

Zen teacher to visit AU for week-long residency

3/22/02

Jiro Osho, a Buddhist monk, Zen teacher, and lineage holder in the Rinzai Zen tradition will be in residence at Alfred University March 25-29. He will deliver a public talk titled "Zen and the Liberal Arts" at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday (March 27) and conduct an informal Q&A session for anyone interested in Zen at 4 p.m. Tuesday. Both events are in Room 114 of Seidlin Hall. He will also give a Bergren Forum talk at 12:10 p.m. Thursday in Nevins Theater, Powell Campus Center, titled "The Strains of Meditation in the Liberal Arts." All his appearances are free and open to the public. Jiro Osho, who was born Fernando Afable in the Philippines in 1943, will also visit classes in religion and literature, meet with freshmen in the First-Year-Experience program, and conduct a class in Buddhist meditation. His visit is being sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Jiro Osho holds an MFA from the University of Iowa. He has worked as a carpenter, a university teacher, and, for 18 years, a cabinetmaker in Washington, DC. He is now vice-abbot of International Dai Bosatsu Zendo, Kongo-Ji, a Rinzai Zen monastery situated on 1,400 acres in the Catskills in Livingston Manor, NY, where Jiro Osho moved in 1993. Under the spiritual guidance of Eido Roshi, a realized Zen master, the monastery offers authentic Zen training to people of all religious and cultural backgrounds, as well as to lay and ordained Zen students.