

Women's Studies Roundtable to explore history of women in comics

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The next meeting of the Alfred University Women's Studies Roundtable will be on Friday, Jan. 25, from 12:20-1:10 p.m., in the Knight Club, Powell Campus Center, featuring the history of women in comic books. The Roundtables are free and open to the public. Presenters will be Dan Napolitano, director of student activities, and Mechele Romanchock, coordinator of diversity programming. Both are involved in the University's Drawn to Diversity program whose recent offerings involved a multi-faceted presentation combining a comic book exhibit, history lecture, and drawing lessons for youth of all ages. Drawn to Diversity's mission aspires "to build an appreciation for diversity and to champion equality by exploring various media and art forms." Recent presentations featured college students dressed in colorful costumes portraying some of the more notable, and sometimes controversial, depictions of ethnicity in American history, explained Napolitano, creator of the program. Napolitano noted the program expanded to include newspaper comic strips in 2007 and he has already begun developing 2008's exploration of advertising images such as Aunt Jemima, Uncle Ben, Chiquita Banana, and more. For more information on the Women's Studies Roundtables, contact Dr. Sandra L. Singer, professor of German, at fsinger@alfred.edu.