatives immigrated to Philadelphia, only 60 miles from Lancaster. His ancestors are Swiss and German.

“I’m simply a person who got curious about my roots,” he said, noting that in the year 2000 there are 1.2 million in the Anabaptist Church.

In Africa there are 183,000 Anabaptists, while in Canada there are 128,500. These are all people who have become a member of their own choice, stressed Buckwalter. They are only counted as a part of the Anabaptist Church after they have made their own decision about joining.

Persecution encouraged migration, he told the very interested audience. Holland was the first to tolerate Anabaptism, in 1579.

“It was religious freedom in

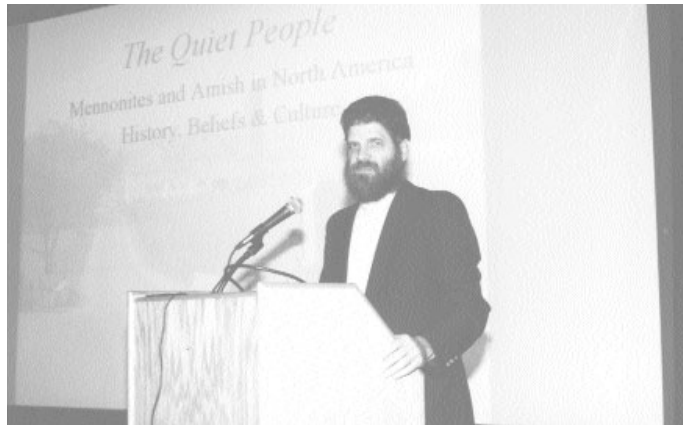


PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND
John Buckwalter explains the major aspects of the Anabaptist Church during his recent Bergren Forum.

the modern sense,” he said. “Mennonites then prospered as they became urbanized with many entering the merchant class.”

In 1693, there was a split from the Mennonites. Jakob Ammann, a bishop in Western Switzerland and Alsace, created what is known today as the Amish movement.

“They insisted on social shunning by those under church discipline,” explained Buckwalter. “Only 30 families were involved. Today, most are direct descendants.” This is why third and

fourth cousins sometimes will marry.

Members of the group were among the first Americans to petition against slavery in 1690. By 1750, 5,000 Mennonites had settled north and west of Philadelphia.

In the 1820s, many immigrated to Illinois, Indiana and Ohio from Prussia. In the 1830s, they came from Alsace to Lewis County, N.Y.

Currently, 90 percent of Amish choose to remain in the group as adults, he told the group. Yet they still have the choice to not

be baptized as adults and therefore not be counted as Anabaptists.

Buckwalter also explained that about 25 percent of Mennonites look plain or have a pattern of different dress.

“We [aren’t] plain, but modest,” he said. “No piercings or tattoos.”

Lastly, Buckwalter touched on the fact that Anabaptists refuse outside intervention. This church is one that resists all government support.

“We had the first modern ‘free church,’” he explained. ○

TV news reporter gives advice

BY LUIS VASQUEZ
AD MANAGER

It takes more than just physical looks to break into the television news industry in today’s competitive media market, news reporter Kristen Miranda told attendees at an informal talk on Nov. 28 in Nevins Theater.

“Women in this business are very mean to other women in the business because it is so competitive,” said Miranda.

Miranda has been a news reporter and anchor for Channel 13 in Rochester for almost two years.

She first started working for her high school newspaper, then went to SUNY Fredonia for video production and editing and has completed several internships in news stations in Buffalo and Binghamton.

She came to Alfred University at Associate Professor of Communications Robyn Goodman’s request to come and informally talk to those interested in television and news reporting.

Miranda talked about how to break into the television industry and, particularly, how competition has impacted her career and work.

“Your connections and who you know in the industry are very important,” said Miranda. “They might help you break in.”

Miranda offered suggestions on how to make a good impression when searching for a television news reporting job. According to Miranda, when television producers look at

resume tapes, they look at how the person looks for the first 10 seconds of the tape, and then they start listening carefully.

“Make yourself visible by showing a couple of good stand-ups, and then three or more examples of the best stories you’ve written and reported,” said Miranda. “They want to see how you look like, and how well you write.”

She also explained that the hardest part comes after you actually break in the industry. According to Miranda, if individuals have potential, they won’t have many problems keeping up, but they have to work really hard to do so.

“You have to back up your potential by working hard and being good at what you do,” said Miranda.

Miranda also addressed the issue of gender and how it has affected her career. She doesn’t feel uncomfortable being white and reporting from black neighborhoods, and she believes it should be the same way for minorities reporting from white neighborhoods.

“You have to be able to relate to any situation regardless of what you are,” said Miranda. “I’ve never been scared to be out there.”

Miranda detailed how news stories are processed and brought together before they come on the air on television every day. She explained that every story format is the same, no matter what story a reporter is doing.

According to Miranda, television reporters concentrate on

briefly showing what’s going on, then people go and do more in-depth research on the stories they are interested in, through newspapers or the Internet. Then the station’s webmasters take the news from tapes or scripts and post them on the Web site.

According to Miranda, the worst aspects of her job are the everyday stress, competition and, surprisingly, mean fans.

“People can be weird,” she said. “When they see you in person, they act like they know you well because they feel like you are in their living rooms every night.” ○

...Alfred

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
sidering continuing the themes introduced by faculty at freshman convocation throughout orientation and throughout the freshman forums, said Hall. They are also considering extending orientation an extra day.

Throughout the country administrators are also discussing the value of capstone experiences. A capstone experience is a culminating project in a student’s major.

Szczerbacki estimated that half of Alfred students have capstone experiences already. Engineers complete senior design projects, art students do senior shows and business students create a business plan. Students in other majors have the opportunity to complete a thesis project or undergraduate research.



PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND
This Art piece for the senior art shows can be seen at the Bandstand.

Within the capstone experience students integrate the concepts they have learned. They reflect and gain a sense of closure, Szczerbacki said. It is one way to capture what the Alfred experience is all about.

Another idea being considered involves increasing the global perspective. Alfred already hosts international dinners and global roundtables.

We can do more, Szczerbacki said. At Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, 75 percent of students study abroad. At Alfred, only about five percent of students do.

In discussions with the Office of Admissions, Szczerbacki found that questions about study abroad are the most common questions prospective students ask regardless of major. However, most students do not follow through with study abroad plans once they

matriculate, Szczerbacki said.

The University is discussing how it can make study abroad more accessible and more desirable for students. One idea recommends that the University guarantee the opportunity to study abroad to every student. Although, because study abroad involves a partnership with colleges and universities in other countries, the administration is not sure how they can deliver on that promise.

“The ultimate goal is to enhance intellectual discussions, and a common intellectual perspective that people in all colleges have,” said Hall.

These are healthy questions for an academic community. It is an introspective self-critical attitude. “That is what we teach in the classroom. It should be what we practice,” Szczerbacki said. ○

STUDENT SENATE UPDATE

BY ALISON SAVETT
NEWS EDITOR

At Student Senate on Nov. 14, Adrian Morling, assistant director of information technology services, and Assistant Vice President for Information Services Arolana Meissner, came to discuss the regulation of the AU network.

"The amount of bandwidth is always a concern," stated Morling. "But that's not under our control." Morling explained that one network is used for 3,000 students. Also, Meissner clarified, more bandwidth is sought in rural areas

since there are no cable outlets.

The new publicity director replacing Steve Frost is freshman Sarah Kemp. Her office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m.

Seth Mulligan let the senators know that audits for this semester are coming up.

"Audit reports are publicly available after they take place," explained Mulligan.

A new ATM will be coming to Ade Hall, will be open until 12 a.m. and will reopen in the morning at 6 a.m. This ATM will be on the interior of the building to comply with security regulations.

A professional 8-foot air hockey table will be coming to the new recreation center in Ade Hall, stated Mulligan.

The Senate Executive board will make white doves of peace for the upcoming holiday festivities. These doves will be in Powell Campus Center, as a part of the decorations that DJ Hampton, first-year graduate student, is putting up this year.

If you see a blue emergency phone with a blinking light, it needs resetting. In order to do that, you have to push all of the buttons at the same time, or let security know. ○

New test enhances learning at AU

BY JENELLE SILVERS
FEATURES EDITOR

Ever feel like multiple choice exams don't accurately reflect what you have learned?

Immediate Feedback Assessment Technique, a new form of multiple choice testing designed by Michael Epstein, psychology professor at Rider University, may offer students a second chance to get the right answer.

IF-AT allows partial credit for a second or later selection after an initial incorrect response.

Based on psychological theories of learning, students displaying proximate knowledge are given credit for narrowing the options, even if their first response is incorrect.

The article 'Immediate Feedback During Academic Testing,' published in *Psychological Reports* compared the IF-AT to Scantron forms. The study found that students who used IF-AT for unit tests correctly answered more questions on a final exam which repeated questions from earlier exams than students who had taken Scantron unit exams.

Leslie Taylor, assistant professor of psychology, explained that "the faster the feedback,

the more likely behavior will change." The last response is the one learned, and the conventional multiple choice format may reinforce misinformation.

"As compared with other test formats there is not as much of a gap between the learning process and evaluation," said Taylor.

The immediate feedback of IF-AT allows learning through the assessment process.

"The purpose of doing assessment," said Taylor, "though it doesn't always seem that way to students, is for you to evaluate your own learning."

Jean Cardinale, assistant professor of biology, uses the IF-AT for pop quizzes in her cell biology class.

"The students have seen the words and get to see the right answer before we go over it in class," she said.

This can be an advantage, Cardinale pointed out, because not everyone does the assigned reading 100 percent of the time. With the IF-AT, all of the students have the opportunity to be exposed to the material.

The test becomes another format for learning even when the student gives incorrect answers.

"[The student] gains knowledge by being given the correct

response," Epstein said. "He learns what he needs to know, converting mistakes into learning."

The test offers potential benefits to both instructors and students.

Taylor said, "The benefit would be that you are understanding as you go along."

But Taylor also pointed out that the IF-AT has limitations. "[The IF-AT] doesn't work for every type of class," she said. "It depends on what you are trying to evaluate." She also believes the test could increase test anxiety in students who suffer from it already.

The quick turn-around time of a traditional multiple choice assessment is combined with partial credit for proximate knowledge. Students who can narrow their options receive more credit than students who randomly guess.

Cardinale also pointed out that students really seem to enjoy the scratch-off format of the test.

"It's like the lottery," she said.

The lottery analogy may be more appropriate for some students than others. You still have to play to win, but unlike other lotteries, odds of winning increase dramatically by opening the book and studying. ○



WORLDNOTES

LOCAL

A preview of the Performing Arts' February Dance Concert will be held Thursday and Friday of this week at 8 p.m. in Miller Performing Arts Center Room 300.

Performances will include African, Caribbean and swing dance styles among others.

• Linda Mitchell will be speaking at the Dec. 6 Bergren Forum in Nevins Theater in Powell Campus Center at 12:10. Her talk will be "Dissing' History: How Eugenics Shapes Hollywood's Re-vision of the Past."

• Winter Breaks begins after last final. Residence halls will be closing Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. They reopen Sunday, January 20.

• This past Saturday, Dec. 1 was World AIDS Day. Students received the opportunity to help contribute to creating a panel for the AIDS Quilt in Powell Campus Center last Friday.

• Senior art shows are this Saturday, Dec. 8 in Harder Hall and throughout the campus.

NATIONAL

George Harrison, the Beatles' lead guitarist, died last Thursday at the age of 58. In 1998, Harrison had surgery for throat cancer, and he was treated for lung cancer and a brain tumor earlier this year.

"He left this world as he lived in it, conscious of God, fearless of death, and at peace, surrounded by family and friends," the Harrison family said in a statement in *The New York Times*. "He often said, 'Everything else can wait but the search for God cannot wait,' and 'love one another.'"

• Attorney General John Ashcroft might lessen restrictions on the F.B.I.'s investigations of United States religious and political groups said senior government officials last Thursday.

The plan would be another step by the Bush administration toward defending the United States against terrorists by modifying civil-liberties protections.

• Robert Tools was the first recipient of the AbioCor artificial heart five months ago. He died last Thursday at the age of 59.

Tools died due to complications following bleeding in his abdomen that led to his kidneys and liver failing and his blood pressure dropping. Doctors say his death was not due to a malfunction of his artificial heart.

INTERNATIONAL

The new common currency in 12 European countries, the euro is not gaining popularity. Due to become the currency used in Europe in a month, consumers are skeptical of the euro's benefits. The change will involve price hikes of around 15 percent for some consumer products.

• Prince Walid bin Talal of Saudi Arabia's royal family announced last week changes in the government that would call for an election process.

Fifteen of 19 hijackers in the Sept. 11 attacks were Saudis, and Prince Walid bin Talal said the changes would address domestic discontent.

"If people speak more freely and get involved more in the political process, you can really contain them and make them part of the process," Prince Walid said in *The New York Times*.

• In Zimbabwe the latest effort to curtail international scrutiny before next year's presidential election is a proposed law that would essentially bar foreign journalists from working in the country.

The proposed law is in response to a feeling by the Zimbabwe state-owned newspaper that foreign media were taking advantage of the country's lenient press laws.

The newspaper said the law would involve a panel of people who would be able to fine and suspend journalists if they were found in violation of the law. Penalties would be up to a two-year prison sentence or a \$1,800 fine. ○

Media has power to wreak havoc

BY ALISSA FISHER
STAFF WRITER

Michael McDonough, associate professor of English, dazzled the small luncheon crowd during the second Psychology Roundtable of the semester on Nov. 16 in the Knight Club.

The topic of the day was "Orson Welles: Mass Media and Paranoia," showing the overall trust of the media and what they tell their audiences.

McDonough joked with the students and faculty in attendance about his knowledge of psychology. "I don't know why I was asked to do this, I know nothing about psychology," he confessed.

However, McDonough proved himself wrong by capturing the interest of the audience and informing them of the mass hysteria that has existed for years and that has spread by mass media, rumors and reinforcement actions by authorities.

The focus of the roundtable was Orson Welles' 1938 *Mercury Theater*, a radio show on CBS. One

evening the show script tried something different — an alien invasion of New Jersey; it was a script adapted from the H.G. Wells' 1898 novel, *The War of the Worlds*.

The show that night was fine until 1.5 million listeners turned their dials to CBS 15 minutes into the show, missing the message assuring the listeners it was only a script. The radio audience started to panic.

"We very much trust mass media and those in authority," said McDonough, explaining their reactions.

Playing bits of the actual show, McDonough pointed out to his audience that Welles constructed the script so the reporter in the show reacted exactly as a real reporter of that time period would have.

"Welles knew his audience would believe it," said McDonough about the script. "They just didn't realize they only had to look out their windows to know it wasn't real."

The actual reaction of the audi-

ence varied from people claiming to smell smoke and seeing fires, to two Princeton professors driving around New Jersey all night just to find the nonexistent aliens.

People's beliefs were reinforced when they tried calling the police and couldn't get in contact with them. In reality, the lines were busy from callers experiencing the same hysteria, but the idea was in place that the police stations had already been taken over by the aliens.

Also, interpersonally confirmed information supported the hysteria.

"Even if it was from the same source, when the news was confirmed by their neighbors, this reinforced the overall situation," McDonough said.

A model McDonough created describing the steps for mass media-inspired paranoia included: orientation, interpersonal communication, real world cues, issue sensitivity and issue quality.

Mass hysteria is not something that is created solely by the media; the public allows itself to partici-

pate in the hysteria. McDonough pointed out that mass hysteria is just as real today as it was years ago, for example, Y2K.

"Y2K was absurd; it was something in which we fully participated," he said. "We took money out of the bank and filled our bathtubs with water to drink."

McDonough concluded the roundtable by pointing out that the people watching the television

or listening to the radio must think for themselves when it comes to messages via the media.

"It's agenda setting — the theory that the media creates a message for the community and tells them what to think about," he said. "It [agenda setting] is a naive interpretation of mass media, we do not passively consume this information. We have the ability to think for ourselves." ○

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“Understanding Islam” is goal of presentation

BY ALISSA FISHER
STAFF WRITER

Approximately 60 AU students and faculty were in attendance as Zakia Robana, assistant professor of French, and Professor Of Finance & Business Administration Abderrahman Robana informed the campus community about the Muslim religion with their Nov. 15 presentation, “Understanding Islam.”

The night started with a lecture on the history of Islam, beginning with the birth of Mohammed in 570 A.D. The presentation moved on to explain the different branches of the Muslim religion, the Sunna, the Shiaa and the Taliban.

The Koran is the only religious book that has not been translated from its original language. Muslims followers from many different countries all read the Koran in Arabic.

Zakia pointed out the increasing popularity of the religion, “Islam is still a rapidly growing faith. The last statistic gave the number of [1.9 billion] Muslims participating in the Islamic religion.”

Islam is a religion based in logic and mathematics. Knowledge and education are important to the

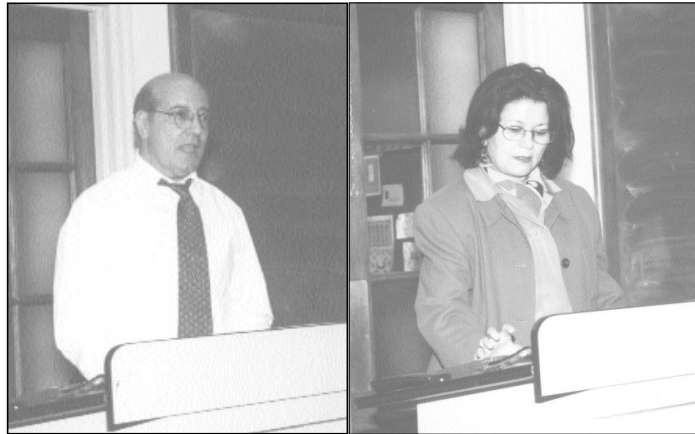
Muslims. A quote was shared from the Hadith, another religiously significant book for the Muslim: “The wisdom of the scholar is worth more than the blood of a martyr.”

Next a short film was shown, giving a short history on Islam and the opposition against it. The film explained that life after death was shocking to the Arabians and many did not see the miracle in Islam.

Eventually, the misunderstanding resulted in a tribal war. This war was fought brother against brother and father against son. The film also pointed out the peacefulness of the Muslims when allowed to practice their religion. They did not impose their religion on others. They allowed Christians and Jews to retain their own laws and beliefs.

Following the film, the floor was opened to any questions from the audience. An audience member questioned the reasoning for the recent terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 given the presentation of a seemingly peaceful and caring religion.

“Sometimes negative things come to us all,” said Zakia. “What we cling to is the negative via the media. You find evil people of every age, in every place. The



PHOTOS BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND

Abderrahman, left, and Zakia Robana explain tenets of the Muslim faith during their recent presentation.

important thing is to be informed.”

Another issue questioned was the message of hatred portrayed by the extremist Taliban members towards the U.S.

“It’s hard to say. Is the target of terrorism the West?” said Zakia. “You must look at the problems

within the country, that unhappiness. You have to see what is actually going on.”

The Robanas explained to the audience that the Taliban is not a political group in Afghanistan. The Taliban is an extremist school of thought within Islam, but not

everyone in Islam follows those particular views.

Abderrahman concluded the evening by welcoming any further questions. “You will see us on campus. Feel free to bombard us with questions,” he said. ○

Students show talents

BY JALAL CLEMENS
STAFF WRITER

The performing arts students featured in the Nov. 8 student recital put on a stellar performance showing the large audience what they had been working on all semester.

The recital started out with moving piano pieces of Beethoven played by Susuka Mori, Chopin played by Ryan Elliott and Schumann and Kuhlau played by Sherie Blumenthal.

Next came Dan Thayer playing his own foot-tapping blues composition entitled “Cheese Biscuit Blues.”

The guitar pieces came next with Aaron Miller playing “Pass the Buck” by Juber, Lauren Kosinski playing “Etudes No. 2, 8, 6” by Brouwer and James Gilbert skillfully playing the difficult and heart-touching “Leyenda” by Albeniz.

The recital shifted from string instruments to wind instruments, all of which were played with a wonderful light feel. Kait Bean started out the wind instruments with Shumann’s “Traumerei” on English horn followed by Erica Hesselbach’s rendition of Bizet’s “Minuet,” Beth Harris’ performance of Loiellet’s “Sonata Movement I & II” and Melissa Dorsey’s lovely interpretation of Mozart’s “Sonata in D Major: Adagio.”

The first half of the recital was finished off with moving performances by Elizabeth Meissner playing a beautiful Mozart piece and Emily Wagner playing a well-known piece by Bach and a Romanian folk dance by Bartok.

Monica Papiewska had everyone glued to their seats for the first performance after the intermission with her version of Chopin’s “Nocturne” in a different key from what was performed earlier in the recital.

Emily Tucker added her fun rendition of Mozart’s “Fantasie in

D minor” to finish up the instrumental part of the recital.

The vocalists then carried the rest of the recital with Lisa Schlafer’s powerful and emotive rendition of Purcell’s “I Attempt From Love’s Sickness to Fly,” successfully flying above her cold with a clear voice.

Next, Tucker returned to the front of the room to demonstrate her beautiful soprano voice with Debussy’s “Romanze” followed by Jason Shattuck’s touching performance of Lerner & Lowe’s “Almost Like Being in Love.”

For the final piece of the recital Associate Professor of Voice and Chorus Luanne Crosby subbed for Courtney Vetter as the third voice with Jason Shattuck and Tucker in an excellently performed trio piece “A Heart Full of Love” by Claude-Michel Schonberg.

It was easy to see how hard the students who performed in the concert worked, and how much of themselves was in the music. All who attended the recital realized that not only do the performing art students work wonderfully together in the vocal and instrumental groups on campus, but they also can touch people with their confident and beautiful performances as solo performers. ○

Recent grads give advice on “real world”

BY ALISSA FISHER
STAFF WRITER

Entering the “real” world can be a scary thought for AU students, no matter what year of college they are in.

There is hope. Recent AU graduates from the class of 2001 explain that life after Alfred isn’t that bad. However, the grads explain that students should start the job search and get involved in organizations on campus as soon as possible.

“If a student wants post-grad work right away, start working on this now. Don’t leave school and figure you’ll get to the job search. It does not move nearly as quickly as you would figure [in terms of getting interviews],” said Jay Weisberger, a recent communications studies graduate, currently working in New York City as an account coordinator with PR firm Bender/Helper Impact.

“However, once you’re in the door, [the job search] goes almost too fast,” he said.

After the stress of job searching, graduates emerge into a new lifestyle, very different from college.

“When my day at work is done, my day at work is done. I can go home and relax, even curl up with a book,” said Lauren Pidcoe, who graduated with a French major

and minors in political science and public law, currently working as a legal assistant in Washington, D.C.

“There’s no homework or papers to be done or meetings to attend. That kind of freedom was surprising,” she said.

Involvement is important for prospective employers and provides students with the most experience while attending AU.

Pidcoe stated that if she had it to do over, she would have been involved on campus sooner.

“I would have gotten more involved freshman year. I thought that my freshman year should be devoted only to studying, and the activities would come later,” she said. “I should’ve loosened up a bit more then, and had more fun.”

The graduates point out that being out of college has its pros and cons. Pidcoe and Weisberger both stated that they missed the people in Alfred most of all.

“I miss the camaraderie the most,” Pidcoe said. “Knowing that all of your friends are right there, and you only have to walk from the apartments to say, Bartlett, to see someone is nice.”

Weisberger pointed out the benefits of shorter travel time to

big events and concerts.

He also gave some aspects of Alfred that he would have handled differently if given another chance.

“I would have cut class more often to take trips around the area, to tell you the truth,” he said. “While class was important, so few people really explore the area around Alfred. There are some amazing things within a short drive.”

The message to all AU students is to start early and be involved; it is an important aspect of the job search.

Advice from the recent grads included several words of wisdom. Weisberger said, “Save money.” Pidcoe gave students a set of rules to follow during their years at Alfred.

“Always be willing to work harder than you think you can and keep a positive attitude,” Pidcoe said. “With a lot of employers, that goes farther than the perfect grades. Especially the positive attitude. You’ll go a lot farther if you’re the one saying, ‘Not a problem. Let me see what I can do,’ while everyone else thinks it’s impossible.” ○

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New cell phone laws in place

BY MICHAEL TOPP
CIRCULATIONS MANAGER

Next time you're on a trip to Hornell, don't even think about calling your roommate about whether you have enough pickles in the fridge.

As of Dec. 1 if you use your cell phone while driving, plan on possibility getting a ticket. For now on, all phone calls within a moving vehicle must be conducted using hands-free devices.

New York has become the first state to pass a statewide ban on cell phone calls while driving.

Under the new law, drivers may face a fine of \$100 per violation. Throughout November, police gave oral warnings to violators. From Dec. 1 to March 1, the courts may waive the \$100 fine if the violator is able to present proof-of-purchase of a hands-free unit. This provision only applies to the first violation. The reason for the leniency is to give citizens time to purchase the hands-free devices.

Gov. George E. Pataki was the biggest advocate for the creation of this law.

"By requiring drivers to put down their cell phones and pay attention to the road, this new law will help make our roads safer and save lives," Pataki

recently told reporters. "Too many families have suffered the tragedy of seeing a loved one injured — sometimes fatally — in an accident caused by someone who was driving while using a cell phone. This law will help decrease confusion and increase safety for all who travel on New York's roads."

Pataki is not alone in his desire to see legislation that protects drivers from themselves. Entire countries, such as Britain, Israel and Japan have resorted to such bans to avoid accidents and deaths. There are also 35 other states who are considering following New York's lead.

Research has shown that a driver talking on a hand-held cell phone is just as dangerous as a drunk driver.

"I think [the law] is a great idea, AU junior communication studies major Jeffrey Haas said, "I don't mind being forced to use a device that attaches to my cell phone because I know when I talk and drive I can become distracted. It is an important safety change. Yes, I think it is a hassle to have to go out and purchase a new thing for my phone, but I'm willing to do it."

Many say the new law is hypocritical since it only covers talking on the phone and does not

address the dangers of dialing while driving.

Critics argue that the law is unfair and harms civilians because police will have more room to profile motorists. Most people say that they are able to drive and chat at the same time and that the government is just looking for ways to target citizens to pull them over. After all, there are many other activities, such as CD changing while driving, which could actually be more dangerous.

One such critic, Gordon Atlas, a professor of psychology, said he is especially worried about the civil liberties issue that comes into play.

"I don't like it when the government interferes in our lives," Atlas said. "I think you need to pick your battles though. It's not such an extreme violation of our rights that I'm willing to make a huge fuss over it."

Atlas added, with a laugh, "My phone has a built in speaker so I guess I lucked out, and it's probably safer to use hands-free anyway."

Since purchase of a unit is necessary for most cell phones, it is nice to know that a usable and decent quality one may be purchased for \$14.99. Of course, higher name-brand tech units cost as much as \$200. ○

"Entertain Me" showcases music in campus center

BY ASHLEY BRENON
A & E EDITOR

The Student Activities Board, the group responsible for booking musical and comedic talent on campus, announced the choice for this year's large act and gave students another opportunity to vote on who they would like to see perform at Alfred.

The "Entertain Me" press conference was held at 7 p.m. on Nov. 13 in the Lil' Alf Café.

Although SAB routinely asks for student opinions, they typically hold the event during their meeting in the Kenyon Allen Room. "We wanted to bring it out to the students this year," said SAB President Justin Packard.

Throughout the year SAB hosts coffeehouses, comedians, bands and small acts. Ideally, SAB brings one large act to campus every year. Because large acts are much more expensive than smaller ones, SAB's ability to book a large act hinges on finances.

SAB allocates \$20,000 to \$30,000 a year for the large act; however, with publicity and light and sound equipment the total cost often nearly doubles that amount. They depend on ticket sales to make up the difference.

Due to a lack of funds last year, the group was not able to finance a large act. In the past Alfred has hosted Alanis Morissette, Adam Sandler and Barenaked Ladies.

SAB depends on student votes to determine who will play at Alfred. They take students' suggestions and then consider the top choice's availability and cost. Students voted for their favorite recording artists on paper ballots in the dining halls and on a Mascot web poll earlier this semester.

Some of this year's choices included Our Lady Peace, Eve 6, Ben Folds, Rustic Root and Dispatch.

Although most students were eager to hear who this year's large act would be, SAB built up the anticipation by offering other activities before announcing the large act.

Nearly 20 portable CD players with headphones were lined up on a table so that students could vote on smaller musical acts for the future.

Videotapes of potential AU comedic performers played in the corner.

Students could enter a \$1

raffle to win a ticket to the large act concert.

They could pick up free cassettes, coffee mugs, sombreros and stickers, or sign up to help SAB on a large act committee. Volunteers are needed on ticket, security, crew, publicity and hospitality committees. Those that work on a committee receive a free T-shirt and free admission to the concert.

Large Act Co-Chairs Tony Francescutti and Tina Pignatelli finally announced this year's performers. The Roots will perform at 8 p.m. on Jan. 25 in the McLane Center.

Their music is described as hip-hop with live instruments rather than just turntables.

They started in Philadelphia in 1987 and won a Grammy for Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group in 2000. In 2001, *Time* magazine named them America's Best Rappers.

Of a recent performance one critic said, "it's an appropriately impressive example of the type of sweaty, relentless performance, obvious chemistry and impressive musicality that's helped earn the Roots a reputation as the best, most dynamic live act of the post-Run-D.M.C. era."

According to Publicity Chair Omar Perez, the Roots have a diverse audience and large fan base. He remembers seeing them perform to an audience with a wide age range representing several ethnic groups at the Bowers Ballroom in New York City.

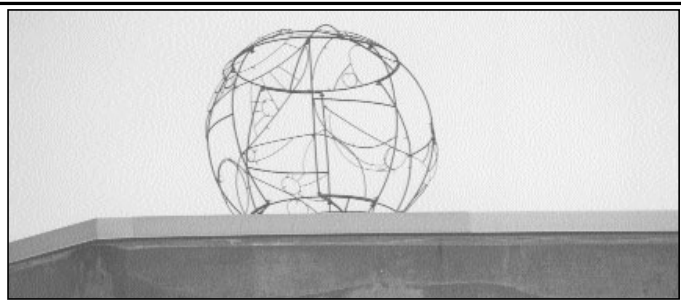
Although the group has changed a few members throughout the years, they now have five solid musicians, each with his unique specialty. Each one could be famous on his own for his musical talent, said Perez.

The group has produced four albums. Their most popular song is "You Got Me" featuring Erykah Badu.

Perez recommends to those students unfamiliar with the band to look for their videos on A.U.T.V.

Tickets are available at the AU ticket office, AU Bookstore, Music Alley in Wellsville, Alfred State College and ticketweb.com. They are \$15 for AU students and \$20 for general admission.

The event is co-sponsored by Poder Latino, Shades of Ebony and Umoja. ○



The fruits of an artist's labor is displayed on top of Harder Hall.

PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND

...Art Auction

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Contributing faculty included Associate Professor of Sculpture Diane Cox; Pamela Hawkins, adjunct associate professor in the School Of Art and Design; and John Gill, professor of ceramics. The students were

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involved with collecting donations, preparing the location on Main Street and promoting and running both auctions.

Gill acted as the auctioneer for the live event.

"John Gill was a riot," said sculpture student and coordinator Briony Evans.

With the aid of his Vanna White impersonators, seniors Mikey Intrabartola and Sommer Foster, Gill worked both to facilitate the bidding and to entertain the crowd in the packed Nevins Theater.

The four coordinators, Kadlubowska, Eustis, Evans

and senior Desiree Leary, a printmaking student, worked "amazingly hard to put [the] whole thing together," according to Andrea Bozman, a junior printmaking student who volunteered.

Various local businesses also contributed to the production of the event, including Tinkertown Hardware, The Collegiate Restaurant, North Main Lumber, Nana's Café, Kinfolk Grocery, Wal-Mart, Wegmans and the AU Bookstore. ○

Fiat Lux

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On behalf of the *Fiat* and the AU community, I want to thank Gail Walker for sending us an especially moving letter detailing her illness, treatment and her intention of squeezing the pulp out of life as long as she is physically able. Ever since we recently heard of Gail's illness, it's been difficult not knowing how she is doing and what we could do to help her. This letter, by frankly describing her situation, is such an incredible gift. I am not surprised that Gail would generously forfeit her privacy in order to help our community adjust to the impossible idea of daily campus life without her. However, I am incredibly grateful for this loving, selfless act.

In her letter, Gail asks us to keep her in our prayers. She is in our prayers and will always be. As a former cultural ambassador to Russia, Gail will understand, when instead of saying "goodbye," we insist on saying "Doh svidahniya" (until our next rendezvous). Gail, we love you and hope to see you on campus again soon.

Robyn Goodman
Faculty Advisor, *Fiat Lux*

“Thank you, Alfred University, and goodbye”

To my Alfred University colleagues, students, and friends:

I hope you will allow me to send one letter to you all, because I simply do not have the energy to do this individually. I have taken the liberty of providing an overview of what has been happening for me, in what is one of the worse bits of news of my life, and adding my biography, or obituary, at the end. I wish I could ease this for those of you that care about me, but I cannot think of a way to soften the blow.

On Monday of Fall Break, I thought that I had diverticulitis, a digestive difficulty common in midlife. On Tuesday, I was told I had a “pelvic mass,” on Wednesday “ovarian cancer,” on Thursday “metastasized ovarian cancer with a compromised lymph system and liver.” The good news, if there is any, is that the tumors are confined to the abdomen, and have not yet escaped into the heart, lungs, or brain. The physicians have given me a 5 percent to 20 percent chance of being alive a year from now. I have had regular physical exams, passed my PAP smears with flying colors, and been on a six month call-back program for shadows on my mammograms. But according to the Gilda Radner Foundation, there is no screening test for ovarian cancer, and it does not generally get diagnosed until it is in the advanced stages. I think this is cruelty bordering on criminal negligence in the health care of American women! But I miss being with you in the Alfred University community so very much. If I do survive, as Arnold says: “I will be BAAACK!”

In the week of lag between diagnosis and beginning treatment, I took a medical leave of absence from my work at Alfred University, gave away my classes in mid-semester, reassigned my advisees, and finished two scholarly works. One is the Entry Essay on “Medical Euthanasia,” which will be published in the *Handbook of Thanatology* by Sage Publications, a two-volume encyclopedia of everything related to death and dying, which will be published once in this generation. The other is the longer research work on “Medical Euthanasia: A comparison of the attitudes of thanatologists, health care workers, and university students,” which is going to *Omega: The Journal of Death and Dying*. I just couldn't stand by and see two years of work go down the tubes and count for nothing. I also filed a revised Last Will and Testament, health care proxy designation, and life insurance beneficiaries designation. It amazed me how the decisions I had made while well looked radically different when viewed through the eyes of terminal illness. I also planned with my minister for my memorial service at Alfred, where I have spent my adult life, honored my mother's ancestry by arranging for my physical body to be accompanied in transport by a kilted Highland Scot honor guard, designed my funeral service in the homeland of my youth, honored my father's Cherokee ancestry with interment in our family's cemetery on the ranch, and commissioned my tombstone with the internationally famous sculptor and artisan who will create and install it. I am planning for the best outcome while preparing for the worst, and that frees me to take great joy in the dawning of each new day.

Many people have asked whether being an “expert” in the field of death and dying has made this process any easier for me. I have had to tell them that the roadmap is no substitute for the journey. Although much of what has been happening is familiar from my experiences gained from accompanying others in their time of tribulation, there is a level of poignancy that is distinctly personal. One of the harder parts was telling my family of my diagnosis. I finally confessed to my sister Barbara, and she dragged me out to my Mom. I just couldn't find a way to tell Mom, and I am happy Barbara took care of that part for me. So now it is an open process, and Mom calls every day to find out how I am and how things are going. Much better! Mom told Judy and Dad, and Bradley and Billy and Nicole and and ... and now I am on so many people's prayer lists that God must be getting tired of hearing about me. Prayers are rising on my behalf in numerous states and from several nations, phrased in the languages of Protestantism and Catholicism and Judaism and Buddhism and Islam, in secular humanism and Native American spiritualism and in the heartfelt and wordless yearnings of those who do not know but find hope in the need for a power greater than themselves and the natural universe. But I would appreciate being added to your prayer list, none the less. Perhaps the Great Spirit will find it more merciful and expedient to answer these prayers with my healing than to take me home at this time.

I was transferred into the care of Dr. Cynthia Angel in

Rochester, NY. Angel, eh? Too cool! She is one of the best ob-gyn oncologists in the USA. I entered Highland Hospital for a week of tests, treatments, humiliations, and the tortures of “modern” medicine. There are so many high and low points in cancer treatment, I can't even begin to address them all. Let us just say that the next generation of culturally diverse and predominantly female physicians can give us all hope. My favorite of the new young physicians is Dr. Hiral (pronounced as rhymes with “Hero”); she has given me the gift of explaining that the chemo alone may knock back the tumor on my liver, the other tumors can be removed after the chemo has had a chance to shrink them so that they withdraw their tentacles from the surrounding tissue, and that they would have to excavate all the lymph nodes in the abdomen anyway to biopsy, so the spread can be contained. “In order to try and save you,” she said, “we will use every aggressive treatment known to science, and place our faith in the hands of God!”

Actually, in the hands of God and talented physicians is an excellent place to be when “yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me” (Psalm 23:4). In the intake interview, I had told the staff that I was allergic to penicillin and shellfish. The contrast dye used in CAT scan procedures is a non-ionic radioactive iodine compound. I went into anaphylactic shock at the moment of injection. All I felt was the sensation of being too hot, too cold, and then I blacked out. I awoke to an Emergency Room physician with a defib paddle in his hand, with benadryl running into one arm and epinephrine into the other, my body a royal shade of blue with hives from head to toe. “There you are,” he smiled. Even though clinical death hadn't hurt at all, I am glad that I didn't finish my life on that particular table. I hadn't had the vital conversations with my family, my friends and loved ones. I hadn't said “good-bye and God bless you” to my students and colleagues. My arrangements were not made, and the paperwork had not been completed. Even though we who work in trauma and loss are often better prepared than those who live without such immediate knowledge of the fragility of life, there was still so much left undone and so many people who needed to say those special things to me in person rather than having to stand at a memorial service and try to explain how our lives had intersected and what all it had meant to have known each other in those moments across time. One of the gifts of a chronic condition is the opportunity it provides for closure. Dr. Sarah Brabant of Louisiana, whom I first met when we were Citizen Ambassadors to Russia and then we were able to maintain our friendship at professional conferences across the years, says that what she learned from her AIDS relief work was that the big death really wasn't, it was the series of little deaths that lead up to it that truly sear the heart. As painful as the process may be, it is also essential for the one who must leave and the ones who are left.

But I am not in a hurry to leave this beautiful planet in order to become one of “...a great multitude in white robes that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb” (Revelation 7:9). I am receiving chemo and the doctors are “tweaking” the anti-nausea and anti-pain meds until we can find some things I can tolerate fairly well without messing me up too badly. I have to be vacuum needle aspirated of approximately 5 liters about every 10 days, because the tumors “weep” fluid into the abdomen, which finally makes it hard to breathe. The hypersensitivity that goes along with chemo amplifies all smells, tastes, and sensations. I can smell week old cigarette smoke in people's hair and clothes. I cannot eat canned goods or beef (I can taste the blood, decay, and the moment of fear as the beast died... it is true!) Japanese and Middle Eastern food rides the best with me. If I survive this, I will never go back to the customary American diet ... it is too literally “death on a plate.” I am in reverse isolation, which means that I am not contagious, but I am vulnerable to any infections or conditions that others may have, because chemo drastically lowers immune system function and depresses all red and white blood cell and platelet production. This means that cards and e-mails are welcome, but flowers and visitors are not! When my hair began to fall, I donated it to the “Locks of Love” program of the American Cancer Society, which makes human hair wigs for children with cancer. It pleases me that some bald kid somewhere will be wearing my ermine, my winter mink, my “silver fox.” I am scheduled for surgery on Jan. 2, 2002, and there will be six more rounds of chemo at

three week intervals following surgery. Once again, please pray for me, prayers for healing, and mercy, and courage, and the strength of endurance.

One of the other amazing aspects of being terminally ill is the opportunity to become a member of an elite group. In Highland Hospital, the 7-West Ward is a diagnostic group floor. One of the orderlies doing test transfers misread my room number, and delivered me to the fourth floor. When I pointed out his error, he defended himself. “Four is good,” he said. “It means you'll be going home.” “I'm on 7-West,” I said. “Oh, hell,” he said. “I'm sorry. And you're such a nice person, too.” I met so many nice people on 7-West. We chemo patients often cannot sleep at night, so we push our IV-poles around the quad and nod at each other or go to the chapel room with the aquarium and the excellent view of the night skyline and the waning moon. One night about 3:30 a.m., three of us met in the chapel to chat about something and nothing. She is 36, with colon cancer; I am 49, with ovarian cancer; he is Austrian and 54, with metastasized testicular cancer. We laugh about the pina coloda running in his veins, since one of his IV bags looks for all the world like iridescent pineapple juice and the other looks like a bottle of coconut milk. His wife is watering the plants in the chapel and feeding the goldfish. We had to be there, because we could not walk the quad that evening. You see, the hypersensitivity to smell also means that we can smell death coming. On one side of the quad, a middle-aged black man was coughing out his last breaths to lung cancer, actively dying. On the other side, a young man with cancer of the brain smelled as though he had at most a day or two, and his family from New Jersey were clustered in the hallway, berating the physicians and nurses for offering only palliative care and morphine, blaming his young wife for his illness, wailing in their grief. Then they came to the chapel room. We spoke more quietly, and extended our sympathies for their situation. “It's just that he is so young,” they said. “If he were only 36, or 49, or even 54, it would be all right. But to be so young, and so ill. Whatever are we to do?” Each of us looked stricken in turn and glanced at the others as our ages were announced, the radioactive stickers on our IV-poles shuddering slightly as we flinched. The family continued, unaware: “Can't you give us some privacy here? Can't you see we are in pain?” “Of course,” we said. “Please pardon our intrusion.” In their great pain, they could not even see ours and we retreated to our rooms, forgiveness flowing from our hearts even as we wiped silent tears on the shoulders of our gowns. The secret knowledge of the soul and the unwavering loyalty that combat soldiers and other comrades in arms share is also a part of the world of the terminally ill. Only those who also walk the valley of despair can truly appreciate the glad sight of the sunlight of hope rising on the mountain.

I have always loved Alfred University, and this tragedy has given me a glimpse of how many people also love me. The “get well” cards I have been taping up in the doors of my house, as though they were Christmas cards. I am running out of doors. The most amazing people are reaching out with offers of love, support, and practical help. I could not be more grateful. My friends have been taking turns caring for me, and they bully me and feed me and nag me and love me without end. After my cat Mouse woke my friend Yvonne up to call the ambulance one night because I could not breathe any longer, she has apparently decided that I am her kitten and cares for me accordingly. But I knew that I needed to share with you, my colleagues, my current and previous students, and the friends of my heart, this terrible news.

And for those of you that know me only from my scholarly work, or do not know me at all, my biography or obituary could read as follows.

“It was a dark and stormy morning...” when I was born in the Kiamichi Mountains of Oklahoma. “Kiamichi” meant “screeching hawk” in the language of the original explorers. My childhood sped by while I went to school with people from 137 different native American tribes, which changed my world view and my dance steps forever. Oklahoma State University awarded my bachelor of science, master of science, and doctor of philosophy in psychology degrees. Wisconsin offered the first professional post, but then they had their worst winter in over 100 years and I learned more about arctic thermals than I wanted to know. Chicago and Boston wanted me to work with their “special needs” kids, and Alfred University invited me to be a one-year visiting professor in 1981. It

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has been a mutually satisfying arrangement ever since.

"Suddenly a shot rang out...." The post-doctorate courses were varied in scope, until Emergency Medical Training and Grief Counseling pointed me in a direction that few had boldly gone. The New York State Office of Emergency Services sponsors our Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team and we provide "psychological first aid" to fire, police, ambulance, and hospital personnel who are involved in response to tragic and difficult incidents. I became interested in the prevention of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, which led rather naturally into an applied examination of the general dynamics of trauma resolution. The bulk of my scholarly work has been in the areas of death and grief, suicide prevention and post-vention, disaster management, non-violent crisis intervention, management of complicated grief, crisis-care in critical incident debriefings, trauma management, applied crisis intervention, the right to die, beliefs about afterlife, and medical euthanasia.

"The trumpets trilled a stirring song...." I am an unrepentant Type-A personality. I figure that if I am awake, there

is either money to be made or fun to be had, and I'd better be getting after it. An amazing accumulation of awards and recognitions have flowed from the effects my works have had on others, although they were done for the joy in doing them. The students of Alfred University have repeatedly honored me with Excellence in Teaching Awards and the Alfies Award for Campus and Community Service, and my name lives on in Who's Who Among America's Teachers, Outstanding Americans, the International Directory of Distinguished Leadership, the Independent College Fund of New York Teaching Excellence Awards, the Sears Foundation Excellence in Teaching and Campus Leadership Awards, the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Award, and the Directory of American Scholars. It was my privilege to be selected as a Citizen Ambassador to Russia during the time of Premier Gorbachev, a founding member of the National Women's Studies Association, and a delegate to the International Women's Leadership Service in Geneva, Switzerland, which laid the foundation for the modern International Women's Conferences. In spite of all that, my mom says that I still sound like an Okie, even though I talk as fast as a Yankee now.

"...and then they rode off into the sunset to live happily ever after." My satisfactions are these: to teach well, to learn and make contributions in my areas of interest, to inspire the next generation of pioneers, and to live with joy in each day. It has been said that Sir Walter Mildmay, founder of Emmanuel College at Cambridge, was asked by Queen Elizabeth where he had been, and he replied: "Madam, I have been away planting an acorn. And when it becomes an oak, God only knoweth what it will amount to." As an heir of the contributions of civilizations past, I accept a corresponding obligation to the future.

I have always had the hawk as my totem animal. When you live your lives with the wind in your hair and the sun in your face, and you glimpse the soaring hawk, the screeching hawk, the winter hawk, the standing hawk, know that my spirit flies free. It is beauty before me, beauty behind me, beauty below me, beauty above me. In beauty it is finished. May God bless you and keep you, in all of the ways in all of your days.

All my love,
Gail C. Walker, Ph.D.
fwalkerg@alfred.edu

Doc Walker's teaching career at AU recalled

BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND
STAFF WRITER

Gail Walker, professor of psychology, has helped educate and enlighten thousands of students during her years at Alfred University.

Many of her research interests and areas of teaching focus on providing others with tools to cope with life's experiences, and death, and her classes are heavily enrolled.

According to Nancy E. Furlong, colleague, friend and

fellow professor of psychology, Walker has had "over 2,550 students enrolled in her courses" in the past nine years alone. "This is an average of 160 students per semester," said Furlong.

Walker has taught in many areas, but she has a few favorites. "I particularly enjoy human sexuality, intro to psychology and death and dying, which covers the intimacies of the beginning, the issues of the lifespan and the end ... and everything in between," said Walker.

"Students have always liked her very much," said Furlong. She has won eight excellence in teaching awards, an award that is based on student nominations, and has a reputation among the students as an excellent professor.

"I took Dr. Walker's human sexuality course this semester because I heard a lot of great things about her from [other] students," said Nicole Lendino, senior in the College of Business. "She is a very open minded woman, with a great

sense of humor and an extraordinarily big heart."

Darlene Waight, secretary to the Division of Psychology, said Walker always finds time for those who need her. "She always takes the time to speak with anyone that may need or want her attention, and she leaves that person feeling that they are special and important," said Waight.

Walker, who has taught classes at AU since 1981, said her favorite thing about teaching is the exchange with students.

"There are few experiences in life as rewarding as the opportunity to welcome each new class at Opening Convocation, to come to know the ones who take my classes or make their special talents known in the Alfred University community, and to shake their hands and wish them well at the Graduation Ceremony," said Walker. "I trust that there has been a mutual exchange, and we are all better people because of it." ○

DEAR GAIL ...

Enjoying the Kangaroo Among the Beauty

For Gail

Southerners don't relate stories; they tell lies. Gail Walker and I have been telling lies on each other for nigh on 20 years now. Looking for a place where she could live, Gail came to Alfred in 1981, and I followed a year later to make the fifth woman on AU's full-time LAS faculty.

I was introduced to her when I announced my arrival at the President's reception for new faculty by knocking out the screened door separating the parlor from the patio. Sitting with Shirley Liddle on a bench just outside the door, Gail grinned up at me and drawled, "Well, hello, fresh-person. You certainly know how to make an entrance."

Shortly afterwards, Gail invited me to join the club of Unofficial Ugliers as an honorary member. She hand-picked me to assume the position of official director and protector of her beloved Women's Studies program and laughed me through the heat of curricular changes and Saturday morning seminars.

She approves mightily of my pint-sized daughter who removes her pink slippers and black leotard and leaves the ballet studio to go at once to the dojo at Davis Gym where she puts on her white gi and yellow belt to execute an alternative pirouette. Caroline still uses the frilly blue parasol Gail gave her to match her size-one cowboy boots.

She drove her truck up Waterwells Road especially to pay tribute to my son and his two cohorts who had decided to celebrate their spiritual coming of age by immersing themselves in the chilly April waters of Foster Lake. Joining my mother in peals of laughter at the dramatic extravagance of Neal's "oldtimey" baptismal ritual, Gail noted that a little cold water is good for fourteen-year-old boys.

She likes my husband's kilt.

We've done menopause together: I have memories of a scarlet-faced Gail, sweat rolling off her forehead onto her three-hundred-dollar suit and into the hors

d'oeuvres at Ed Coll's retirement dinner. She has memories of me glaring up over my Professor McGonagall half-frames at a hulking male student covering in the corner, lecturing him on the sins of forgetting paper deadlines, and wearing a pullover sweater, silk slip, and cowboy boots. I forgot that I had changed out of my skirt. While I'm humming "Where has all the estrogen gone?" to the tune of Pete Seeger's make-love-not-war ballad, Gail is groaning, "I didn't know I had this much estrogen in me!"

Then there was a recent Sunday morning. Complacent in my flannel nightgown, and enjoying late coffee and chocolate and the orange freedom of a poodle upon a chair, I get a call from Gail. "I've got crackers, and I need Communion," she says. "Have you lost your mind," I say. "Yes, but come anyway," she says. So I go. Tom took his homemade grape juice, Gail had her saltines, I brought the shot glasses, and, in Gail's words, we raised a glass to Jesus. Yvonne washed the glasses. Chortling at the group picture of a wild Scotsman, a quasi-Methodist/quasi-pagan, a lapsed Catholic, and a Native American old-time-gospel making a little transubstantiation together, I told Gail that she needed to call us again, and again. Communion for the afflicted conducted among such queer circumstances couldn't possibly take. So all four of us will simply be obliged to stick around long enough to practice our communing until we can get it exactly how we want it.

Because her life contains so much, as she puts it, "fun among the terrifying," Gail has always been a way to joy for me. We cast for each other, again as she puts it, "a little pool of light out there in the dark." My Okie friend has more than once taken the chill off these here, sometimes, bleak northern interiors. She radiates warmth to a woman who, just once in awhile, needs to feel those Carolina blue skies. And I thank her, for all of it.

Susan Mayberry
Professor of English

One of the things that is so precious to me about Gail is her positive sense of humor. She is never at a loss for words.

I remember one extremely dreary day towards the end of March or the beginning of April and I was lamenting about the lack of spring in Alfred and how it was already nice and spring-like in Philadelphia where I had

just been.

Gail simply looked straight at me and said cheerfully without missing a beat "I know. Spring is just a state a way!" As always, I felt cheered by her quick wit.

Indeed, I have appropriated this line and have passed it off on many occasions myself to cheer others. Capturing Gail's

sense of humor is a daunting task because it is so natural and spontaneous and relevant to the context. It's one of those things where literally you have to be there. But, hopefully I was able to convey a touch of it here.

Bob Maiden
Professor of Psychology

You can't think of Doctor Gail Walker and not smile from ear to ear. You can't help but rave about what a wonderful person she is. You can't have spent any time in Alfred and not have been encouraged to take a class with her.

She makes learning fun because she teaches from experience and a broad base of knowledge. She never taught straight from the book like so many other professors do. In short, she's just great.

My first real interaction with Doctor Walker, outside of class, was a few weeks into the fall semester of 1999. I was a new student here then and had just been rejected by a guy for whom I had fallen hard. I'll spare you the details, but will tell you I was pretty upset. After all, rejection hurts, and badly.

I didn't know who else to talk to so I stopped by Doctor Walker's office before class one day and cried, and cried, and cried. First she listened, then she helped me laugh away my tears by explaining to me why boys are scum. She may not have believed that boys are scum, but at that time I certainly did, and she knew she could use that justification to make me feel better. Before she let me go though, she gave me another suggestion for how to work through all those tough times that young women in college tend to have.

It's been about two years since that day I sat down with Doctor Walker and I still use her suggestion when times get tough. I'll never forget her for the help she gave me. But, even after I had sat down with her

and shared a very personal situation with her, it still took her about three weeks to figure out she was calling me by the wrong name. Every time I entered class she would say, "Hello Janie!" with such enthusiasm I just couldn't bring myself to correct her.

When I was running for Student Senate president last year and I found out she was going to host Meet the Candidates night I wasn't quite so nervous anymore. I knew she'd be fair and respectful, but most of all I knew she'd make the occasion fun. Though the questions Dr. Walker asked my opponent and me were mostly serious, she did pose the all important, "Boxers or briefs?" question to the vice presidential candidates. She teaches human sexuality and has shown us all the proper way to put a condom on but she still blushed and laughed at her own boxers or briefs question! It's not atypical of Doctor Walker to laugh at herself.

On Sept. 11, she had some pretty racy suggestions for how I should cope with my feelings. Her suggestions may not have changed the events of the day, but needless to say, they worked for me! Thanks, Doc (wink, wink!)

I won't say any more because I don't need to. Everyone knows how wonderful Doctor Walker is. My wishes are for her to make a complete speedy recovery and to get back here soon. We could all stand to have her light up our lives again.

Elizabeth Reina
Class of 2002

I remember the first time I encountered Doc Walker was at the annual psychology meeting where students could meet the faculty and learn about psychology at AU. As soon as she took center stage, I knew I was in for a treat. She had a Southern accent and said if she were not teaching, she would probably be a cowgirl. As I soon learned, that energetic and wild woman was the essence of Doc Walker.

There's a reason everyone tells you to take a class with Doc Walker: it is because they're fun and you actually learn a great deal. I don't know quite how to verbalize it, but if you've ever had a class with her you would know exactly what I'm talking about. I actually looked forward to going to class and doing the homework assignments.

Between her little yelps of excitement and the diabolical genius expression she sometimes wore when lecturing, she revealed that there was much more to this exuberant woman.

Her stories were always engaging and true. She recounted her days posing as a fortuneteller.

Then there were the times she alarmed us with her near-death experiences at psych wards with disturbed patients. I will never forget the poignant stories she told of working with children whose lives were suddenly shaken by the death of a loved one.

Doc Walker had a quality I rarely encountered in teachers or any person: she motivated me to learn just by her warmth and personality.

Her approach to teaching was similar to others, but the energy she exuded was infectious. Not only was she a kind and warm teacher, but also that was the kind of person she was. She was full of such compassion and it was reflected in everything she did. She was much more than just a teacher or a friend; she was a role model. She was a woman who selflessly devoted herself to work as hard as she could to alleviate the pains of others.

If there were more people like Doc Walker, there would be no need for a heaven.

Sunil Prasad
Class of 2002

Doc Walker is a very inspirational person and full of life. Her energy and spirit are present the moment you walk into a room with her. She knows how to make you laugh until it hurts with her jokes, cry with her touching stories and comfort you with her kind words. I have seen her since she has been sick to actually comfort those around her instead of others comforting her. She is a wonderful woman and gives hope to all that she knows. She has made a difference to all the students at AU and has touched more lives than could ever be counted. Dr. Walker is not only a professor to most of her students, she is also a friend and a mother. She is very much missed in the classrooms of AU, but she will continue to touch the lives of those around her.

Shantel Dieter
Class of 2003

When I first came to work at the Psychology Division, one of my first assignments from Doc Walker was to go onto the Internet (at that time, my computer was the only one in the division that had Internet) to find some information that she needed for her human sexuality class.

Well in this day and age, just about everyone knows about the Internet and what you can "find" there. Unfortunately, back six to seven years ago it was new enough that many people did not really understand just exactly how it worked and all of what was there, Doc Walker was one of those people! She had no clue of what one might "see" when you did a search for human sexuality in the Internet!

I, of course, being brand new to my job was trying to follow instructions to the letter. So, try to imagine how I felt. Brand new at my job, sitting at my desk with all sorts of pornography on my computer screen and trying to explain to anyone who happened to see my computer screen, that I was just doing my job! This was just the start of my many Doc Walker experiences! Working for her and knowing her has given me a lifetime of memories in a very short period of time and they will always be my treasures.

Darlene Waight
Secretary of Psychology

Hey! Doc ... let me tell you Gail Walker you are definitely a unique character! To summarize your traits would be impossible, but a good start would include genuine, concerned, pragmatic and imbued with a sense of humor. These characteristics are evident in your style of teaching, and many of us believe that as an educator you are in a class of your own.

I view you through the eyes of a contemporary, a privilege not shared by many other students. I like what I see. You have used

your ability to make each student feel singularly valued, and some students really need that. I have watched you time and again share your knowledge or concern with those who needed an ear. Never once did I see you act impatient or disinterested. How many lives have you touched?

You were my academic advisor, but you were an inquirer too. You inquired about my family, my health, my state of mind, my interests and my desires. Your inquiries were timely and perceptive. I want

you to know how much I valued that. You honored the whole of me. You kept my nose to the grindstone, my head out of the clouds and my chin off my chest. Thank-you Gail ... and by the way Doc, wear the ostrich boots to class, you're best when your roots show!

With gratitude and affection

Deb Hilliard (Kirsch)
Class of 2003

It's unfortunate that we sometimes go about our every day lives without taking the time to tell those people around us how we really feel about them — how much they have touched our lives and what their friendship means to them.

So, I would like Gail to know how much these qualities of hers are appreciated by this coworker and friend. I have known her for 14 years and we have shared both long meaningful conversations and silly, off-the-wall jokes (actually I think she has some sort of data bank of jokes in her office on her PC along with the more important stuff, of course).

I also have taken a class or two from her and experienced how much of herself she puts into her lectures. I hope it doesn't sound too much like a cliché to say that Gail is one of those people who uses her life each day to share the love she has. Thanks, Doc, for bringing those qualities into my life.


Janet Van Brunt
Secretary to School Psychology



When I first arrived on campus here in '89, I quickly found out that there was this amazingly popular professor, Gail Walker, in my division. I remember thinking that I should sit in on her classes and find out her "formula for success". Well, about 30 seconds into my first experience in a Dr. Walker class, I realized that I could NEVER teach the way she teaches. Gail has a style that is completely unique — engaging, informative, even mesmerizing at times — that can never be copied or imitated or repeated. She's one of a kind!

Gordon Atlas
Associate Professor of Psychology

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IT'S A BIG UNIVERSE. WHERE DO YOU FIT IN?

REVIEW

DMX emerges after two years of hibernation

BY MICHAEL TOPP
CIRCULATIONS MANAGER

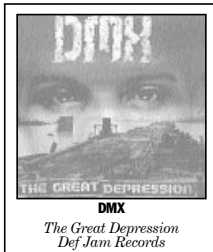
The gruff and thunderous voice of DMX has reappeared after two years of silence from the world of rap music.

On Oct. 30, DMX released his fourth solo album titled, *The Great Depression*. This is his first effort since the release of the multi-platinum *...And Then There Was X* released in 1999.

Between his third and most recent album, DMX co-starred opposite Steven Segal in *Exit Wounds*. Having had many new experiences since his last work, DMX comes to the table with a renewed vigor and new perspective on the world.

The first track "Sometimes" has a reminiscent approach as DMX speaks as a poet, not a rapper, and ponders on the kinds of emotions he goes through sometimes. He expresses that "Sometimes the pain is too much to bear/ Sometimes it rains too much to care."

"School Street" opens with the familiar growl of DMX's dog character. The song is a tribute to the people he grew up with on School



Street in New York City. DMX gives recognition to fallen friends and to people in jail. He explains growing up surrounded by violence: "School Street/ School Street home of the brave/ suckers acting like they want it/ end up in a grave." The admission of having lived in danger is a declaration that DMX makes explaining how he came to become who he is today.

"Who We Be" is the album's second release. It is pounding and angry with the chorus that claims: "They don't know who we be."

The video depicts DMX in a prison and suggests that DMX feels some individuals ignore the strife in urban areas and do not care what

happens to youth in America.

Song four is a fast-paced flow where DMX expresses that he is back in the rap game refusing to step aside and will continue to dominate the industry for many years to come.

In a defiant attack on newer and younger rappers who wish to step into the role of "King of Rap" he states, "I was here before most of y'all careers were born/ I'll be here when most of y'all careers are gone/ still strong."

"We Right Here" was the first release from the record. It is similar to previous tracks on his older records. It has a redundant sound that becomes boring after several times.

The comedic "Shorty was da Bomb" begins with a skit that deals with DMX being unfaithful. The song that follows the skit has a strong connection to the lyrics. It is much calmer, and the listener can actually hear DMX's singing ability. The listener is given an interesting, yet gruff-tender sounding DMX as he speaks to his girlfriend.

"Damien III" is a continuation of the Damien character that DMX created on his first record and has

had on each subsequent album.

Faith Evans is a guest vocalist on track 10, "I Miss You," a tribute to DMX's grandmother. Evans adds a sweet, sexy and soulful sound to the track. Since it is a tribute song, DMX refrains from swearing on the track. Anticipate this as a future release from the disc as a single.

"The Prayer IV" is a tradition on DMX's records that is appropriate and a unique aspect to listening to a DMX record. The uplifting message that he makes sure to leave with each of his fans is that God and goodness are always

greater than evil and strife. "I will rap for you, sing for you/ preach for you/ teach for you/ reach for you/ I will love you like you love me, unconditionally," he tells God.

DMX is a humble and God-fearing man who has grown from a simple thug into a profoundly eloquent and charismatic lyricist who, in my opinion, will dominate the recording world for many years to come.

If you like hip-hop music and are a fan of true lyrical genius, go out and purchase DMX's "The Great Depression." It will leave you feeling anything but depressed. ○

REVIEW

Potter excites viewers

BY ALISON SAVETT
NEWS EDITOR
& MOLLY MCGINLEY
STAFF WRITER

On the edge of your seat at every move, but you already know the ending. No, your friends didn't spoil it for you; you read the book, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

At 6 p.m. the line outside of Hornell's movie theater went around the block. Children and adults alike were standing in line, awaiting the 6:45 showing, excitedly anticipating the movie.

Discussions about what would be different and what would follow the book exactly could be heard in and out of the theater. Two young children stood in line remembering all of the Weasley family members' names.

At the 9:30 show, DJ Hampton, an AU first year graduate student, yelled, "Hello Alfred University!" Packed with AU students, faculty and staff members, Hampton commented that it felt like Nevins Theater on campus.

From the beginning of the movie, which, of course, started at Four Privet Drive, there was magic in the air. While the Dursleys weren't as mean as portrayed in the book, Harry's cousin Dudley did a phenomenal job eating everything in sight.

As the movie progressed, the audience was completely enraptured in the film—not a single person left the theater during the show.

When Hagrid, Harry's giant friend played by Robbie Coltrane, met Harry and the Dursleys, there was laughter all throughout the theater.

"He knocked down the door," said junior Andrea Sanyshyn. "Then he picked it up and replaced it. It was just as I had imagined."

Some of the more frightening parts of the movie, such as when Harry, Ron and Hermione meet the three-headed dog, were downplayed by a humorous point of view. The growling dog, which towered above the children, was named Fluffy, just like the book.

"It was a great combination of computer animation and live actors," stated sophomore Mary Beth Kraus. "Some parts which seemed as though they would be hard to pull off, like the invisibility cloak, worked out

very well."

The glimmering, transparent cloak that made Harry invisible allowed the audience to see both the outside and the inside. Rather than just seeing Harry experience fear while walking past a professor after hours, the audience could feel exactly what Harry was going through.

As the movie progressed, the captivating Hogwarts castle impressed many. "The moving stairways were well done," commented Kraus. "I loved the enchanted ceiling in the banquet hall."

Hermione Granger played her character well, according to Sanyshyn.

"Hermione was perfectly snippety," she said. "But I was disappointed in Dumbledore. I missed some key lines that he had in the book. He wasn't powerful enough."

In case you are one of the few people in America who hasn't read the series of *Harry Potter* books, advice from Sanyshyn is to read them first, so you can come up with your own imaginings of what the characters look like.

Overall, the film was well done, said Hampton. "I've never read any of the books, but the movie was easy to understand and well thought out."

Kraus gave it a full 5 stars. "Amazing and enrapturing," she stated while smiling.

Yet not everyone was completely impressed by the movie. Expecting the film to ruin the book, some people decided not to see it, like sophomore art major Laurie Fairbanks.

Abby Brody, director of AU webteam, left the show 6:45 giving a thumbs down to all those who waited for the later showing in Hornell.

AU sophomore Lindsay Stern enjoyed *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, but felt that the characters weren't perfected.

"They did a pretty good job sticking to the book," said Stern. "But they left out a lot of character development that would have been nice."

Still, the magic of the movie and the book soared throughout the theater as people left giddy and talking about the film.

"I left wanting to fly and play Quidditch," said Sanyshyn. "My boyfriend, who had never read the books, teased me for wanting to see it. But now he's hooked too." ○

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REVIEW

AU's rendition of *The Crucible* entertainsHannah Patterson and other actors perform a scene of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* at a dress rehearsal last week.

PHOTO BY JANET MELIN

REVIEW

Choobakka rocks in Alfred



Choobakka's distinctive tour van was spotted throughout Alfred.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL TOPP

BY MICHAEL TOPP
CIRCULATIONS MANAGER

So, a big-time rapper came to Alfred? DMX? Jay-Z? Maybe Bubba Sparks?

The answer to these guesses is a yes, and a no.

Their beats came, and newcomer Choobakka rapped over their tracks.

Choobakka is a man of short stature but a lot of heart. He came as the opener for True Res. Crew, a Native American rap group brought recently by Students Promoting an Appreciation for Music and Student Activities Board.

Choobakka entered the stage and opened with a firestorm and barrage of fast paced rhymes. The microphone went dead part of the way through his song, which flus-

tered him. Before his second and final song, Choobakka joked with the audience and then admitted to having "just smoked a blunt." He then performed "We Don't Give a F-ck."

The audience was just beginning to get into his music when it was time for him to quit.

Choobakka and his crew are from Brookline, N.Y. and traveled all the way to Alfred in a mini touring bus with Choobakka's face plastered all over it. Following their short mini concert, Choobakka went to a popular Alfred nightspot, Gentleman Jim's in order to see how Alfred students party.

When Choobakka pulled up to the front of the nightclub, most of the club emptied to stare at the peculiar sight of a bus painted with a face on it.

Choobakka partied at the club and distributed promotional materials such as shirts and key chains to hype his upcoming record.

After parting at GJ's until closing, Choobakka went to the Delta house where he pre-released his full album. The crowd at the house seemed to really enjoy his music and in this forum Choobakka was given an opportunity to see how dancers and the true Alfred populous that often doesn't attend SAB events would receive his material.

The crowd would hear the beginnings of a song such as Bubba Sparks' beat for "Ugly" and mistake the song to be "Ugly" until they realized it was Choobakka. But, they seemed to enjoy The Little Napoleon's style and charisma that comes through in his lyrics.

BY MICHAEL TOPP
CIRCULATIONS MANAGER

The Alfred University Division of Performing Art's latest production, Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*, ran from last Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. in the C.D. Smith Theatre.

Directed by J. Stephen Crosby, professor of theatre, the play is a timely one following the Sept. 11 tragedy. Set in Salem, Mass. in 1692 at the time of the Salem witch trials, the play has political and sociological significance.

The play opened much of the way through the text. Betty Parris was suspected of being sick due to unholy reasons yet to be discovered. Her father, Reverend Samuel Parris, played by Chris Quinn, was a man of great stature yet he had many enemies that he feared would try and destroy him.

The acting in this play was very good; yet at times the acting became quite over-melodramatic causing some audience members to become disinterested because the hype was nonstop. In the play, there were key times for emotionalism; it wasn't supposed to be continuous.

The acting of John Dunphy as John Proctor was the shining star in the production. He carried the role of once adulterous and then holy farmer in an intriguing manner. By having the set in a circular seating arrangement, the actors were able to provide varying perspectives to audience members as the play progressed.

The first scene was well acted, as Betty Parris, played by Kara Dunne, was ill from having had "witch craft committed upon

her" by the family's slave, Tituba, played by Chanel Huston.

There was an element of racial commentary as Betty and Abigail Williams, played by Hannah Patterson, blamed Tituba and her "damn Barbados singing" for the illness of Betty and the precursor to the young women dancing naked in the woods.

Rev. Parris called upon Rev. John Hail, played by Luke Jacobs, to cleanse the soul of his daughters and to seek out the cause for Betty's malady. Hail brought a fear of witchcraft and a bias against Tituba as he began his search for the "truth."

John Proctor was not accepting to Abigail's seductive advances. This exchange fired her who claimed that Elizabeth Proctor, played by Jessica Orlowski, was a witch.

Scene two took place in Proctor's home. We first met Elizabeth at this time and saw that she was a frail and tired woman. She was emotionally distraught that her husband had slept with Abigail Williams. At this time the husband and wife discussed the proceedings in town surrounding witchcraft.

Elizabeth was taken away by constables under suspicion of witchcraft and a claim by Abigail that Elizabeth made a needle go into her stomach. The acting presented in this scene was magnificent.

Each actor was precise and poignant in their delivery and the impactfulness of forcibly removing Elizabeth and the reluctance of John to concede to the constable's orders were very realistic.

One element to the scene that was negative was the inclusion of actual beef stew as a prop element in the home. The pot of stew was two feet from the front row stage left and a putrid smell arose and made some closest nauseous.

The play ended abruptly with John Proctor also being sentenced to death as a witch. Off stage the sound of drums was a dramatic and impactful way to symbolize the death of Proctor.

Overall, this was a very well-acted play. The plot jumps and missing information caused many to be confused, and for those who know the literature, it missed some of the key elements that the play contains in textual form.

The choice to present the play in a circular formation was nice because it allowed to actors to come into closer contact with viewers. However, it also left some who were not in choicest seats to feel that the play was out of reach and many people's view was obstructed.

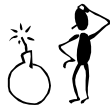
I applaud the actors of this play in taking on controversial topics at this time in our nation; it certainly is of current interest. O

As I hung out with Choobakka the entire evening, I found that he was a personable and primarily a humble man. His persona is that of a thug but he really is a cool cat.

Those who got the chance to meet Choobakka and talk with

him surely got experienced his jovial and fun personality.

If you want to pick up a copy of this up and coming artist's album, look for it in stores this March, under the Big Daddy Records label. O



Fiat Fun Page

EXPLODING with fun!!!



Campus Observer bids farewell & gives thanks

Observations on stuff

BY KYLE TOROK
CAMPUS OBSERVER

A year ago, former *Fiat Lux* Editor-in-Chief Jay Weisberger approached me about writing a column.

"Kyle, the *Fiat* is in desperate need of your superb writing skills and outstanding comic talent!" he said.

"Only they, coupled with your roguish good looks and desirability to women, can bring us the prestige we crave!"

Of course, the actual words spoken were closer to this:

JAY: Hey, want to write a column?

KYLE: I guess so.

However, the subtext of this conversation only comes through when one pores over them obsessively for months, searching for affirmation of a job well-done, but you can just

take my word for it.

It doesn't matter anyway, because I can take certain liberties for the sake of humor, and Jay Weisberger's illiterate (so he won't know I just libeled him).

Moreover, this is my column.

This is my *final* column.

I will no longer observe stuff. My time here has come to an end. I wanted some exciting tie-in as my reason for not being here, like I was going on a spiritual journey, or had realized my life's dream of becoming a bat-wielding fur poacher.

Later I thought to write of my epic battle with Black Dung Fever, or the Hong Kong Shingles. That plan was shot to hell when I found out it was only a sinus infection.

The mundane truth is I planned to pass the torch, graduate in December, find a job and become a productive member of society. As a bat-wielding fur poacher.

However, I've since decided to just hang around, goof off

and eat candy.

As this is my final column, it must be, by default, a "farewell" column. That means I have to give thanks to various departments and personalities that have helped me out along the way.

Besides which, a column about people allowing their dogs to crap on the sidewalk, or why I hate the service at Taco Bell, would make a lousy cap to my tenure.

So, without further ado, here it is:

Thank you, *Fiat Lux* staff, for so graciously allowing me to move my deadline back from noon on Thursday to noon on Friday. Then to 10 p.m. on Friday. Then again to noon on Saturday.

Thank you, Mountain Dew and Zingers, for keeping me awake at 4 a.m. Saturday morning, thus allowing me to finish my column by the deadline, and not get beaten up by Editor-in-Chief Judy Tsang.

Thank you, Judy Tsang, for

not beating me up when I missed my Saturday deadline and asked to move it to back to 5 p.m.

Thank you, readers, for showing such an interest in my column. Your feedback has definitely helped shape it, whether it was compliments and constructive criticism, or when you painted "GET OUT OF TOWN FREAK" on my door.

Thanks to Jeff Jones, who asked me every week when I would put him in a column. Never, Jeff. I will never put your name in one of my columns, Jeff Jones, so help me God.

Thanks to the other Fun Page staffers. You all made this a great experience.

Thanks to the College Comic Illustrators, who occasionally remembered their commitment to the Fun Page, and for breaking deadlines far worse than Dave or I. You were remarkable scapegoats for Judy's wrath.

Thanks to Dave Fogelman,

who will take over as campus observer when I'm gone. The column title will be different, but with Dave at the helm, the spirit will be the same.

Thanks again to Dave Fogelman, who agreed not to have the title "Around the World in a Dave" after I threatened him with a lawsuit.

Thanks to everyone who offered suggestions for column topics. Your excitement was encouraging, even if your topics stunk.

Thanks to everyone who offered column topics I'd already written about.

Thanks to all professors and friends who encouraged me to pursue a career in comedy. I will keep it in mind if fur poaching doesn't work out.

Last, but certainly not least, a very special and heartfelt thanks to all those who provided so much fodder for the proverbial cannon. Without you, none of this would have been possible. ○

POINT & COUNTERPOINT

Too many lawsuits

BY ETHEN KAYE
POINT

You can't swing a dead cat around America nowadays without hitting some stupid lawsuit. Man, they're taking over this country faster than the Beatles, and the Beatles were pretty darn fast. Too many stupid lawsuits, and I'm sure you know what I'm talking about.

Or maybe I'm assuming too much. Don't sue me, please.

For example, you remember the woman who spilled McDonald's coffee on her lap and then turned around and sued McDonald's for not marking on the cup that coffee is hot. In essence, she told the world "I am too stupid to properly feed myself and am a waste of good sperm and egg."

She won, of course, because she was right. McDonald's didn't label their cups with a heat warning. They also failed to label their cups with warnings that said that the sun can burn you if you stay out too long, tigers can eat you if they're hungry, and that sticking your hand in a lawnmower is a bad idea.

Of course, no lawsuits over those, unless McDonald's sues me for criticizing their cup policy.

It doesn't stop with food warnings. A fat woman sued a Web site designer for posting a picture of her and her chubby hubby with the caption "we ate the prom." She posted pictures of herself online and the designer took them to his page — believe me, it looked like this woman was wearing a sleeping bag as a halter top. Is this lawsuit worthy?

Heck no. She should suck it up like she sucked up all them McFish sandwiches.

It should be noted that I am a tad overweight too, so please don't anyone sue me.

But nowadays everyone's taking everybody else to court! I mean, if my

neighbor doesn't clean up his dog poop, and I go over there and step on it, should I sue him? Of course not. I'd just steal his wife and set fire to his toolshed. But I wouldn't take him to court!

If you don't like the news on CNN or the local paper, should you sue them for making your day unhappy? I get depressed every time I read *Dick Tracy*, but I have the patience just to ignore it and move on. Usually to something funnier, like *Dilbert*, *Garfield* or the obituaries.

Just because I can't play the bassoon well does that give me the right to sue God because He didn't give me the ability to play the bassoon? Maybe there's a good reason I can't play the bassoon. Maybe because it's a sucky instrument and God has standards.

Bassoon players, I'm a humorist. Please, please don't sue me. See what a horrible world this has become? I'm explaining myself to bassoon players!

So the world is a little harsh sometimes. Sometimes you find something you don't like but you can just let it go. Let it float by you like a butterfly. Put it out of your mind like a bad dream or that trip to Tijuana where you married the donkey.

Don't sue. Put the phone down and take your lawyer off speed dial. The key is patience. Did the Americans go right out and fight when the British taxed them for the first time? NO! They waited for some other stuff to happen before they threw the tea into Boston Harbor! Yeah! Lots of other ... stuff. You can take it from me, I'm a history major, I know what I'm talking about.

Great, now the British are going to sue me. Or the Americans. Or Boston Harbor. Or the history department. Wait, now I'm really confused.

And that means I'll probably end up suing myself. Darn! ○

Shut up or I'll sue you!

BY CORY M. BISHOP
COUNTERPOINT

You better watch it, buster. I don't like the cut of your jib. I suffer several thousands of dollars worth of mental anguish when you criticize my way of dealing with life's problems. If you don't cease your attack on frivolous lawsuits you're going to be hearing from Shapiro and Shapiro. Ugh, now you've got me so worked up I'm having back spasms. That's another thousand at least.

I don't know why people are so averse to lawsuits. What better way is there to resolve issues? Our legal system is so flawless, only criminals would hesitate to step into the courtroom.

Not to mention that filling the dockets with cases revolving around disgruntled neighbors or pets gone bad ensures that the lawyers can continue to put bread on the table — very expensive bread. Not only that, but it keeps trivial issues like constitutional law, gun control and the cloning of human beings from cluttering up our legal system.

I can still remember my first stint as a plaintiff. For my fifth birthday my parents got me my own legal representation. What can I say? They had their heads on straight and their priorities in order.

It's a darn good thing they gave me that gift too, because not two months later I found myself in a legal predicament. Susie Jensen, a malicious and vindictive little scag from my kindergarten class was slandering my name. She was telling everyone in my class that I was eating paste.

This severely infringed upon my racketeering scam. I was making plenty of milk

money having my classmates pay me for protection from the first grade bullies. I never actually did anything to ensure their safety, but I had to make money one way or another. Lawyers don't come cheap, you know.

So I went to my lawyer William S. Preetin, Esquire and had him get to work on putting a strong case together. In the meantime, I plotted other ways to sue my nemesis and I ate paste over by the finger paints. So what if she was telling the truth? That's not the point.

Well, I ended up winning that lawsuit. The Jensens went bankrupt. I think Susie's father shot himself and her mother became a prostitute. See? Everything works out for the best in the end.

I've come a long way since that day. I've gotten new lawyers, new lawsuits and new loopholes. You should have seen how I got out of paying for college because my mother's name is Gertrude (Oh the humiliation! How could I ever rise above such a handicap?). The fast-talking, two-stepping, backhanded methods my lawyer resorted to were utter brilliance. It really is an art form. I consider myself somewhat of a connoisseur when it comes to legal technique.

Now I'm in my prime. I have 37 lawyers from varying areas of expertise. I'm currently involved in over sixty different lawsuits. I'm running a whole new racketeering scam. In fact, it was inspired by the scam I ran in kindergarten. Now people pay me for protection from my lawyers. Hey, if they can't learn, then they deserve it. I'm still eating paste, but if you say anything you'll be served with papers faster than you can say, "O.J. was innocent!" ○

Look!

There s more to this Fun Page!



next Fun page



EXPLODING with fun!!!

Despite stress & workload, David still advises

What would David Do?



BY DAVID FOGELMAN
ADVICE COLUMNIST

Dear David: You and I have been friends for a while, ever since we both started writing for the Fiat Fun Page. I've noticed that you're way cooler than me, and everybody likes you way better. It seems that people treat you like Miss America, and react to me more like I'm a disease. Why am I so worthless?

—Kyle Torok

Dear Kyle: Don't be so hard on yourself. Sure, you're not perfect, but nobody is. I wouldn't say you're worthless, though. Well, not totally worthless. You have a

lot of great qualities.

You're very funny, for one thing. Remember that time when you accidentally knocked your glasses off your face, and they flew across the dining hall? That made a lot of people laugh!

Sure, you're no supermodel, but plenty of people find your looks intriguing. In my book, that's just as good as being handsome. Men and women alike gaze at you in wonder thinking, sometimes aloud, "Wow, I sure am glad I don't have those genes."

Most of all, you're tall. I don't know what I'd do in the supermarket without you, but I know what I *wouldn't* do: I wouldn't reach the higher shelves. When I'm with you, Kyle, I feel I can buy anything in the whole store. I'm so proud of you!

Dear Readers: Well, we're in the

home stretch of the semester. I don't know about you, but my workload has been intense, and it's only getting worse. I've noticed that around this time of the year, everyone seems to be a little sadder than usual, a bit more on edge. I think a combination of the cold weather, the shorter days and school-related stress can really get to people, myself included. I'm not going to lie to you, folks, I've been in a pretty bad mood lately. I'd like to apologize in advance if any of my advice seems somewhat less compassionate than usual, but I just haven't been myself lately. Well, I hope you all do well on your finals and have a safe and restful break. Happy Holidays.

Dear David: I think I've got an awesome idea for an invention. It could potentially change the very

course of human history. I don't want to get too specific, but it involves an alternative to gasoline for automobiles. I've been thinking about it for years, and I'm very proud of it. I'm not very technical, so I haven't built a prototype or anything. I saw a commercial for an inventor's hotline, and it looks like they can help me bring this to market. What should I do?

—An Aspiring Edison

Dear Aspiring Edison: Andrew, my five-year-old nephew, thinks he can "fix the environment" by inventing a car that runs on orange juice. *Orange Juice!* Can you believe that? Sounds pretty silly at first, doesn't it? But if you think about it, it's probably the dumbest thing you've ever heard. I know it was for me. When I told him that, he cried and cried, but

he'll thank me later. I saved him a ton of embarrassment.

Why am I telling you this? I think it shows that we seldom know exactly how asinine our thoughts really are until we share them with someone else. You should give up now. Forget about it. You're wasting your time. Your idea will probably fail. Even if there is a slim chance of "saving the world" or whatever, is that really worth the risk of getting laughed at? I think not.

Dear David: I've been seeing my girlfriend on and off for about two years. Right now we're on again, but I feel very insecure because she-

Dear Reader: Sorry to cut you off, but if I have to listen to one more "She loves me! she loves me not" sob story, I think I'll puke. O

REVIEW

Fosdick-Nelson art show crosses communication lines

BY JALAL CLEMENS
STAFF WRITER

The new Fosdick-Nelson Gallery exhibit titled "Open Line: Communication Graphics," surpasses in professional look and content many of the most notable trade shows, corporate promotional exhibits and gallery exhibits.

The selection of pieces from four traveling graphic art exhibits sponsored by the American Institute of Graphic Arts represents a wonderful compilation of the conveyance of information and promotional material to the gen-

eral public.

The innovative way in which the pieces in the show convey their intended information is both visually stimulating and to the point.

The pieces range from composite designs like the piece "X-Ray: A Century of Medical Radiology: 1895-1995" which shows the history of X-rays through pictures and words to the "1999 Annual Report: E*Trade Group, Inc.," which combined the financial annual report of E*Trade with a vibrant and interesting information booklet.

Some of the other more notable

and interesting pieces included the "Yum" poster used when Apple Computers first introduced its five new colors. There was a poster for the "New York Shakespeare Festival" that poked fun at Mayor Giuliani's crackdown on a smut-free New York while at the same time advertising the event.

The "Stephan Sagmeister Lecture Poster" advertised a guest artist speaker with a very unique design. The "Sega 'Anxiety' Spot" which was a unified total experience and the "Direct TV 'Wimp'" commercial compared watching with playing to emphasize the selection offered. Overall the amount of art

that the students fit into the gallery was very impressive. There were over fifty different pieces from every type of graphic art imaginable.

Visiting Instructor of Graphic Design Michelle Lockwood, who oversaw the senior studio that put on the show, spoke about how much she enjoyed working with the students and watching them learn how to build the show and make group decisions. She pointed out that the most difficult part for the students was deciding on a layout for the show and which pieces would be displayed.

As any visitor to the show can see, it took many hours of work to set up the show. The many ideas

for how the show should look came together beautifully into a well-organized presentation that is both simple and grand at the same time. Students featured one of the quotes in the show by the world-famous Paul Rand. He aptly speaks to their effort pointing out that, "design is so simple, that is why it is so complicated."

The senior students participating in the studio were very enthusiastic about the end result of their work. Judging by the show that was run at the same time downstairs in the student gallery, also sponsored by AIGA, their pieces are likely to be featured in one of the traveling shows in the future. O



PHOTO BY ERICA ROBINSON

Visitors of the Fosdick-Nelson Gallery view artworks on display.

Fiat Funnies

Freshman's First Finals

By Alvaro Valentin, CCI



Squad ends season strongly

BY BRYAN SICK
SPORTS WRITER

The Saxon football team finished their season strongly with a 16-10 victory over Grove City (2-7) in the season finale.

Alfred (4-5) built momentum into the offseason with wins in three of their last four games.

"I am disappointed in our record," said head coach Dave Murray, "but I'm pleased with our finish."

Junior tailback Jesse Raynor provided much of the Saxons' offense throughout the season leading the team in both rushing and receiving. Raynor gained 1,235 yards on 259 carries, scoring 11 times. He also caught the ball 34 times for 268 yards and two touchdowns.

Senior Todd Zandrowicz led the team as quarterback, putting up 1,067 passing yards and finding the end zone eight times in the season. He also carried the ball 75 times for 185 yards and four touchdowns.

FOOTBALL

Defensively, the Saxons were led by defensive tackle Todd Strong who posted 59 tackles, including 12 for loss, four sacks and one interception.

Now Murray has the unenviable task of replacing senior leaders like Zandrowicz and Strong.

Fortunately, the team will lose few starters on defense but those few will be big losses. Strong, linebacker Will Till and free safety Nick Selig are all seniors. The team does have several young players who gained experience playing together this year and should be very tough next year.

The group of linebackers should be solid with sophomores Erich Ely and Nick Hawryschuk and junior Colin Murphy returning after finishing second, third and fourth, respectively on the team in tackles. Also expected to contribute is freshman Steve Hawryschuk who sat out most of the year with injury.

The team, however, wasn't so lucky offensively. Six offensive starters will be graduating, including Zandrowicz, tackle Dan Herrling and fullback Chuck Fortuna. Wide receivers Nick Freeman and Brian Keenan and tight end Mark Pierce will also be gone next year.

The coaching staff will be looking to rebuild and improve the passing game through recruiting. "We have very strong interest in our program," said Murray, "but we won't know anything for sure until April or May."

The team is restricted by an NCAA rule against offseason practices but the players will be involved in a recommended lifting program so they will be ready for next season.

There will also be a Superstars Competition among players. They will be playing games such as basketball, volleyball and water polo. "This is very important to keep team unity and to have fun," said Murray. ○



The AU Concert Band performs at Holmes Auditorium on Nov. 16.

PHOTO BY ERICA ROBINSON

...Olympics

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

disqualified from the Chinese National Games for testing positive for performance enhancing drugs. This came after the Chinese switched from urine testing to the more intensive and reliable form of blood testing.

These recent developments should lead to stricter and more stringent drug tests at the Olympic Games. However, in the past year, drug tests on high-jump champion Javier Sotomayor and cyclists Massimo Strazzer and Joan Llaneras have drawn speculation to urine and blood testing. All three athletes tested positive for drug use, and in the same test tested negative in a different sample of either blood or urine. These developments seriously undermine the credibility of any drug test administered.

So what does all of this mean? It means that the 2002 Olympic Games are going to arrive in a snowstorm of scandal, violence, fear, anger and uncertainty. I think the most noticeable disappointment in the games may inadvertently end up being the athletes. Salt Lake City is going to be a pressure cooker of troubles by the time Feb. 8 arrives, and the atmosphere will be anything but friendly toward optimal athletic performance.

I firmly believe that America needs to retaliate in some way for Sept. 11, and also that

heightened security is necessary; I believe that the members of the bid committee should be investigated and I believe that athletes should be clean of performance enhancing drugs.

However, right now all of the variables and pressures surrounding the games may be too much for some athletes to handle. Some Olympic athletes have questioned whether or not they should attend due to safety reasons and competing conditions. Even the most highly trained athletes are vulnerable to mental anguish that can ruin performance.

The Olympics should be two weeks of excellence and mystique that make audiences marvel at the physical capabilities, emotional capacities and courage of the human being. It should be a time that no matter how important the conflict, makes war stop. The Olympics have the ability to lasso the human spirit and remind it what it is capable of even in the midst of the most difficult times.

The 2002 Olympics have the potential to be a shining start to a new year that followed a year too fraught with horror to save.

Hopefully the Olympics will be as transcendent as they have the possibility of being, but they could crumble under the weight of so many troubles. Who knows what the 2002 Games will be like?

I just hope they transcend rather than succumb to the strife from which they were conceived. ○

...Basketball

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

Neil Burley. Koek contributed to the with six steals and Roegiers chipped in with four assists, both leading in each of those respective areas.

"We feel like we have nine starters on the team who could play anywhere from 12 to 35 minutes a game," Murphy explained.

Downing only had six points in the match up with Cazenovia, but Murphy says that he's not disappointed with that.

"Devon worked on defense

for us, and got good looks," he said. "But his shots just weren't dropping. He needs to play his game and [things] will come to him."

Murphy explained that he wants the team to be a transition team and not a wild one.

"We didn't communicate in the first half," he said. "When we don't communicate, we don't concentrate."

The Saxons continued with a win last Friday, an 81-74 home victory over Geneseo. The team is now 3-2, and plays next at home this Saturday against St. Lawrence. ○

Saxon Winter Sports Schedule

Home Games In Bold

MEN'S BASKETBALL

December

2 Cortland 3:00
8 St. Lawrence 3:00

28-29 LeMoyne Tour.

January

8 St. John Fisher 8:00
11 Elmira 8:00

12 Ithaca 4:00
14 Pitt-Bradford 8:00

22 R.I.T. 8:00
25 Hartwick 8:00

26 Utica 4:00
29 St. John Fisher 8:00

February

1 Nazareth 8:00
2 R.I.T. 4:00

4 Allegheny 7:00
8 Utica 8:00

9 Hartwick 4:00
12 Nazareth 8:00

15 Ithaca 8:00
16 Elmira 4:00

MEN'S/WOMEN'S TRACK/FIELD

December

1 Cornell Invitational
8 Bucknell Invitational

January

12 Kent Invitational
19 Fredonia Invitational

February

9 Bucknell Winter Classic
16 Cornell Kane Invitational

22-23 NYSCTC Championships
March

2 ECAC Championships
8-9 NCAA Championships

MEN'S & WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING

December

1 R.I.T. 1:00
4 Ithaca 6:00

January

2-10 Winter Training Trip - Coral Springs, Fla.
12 Penn State-Behrend 1:00

18 Utica 6:00
19 Hartwick 1:00

26 LeMoyne 1:00

February

21-23 (W) NYSWCAA Championships - Syracuse

2/28 - 3/2 (M) UNYSC-SA Championships - Syracuse

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

December

8 St. Lawrence 6:00

January

8 St. John Fisher 6:00
11 Elmira 6:00

12 Ithaca 2:00
14 Pitt-Bradford 6:00

18 Medaille 6:00
22 R.I.T. 6:00

25 Hartwick 6:00

26 Utica 2:00
29 St. John Fisher 6:00

February

1 Nazareth 6:00
2 R.I.T. 2:00

6 Keuka 7:00
8 Utica 6:00

9 Hartwick 2:00
12 Nazareth 6:00

15 Ithaca 6:00
16 Elmira 2:00

EQUESTRIAN

December

8-9 Cazenovia
February

16-17 AU Invitational
23 Cazenovia

March

2 Regionals/St. Lawrence
April

13 Zones/Skidmore
May

3-5 Nationals/Cazenovia

SKIING

January

19-20 Morrisville
26-27 AU Invitational

February

2-3 Midwest All-Conference Meet

9-10 Cornell
16-17 Syracuse

22-23 Regionals

Fiat Lux:
Your
source for
Saxon
updates

Basketball

versus St. Lawrence

Saturday, Dec. 8 in McLane



Fiat Sports

Equestrian

at Cazenovia

This weekend, Dec. 8-9

Team off to a strong start this season with three wins

BY BRYAN SICK
STAFF WRITER

AUs women's basketball team is off to a hot start after a disappointing 2000-01 season.

The Saxons (3-2) have already equaled their win total from last year with a narrow 54-53 win over Cazenovia (1-3) last Tuesday.

Cazenovia jumped out to a 14-2 lead in the first half, but Alfred fought back to a 25-23 lead at the half with strong performances by freshmen Michelle Kelly and Colleen Lyons of the bench.

Cazenovia led for most of the second half too until senior guard Amy Ratchuk hit a layup with four seconds on the clock giving the Saxons the lead and the win.

"Things just weren't falling for her," said Head Coach Michele Finn, "but that was a clutch shot by a senior."

Ratchuk's game winner made up for a 3 for 22 shooting performance from the field.

Alfred pulled off the win despite shooting only 30 percent from the field while Cazenovia made 45 percent of their shots.

Rebounding turned out to be a deciding factor. Alfred won

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

the battle of the boards 38-25, including 18 offensive rebounds.

"We were getting three, four or five shots every time," said Finn.

Continuing their season, the

Saxons ended their three-game winning streak with a 74-64 home loss to Geneseo.

The team, however, has taken many strides since last season.

According to Finn, the huge improvement can be attributed to team chemistry.

"The players were on different pages last year," she said.

The Saxons have a lot of experience with three seniors and three juniors who have been through the frustration of losing seasons.

In addition to the returning

players the team features a good group of freshmen headed by Kelly and Lyons.

There are, however, several things that need improvement. Finn would like to see more patience on offense.

The team also needs to gain the confidence that comes with winning. "We have got to get wins under our belts," said Finn.

The Saxons will have the opportunity to get those wins with several upcoming non-conference games including an important game against St. Lawrence this Saturday at 1 p.m. in the McLane Center. O



PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND

Sophomore guard Melissa Buck moves the ball downcourt during the team's game against Cazenovia. The Saxons won, defeating Cazenovia 54-53 on a buzzer-beater from senior guard Amy Ratchuk.

Cazenovia (53)

Lippa 4-10 0-1 8, Boyland 4-9 1-2 9, Phillips 0-4 0-0 0, Trent 4-10 7-11 15, Seymour 9-14 0-0 19, Politis 1-2 0-0 2, Tyler 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 22-49 8-14 53.

Alfred (54)

Smith 1-5 1-2 3, Valittuto 5-12 5-7 15, Baekus 4-10 0-0 9, Ratchuk 3-22 7-10 13, Kelly 3-6 0-0 9, Yoculan 1-1 0-0 2, Mulligan 0-0 0-0 0, Buck 0-0 0-0 0, Lyons 1-4 1-2 3. Totals 18-60 14-21 54.

Halftime — Alfred 25, Cazenovia 23. Fouled out — None. Rebounds — Cazenovia 25 (Trent 10), Alfred 38 (Smith, Valittuto, Ratchuk 9). Assists — Cazenovia 10 (Trent 8), Alfred 11 (Buck 5). Total fouls — Cazenovia 14, Alfred 14.

Squad looks to keep winning ways

BY ALISON SAVETT
NEWS EDITOR

Recovering from the team's poor first half of last Tuesday's game against Cazenovia, senior captain EJ Docteur led the AU men's basketball team with ten points in the first three minutes of the second half.

Coach Jay Murphy wasn't too thrilled with the first half of the game.

"We were too itchy to take shots," he said. "There wasn't real good ball movement, and defense was bad in the first half. It was good to see EJ step up after not having a great first half."

Docteur was Alfred's leading

MEN'S BASKETBALL

scorer with 23 points, while junior guard Chuck Cassidy was Cazenovia's lead scorer with 22.

At the half, Alfred was down 36-34.

"We had a much better second half," said senior captain Brock Stortini, agreeing with his coach. Stortini lead the team in rebounds with a total of 13 — eight offensive and five defensive.

Kareem McKinnon, one of last year's captains, gave his thoughts at halftime.

"They need to get their inside game going so that the defense will collapse into the middle,"

he stated. "Then there will be more outside game."

McKinnon also pointed out that not all five players can be around the three-point line, and that this was where the problem lay in the first half.

Playing well in the second half was freshman Doug Baker, who started this game instead of senior Tanner Webb. Baker had 12 points in the 80-71 win over Cazenovia.

"Tanner hasn't been playing like he's capable of," stated Murphy after the game.

"Doug's been playing well, and [having him in] frees up Devon [Downing] in the open court to get him down the floor in transition."

The rambunctious Baker comes to the Saxons from South Seneca High School, where he led his 22-0 team to the Class C Section V finals. Even though Baker's alma mater lost, he was named MVP of the tournament.

"I knew he'd contribute," said Murphy. "I didn't know we'd need him to get in there and start for us."

Another player who really stood out during the game was junior Jeffrey Hopkins. He showed that he worked well with both Docteur and Stortini under the basket.

"Hopkins has had four great games for us," Murphy stated. "He's contributing in every way he can for us."

Murphy then included Hopkins, Docteur, Stortini, Downing, Baker and Webb in a list of nine players who he feels could start. The others are Chris Koek, Brian Roegiers and

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 15

COLUMN

Olympics stained

BY BENJAMIN LEE
SPORTS EDITOR



Since their inception, the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City have been bathed in scandal and turmoil. Time has not managed to remedy the situation either, and as the games near it seems that the outcome and quality of the 2002 Olympic Games is decidedly unpredictable.

The scandal of the games is rooted in a slew of bribery charges attached to the bid committee in Salt Lake City. Originally, the Justice Department was prosecuting a case including 10 charges of fraud, four charges of bribery racketeering and a conspiracy count against two defendants from the bid committee.

The defendants, which included the president and vice president of the Salt Lake bid and organizing committee, were accused in July 2000 of using \$1 million to influence delegates of the International Olympic Committee.

Just recently on Nov. 20 the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals judge David Sam dismissed the charges. However, now it seems that the Olympic Games will not outrun the scandal surrounding them. The prosecution has decided to appeal.

If the members of the bid committee are indeed guilty then they should be prosecuted; however, the downside is that the games will have to be played under a cloud of criticism and

accusation. This atmosphere will effectively alter the mood of an otherwise spectacular display of athleticism and human spirit.

In addition to the headaches of the legal dilemma, the Games should see a much stronger presence of camouflage this time around. The state of Utah has already assigned 1,900 National Guardsmen to the security force, which is a supplement to the 1,200 other Guardsmen reporting from the surrounding 50 states. So, the atmosphere will be decidedly much more militant and restrained, and as time goes on the numbers may increase.

President Bush has also rejected the request for a cease-fire between Feb. 8-24. The concept of a worldwide cease-fire stems back to ancient Greece when all warring nations laid their weapons down in respect of the games. The 2002 Olympic Games will be played in competition with whatever wars or police actions are occurring at the time.

Similarly, Afghanistan has been banned from the Olympics because of their rules regarding female participation, or rather the fact that females are not allowed to compete. This situation will most likely create an increased tension at the Olympic Games being held on American soil.

Finally, to add injury to insult there are the debates surrounding drug testing and drug use. Recently, fifteen athletes were

SEE OLYMPICS, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND

Junior forward Neil Burley moves the ball against Cazenovia. Despite trailing after the first half, the Saxons came back to win, 80-71.