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February 28, 2001

Fiat Lux

The Student Newspaper of Alfred University

Inside

Dance concert
reviewed p. 9

Eye-grabbing
story

Senate heads to runoffs for second straight year

BY JAY WEISBERGER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

If you're holding a public election lately, things just aren't going the way you hoped.

Aside from that mess last November, Student Senate found itself heading into a second week of elections after no candidate for President or Vice President received a majority last week.

Runoff elections were held the past two days. Definitive results — barring a dreaded 50-50 tie — will be announced at tonight's Student Senate meeting at 8 p.m.

There was no big surprise that there would be a VP runoff — four candidates were up for the post, making a majority vote hard to come by. Last year, there were only two VP candidates and there still managed to be a runoff.

After the count of 476 initial election ballots, Gretchen Schwerzler led all VP candidates with 37.7 percent of the vote.

Schwerzler ran off against freshman Matt Washington, who took home 28.6 percent of the first vote. Other candidates Jalal Clemens and Michael Topp came back with 18.8 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Schwerzler was not surprised to see a runoff in the VP election.

"I think all of [the candidates] were expecting that there would be a runoff," she said. "We were just unsure which two would come out on top."

Schwerzler admitted being a bit surprised by the results — Washington and herself did considerably less advertising than Topp or Clemens.

"I think [the VP] race is going to be extremely close. It's going to be tough to beat [Washington]," she said.

"It was really an honor and a surprise to be the second-place person," Washington said. "I was just shocked, but I'm definitely

SEE ELECTIONS, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND

Election committee member Bethany Carpenter checks names of voters during the initial Senate elections.

Student research goes airborne



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NASA

AU Senior Theresa Totedo takes to the air, quite literally, while performing an experiment aboard NASA's "Vomit Comet." NASA's plane allows for weightlessness through a series of dives over the Gulf of Mexico.

BY CATHERINE KEVETT
PHOTO EDITOR

After a year and a half of preparation, four Alfred University students and their journalist were able to participate in NASA's Reduced Gravity Flight Opportunities Program.

The group flew to Houston on Feb. 7 and returned to Alfred after ten days of training and experimentation on the zero gravity plane, KC-135A.

The team was composed of materials science/ceramic engineer students: recent graduate Lea Kennard, senior Theresa Totedo, and juniors Anne Ebert

and Robert Schaut. Their advisor was Associate Professor of Ceramic Engineering Linda Jones, with support from John Williams, a mechanical engineering professor at Alfred University, who was also the team's journalist on the trip.

Ebert and Schaut began the proposal-writing process in October 1999. Totedo came into the project in December 1999, followed by Kennard joining the team in Feb. 2000. The proposal was a 40-page scientific description of what Team CERAMICS wanted to do.

Their proposal reads, "The objective of this project is to

study the contributions of interfacial bonding and matrix deformation on the interfacial shear behavior in model fiber/matrix composite systems."

Schaut explained in simpler terms, "We created small versions of ceramic polymer composites in an attempt to measure features of strength in those composite systems."

According to the *Evening Tribune* of Hornell, "Ebert said the plane looked like any passenger plane except the experiments sat where the normal seating would be."

SEE WEIGHTLESS, PAGE 3

Dill takes EGL post

BY JENELLE SILVERS
STAFF WRITER
AND ALISON SAVETT
FEATURES EDITOR

After months of searching, the job opening in the English department has been filled by Dr. Elizabeth Dill.

The search for a professor to fill the position soon to be vacated by Sharon Hoover began with an advertisement placed in the Modern Language Association Job Bulletin. The 162 applications received as a result of the advertisement were narrowed to 14 by the committee composed of Susan Morehouse, Michael McDonough, Louis Greiff, and Sharon Hoover. The committee interviewed the 14 applicants at the MLA convention, and based on those inter-

views, three candidates were invited to visit the AU campus.

Candidates interacted with students and faculty during their stay. Each candidate taught the class Survey of American Literature that is co-taught by McDonough and Hoover. Next, a student took each candidate on a tour of the campus, and answered their questions. For all meals the candidates had on campus, students and faculty dined with them.

After observing each of the candidates teach, McDonough said, "It was tough to pick based on the one class they taught. The applicants clearly had different styles."

The three candidates McDonough spoke of are Dill, Dr. Hal Crimmel and Dr. Karen

SEE DILL, PAGE 4

ΣAM soon to break ground on new house

BY JASON PILARZ
COPY MANAGER

More construction is coming soon to the AU campus, as the Board of Trustees has given fraternity Sigma Alpha Mu permission to build a new house on Greek Row.

"It is quite astonishing to consider that a 12-year-old fraternity chapter can succeed in a project such as this," said Jim Hart, past president at ΣAM.

Groundbreaking on the project will come as soon as lease papers are signed, according to another brother, D.J. Hampton. This should take between three and five weeks.

The new house will open a wide range of possibilities for the fraternity, according to Hart. The house will have a basement and first floor with a total of 8,000 square feet. It will house about 20

brothers.

Once lease papers are signed and plans are finalized, trees will be cut down and land will be cleared. About one week after that, heavy machinery will come in and work will commence. Occupancy is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 1, 2002, said Hart.

The approval of the construction by the Board of Trustees is a "clear signal that the University supports Greeks," said Daryl Conte, assistant dean of students and advisor to the Greek community.

Conte noted that it was a "long, hard process" to get the construction approved, not because the University does not support Greeks, but because of the risk involved.

The University has guaranteed Sigma Alpha Mu's loan for the

SEE ΣAM, PAGE 3



Fiat Lux

Senate election rules need change

Maybe we should just assume two weeks for Student Senate elections in the future.

We have no problem with the policy of needing a majority to elect a president and vice president. This makes sense.

Also, it makes perfect sense to pick the top two vote getters. Though it may seem harsh to those below the line, it is a fair way to set up a runoff.

What we have a problem with is the write-in policy.

Write-ins are an important part of any election. They offer a chance for alternatives to be raised to the candidates who are on the ballot. Certainly, our society is built upon such an ethic.

However, for the second straight year, a number of cartoon characters took some votes.

We are unsure if it made that much of a difference this year, but certainly, if Bill the Cat votes had been discarded last year, it would have made a difference.

Why discard the cartoon vote? Since when are cartoon characters in compliance with the rules of eligibility for Senate president and vice president?

If, somehow, Opus and Bill — both well drawn and most certainly not enrolled at AU — meet the requirements to run for office here, we want to know how and why.

It seems to be totally counterproductive to count votes for ineligible candidates for Senate office. A write-in for a student sounds great, but fictitious figures are too much.

Perhaps the Student Senate should examine this before we elect new officers next spring. ○

W. flirts with trouble

OK, say what you will about the way our fine president says things, but let's talk about *what* he physically said.

Said Shrub at his first press conference at the White House, concerning China helping Iraq develop radar systems: China's assistance has "risen to the level where we are going to send a message to the Chinese."

Back that train up there, George.

We're sorry, but didn't we recently "accidentally" bomb the bejesus out of a Chinese embassy in Kosovo?

If we were the Chinese, we'd have all kinds of radar looking out for other "accidental" attacks from us.

And just what kind of message are we going to send? How many billion Chinese people would love to have a shot to step up to us? Let's not play instigator, here.

Then again, maybe we should ... maybe the referees can give Bush a game misconduct.

Let's go on the record as saying we need to be very careful about what type of message we will send China. We were thinking something along the lines of a telegram:

"Dear socialist friends: Realize we still occasionally bomb Iraq. We don't want you to be there when it happens. How about we leave you to the Three Gorges Dam and you leave us to the mess in the Middle East (that we kind of helped start). Thanks, America. PS — About Tibet..."

Inane? Yes. Better than, we don't know, risking a major international situation by sending a military message? Oh, yes.

Why do we assume Bush's "message" could be military? Well, in Mexico two weeks ago, he referred to the Iraqi strikes as "sending a message."

Careful, George. You should be worrying about plenty of domestic issues that are hurting America more than anything the Chinese government is up to. ○

Clarification: It has been brought to the attention of the *Fiat Lux* that the funding for the Avila/Weeks Dance residency needs to be clarified. Marlin Miller provided the bulk of funds as part of a leadership gift for dance artists. The Avila/Weeks residency was the inaugural event of the Marlin Miller Dance Series. Other funds for the residency came from Student Senate, the National Endowment for the Humanities, AU Division of Performing Arts and AU Women's Studies.



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COULMN

Cloning race not the right thing

BY MARGARET HONTI
STAFF WRITER



The Raelians are coming! The Raelians are coming! Who are the Raelians you ask?

They are a group composed of a geneticist, a biochemist and an OB-GYN, as well as computer analysts, robotics engineers and lab technicians, who are ready to take the world by storm.

Under the direction of their leader, Rael, who claims to have had an alien encounter with beings from other planets, they want to create the first human clone.

Just a few weeks ago the race began, the cloning of human embryos was legalized in Britain, and here in the United States, the group does not want to be left behind.

The Raelians, after receiving countless phone calls from people who wish to "recreate" a deceased loved one, have decided that now is the time.

The group hopes to start by cloning a baby, then they hope to advance the technology so much so that you could specifically "order" your child and all of its characteristics, such as intelligence, athletic skills, size and shape. The ultimate

goal is to create eternal life through cloning.

Hello? Are we nuts? Is this some kind of weird science fiction movie? You can't "replace" a deceased child! A baby is not a house you can have custom built!

This is human life we are talking about!

The desire for cloning is strong, but so is the opposition. AU Professor of Biology Cheryl Emmons said that, "Just because the technology for cloning has been developed does not mean that it should be used. Remember the consequences of developing an atomic bomb?"

Everyone seems to have questions on the subject. For example, in a recent *New York Times Magazine* article Margaret Talbot wrote, "How could a cloned child live out his life freely, knowing that he was the recipient of a prework, consciously selected genotype?"

With this said, many Americans are eager to see human cloning become a reality. When she heard about the possibility of cloning, Marion Vuchetich, of Atlanta, saved some of her son's DNA when he died in a work-related accident three years ago.

"My son had an I.Q. of 165. I feel like the world lost something," she

said.

I understand that Ms. Vuchetich and many others are grieving over the death of their loved ones, but that doesn't mean that we should try and recreate them. Why not? A cloned person will never be the same as the original.

The best-case scenario would be more like a later-born identical twin.

There are risks and dangers. Cloned cattle and sheep are often born dangerously large, sometimes up to 60 pounds above the average weight. Because they are so big and have no room to move while in the uterus they can be born lame or with deformities. The abnormality rate in cloned animals is around 30 percent. Scientists worry that cloned humans may show higher rates of cancer or other diseases.

Of course the only way to know if human cloning will work is to try. Are we really ready to take that risk? Cloning is a slippery slope. If we clone animals, humans are next. What then? Will we get so caught up that we will try to create another master race?

We shouldn't play God. Human life is not an experiment; we shouldn't treat it as one. ○

COLUMN

Deadly violence is not necessary

BY ALISON SAVETT
FEATURES EDITOR



When I hear "Alfred," I think of a safe place. It's a place where I don't lock my car when I leave it for a half an hour.

Coming from a big city like Philadelphia, I am used to seeing murders on the news.

"In North Philadelphia, there was an arsonist attack, three people died." Fine. But here?

When I read about the recent double murder in Hornell, it came as such a shock. Yet the more shocking thing was not the fact that there was a murder in Hornell, but instead the way it happened.

So a couple had an argument, and one shot the other, but when police arrived, they shot and killed a man armed with a knife.

The last time I checked, when someone has a knife and refuses to put it down, you shoot to disable them, not to kill them.

Was the deadly violence neces-

sary in nearby Hornell? Why not shoot the man in the leg so he falls over? That would clearly be the first option in my mind, but orphaning four children because their father has a knife? It seems as though we are using the severe punishments before the reasonable ones in our culture.

"Police say that the deadly violence used in Hornell was necessary," news on the radio station 105.3 FM said.

What kind of matchup is that? A man with a knife versus two policemen with guns. That seems fair, right? I don't think so.

What truly bothers me is the wording of the *Evening Tribune* of Hornell on Feb. 16.

"A West Genesee Street woman early today was stabbed to death and her estranged husband, believed by police to be the killer, was shot dead by two Hornell police officers responding to the scene."

Believed? What if he wasn't the killer? When did police begin this tactic, shooting the first person they see? They shot a man who

they believed was possibly the murderer?

This seems wrong to me. There were so many "ifs" in the situation I think deadly violence was the worst of all possible options. And what if that man had been a neighbor, responding to screams heard at 5 a.m. that morning, defending himself from the attacker? I think that police are taking advantage of their power, firing at someone without taking aim first.

In the same article, it mentioned that the police did not know how many times bullets struck the "believed" attacker. Not only did our protectors shoot to kill, but they don't know how many times?

Where I am from, there is no need to kill a man with a knife, just stop him from advancing at the police. In fact, why not just shoot him in his arm to get rid of the ability to hold the knife?

What I see is an example of corruption, of power taking its hold on people. I don't know about you, but I don't feel safe with police on power trips protecting me. ○

GUEST COLUMNIST

Wicca widely misunderstood in U.S. society

BY CHIP SCHRADER
GUEST COLUMNIST

I am not your typical *700 Club* viewer, and what I saw on this show last Sunday morning only supports my preconceptions about mainstream Christianity.

You may be asking, "What did you see on this show that made you so upset?" Well, I'll tell you.

I looked at the program listing, and the overview of this episode said that they will be covering what is called "goddess worship." Suddenly my eyes perked up because I am interested in paganism and witchcraft, which are forms of "goddess worship."

While viewing this report I was impressed by the fact that they interviewed actual Wiccans. But then, author Donna Hailson said, "You know what one of the big appeals is? There's no sin ... you can come in and pretty much do whatever you like."

I guess that is what the Christians thought when they figured they could hang two of my ancestors for being witches, after all murder is a sin.

I have roots in the pagan culture, and can assure everyone that pagans have rules. If you visit the Web site www.witchvox.com, you will learn the "Law of Three," which states that whatever we do,

we get back three-fold, good or bad.

This faith acknowledges the fact that its followers are intelligent enough to distinguish the difference between right and wrong.

Then, anchor Gordon Robertson called goddess worship a "counterfeit religion." I wonder, since he is a "responsible" reporter, what proof does he have that says this faith is counterfeit?

I think Robertson, and his colleagues need to consider other perspectives before they make claims. As an unorthodox believer in Christ, I think they should ask themselves, "Would Jesus approve of cultural elitism?" I think not. ○

Voices

A community forum provided by the *Fiat Lux*

GUEST COLUMNIST

Grammys bad for the eyes

BY STEPHANIE BLISS
GUEST COLUMNIST



Was it just me, or did the 43rd Annual Grammy Award show completely suck this year?

Add this up: a rigid host with mildly humorous jokes, a couple of performances that put you to sleep, blurry camera images, too much cleavage, too much leg, too much arrogance and not enough real controversy.

The result of all of these things was a night in front of the TV I wished I had slept through.

Getting a painful surgical operation would have been preferable.

Need more specifics? Try watching Madonna wriggle around in a "Material Girl" tank top on top of a flashy limo driven by a thirteen year old rap star.

Or better yet, stiletto heels on Christina Aguilera to complete her outfit, which closely resembled a large doily my grandmother has in

her living room.

While the audience may have enjoyed that kind of entertainment and the guys may have even gotten a kick out of Toni Braxton's "thing" (I can't refer to it as a dress because there really wasn't anything there), I personally would have preferred a little more testosterone in the show. Maybe a little less skin and a little more quality music, too.

So let's talk about some of the actual winners. What was the deal with Best New Artist winner Shelby Lynne? Who's that?

She was the one with the barely there belly-button-baring blue halter-top and matching pants who sang with Sheryl Crow.

Promptly after performing with the great singer, she casually dismissed Crow with a half-hearted comment and flip of the hand ... as if she doesn't have enough time to waste on fellow artists.

To top off Lynne's awful presence, her acceptance speech pretty much consisted of an "it's about

time I won 'cause I'm so great" remark that made me want to throw something at the TV.

OK, so enough bashing the worst award show I've seen in years. Let's move onto some of the highlights actually worth mentioning.

Eminem was respectful, pulling out a humble acceptance speech for Best Rap Album and an incredible performance with Elton John to end the night with a standing ovation for a job well done.

And that highlight was the only one worth mentioning. The rest of the night offered lack-luster comics shooting T-shirts into the crowd, some sketchy camera shots, and even Faith Hill getting so excited she popped open her blouse.

Kudos to those artists who enjoyed the night as an opportunity to celebrate quality music. To those who made the Grammys a painful event to sit through: get real or get out of the music industry! ☐

...Weightless

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

"During the first second or two, you feel like you're falling," said Schaut. Disorientation sets in when you look around and conversely see that everyone is upright.

The flight was nicknamed the "Vomit Comet" due to the effect of the shift between zero gravity and 1.8 times normal gravity. For example, if a person weighed 100 pounds on earth, they would be alternating between weighing nothing to weighing 180 pounds in the plane.

Each member experienced this feeling during one flight, two members on one day and two on the other.

During the trip, the team met with many NASA researchers, from the man who did the stunt work for the movie *Top Gun*, to George Abbey, the director of Johnson Space Center.

Quoted in the *Evening Tribune* of Hornell, "This was an opportunity of a lifetime for all of us," said Ebert.

The team is designing equipment to test the samples they were able to make with NASA. They are also planning to speak at local schools, teaching

students the value of these experiments and the NASA program. Though the schools are local, the team will be traveling reasonably broadly within the region.

The data from these specimens is to be published and used for the design of composites. ☐



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ROBERT SCHAUT
(L to R) Lea Kennard, Rob Schaut, Anne Ebert, Theresa Totodo and John Williams pose with their works.

...Elections

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
looking forward to [the runoff]."

Washington expects a good race. "I see Gretchen," Washington said, "and she's got spunk. She does what she needs to do. I think it should be a good runoff and it should be fairly close."

Even if the VP runoff could have been predicted, the presidential contest seemed to blindside a few people.

Presidential candidate Liz

Reina led voting returns with 48.5 percent of the vote, trailed closely by Chris Stawiarz with 46.2 percent. Write-ins and abstentions made up the difference.

Stawiarz is in familiar territory as he was one-half of the VP runoff from last year. He ended up losing the contest to Rachael Downey by a margin slimmer than the paper you're holding.

Stawiarz could not be reached by press time.

Reina was surprised by the results.

"I'm honestly surprised by how

close Chris and I were," she said. "I'm not surprised that he did well, just how close it was."

Reina said she thinks the close race bodes well for the Senate.

"It says that we're both extremely qualified," she said.

There is, of course, the remote possibility of a tie.

"If we're tied?" Reina asked. "I think it's almost statistically impossible, but with the way things have been going, I wouldn't be surprised."

Reina will find out with the rest of us this evening. ☐

are still uncertain, he noted.

Hampton is excited about the new house, as it will help to bring the brotherhood closer together. He noted that being in separate living conditions has been difficult for the brothers, who vacated their previous house at the end of last school year.

"[The house's] presence was sorely missed, and proved a difficult situation for all brothers to

cope with," said Hampton.

Hart explained that the news also is of benefit to the University community.

Having another Greek organization on University property will "help ensure a greater level of participation and interaction between the Greek and non-Greek segments of our student population."

"The amenities and overall appearance of the new house

LETTER TO EDITOR

Both sides should be considered

Dear Editor:

I would like to offer a counterpoint to the article "Group wants food changes ASAP" found in your last issue. First of all, I would like to say that I really like veal. But, I also agree that cruelty to animals is wrong and the way that veal is treated in some farms is unacceptable. What is not stated in the article is that AU in no way supports the "factory farm" veal.

I sit on the food committee, and remember vividly the discussion we had about this very topic when Eric Zuckerman first came to us with this petition idea. The heads of dining services explained to us that AU does not buy its veal from these factory

farms. In addition, veal is only served once every five weeks. Doing the math, that would come out to twice a semester. A ban until 2003 will only stop veal from being served eight times.

If ASAP's petition is allowed, the floodgates will be open for all kinds of potential problems in the future. What would be the next food to be banned? All other kinds of beef? Maybe some meat eaters would put together a petition to ban all vegan foods because it takes space away for more meat. My suggestion would be to go ahead with the petition, but send it to the farms that treat veal badly, not to the University. Don't take away my right to choose veal over whatever else is being served that night.

Sincerely,
Kristofer Stachowiak
Class of 2001

Giuliani at war with art

BY ALISON SAVETT
FEATURES EDITOR

Ready or not, here comes another First Amendment disagreement.

Upon the opening of the show on Feb. 16, *Committed to the Image: Contemporary Black Photographers* at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani voiced his issues with the five-panel color photo series titled "Yo' Mama's Last Supper."

Renee Cox's interpretation of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" features a nude woman (the artist) in the way Jesus Christ is depicted in da Vinci's painting. The four other photos show the 12 Apostles, all black with dreadlocks. In her artist's statement on the wall, Cox informs the viewer that her intent is to raise awareness of both race and gender issues.

The SoHo photographer's work is what sparked Giuliani's statement that he would take this controversy straight to the U.S. Supreme Court. He felt that her photographs were anti-Catholic and unworthy of taxpayer funding. "I think that what they did is disgusting, it's outrageous," the Mayor said yesterday of the artwork reported in the *New York Daily News* exclusive stories.

"We are going to try to set up decency standards, and then I'm going to look at what penalties are available for this," he said. "If we had decency standards, I'd submit that this photograph would never be exhibited in a building funded by the taxpayers."

Cox shot back at the New York City politician quickly. "It's all very hypocritical," said Cox, charging that the mayor has no standing to

moralize about art, given his widely publicized relationship with "very good friend" Judith Nathan — which Giuliani acknowledged shortly before announcing he would separate from his wife. All of this was mentioned in the same article. Cox continued, "Now that he's been busted with the other woman, I wouldn't be talking about moral issues."

Another point made was that Giuliani's girlfriend's bodyguards are funded by taxpayer money.

Of the 94 black photographers in the show, Cox's was the only to draw such a large amount of attention, creating what reporters all over are referring to as "another media circus."

Beth Ann Dobie, assistant professor of art theory, stated recently that she feels that the mayor's efforts seem repeated.

"The reaction seems repeated to something sensational without trying to understand how it speaks to culture," said Dobie.

Erica Robinson, a BFA student with concentrations in photography and design, wasn't surprised by Giuliani's reaction to Cox's piece.

"Being in art you expect things like this. He doesn't realize that what he's doing is provoking more discussion by creating more controversy," she said.

Assistant Professor of Fine Arts Rie Hachiyonagi felt that "Cox is expressing her beliefs very well with the piece, and I do not see any problem with it."

Cox felt the same way. "Get over it," she said in a recent Associated Press article. "Why can't a woman be Christ? We are the givers of life!" ☐

should do much to dispel the stereotypical opinion of the living conditions in a fraternity house," he explained. "The house will serve as a 'positive advertisement for Greek life at AU.'"

Plans are being made to introduce the house and its construction progress to the AU community. Hart stated that an open-invitation barbecue is planned for Hot Dog Day after the

Mud Olympics. More events will be announced as construction progresses.

Hampton joined Hart in extending thanks to their Housing Corporation Board, composed of alumni Steve Komp, Charlie O'Connor, Fred Pollack and Jeff Mora.

Said Hart, "Their tireless hours of work have made this dream a reality." ☐

...ΣAM

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
house, and wanted to ensure the feasibility of the project before moving forward with it, said Conte.

The house will be built on Greek Row next to the Kappa Sigma house, said Hart. Terms of a lease with the University for the land

Presentation catches the eye of bio. students

BY JENNIFER KRISTIANSEN
DARKROOM MANAGER

Every 14 minutes, someone in America is added to the list of people who need organ or tissue donation; 12 people on that list die every day.

Last Monday, Tammi Sharpe and Karen Guarine visited AU Professor of Biology Brad Bowden's biology class to discuss the importance of organ and tissue donation, especially that of the eyes.

According to Guarine, the communications director for the Rochester Area Eye and Tissue Bank, organ and tissue transplants have been performed for hundreds of years.

"Back in the 1600s," she said, "part of a damaged human cranium was replaced with that of a dog's cranium."

The first successful human corneal transplant, she added, was performed in 1906.

Both presenters stressed the importance of tissue and organ donation, as well as the importance of discussing the decision to be a donor with one's family.

"It doesn't matter if you've signed the back of your [driver's] license," said Sharpe, the senior tissue retrieval coordinator at the Eye and Tissue Bank. "If your family doesn't know that you want to [donate organs], we can't do it."

She then added, "sometimes, even if a family gives consent, the person isn't suitable for various reasons. Their lifestyle would make it dangerous for the technician or the recipient."

Activities that would make a donor unsuitable include IV drug use and unprotected sex, which raises the risk of hepatitis and

HIV.

If a person is a suitable donor, however, there are many different things that can be done with the various parts of the body.

Including skin grafts, bone grafts and various organ transplants, a single donor can conceivably help as many as 50 people.

"Skin is what we call a 'living bandage,'" said Guarine. "We take the skin from the back and the back of the legs to use for burn victims who need skin grafts."

The reason the skin is only taken from these two places is three-fold.

First of all, if the donor's family wishes to have an open casket, they can; the back of the body is not seen and can therefore be used for transplantation purposes.

Secondly, the back has the largest flat area of any body part, so the skin can be used on many different areas for grafting.

Lastly, the skin on the posterior of the body is slightly thicker and easier to work with than the skin on other parts of the body, giving technicians an easier time when they are removing it.

The collagen from the skin can also be used.

"Up until recently," said Guarine, "beef collagen was used for things like injections to strengthen the vocal chords. Now we can use human collagen and it works much better and people don't have to have as many injections over time."

Many factors go into choosing who gets a body part from whom. These factors include gender, age, blood type and ethnicity or race.

"More men than women need

organs," said Guarine. "This is due to a number of factors, including riskier behavior and higher incidence of disease."

Organs and skin aren't the only things that can be donated; bones can be retrieved and used in a variety of ways. There is no upper age limit for bones taken from males, but females have a higher rate of osteoporosis and therefore cannot donate past a certain age.

Technicians at the Rochester Area Eye and Tissue Bank have been performing transplants since 1952; they are affiliated with 1,200 hospitals in eight counties and perform a number

of different transplants, including corneal retrieval.

According to Sharpe and Guarine, there are a number of reasons why someone would need to have an eye replaced. Among them are injury and various diseases.

At the end of the presentation, Sharpe showed the class how a corneal retrieval would be performed.

She first put on sterile gloves, telling the class that she would normally sterilize herself in the same way a doctor would if she were to be operating on a live person; Sharpe then covered her hair, put on a full-body apron and

tied on a mouth and face shield. All of these things were, she said, to protect both the technician and the eye from contamination.

After removing the eye from sterile solution, squirting it with more sterile saline solution, and drying it with gauze, she used a scalpel to make an incision in the sclera, or "white part" of the eye.

Sharpe then inserted a pair of small surgical scissors into that incision, and made a 360° cut, removing the cornea, iris and pupil from the rest of the eye. Tweezers were then used to lift the cornea from the rest of the eye. ○



PHOTO BY JENNIFER KRISTIANSEN

Tammi Sharpe holds a human eyeball before cutting into it. Sharpe presented for Brad Bowden's FYE BIO 100 class last week.

...Dill

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
Poremksi. Of the three, Dill is clearly the youngest.

Dill holds a BA in English from Wells College in Aurora, N.Y., and her MA and Ph.D. in English from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Her areas of interest include gender and novel, theories of community, and composition pedagogy. Dill currently holds a tenure-track position as an instructor at Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, Nev.

Senior English major Jen

Buttaro, who took the applicants on tours, said, "I really liked her. She is a fine choice and would fit in well with the other faculty members. She shared the same genuine interest in students as other professors at Alfred do."

During the campus tour, Dill seemed "really into student life," according to Buttaro.

Candidates met with Greiff, chair of the English department, and William Hall, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Greiff was "very positive with the sense that, given her age, she showed lots of potential for growth, and has a good career ahead of her." He also expressed

gratitude to all students who participated in the selection process.

When asked whether the students really impacted the search's outcome, Greiff stated that the committee truly did take into consideration the feedback received from both the Survey of American Literature class as well as Greiff's upper level Literary Criticism and Theory class that sat in on the classes.

The general consensus among the English department, both faculty and students, is that Dill will bring a dynamic teaching force to the Alfred's division of English. ○

Crew coming to AU

BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND
STAFF WRITER

After hearing other students share her interest in rowing, Sophomore Lamya Forghany decided to take initiative.

"I've seen crew at other colleges and it looked like a lot of fun," said Forghany. "Then I came to AU and it wasn't here."

After putting up posters everywhere to see if others shared her interest in rowing, Forghany, hopefully expecting five to ten people, was more than surprised when 45 people showed up for the first meeting.

Forghany went to work with the Office of Student Activities to form the Alfred University Crew, AU's first rowing club.

The process to start a new organization at AU is not difficult, but there are several steps to take.

First, there must be at least five students as founding members and a faculty member willing to become adviser to the club.

William Walker, research associate with the Center for Advanced Ceramic Technology, agreed to become advisor to AU Crew.

"A rowing team is something that has been missing here," said Walker, who has a special interest in water sports.

Numerous universities have rowing teams and "adding AU Crew to the list of organizations that we have to offer will make us more diverse," as well as more

attractive to potential new students, added Walker.

Second, in order to become recognized as a new student organization at AU, the group must fill out a Recognition Application, draft their own constitution and agree to AU's "Student Organization Expectations, Responsibilities and Accountability" document.

However, once recognized, a new club becomes entitled to several privileges, such as establishing a savings account, use of AU vehicles, and setting up a University computer account.

Recently, the AU Crew has been recognized and is officially a student organization at AU.

"The next step for AU Crew is to build up its membership and its funds," said Dan Napolitano, director of student activities. "Roughly 10 new clubs are recognized by AU each year, but only three or four of them really succeed."

"We've chosen team leaders and we are in the process of looking for a coach who has experience," said Forghany. "We've also contacted the U.S. Rowing Association about getting insured and how to start competing."

When asked what's next for AU Crew, Forghany said, "We want to get rowing. We're looking to have some fun, to learn some more about crew, and to add another sport to AU." ○



PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND

BAFA student Jessy Natal takes part in performance art pieces in the campus center last week.

STUDENT SENATE UPDATE

Survey shows ups and downs

BY JAY WEISBERGER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Whatever election ruckus exists, have confidence that your Student Senate will go about business as usual until whatever crisis reaches a resolution.

This was best illustrated by the fact that, though election results were going to be announced at last week's Senate meeting, much else was done.

So much for a lame duck executive board.

The item of most interest was the results of the every-other-year student opinion surveys.

Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs Jerry Brody presented the findings of the survey, which compares AU with other public and private schools nationwide. It also indicates AU student satisfaction with numerous facets of campus life.

If the opinions were heavy-weight boxing, the Honors Program would be the undisputed champion. AU's favorite organization symbolized by a walrus "won" the survey once again, garnering a 4.56 (out of five) raw score — good

enough to beat the national average by 0.63 of a point.

Also ranking high, and high above national averages, were campus safety and security, as well as over 30 other items.

Brody was sure to point out the timing of the survey in relation to safety and security.

"Happy students feel safe," he said, "but just one rape [at the time the surveys went out] would have lowered the number."

Many students seemed to agree that this is an area you can't be too careful with. Brody, despite the numbers, advised students to still avoid travelling alone at night and observing other rules of caution.

As for what didn't fare well, no one was surprised to see parking at the bottom of the list.

Last time the surveys went out, the Crandall Health Center was widely panned. While still being rated below national averages, the health center received a higher rating than last time. Brody noted that freshmen and sophomores rated the health center higher than upperclassmen, implying that perhaps had past experiences were giving a slant to upperclass opin-

ions.

Newer students, however, have been experiencing the "expanded" health center — an extra nurse practitioner was added last year — and generally seem pleased.

Overall, AU did well nationally. "We kicked butt," Brody said and he also noted that 59 percent of items showed improvement from the last time around.

...

Senate Snippets — Nominations for executive board positions of Secretary, Treasurer and PolyPro were taken. More nominations and elections will take place tonight ... President Seth Mulligan gave a farewell speech, which was met with raves. Mulligan, however, will really say farewell tonight when final election results are announced. Mulligan will preside over the body until that moment ... the Food Committee announced that due to popularity, veal will continue to be served in AU dining halls ... Complaints were raised about campus graffiti as well as a wave of license plate theft ... a student argued that soap in AU's public bathrooms smells bad. No word on possible action was given. ○

Engineering Week a hit at AU

BY ASHLEY BRENON
STAFF WRITER

Who says engineers don't know how to have fun?

Campus engineering groups flooded the calendar last week to celebrate National Engineering Week, a week dedicated to increasing awareness of engineering and technology.

Engineering students get to exhibit their work, and non-engineering students get to see how much fun engineering can be.

Performing arts students have productions. Engineering students have National Engineering Week, said Scott Scheibner, president of the Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineering.

National Engineering Week began in 1951, making this year its 50th anniversary. It is observed around George Washington's birthday each year. According to the National

Engineering Week Web site, he is considered the nation's first engineer for his advancements in military engineering and land surveying.

Each year, an engineering society and a corporation team up to sponsor national events. This year, the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and IBM hosted contests and other events for students from kindergarten through college as well as professionals.

The national organization provides activity suggestions to schools and colleges nation wide. AU students organized events that would appeal to all majors, said senior ceramic engineering student Chris Say.

Non-engineers were invited to race in the Pine Wood Derby sponsored by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE), to see a free showing of Apollo 13 sponsored by the American Ceramics Society (ACERS) or

control soccer-playing robots at IEEE exhibited in Powell Campus Center last week.

Engineering students could put their principles to work to build spaghetti bridges or compete in the Rube Goldberg Contest both sponsored by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Spaghetti bridges are built with raw spaghetti. They were judged on the ratio of how much the bridge weighs to how much weight the bridge can support.

The Rube Goldberg contest is named for a cartoonist famous for his drawings of wacky and impractical inventions. The student that completes the simplest task with the most complicated sequence of steps wins this contest. Results were unavailable at press time.

For more information about National Engineering Week, visit the official Web site at www.eweek.org. ○



WORLDNOTES

LOCAL

Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) is scheduled to speak at commencement May 12, announced Interim Provost Susan Strong. The senior senator is expected to appear as long as no political obligations interfere.

• Students are reminded that residence halls are closed next week for mid-semester break. Halls close at 10 a.m. Saturday and reopen Sunday, March 11 at 10 a.m.

• James Varner, professor of glass science, has been named an honorary member of the German Society of Glass Technology.

Varner will receive this prestigious honor for his longtime support of Germany's glass scientists. He has also been supportive of international student exchanges as director of study abroad for the School of Ceramic Engineering and Materials Science.

NATIONAL

During his first White House new conference last Thursday, President Bush criticized China's aid to Iraq's radar systems.

Bush said that evidence of China's aid has become so alarming that "we are going to send a message to the Chinese."

During the new conference, Bush dodged many questions from reports about budget cuts, tax-cut compromises and FBI polygraph tests.

About the issue of former President Clinton's pardons, Bush also refused to comment, and said he wants to "move forward."

• Racing fans were given an opportunity last week to pay their last respects to Dale Earnhardt.

Earnhardt was buried in a private ceremony last Wednesday in Mooresville, N.C., but memorial services were held in Charlotte, N.C. and nationwide.

Earnhardt was killed on the last lap of the Daytona 500 Feb. 18 after his car crashed into a wall.

INTERNATIONAL

President Bush met with a European leader for the first time last Friday when he met with Britain's Tony Blair.

The two discussed trade, NATO, Iraq and the possibility of a U.S. missile defense shield.

Bush noted that both he and Blair feel it is important to build a consensus about Iraq in order for sanction to be effective.

Bush described the effectiveness of existing U.N. sanctions against Iraq as "Swiss cheese."

• Former President Alberto Fujimori has been indicted by the Peruvian Congress on charges of abandoning his office.

The Congress voted 37-24, with four abstentions, to indict Fujimori and to bar him from holding public office for 10 years.

Fujimori fled to Japan, where he remains, in Nov. following a corruption scandal. At that time, the Congress declared him unfit for office, and with the indictment, criminal charges may follow.

The Fiat Lux wins!

Two Fiat staffers have been recognized for their work over the past year. Emilie Hardman received a column writing award from the New York Press Association. Also, Jay Weisberger received a certificate of merit from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association for for a Spring 2000 column criticizing AU for a set of harsh hazing sanctions.

Congratulations to both!



PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND

Kevin Berwald readies his robotic soccer player for a match during Engineering Week at AU. All the varieties of engineers at AU were part of the week's festivities.



What Would David Do?
(see page 10).

Brockport's *Brockovich* drama the real deal

BY SARAH GUARIGLIA
A & E EDITOR

Have you ever seen a movie and wondered if any of it could happen in real life? Brockport residents are finding out that a story like the one behind the movie *Erin Brockovich* is all too real. It is quite literally being played out in their own backyards.

According to the investigative work of a Brockport organization known as Residents Environmentally Active for Change (R.E.A.Ch), chemicals had been dumped into Brockport Creek by former 3M, Black & Decker and General Electric plants in the area. These chemicals, including high levels of PCBs banned in the 1970s as a known carcinogen, have made their way into the soil of many residents' yards over the past 30

years.

While the Department of Environmental Conservation is working with the companies to determine what kinds of cleanup efforts are necessary, some residents fear that the damage has already been done.

Those in danger of being affected by the chemicals feel that the situation needed to be addressed years ago.

"There's a lot of testing going on, but that's all that's being done," said Brockport resident and R.E.A.Ch member Shawn Lessord.

This led to the foundation of R.E.A.Ch, which began with 12 members and now has over 100.

The members of the organization have pursued letter-writing campaigns, collected relevant documents and conducted physical investigations of their neigh-

borhood.

Lessord and several family members filed a lawsuit against 3M, but the process is not a speedy one.

"I was discouraged ... and I sat thinking one night about attorneys. I tried to think of what would bring big attention. Then it dawned on me — I'll e-mail Erin Brockovich."

Masry & Vittoe, the California law firm that Brockovich works with, was inundated with 1,800 requests for help with possible hazardous pollution cases after the release of the movie in 2000. Of these, Brockovich narrowed the field to 100 to be investigated; in the end, only two are being seriously pursued — the Brockport site and another possible New York contamination site in Auburn.

According to the *Democrat*

and *Chronicle* of Rochester, lawyer Edward Masry held a meeting with over 200 Brockport residents on Feb. 11 to discuss the possibility of handling a case against 3M and General Electric.

Brockovich herself is said to be visiting the area shortly.

Lessord credits the sudden attention to the Brockport pollution, which has been going on unnoticed for years, to both Masry's involvement and the ongoing efforts of R.E.A.Ch. He also noted that Rep. John J. LaFalce (D-Tonawanda) recently visited the town to speak with residents about the situation, and the local government is getting more involved in the community's efforts.

According to Lessord, his primary motive for bringing in the help of lawyers is "to see these

yards cleaned up." R.E.A.Ch has discovered that although the 3M plant stopped dumping waste in 1978, 54 truckloads of contaminated soil (which was bright blue in color) were carted from the 3M site just last November. Under the direction of the DEC, General Electric has recently implemented some cleanup measures for a spreading underground plume of TCE (1,1,1-Trichloroethane), which breaks down into at least one known carcinogen.

Beyond a few such spot-cleaning efforts, little has been done to determine who contaminated what areas, or the ultimate effects of the toxic chemicals on residents' health.

"All the sickness [that may have resulted from contamination] makes you stop and wonder," said Lessord. ○

REVIEW

Lissow brings laughs

BY LUIS VASQUEZ
STAFF WRITER

Student Activities Board-sponsored comedian Jamie Lissow focused on the college attitude towards issues like drinking and social life at a performance on Friday, Feb. 16.

Most of his act was exclusively delivered to the young college mind that often tends to associate alcohol drinking with comedy. He shared his personal experiences strategically adorned with "drinking" jokes that appealed to the audience most of the time.

The audience interacted by shouting jokes back to him and occasionally laughing at his redundant "I remember one night I was [so] drunk" stories.

Comedy shows are known for their ability to offer warm laughter to the AU community, and this show was no exception, even with its heavy emphasis on alcohol. The comedian earned some laughs, but often made us feel like we lived in a deserted island with no hope of finding any nearby existence, literally speaking.

He over-emphasized his bit about Alfred and Hornell as them being "places hard to get to," and with "mean drivers with mean buzzes on their cars." It was all for the sake of making us laugh by trying to make the jokes sound funny

and relatively familiar to the audience.

He then went on describing his experiences in West Virginia, where he encountered "horses riding a horse-cab in the expressway right next to [him]" while driving in his car at 110mph. This was definitely one of Lissow's best sketches.

But not everything went smoothly for this "experienced" comedian. Most of the show lacked improvisation and genuine quality material, and very often it sounded repetitive and ordinary. He went as far as repeatedly picking on a Polish student for her accent.

"I love your accent, it's so cute," he whispered sarcastically. Then he would come back to the now familiar "I was drunk" numbers and occasionally picking on the same Polish girl again. "Stop hitting on the girl and go back to your act," shouted a spectator from the audience.

Among other things, the comedian "was very unprepared, repetitive, and non-socially sensitive," said junior Jalal Clemens, who also attended the show.

Aside from the obvious lack of fresh material Lissow showcased, the overall show promised to be a good and warm laugh in a cold and snowy night. He succeeded at it as expected. ○

Current law linked to ancient Greeks

BY CHARLIE CASPARIUS
WEB MANAGER

There are certain assumptions that a person makes when he or she is fully engaged in college life, like many of the students here at AU are.

One of them is that the cafeteria food is going to be a conglomerate of stuff that even the most scholarly English student would not venture a guess as to the name of the meal.

On a more serious note, when someone hears Greek, the natural reaction in college is to think of the Greek life here on campus.

However, the Sibley lecture on Monday Feb. 19, was about the original Greeks from the time before Christianity.

Lou Ruprecht, author of three published works: *Tragic Torture and Tragic Vision*, *Afterwords* and *Symposia* gave a lecture on the mixture of Ancient Greek beliefs and current law.

Ruprecht, a visiting professor from the University of Atlanta and professor of general humanities, is a highly respected scholar in the field of comparative religions.

The lecture started out by

Ruprecht showing the audience several slides of the Supreme Court building, which is a replica of the Greek Athenian Parthenon. These slides showed the art of the column and the relief sculpture above the entryway, which has carved in it Moses, Confucius, Mohammed and Solon the Athenian.

Ruprecht pointed out that these figures are an odd addition to a building whose residents are supposed to uphold the separation of church and state, among other things.

Ruprecht's main argument had to do with a variety of court decisions that used historical narratives from ancient civilizations, such as the Greeks and Romans, to defend their majority opinion.

The three cases that Ruprecht presented were Roe v. Wade, the federal court case regarding physician-assisted suicide, and the Colorado State Court case dealing with same-sex marriages.

In each of these cases an opinion was formed around a historical narrative that referenced the Greek and Roman times.

The Greek and Roman ideas of suicide, homosexuality and abortion were indifferent according to

the resources used by Ruprecht. He also argued that these three topics were made controversial by the coming of the Christian religion.

Ruprecht stated that the Supreme Court could use these ideas from the Ancient Romans and Greeks in their opinions because they were not considered religious.

According to Ruprecht, religion begins when Christianity comes into play. With this idea in mind, the Supreme Court could use the ideas of the ancient Greeks and Romans and continue to keep the church and state separate.

At the end of the presentation, Ruprecht received a warm reception from the audience in ways of a healthy applause as well as a stream of questions that kept him on his toes for another half-an-hour.

Ruprecht conceded that he is neither wrong nor right, but considers his argument as a different way of looking at the situation that may somehow shed light on the confusing cross between law and religion. ○

Fewer doctorates being awarded nationwide

BY APRIL SOMMER
CORNELL DAILY SUN
CORNELL U.

(U-WIRE) ITHACA, N.Y. — The number of doctorates awarded in the United States fell for the first time in 14 years.

Between 1998 and 1999, the annual "Survey of Earned Doctorates" identified a 3.6 percent drop in Ph.D. awards at universities nationwide.

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"These trends closely follow trends in admissions five to nine years earlier," said Walter Cohen, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School, "since that's how long it takes to get a doctorate, depending on discipline."

"Survey of Earned Doctorates" found that the average time it took for a student to complete a doctoral program was 7.3 years.

According to Cohen, fluctuations in entering doctoral class size — which began their downward trend in 1992 — and bottomed out in 1997, will be reflected in the future number of Ph.D.'s awarded at Cornell.

"I feel that in getting a Ph.D. you have to be sure that you want to dedicate at least four or five years to a subject," said Dana Warren. "I did not know for sure that I did and that contributed significantly to my decision to pursue a masters degree."

Pat Carr grad, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, suggested a different explanation for the drop.

"With the bolstered economy... the economic opportunities are greater to not be in school," he said.

While over two-thirds of Ph.D. recipients nationwide reported having definite commitments for employment or postdoctoral study or research, half also reported that they completed their doctoral programs with debt. Upon receiving their doctoral degree, 13.3 percent reported a debt of \$30,000 or more.

Nationally, women and minority Ph.D. students earned the highest percentage of overall doctorates ever.

The "Survey of Earned Doctorates," prepared by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center and sponsored by six federal agencies including the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Education, found that 42.5 percent of doctorate recipients were women while nearly 16 percent where racial/ethnic minorities. ○

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Cohen comes to AU campus for grade talk

BY JASON PILARZ
COPY MANAGER

Students rarely achieve their full potential in their school-work; the key is to learn how to unlock that potential, said Gary Cohen last Thursday in Holmes Auditorium.

Cohen's presentation, "Better Grades in Less Time," was an engaging, humorous talk that showed the audience how to increase their reading speed and to make the most of their study time.

The program, cosponsored by Student Affairs and Delta Sigma Phi, was part of the education program for the new members of AU's fraternities and sororities.

Most of Cohen's two-hour presentation centered on increasing reading comprehension in less time. He began by having all participants read a passage for one minute and then counting the number of words read. A random audience sample revealed speeds from 140 to 390 words per minute.

Cohen then demonstrated a technique that involved using three fingers under the line of text being read; the fingers followed along as the passage was read. After audience members read for one minute, Cohen asked that this be repeated, except that this time, he demanded that the fingers move twice as fast and that the audience not read for compre-

hension. That is, participants were asked to concentrate not on reading, but on moving through the passage twice as fast.

This was then repeated, but this time, the fingers moved three times as fast. Next, participants were asked to read using the fingers for one minute, this time only reading as fast as the passage could be understood. Cohen then asked participants to figure out how many words were read in that minute. Of those questioned, all saw increases of at least 50 words per minute reading speed, some saw a large jump in their speed.

Cohen then explained the logic behind this technique: using the hand to "help" you read. The hand serves as a trainer, pushing the reader to read faster since it naturally wants to move faster than one can read. Also, by using three fingers, the reader can focus on many words at once, rather than just one. The fingers also keep the reader alert and concentrating by making reading a physically active process.

Taking notes is also important to the learning process, he said. Taking notes increases retention by 30 percent, said Cohen. He also suggested using visuals in notes as they increase retention 40 percent.

The best time of the day to study, according to Cohen, is in the morning or at night. In the



Gary Cohen suspends a glass in midair during his motivational speech last week in Holmes Auditorium.

PHOTO BY KEVIN KLINE

morning, the mind is fresh; at night, what is studied will be the last thing to fill the mind that day, and will be retained. He also suggested light meals to keep alert and told participants to stay away from sugar and caffeine; the low that follows the high from them will make you less alert.

Cohen also demonstrated a quick study technique to help

improve memory for tests. He suggested that following a class, students should reread their notes within five hours. This allows the student to reinforce what he or she just learned. The notes should then be reviewed on a daily basis up until test time, when the material should still be fresh.

Cohen noted that as time goes on, retention of material

learned declines a great deal. By reviewing on a daily basis, the material is not forgotten for test time.

In addition to speaking at colleges across the nation, Cohen has also presented in such places as Singapore and is also an accomplished poet and filmmaker. ○

AKO has rich history with AU

BY MARGARET HONTI
STAFF WRITER

"We the members of Alpha Kappa Omicron establish this sorority to be interfaith and interracial." So begins the preamble to the constitution of the sorority whose letters translate to mean "A sisterhood in equity."

The history of AKO extends back to Dec. 12, 1944 when 12 girls from the Brick Hall decided to form a sorority that welcomed girls from all backgrounds. Today the sisters uphold the same philosophies.

There are a host of activities that the group participates in. Semester formals, date parties, mixers and Hot Dog Day festivities rank high on the list of awaited social activities for the sisters.

Community service is also a large part of the sorority. In the past semester, the sisters of

AKO painted for the Boys and Girls Club of Rochester, organized a clothing drive, participated in the Yoplait program to raise money for breast cancer research and worked with Sigma Alpha Mu on the Jail-a-thon.

Up and coming projects include a walk for the March of Dimes and visiting local hospitals to deliver care packages in conjunction with the brothers of Lambda Chi Alpha.

Known as the "Green and White house," AKO is a local sorority and a home to all kinds of sisters with many different interests. Majors held within the group include: education, ceramic engineering, communication studies, political science, art, business, athletic training, biology, as well as others.

Being a local sorority, as well as a corporation, Alpha Kappa Omicron delegates its own rules and regulations. With the help

of their honoraries and advisors, some of whom are well known on campus including Robyn Goodman, assistant professor of communications; Sue Goetschius, director of communications; and Bonnie Lewis, custodian, the sisters are able to be a self-governing body.

Many of the sisters live in the house located on Main Street, which they have owned since 1949.

Others choose to live on campus as residents or Resident Assistants. Alumni are frequent visitors in Alfred.

Many of the over 700 sisters initiated in the past 56 years love to come back to see how the organization they once were and still are a part of is continuing.

Sisterhood at Alpha Kappa Omicron is not just a four-year commitment; it is a lifelong bond. ○

New members of AU Greek Houses

Alpha Kappa Omicron
Kerry Gerrity

Alpha Chi Rho
Ezra De Toy
Jeff Merryman
Sean O'Neil
Allen Rugh
Erik Stoesser-Casad

Delta Zeta
Maria Chmura
Melanie Culp
Anna Fuller
Natasha Mezhebozski
Laura Mirabito
Amanda Piering

Klan Alpine
Jeremy Batt
Miguel Cabral
John Chaney
Terik Chung
Matt Druin
Steven McClane
Jordan Schmidt
Anthony Vinci
Mike Williams
Alex Zavakas

Kappa Psi Upsilon
Robert Baynes
Paul Duclair
Jerald Kranja

Darren Manter
Michael Nicholas
Edward Ordway
Jeffrey Provelaites
Niclas Raue
Doran Sheftall
Niclas Trakis
Matthew Wilson

Lambda Chi Alpha
John Byrnes
Ethan Hammersmith
Brian Sick

Theta Theta Chi
Jaimee Blazejewski
Beatrice Foster
Jen Hyde
Debbie Pickering
Amy Stables

Sigma Alpha Mu
Kyle Brown
Chris Clancy
Jarod Mapes
Ben Pickard

Sigma Chi Nu
Katie Downey
Sammi Houston
Allison Lass
Brenna Marcellus
Kristen Voss
Rachel Wean

Greek Picks of the Week

Weekends of March 2-4 and 9-11

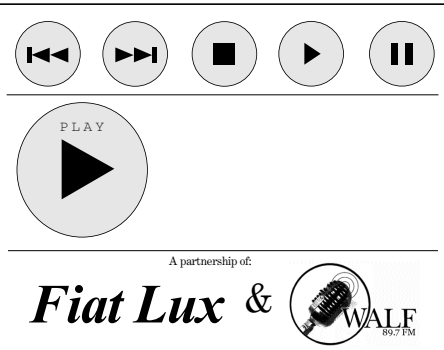
Spring Break! Relax and enjoy a break from classes.

Weekend of March 16-18

Men's Lacrosse: Saturday 7:00 v.s. Keuka, Merrill Field.

After a disappointing 4-10 season last year, Coach Preston Chapman believes the team will work hard to rebound this year. Come see Captain Joe Puma and the AU lax team under the lights!

ΦΙΑΤ ΛΥΕ



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REVIEW

Bis EP hits the spot

BY JASON PILARZ
COPY MANAGER

Music For a Stranger World is more than the title of the latest Bis EP; it is a subtle call to action. Yet the average listener may be content simply to listen to the great songs the band provides.

This mini-album by the Scottish trio is excellent. The music is a blend of electronica and pop, with clever lyrical messages.

Bis, composed of Manda Rin and brothers Sci-fi Steven and John Disco is an almost perfect hybrid of electronic music and pop, neither style clearly dominates. Their songs are pop enough to fit comfortably in the Top 40 charts.

Yet, Bis deserves much more credit than this. The songs are catchy without being annoying and their music is unique and fresh.

Most songs follow the basic pop format: catchy tunes with an oft-repeated chorus. A dose of electronic music added to this mix livens up the music and prevents it from becoming boring and predictable. The surprise is a short instrumental interlude between "I Want It All" and "Beats At the Office."

The band's agenda is pretty much what the title suggests: a stranger, more individualistic world. The lyrics show they are fed up with status quo, and just wish everyone would release the "freak in the subconscious."

In "Dead Wrestlers," the loss of hope and faith is compared to the time "when wrestling became fake" and the band reminds the listener that "believing in something" can sometimes mean nothing.

"How Can We Be Strange?" carries the strongest message on the disc, lamenting the fact that our fast-paced society prevents individuality: "how can we be



strange/ when we've got work to do today."

With this song, the band asks people to realize that they can indeed be themselves, "although their lives make it hard to see it."

This theme is continued in "Beats at the Office," as the corporate culture is contrasted with the need to listen to the "beats inside my head."

The biggest disappointment of this effort is that it is over too soon. Only six tracks are on the disc, which lasts only a little over 20 minutes. The good news is that Bis has a new full-length album on the way, *Return to Central*, scheduled for a late summer European release. The band also has two full albums and numerous singles released since their debut in 1995.

The band is signed to Wiiija Records in Europe, and released *Music for a Stranger World* on Lookout! Records in the U.S. With the strength of *New Transistor Heroes* and *Social Dancing* behind them and an average age of 22, Bis has the potential to be around for a while.

They have already toured with Garbage and had an opportunity to tour with Duran Duran.

With a good mix of electronic music, pop sounds, and social messages in the lyrics, Bis has found a solid formula for good music. What remains to be seen is whether they can translate this into future success. ○

Sounds from across the map

BY EMILIE HARDMAN
STAFF WRITER
WOLF MUSIC DIRECTOR

San Francisco's legendary venue The Fillmore, whose association with the **Grateful Dead** has preserved its place in rock history, serves as the backdrop for **Cypress Hill's** new *Live at the Fillmore* album. Never ones to restrict themselves to the gangsta-rap genre, the band's seventh release showcases their best known tunes and plays with grinding guitar riffs and lots of bass. Rumor has it that member **B-Real** is even a dark-horse candidate for the new frontman of the now singer-less **Rage Against the Machine**.

In other industry gossip, word has it that the folks at **No Idea Records** got so sick of people both-ering them for the bizarre out-of-print **Less Than Jake** album *Greased* that they have re-issued it. The repress disc features the band performing the entire score of the musical *Grease* in their own special mega-energetic ska-flavored pop way. The humorous cover album boasts a larger print run this time around, which is how it found its way to radio.

Assume the stance hardcore kids, **Reach the Sky** is back to rock you out. The Boston band, whose emo tendencies are clear on their new disc, *Friends, Lies and the End of the World*, moves away from the typical thuggish **Victory Records** fare to bring you a more diverse offering than might be expected. It turns out catchy and tough, but not in that tired mosh-metal way.

If it is the mosh-it-up hardcore that floats your particular boat though, **Epitaph's Death by Stereo** are the ones to give it to you. These So.Cal guys do the metal inspired hardcore thing, but with enough variation to make them appeal to the likes of **AFI**, **Ignite**, **Bane** and **Boy Sets Fire**, all of whom

have toured with them.

Also from **Victory Records**, this week at radio finds a limited-edition EP from the label's only ska band, **Catch 22**. This little nugget contains an original new song, a **Bob Marley** cover and a hip-hop song that clocks in well past the seven-minute mark what with the all the rap sections performed by each of the band's seven members.

Though sadly the **Lookout! Records** storefront has closed down shop, the Berkeley, Calif. label is still collaborating to put out the poppy punk rock they've become known for. Joining forces with **Panic Button**, the two labels offer up **The Lillingtons**, a band that owes more than their lunch money to both **The Ramones** and **The Misfits**. The album, *Backchannel Broadcast*, boasts a track that was written by **Screaming Weasel's Ben Weasel**.

Working a similar pop-Punk angle is **The Ataris** who send out their third disc on **Kung Fu Records** this week. The opening track, "Teenage Riot" on *End is Forever* seems to be a reference to the German electric-hardcore trio, **Atari Teenage Riot**, or maybe it's a strange little coincidence.

Perhaps the three most often heard words on a college campus are, "I'm so busy!" Just in at radio, though, is evidence that elsewhere in the world there are people who have too much time on their hands. In this time they create things like the new various artists album, **WWF The Music, Volume V** (yes, volume five) made up of the **WWF** wrestlers' entrance music. The compilation features an appearance from **The Rock** both on the cover where he is shown holding a pie (yes, a pie, cherry, I believe) and on vocals and a special remake of **HHH's** theme done by **Motorhead**.

And when you're done laughing or rocking to that, get back to some serious indie rock that you

know wasn't developed by executives in some boardroom with **Crushstory**. These catchy kids crank out songs that earn a comparison to **Elvis Costello** and **Joe Jackson**. The doses of electric piano, organs, horns and analog synth give a different flavor to the album, *A+Electric*, so be sure to taste the difference.

College radio sweethearts, **They Might Be Giants**, serve community broadcasters with the first taste of material from their soon-to-be-delivered, five-years-in-the-making, full length due out this summer. The EP hits this week with their already well-known track, "Boss of Me," featured on Fox's hit show *Malcolm in the Middle*, but there are two other tracks that are brand-spanking new.

Looking to win over the American kids, Norway's Grammy equivalent winners, **Poor Rich Ones**, debut State-side with their third album, *Happy, Happy, Happy*.

Despite the doofy name, these indie rockers are shades of early **Radiohead** and **R.E.M.** what with the clever melodies and emotional vocals.

And another one from across the sea, this time with a more mellow touch, **Smithsonian Folkways Recordings** offers up a collection of Celtic fiddle tunes from **Kevin Burke** that is accessible and catchy. The music hails from County Sligo in Ireland but has an appeal that has helped the album find its way to community radio.

The L.A. based **Gwenmars** are similarly hoping to break with their second album. Fresh off their tour with **Catherine Wheel** and **Filter** the trio returned to a contract mishap that ended in their release from **Hollywood Records**, so *Driving a Million* comes out on **See Thru Broadcasting**. ○

REVIEW

Segundo, at 94, still rocking

BY JUDY TSANG
MANAGING EDITOR

I've never taken Spanish a day in my life; in grade school I was offered French instead. So when Compay Segundo's *Las Flores de la Vida* needed to be reviewed, I figured it wouldn't make any sense for me to take on this assignment considering my lack of comprehension of the Spanish language.

In the end, it didn't matter. This Latin album was just as much fun as if I understood the language, probably more fun.

Segundo proved that neither age nor language was a barrier to fun and uplifting music. The 94-year-old Cuban guitarist and vocalist along with his eight musicians provide a relaxing and pleasurable mix of melodies. Segundo recorded his first album in the 1930s, according to the liner notes.

And the liner notes are another story; they're like a novel! But it was created probably for me, or rather people like me. Since all the songs were produced in Spanish, the liner notes provide an English translation and even several pages of the Cuban-famed musician's biography written by Cuban music critic Pedro de la Hoz.



The album immediately brings you in with a woodwind section of several clarinets in its first song "La Negra Tomasa." Mind you, this is the song that The Offspring covered a section of in their 1998 *Americana* album in their hidden track.

The third track on the album quickly caught my ear. As I was listening to what I thought would be a completely Spanish CD, I suddenly heard "Oui, parle francais." And that was precisely the title of the song.

In his liner notes, Segundo points out that "Oui, parle francais" is imitating the language spoken by newly arrived Haitian immigrants of the Cuban Orient during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Because the language

contains a mixture of inexpensive French, Creole and Spanish, the meaning cannot be directly translated.

This album exudes a "lounging-at-an-outdoor-sidewalk-cafe" ambience. You can't help sway and bob your head to Segundo's Cuban music. The woodwinds combined with the guitar strums provide a strong melody on many of the songs. Congas and light percussion give the entire album a lighter, more relaxed feel, as oppose to strong, definitive sounds.

I couldn't help but laugh during the sixth track, "Amor de Loca Juventud," which translates to "The Insane Love of Youth." Almost out of nowhere, a deep, throaty voice bellows out, "Yeah, baby" and continues two verses in English, with other vocals echoing in Spanish.

Compay Segundo closes this album with his version of the Cuban song "Guantanamera." This familiar song allows you to sing along with the band, as though you've been a long-time fan.

Compay Segundo's talent certainly deserves international fame, especially after about 70 years of making music. ○

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REVIEW

Dancers shine in diverse spring dance concert

BY JASON PILARZ
COPY MANAGER

The AU Dance Concert provided an opportunity to see a wide variety of dances last week in the CD Smith Theatre.

Conversations, this year's title for the annual showing of the AU dancers, featured many different dance styles and themes. Dances featured large groups, trios, duos and solo performances.

Perhaps the best dance of the evening was also the largest. "Fighting Feet," choreographed by Rachel Bullard, included almost 20 dancers. The dance was very rhythmic and high energy, featuring the song "IKO" by Zap Ma Ma.

The dance featured two sides squaring off, dancing as separate units. Eventually, the dancers came together to form one large group.

After the song ended, the dancers were accompanied by two drummers keeping the beat.

The first dance of the evening, "Courtly Frolics" was a traditional Renaissance dance, with a group dancing in a circle and then pairing off.

Choreographer Melissa DeBolt made all of the period costumes herself; a full Renaissance concert by DeBolt will be performed April 13 in Harder Hall.

The final performance of the evening came from the Alfred Steppas. The group made beats

with their hands and feet that came together for a tight rhythmic performance.

"Rhapsody in Tap," choreographed by AU alumna Pamela Powers, was composed of nine dancers at the outset, but was reduced to one at the end as dancers left the stage at various intervals. This dance was intended to be a tap piece, but the dancers had no taps on their shoes, ostensibly to protect the floor surface in CD Smith.

Three dances were very modern in style, leaving the audience wondering as to their meaning, but were still extremely entertaining to view.

"Reflections" was a duet of Foresta Castaneda, the choreographer, and D.J. Hampton. The music, "Japura Rivaer," by Philip Glass, set the tone for the dance.

"Sides" featured Ruth Blackwell, Jackie Olson and Charlotte Potter, as well as the music of Zap Ma Ma. "Five Rings," choreographed by Hampton, was accompanied by a slow song that fit well with mood of the dance.

"Oogachaka" depicted a primitive society and its interactions, with parallels to our own society. This dance was choreographed by the dance composition class of Fall 2000 and featured Castaneda, Hampton, Erica Hesselbach, Maria Pavone and Yael Seidel.

Two dances reminded the viewer of children at play, "Quest for

the Plate" and "Power Snuggle." The former featured Judy Tsang and Stephanie Webster with a plate as the focal point of the performance. "Power Snuggle" was the solo work of Emily Tucker and featured a piano on stage as a prop.

"Evergreen," choreographed by Associate Professor of Dance Susan Roebuck featured a solo by Tiffane Williams who was later joined by DeBolt and Melissann

Patton. This dance seemed more in traditional dance style than others, with a slow Vivaldi concerto as accompaniment.

Another solo dance featured Beth Grimes in a long blue dress. "I Love You So Much" also featured Grimes in a traditional style.

A high-energy dance was delivered by Grimes, Pavone and Nicole Frye in "Too Too Much." The dance included chairs as props, and featured a sultry per-

formance by the three.

One element that detracted from the performance was the lighting. Between each dance was a long, awkward pause as audience members could hear lights being changed backstage.

Other than that, *Conversations* was a great performance. The dance styles ran the gamut from Renaissance to African to modern, exposing the audience an eclectic mix of good dancing. ○



PHOTO BY JARED BRANFMAN

Dancers in "Courtly Frolics," an traditional Renaissance dance, rehearse for last weekend's dance concert.

REVIEW

Free trip to Israel an amazing experience

BY CAROLINE CHEN
DAILY ORANGE
SYRACUSE U.

(U-WIRE) SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Don't go, her parents urged her. You'll always have the opportunity sometime later. Maybe it's not the best time now.

Despite many fights and tears with her parents, Jessica Wechter visited Israel over winter break with Jewish students from Syracuse University.

Thirty-five SU students went on the trip — 80 were originally signed up to go. One AU student also went on the trip.

Headlines of violence in the region splashed across newspapers nationwide. The U.S. State Department warned travelers going to Israel to keep a low profile — "essentially be a hermit, and that's not what the trip was about," said Wechter, a freshman international relations and photo-journalism major.

The group's visit was funded by Birthright Israel, an organization created to give all young Jewish people a chance to visit the country they see as their homeland.

After getting off the plane, Dara Babinski saw two guards with rifles as she headed toward the hotel.

"It's commonplace and you almost feel safer with it," said Babinski, a freshman in The College of Arts and Sciences.

When she visited The Wall — a site where Jews traditionally leave notes conveying their prayers and hopes to God — she remembered seeing the most holy symbol of

Judaism to her right.

And to the left, lining up against flagpoles, were soldiers.

Despite the different atmosphere — and her parents' fears — Babinski felt safe during her trip.

"It was totally safe there," she said. "We hardly saw anything bad."

The Israelis were happy to see that people were not afraid to come, Babinski said.

"Everyone knew (Birthright visitors) were there," she added. "It was just a huge boost for their morale and made them feel their country wasn't that bad."

After their experiences in Israel, Babinski concluded that the media overemphasizes the violence in the region.

Greg Bauman, a senior biology and psychology major, was not worried about bombings either.

Bauman's only concern was that for the students who backed out of the trip, saying that he felt bad for them.

"I would just tell them it was the most amazing experience," he said.

The group's organizers did everything they could to ensure the students' safety — and were successful, Bauman said. There was not a moment when he felt he or his group was in danger, he added.

"But if you go over there with the feeling that something is going to happen, you're not going to enjoy it at all," Bauman said. "I think the people who went were optimistic about the trip. I don't think anything could have stopped us. It was amazing." ○

Hersh brings angst to new disc

BY JUDY TSANG
MANAGING EDITOR



Kristin Hersh
Sunny Border Blue
4AD

Listening superficially to Kristin Hersh's *Sunny Border Blue*, I thought it to be mellow and melodic album fully using the personal feel of acoustic guitars.

Then I listened carefully to the lyrics; it is obvious that Hersh is pretty hurt. Having been said to be influenced by Joni Mitchell and Hersh's good friend, Michael Stipe, *Sunny Border Blue* provides simplicity in Hersh's vocals backed up with the emotional, and sometimes even harsh, strumming of her guitar.

If you want to place the Rhode Island native Hersh in a musical genre, good luck. Known to be unclassifiable, Hersh's music is completely acoustic but it's rather hard to be considered folk music. After leading the band Throwing Muses through several albums in the 1980s, Hersh decided to trek the solo path in the early 1990s.

A rather heavy sequence of percussion and a strong baseline commences the album in "Your Dirty Answer." Still, Hersh proves that her vocals are still the strongest element of her music, as she sings above the instruments.

So how angst-ridden is

Hersh? Perhaps the fifth track "William's Cut" describes it best: "It was all passion misunderstood/ All passion mislaid/ I'm on a mission by mistake/ And I hate it/ I lost every friend I ever made ... how many times can you get fu**ed/ in how many different ways."

And as for swear words, Hersh is pretty free with them, almost at least one in every second song. From the initial approach of *Sunny Border Blue* you wouldn't think it would need one, but maybe we should slap on a Parental Warning: Explicit Lyrics sticker on it.

Regardless, she uses the words with such passionate pain and anger; she makes the taboo associated with them insignificant. Rather, she is just colorfully interpreting her feelings.

Knowing that Hersh has four sons may be the reason why I

thought "Candyland" was somewhat of a tribute to them. Wrenched in fear, Hersh sings, "I lost a boy/ And now I look for him/ Through every window and behind every door/ My son went down." She ends the song, "Life is unkind/ He gave me a reason to live it."

Sunny Border Blue's ninth track is a good break from the gloomy lyrics of the rest of the album. "Measure" shows off Hersh's acoustic guitar talents backed with the melodies of a piano.

"Ruby" is probably the most upbeat and happy song on the album. Supplied with an excited voice, the quick and uplifting plucks on the guitar blend to give a fun song. The track breaks in the middle for an electric guitar solo.

"Listerine" wraps up the album in a hypnotic and rather electronic way. The steady percussion, background chants and Hersh's rather monotonous vocals has the listener zoning out.

Hersh has produced four solo albums since the demise of Throwing Muses. *Sunny Border Blue* follows up on the 1999 *Sky Motel*.

Sunny Border Blue borders more on the dismal blue side for Hersh. Regardless, this is still a strong album in a genre all its own. ○

Have a safe Spring Break!!



Fiat Fun Page

EXPLODING with fun!!!



David offers his kind advice

What would David Do?



BY DAVID FOGELMAN
ADVICE COLUMNIST

Dear David: *Spring Break is coming up, and I don't feel confident that I'll look great in my swimsuit. I had a friend who suggested I try the Atkins Diet, but I'm not sure how healthy that is. What do you think?* —Skeptical Dieter

Dear Skeptical Dieter: I'm glad you asked. A lot of people I know have tried this diet, so I've done some studying.

The Atkins Diet was founded in the 1960's by Dr. Robert Atkins. It spawned other fad diets, such as the "Scarsdale Diet" and "The Zone." Its basic principle is that carbohydrates cause weight gain, so it severely restricts their intake. They are replaced by unlimited protein from meats, cheeses, and other fatty foods. Rice and pasta are strictly forbidden.

This diet is popular due to significant weight loss in relatively short time periods. It is not uncommon to lose eight to 10 pounds in under a month. The program promotes very limited consumption of carbohydrates. Between 15 and 60 grams per day is recommended. To put this in perspective, the American Heart Association recommends a daily dose of 300g of carbohydrates.

Dr. Atkins' program also calls for regular exercise. Andrew Weil, a well-known physician, points out that once the body has exhausted its carbohydrates, fat will be burned as fuel. According to Dr. Weil, "Conventional physicians regard this change as unhealthy, but Atkins and his supporters don't see a problem."

Needless to say, this is quite controversial in the medical community. It has been touted as "an amazing diet where you will never go hungry again yet still lose weight" and dismissed as "a heart attack on a plate." Dr. Weil said, "[The diet is] appalling ... to most nutritionists. [It] is not what I regard as healthy."

According to HealthCentral.com, Dr. Atkins has yet to publish a study supporting the benefits of his diet.

Meanwhile, studies linking high fat diets to heart disease outnumber Dennis Rodman's tattoos.

Fiber intake is also limited by this diet. Thus, a very well documented side effect of the Atkins Diet is constant constipation. This is a very high price for physical beauty. As any economist will tell you, you can't have everything you want; life is a series of tradeoffs. It looks like the tradeoff here is that you get a 20-year-old physique in return for a 45-year-old heart and a 60-year-old colon.

Please, consult a physician if you intend to make any extreme changes in your diet or your lifestyle. If you don't talk to your doctor, you should at least Ask Jeeves. He's really smart.

Dear David: *I really enjoy your column, and I think your advice is right on. Thanks to you, I'm no longer afraid of public speaking, I have three credit cards (and lots of free stuff), and my new girlfriend and I couldn't be happier. Here's my problem: Sometimes, I have a question so urgent that I can't wait for the next issue of the Fiat to get your help. What can I do?* —A Devoted Reader

Dear Devoted Reader: This is a problem that I have discussed with the editorial staff of the *Fiat*. The budget really doesn't have room for me to get a beeper or a cell phone, so that's out of the question. For now, the best solution to the problem can be found on page five. There you will find my new logo. Cut out that symbol and paste it to the business end of a flashlight. When you need me, just turn on the flashlight and point it at the side of a building, or straight up in the air. I will be waiting, like Bruce Wayne, for your signal, or that of any distressed student or community member. When I see the symbol, I will show up as quickly as possible, just like Batman. Eventually, we're hoping to put up a big light fixture on top of Powell Campus Center just like the one in Gotham City, but this will have to do for now.

David Fogelman's "What Would David Do?" column is a regular feature in the *Fiat Lux*. Questions can be sent to him by e-mail at fogelmdj@alfred.edu or at Powell Box 759.

Illuminations on AU smoking

Observations on stuff

BY KYLE TOROK
CAMPUS OBSERVER



There's nothing quite like that feeling you get at the end of the day. Leaving your last class, skipping down the stairs with a smile on your face, you burst out the door toward freedom! But instead, you wind up sucking down the carcinogenic fog left by a pack of nicotine junkies.

Like moths to a candle, smokers are drawn to building entrances. Rain or shine, smokers will invariably clog up alcoves and doorways, spewing their filth into the air. All pedestrian traffic is forced to run the gauntlet, forcing their way through the press of bodies and smoke.

Smoking is pretty nasty, but I don't begrudge smokers their vice. It's their choice to do so, and I respect that. Once in a while, I even indulge in a cigar.

So go ahead, light up and smoke your lungs out. Just get out of my way, so I don't have to join you. I don't want to breathe your by-product!

After classes, dinner, concerts — smokers group together in the doorways. They seem very important to smokers. They hold to doorways with an almost religious fervor, like it's their holy land.

"It has been a long 35 minutes, Thad, but at last our pilgrimage to the holy land is ended!"

"Yes. Smoke them if you've got them, my brother, for we are in flavor country."

To be fair, smokers don't always cling to the buildings. It's not so bad in the summer, when some of them opt instead to smoke 3 to 5 feet in front of the doorways.

That's fine by me, though. That's all the room I need to skirt the chimney-like mob.

In winter, however, they're right back there, choking pedestrian traffic (literally). I have been told this is because they "need the shelter" from

snow and rain, as cigarettes don't operate when wet. God forbid you should have to stop belching forth cancer clouds for 10 minutes.

I propose we erect a big tent, where all the smokers can congregate. We can all be happy: they'll have a sheltered place to gather and feed the monkey, and we non-smokers will have pink lungs. We can even give the tent a cool name, to encourage its use. Something like "The Chimney," "The Puffers' Pavilion," "Tumortropolis," or "New Emphysemaburg."

I really wanted to get to the root of this problem. I wanted to know why it's so important everyone breathe smokers' by-product. So, I asked a typical smoker, and these were the wise words he spoke to me:

"You see, it's becaaaaff! Kaff kaaaaaff! Hhhworf, hhh-hhh-hhhhaaaack! Bloorrrgh-KWAFF," punctuated with a monster lugey splattering on the sidewalk.

Truer words were never spoken. ○

Pets in res. halls not unusual

BY ABBY PRESTIN

WASHINGTON SQUARE NEWS
NEW YORK U.

(U-WIRE) NEW YORK — It had been two months since his houseguest had moved into his dorm room on Greenwich Street, and Obie Mezo, a New York University junior, thought she was happy.

Mezo always made sure she got what she needed and spent time with her each day. Even his suitcases didn't mind having her around.

Then one day, she left without even saying goodbye. But she didn't get far. After a guard caught her slithering past the

front desk, police arrived and took her to the city's animal pound in Harlem, where she was locked away with the rest of the reptiles. Mezo and his snake parted ways after he reclaimed her from the pound.

Mezo is one of many NYU students whose dorm experience includes pet ownership, although pets are strictly forbidden in the dormitories.

Cats and rabbits are the most popular pets with NYU students because their quiet demeanor makes them easy to hide.

While some students hide their pets successfully, others don't and face the repercussions.

Yet even in the face of repercussions such as citations and probation, many students still choose to defy housing laws and sneak fluffy, furry and feathery pets into dorms.

While some students may keep pets as long as they can get away with it, others tire of having the pets around. Those who no longer wish to keep their pets usually sell them or give them to friends.

Even Mezo is happy to be rid of his snake, who is now living with a friend on Fifth Street. Mezo's suitcases, he said, were getting tired of finding the snake's food — dead mice — in the freezer. ○

Fiat Funnies

The Mind of Nadir

By Nadir Balan

Pledge your grievance to the
Fiat Lux!

See the new Voices page for
information.

DJ show showcases talents of area spinners

BY SARAH GUARIGLIA
A & E EDITOR

Alfred University's best student DJ's competed for student votes in a spin-off in the Knight Club on Feb. 23. DJ's Holly Louis, Josh Chodakowsky, 2 B Blunt (Leo Tecosky), Cris Rico, and Baby Boy (Justin Long) took turns providing music for a group of breakers.

The spin-off party replaced a performance by the Hydraulic Booty Snatchers, who recently broke up. Instead, individual DJ's tried their talents against each other, while students voted

for their favorite spinner. The competition setting seemed unusual to the DJ's. As part of Alfred's growing but still relatively small DJ scene, they are more used to working together than actually competing.

AU's Break Crew also showed their abilities on the Knight Club's makeshift dance floor. The crew was founded this semester by Jesse Magee, and its members include campus breakers such as LeoTecosky, Aaron Lord, Tocha Alberts, and Camille Dietrich. Oliver Smith, Caitlin Cohen, and the student DJ's joined the Break Crew

members on the floor.

The party attracted a good turnout for a cold Friday night. "It's so great that in such a small town like Alfred, New York, we have such diversity in dancing and music," said Oliver Smith.

According to one of the DJ's, Josh Chodakowsky, the party was "a good way to promote other kinds of music in college life."

Votes were tallied for best breaker, Jesse Magee, and best DJ, 2 B Blunt. The prize for best MC went unawarded, since no student MC performed. ○

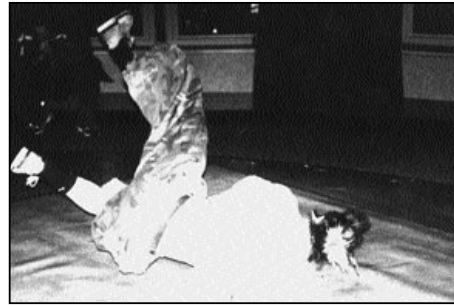


PHOTO BY AMY KLEIN

A breakdancer hits the floor at the DJ Spinoff last weekend.

Teamwork pays off for high finish

BY BENJAMIN LEE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Alfred University equestrian team rallied together to place third overall at the RIT show hosted in Cazenovia on Feb. 17.

"It was probably the best show I've been to in the last four years. It wasn't just about winning ribbons. We all pulled together fabulously," said senior team member Julie Hughes.

The entire team placed well. Junior team captain Jen Brown placed second in the open equitation on flat and third over

EQUESTRIAN

fences in her classes.

Sophomore Jenn Rodack also placed second in her class on the flats. Hughes and Beth Harris both won the intermediate equitation over fences in the classes.

Freshman Kim Reichner won the beginner walk, trot, canter. Sophomore Ellen Maley won her advanced class of the walk, trot, canter, followed by a second place finisher freshman Debbie Goodall. Sophomore Dan Dickmann placed second on the novice flat.

Despite the excellent riding, the Saxons excelled outside the competition as well.

"RIT and Cazenovia were understaffed so we held horses, set jumps and put horses away," said Brown.

The Saxons third place finish behind Cazenovia and St. Lawrence was highlighted by the teams continuity and comradery.

"People gave 110 percent and we showed how close we are as a team. We came together as athletes and friends. It was fabulous. I hope the rest of the meets go this way," said Hughes. ○

...Lacrosse

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE
distribute the ball through everyone."

That is not to say there won't be a go-to person on attack.

Junior Sheila Higgins, who occasionally resembles a scoring machine, will anchor the offense.

"We have two freshmen in [with Higgins]," Windover said, referring to Chris Sanford and Kelly Farrell. "They are our offensive threat."

Other faces, some new, will be on-field fixtures, as well.

Juniors Lindsay DeCispikes and Nikki Petrillo are both back and should help anchor the squad. Senior Jillian Kule will be up on attack once again. Sophomores Katie Sedgwick, Kimberly Fank and Rachel

Shapiro are all aboard for the ride, as well.

Minding to the nets will be either sophomore newcomer Anora Burwell or freshman Jessica Dunster. Windover said that it was unclear who would get the nod between the pipes, but that either could make a good case for the job.

Windover is quick to note how size will matter with this team.

"We don't have the numbers to make a lot of substitutions," she said. In fact, for much of this year, the squad has been inviting walk-ins. The small squad may help the team, though.

"Whoever is in better shape on the field will win," Windover said, noting that she expects this of her team. "The girls will have to work together all the time and there is a good side to that."

Helping to bolster the team is

the amount of cohesiveness players cite.

"We are really close," Shapiro said. "We do everything together."

It also can't hurt that from April 5-17, the Saxons do not need to leave Alfred.

Oh, by the way: through some sort of scheduling miracle, the Saxons play all but two conference games in Alfred.

"We don't get too many fans, though," Sands said. Perhaps this may change with a big season.

For now, though, hopes are high.

"We can definitely make the postseason," Haarman said. "The coaching staff is excellent and they can help us get there."

"Everyone's ready to play," Windover said. "We're counting down the days to start." ○

...W-Ball

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE
liked to leave AU on a win."

The Saxons ended their season Feb. 17 with a loss against Hartwick, 50-43. Junior guard Ratchuk led the team in scoring with 11 points. Junior forward Valitutto added nine points, sinking 7-of-7 from the free throw line.

In Kushner's final game at AU she contributed two points, three rebounds, two steals and one

assist.

Valitutto said that there is a lot of potential on the team. "we just couldn't pull it together to win."

Both Finn and Valitutto agree that the team showed improvement toward the end of the season and they have big hopes for next year.

Valitutto also pointed out that "Kushner has had a huge impact on the team. She was a great leader and she will be missed."

"It is bittersweet to be leaving," said Kushner; "it has been a long four years but I made some

great friends along the way."

When asked about any advice for the future success of the Saxons, Kushner stated: "We definitely need better communication between Coach Finn and the players."

"After three losing seasons it's time to realize the system isn't working and something has to change," said Kushner. "I would like to see some changes made so my teammates coming back next year can have a better chance to win." ○

McKinnon, Smith and Stedman are all major components to the team's cohesiveness, and will be greatly missed.

Next year, according to Murphy, Docteur, Stortini and Webb will all be back from the injured list. He feels that "E.J., Brock, Chris [Koek] and Devon [Downing] will provide good senior leadership."

"He'll be missed, and we'll try to recruit big guys, but we've proven we can play without Kareem, and with E.J. and Brock up front," Murphy stated recently, in

response to the weight the 6'9" senior holds on the team. "We'll be able to work in a lot of guys in to play."

"I feel we were resilient and very supportive of each other. Guys who began on wings moved down into the posts, worked together and listened to one another to make things go right. I am very pleased with the way they've responded to things that have happened to us," said Murphy. ○

Saxons hit spring

Men's Lacrosse	4/16 vs. Nazareth	3:30 p.m.
3/6 vs. Roanoke (at Orlando)	4/18 vs. St. John Fisher	3:30 p.m.
3/24 Terrence O'Connor Tourn.	Tournament	TBA
3/16 vs. Keuka	4/25 at RIT	4 p.m.
3/24 Terrence O'Connor Tourn.	Empire Eight Contests Bold	
vs. Clarkson		
Potsdam vs. Amherst		
2:30 p.m.	Men's Outdoor Track	
3/25 Terrence O'Connor Tourn.	3/17 at Washington & Lee	
Consolation	TBA	
Championship	3/24 at University of Rochester	
at Lycoming	TBA	
3:30 p.m.	4/7 at Ithaca Invitational	
3/31 at Hartwick	TBA	
4/4 vs. Elmira	4/14 at University of Rochester	
4/7 vs. R.I.T.	TBA	
4/11 at Geneseo	4/28 at Baldwin Wallace	
4/14 at Ithaca	TBA	
4/18 vs. Nazareth	4/29-30 at NYSCTC Multi's	
4/21 at Utica	TBA	
4/28 vs. Cortland	5/4-5 at State Championships	
Empire Eight Contests Bold	TBA	
	5/12 at Albany Invitational	
	TBA	
	5/17 at Baldwin Wallace	
	TBA	
	5/24-25 at NCAA Championships	
	TBA	

Women's Lacrosse	Women's Outdoor Track
3/6 at Salisbury State	3/17 at Washington & Lee
3/17 at U. of Rochester	TBA
3/21 vs. Ithaca	5/17 at Baldwin Wallace
3/23 vs. Geneseo	TBA
3/31 vs. Fredonia	5/24-25 at NCAA Championships
4/3 at Canisius	TBA
4/5 vs. Nazareth*	
4/7 vs. Utica	
4/11 vs. St. John Fisher	
4/17 vs. R.I.T.	
4/19 at Elmira	
4/21 at Hartwick	
4/26 vs. Medaille	
Empire Eight Contests Bold	

Softball	
3/4 vs. Anderson#	9 a.m.
3/4 vs. Kean#	11 a.m.
3/5 vs. Bluffton#	11 a.m.
3/5 vs. St. Norbert#	1 p.m.
3/7 vs. Marietta#	9 a.m.
3/7 vs. Misericordia#	11 a.m.
3/8 vs. Heidelberg#	1 p.m.
3/8 vs. Loras#	3 p.m.
3/9 vs. Concorida#	9 a.m.
3/9 vs. Walsh#	3 p.m.
3/24 at Juniata \$	1 p.m.
3/27 vs. Elmira \$	3 p.m.
3/28 vs. Ithaca \$	1 p.m.
4/1 vs. Cazenovia \$	1 p.m.
4/4 at Fredonia \$	3 p.m.
4/7 vs. Utica \$	2:30 p.m.
4/10 vs. Keuka \$	6 p.m.
4/13 at R.I.T. \$	3 p.m.
4/16 at Geneseo \$	3 p.m.
4/18 vs. St. John Fisher \$	3 p.m.
4/23 at Medaille \$	3 p.m.
4/28 at Hartwick \$	1 p.m.
Empire Eight Contests Bold	
# Games held at Orlando, Florida	
\$ Doubleheader	

Men's Tennis	Golf
3/31 vs. Elmira	4/21-22 at LeMoyne
4/3 vs. Penn State-Behrend	4/26 at Elmira
	4/29-30 at Hartwick
	3:30 p.m.
4/6 at Fredonia	3:30 p.m.
4/7 at Penn State-Behrend	9 a.m.
Tourn.	2:30 p.m.
4/13 at Hartwick	4 p.m.

Fiat Lux

Swimming

Men place second at States

Full coverage after spring break



Fiat Sports

Spring Break

Watch the Saxons in Orlando!

Mens Lacrosse vs. Roanoke, 3/6

Saxons clock rivals at N.Y. state championship

BY BENJAMIN LEE
SPORTS EDITOR

Revenge was sweet for the Alfred University women's swim team at the 2001 NYSW-CAA Swimming and Diving Championships at Union College.

"It was unbelievable. We exceeded our expectations," said Saxon's head coach TJ Davis.

On their way to a sixth place finish, Alfred defeated three teams that had posted victories over the Saxons in the regular season. LeMoyne, Utica and RIT were all considered close competitors going into the championship weekend, however

spectacular swimming allowed the Saxons to absolve their regular season losses.

"It was one of the best meets that I can remember coaching," said Davis.

The Saxons swam their way to five school records and many other personal bests.

Records were broken in the 200m breaststroke, 400m freestyle relay, 400m individual medley, 200m individual medley and the 200m freestyle relay.

Freshman Sara Thompson had an incredible weekend. Thompson was the team's highest scorer with 117.5 points, swam for four of the five school records in the 200m breast,

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

400m free relay, 200m IM and the 200m free relay. She was also the 22nd overall point scorer in the state.

"It was definitely my best meet ever. People talk about the taper, but I never experienced a really good taper. I dropped times that I really couldn't believe," said Thompson.

Sophomores Carrie De May and Anne Martin also had an outstanding meet. De May and Martin were integral parts of the 200m free and 400m free record-breaking relays. Freshman Tabitha Maher and sophomore Missy McAllister

were the final components to these relays.

Sophomore Cheryl Junker was an individual record holder in the 400m IM.

"States is nerve racking and exciting. There is music playing and it is really an energetic atmosphere. We knew that we were going to swim well. We were focused on the records, but then we broke them and then some," said De May.

Even those who did not break records swam better than they ever had.

Seniors Aubree Buchtel and Becky Franczy closed their Saxon swimming careers out by shaving times.

"Aubree and Becky both had spectacular finishes to their careers. It was great to see that," said Davis.

The record-breaking weekend showed a dramatic improvement after last year's championship performance. The Saxons boosted their ranking by six places and added 270 points to their overall team score.

The success has whetted the appetite of the team, and has developed momentum to carry into next season.

"We have a really young team composed of lots of sophomores and freshman. I can see the team growing a lot and getting stronger," said Thompson. ○

With stability, team ready

BY JAY WEISBERGER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Last year, the AU women's lacrosse team had to play two games short one player on the field.

The Saxons won both, en route to a 9-6 conclusion to a season of instability.

Wonder what might happen with a full squad and a stable coaching situation?

We are about to find out and in a big way. "Right from the start, we have a tough schedule," said new Head Coach Anne Windover.

Windover is referring to a spring break matchup with NCAA Final Four team Salisbury State (Md.) on March 6. This coming on the heels of a trip to a tournament at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Va. March 3-4.

"We'll get to see [what the team is] capable of. It gives us an idea of what we have to work on," Windover, the former Canisius assistant, said.

"[Salisbury State] is a huge game," said senior co-captain Sue Haarman. "We all have to play well, but we can definitely win."

Much has changed in the offseason for the Saxons. Tina Murphy, who was at the helm last year, is still aboard, coaching goaltenders. Windover is also joined by one of last year's captains Sarah Scavone. Windover herself played D-I lacrosse at Old Dominion and was a three-time All-American.

Now that's a coaching staff. And the players seem to like it, starting right on the practice field.

"We'll work on a specific drill and then put it into a scrimmage," Haarman said. "When we do a drill, there's a purpose."

All in all, players agree things are running better than ever on the practice field. It is an old cliché to say you play how you practice, but if it holds true, expect a full team effort on the field.

"Draw control is a huge aspect of our game," Haarman explained. "Since our numbers are so low, we need to maintain possession."

"We have to trust each other," said junior midfielder Erin Sands. "We have to

SEE LACROSSE, PAGE 11



PHOTO PROVIDED

Lindsay DeCispikes cradles downfield during Merrill Field action last year.

Saxons leave wanting more

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND
STAFF WRITER

The women's basketball team started off the season with high hopes and a solid core of returning players, but ended the season with a disappointing 0-14 Empire Eight record, 3-21 overall.

"It's been a very frustrating season," said Head Coach Michelle Finn. "I work with a great bunch of kids who have a lot of talent, we're just inconsistent."

Finn, who is already looking forward to next year's season, plans on doing some vigorous recruiting these next few months.

"I have a good nucleus coming back, but I will be looking to recruit post players," said Finn.

The only player not returning to the Saxons next year is senior Lee Ann Kushner, one of the team captains along with Lisa Valitutto and Amy Ratchuk.

"It was a pretty disappointing season because we should have been a lot more successful," said Kushner. "I definitely would have

SEE W-BALL, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY PATRICIA STRICKLAND

Saxon Lisa Valitutto watches for a pass in recent action.

As regular season closes, Saxon cagers hope for the best

BY ALISON SAVETT
FEATURES EDITOR

MEN'S BASKETBALL

strength of McKinnon.

Smith felt that the "loss of E.J., who is a threat both under the basket and outside the key, played into the losses. Once Brock was gone, we only had one inside threat."

Smith felt that, although he returned to play before the season ended, he wasn't back to 100 percent ability, but instead leveled off somewhere around 65 percent.

What about the possibility of making it into the NCAA postseason tournament? No chance, Murphy said.

"The way our season went with injuries, and guys playing different positions it will be good if we can extend our season into March by making the ECAC playoffs," Murphy said.

McKinnon shared Murphy's feelings.

"It had a lot to do with injuries. They definitely played a part in the team's streak of losses," he said.

McKinnon, a senior, had wished to make it into post-season play at

SEE M-BALL, PAGE 11

At the beginning of the 2000-01 basketball season, there were high hopes for the team from everyone.

Head Coach Jay Murphy and his assistant Gregg Hepler were very optimistic about the upcoming year. All four captains, Kareem McKinnon, Willie Smith, Robbie Stedman and E.J. Docteur, felt that this had been the best team AU had seen in over a decade.

True as it may have been, the team was plagued with injuries from start to end of the regular season.

It began with Smith's back problems: a herniated disc in his lower back. Throughout the season more and more members of the team were injured. Tanner Webb's wrist cost him the entire season.

As the year progressed, Docteur broke his thumb and Brock Stortini, a strong force under the basket, tore both his abdominal muscle and a muscle in his bicep.

Suddenly, the powerhouse of forwards decreased to the single