

Volume 94 Issue 7  
**A & E** ..... 6-8  
**Editorial** ..... 2  
**Features** ..... 3, 7, 9  
**Fun** ..... 10  
**News** ..... 3, 4, 6-9, 11  
**Sports** ..... 11, 12

# Fiat Lux

The Student Newspaper of Alfred University

**DeDonde?:**  
 Views from the  
 inside and out  
 page 8

## Community comments on U.S. election ruckus

BY CHRISTA NYMAN  
 STAFF WRITER

With the presidential election still being disputed, after the discussions of "pregnant chads" versus "dimple chads," after the counting and the recounting, it's not surprising that some politically-minded people on this campus have some opinions on voter turnout, the election process and how it will affect

America's future. These "experts" — junior Angela Young, Green Party spokesperson; Ashley Johnson, president of the College Republicans; Professor of history and Mayor of Alfred, Gary Ostrower; and College Democrats President Eric Zuckerman all felt this election will affect voter turnout in the future. Zuckerman said he felt that

this election will have a "positive effect" on voter turnout. Perhaps, said Ostrower, "Americans who normally sit out these elections," will realize that their vote "really does matter." Johnson agreed. He said he thinks Americans will see "how important an individual vote is."

However, Ostrower recognized that there is another pos-

sibility: people could feel that their votes are not counted, he said.

Young argued that while she hopes this close election will "inspire people" to vote, she worries that voters, especially Green Party supporters will become "discouraged." The Nader campaign was more mobilized than it had ever been, but Ralph Nader still only received 3 percent of the vote.

"I hope the Green Party doesn't lose hope," she said.

Another topic on a lot of people's minds since Nov. 7 is the Electoral College and the election process.

Zuckerman reminded us that

the talk of getting rid of the Electoral College has "been around for awhile." However, Johnson still doesn't think it will change partly because it's a practical system.

The Electoral College allows "us to break up the nation into sections," he said. So when there is a problem, like in Florida, the country can focus on that section of the country. Otherwise you would have to "recount the entire nation" he said.

Ostrower said with confidence, that there will be "no fundamental change" in the Electoral College because too

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 3

## Edmondson to be installed Sat.

BY SUE GOETSCHUS  
 AU NEWS BUREAU

Charles M. Edmondson will be formally installed as Alfred University's 13th president in a ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 9, in Harder Hall.

A reception from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in Miller Performing Arts Center will follow.

Gene M. Bernstein, chairman of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, will administer the oath of office to Edmondson and bestow

upon him the official seal of the Alfred University presidency. Other speakers will be Seth

Mulligan, Student Senate president, and Thomas McDowell, Faculty Senate president.

"As a candidate for the presidency of Alfred, I saw the possibility of Alfred's achieving national stature as an institution

SEE EDMONDSON PAGE 4

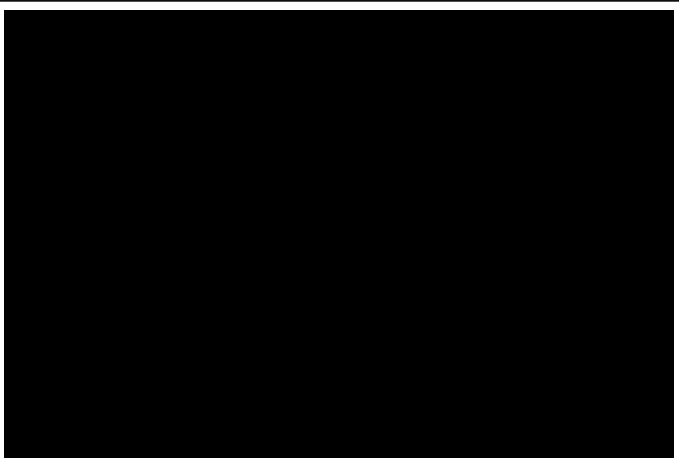


PHOTO BY JAY WEISBERGER

Snow decorates the campus the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. While the snow was a nice addition to the campus in terms of aesthetics, some students had their travel plans derailed as a result of the storm.

## Binns work progresses Building to reopen for fall semester

BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN  
 NEWS EDITOR

Because 212 minor setbacks occurred during the restoration of Binns-Merrill Hall, there will be no classes in this building until the fall of 2001, instead of the originally scheduled completion date at the end of December.

"Renovations are really tricky," said new project manager at LeChase Construction Fred Thompson, indicating that it is easier to construct an entirely new building than restore one.

Thompson, who took over for Peter Flynn in May 2000 after graduating from Alfred State College, explained that unforeseen problems can arise as restoration progresses.

For example, when the loading dock was extended, clay was found in the soil, which isn't stable to build upon. Extra time was needed to remove the clay and replace it with a stable soil, which put that particular contractor on hold and cost the school extra money.

"I'm upset that they're a little behind, but we [those involved in the restoration process] knew early on [that because the project started late, it would take longer than the original projected finish date]," said Jeffrey H. Johnson, the director of the Ceramic Physical Plant.

Carol Wood, the director of Statutory Administration, who makes sure Deans Richard Thompson and Ronald Gordon are satisfied that their needs are being met, is pleased with the progress of the restoration process. She indicated that there have been fewer problems with Binns-Merrill as compared to other buildings that she has seen restored and felt the contractors have been helpful.

Project Manager Thompson indicated that contractors can also be slowed down because the paperwork sometimes required to make a change order, which changes or adds to the original plans, can be a two to three month process. Both Thompson and Johnson explained that the reason for this in part is because the change has to be approved by the architect, Scaffidi Moore, then LeChase Construction, and finally the state legislature, if the dollar amount is high enough.

Because new change orders cannot be processed without further delay of the completion of Binns-Merrill, Johnson said that part of the contract with LeChase will be eliminated and the Ceramic Physical Plant will finish the necessary components of the project.

LeChase will turn the second floor over to the Ceramic

SEE RENOVATIONS, PAGE 4

## "Humanist" art centers student show

BY SARAH GUARIGLIA  
 A & E EDITOR

"Mind, Meat, and Matter: A Family Event" drew a crowd to Harder Hall's Student Gallery on Nov. 16. The show featured works by senior Amy Garbark and juniors Thea Eck and Tom McCabe. Matt Thompson provided clarinet music to accompany the show.

"We called it a 'family event' because that's how we see it ... Alfred is like a family," said Garbark. A few "family portraits" were displayed in the show, including a series of photographs titled "Racquetball Champions 2000" and a cowboy-themed portrait from Wal-Mart.

While the show had no other planned theme, many of the pieces featured could be interpreted as feminist art.

"Some people said they were offended by it," said McCabe. "Or they said, 'All that feminism stuff, it's been done before.' We see it more as humanism. We were going for a balance of humor and seriousness."

Garbark added, "We had a fun side to it, used the playfulness to draw people in and really take a look."

Many of the works reflected this statement: McCabe's "Verbal Offense #1" was the front of a female torso made of blue cast glass with lollipops in the place of nipples.

Also included were sculptures made of clay, string, and sewn book pages; a chair bound in white fabric; a painting; a series of almost bear-shaped glass sculptures with the word "honey" on them; and a display of tiny plastic soldiers.

One of Eck's pieces, "The Destruction of the Male Body," appeared to drip blood onto the pages of a book, which was open to a page headed by the title of the piece. Garbark, Eck and McCabe are planning another, final group show for next semester. ○

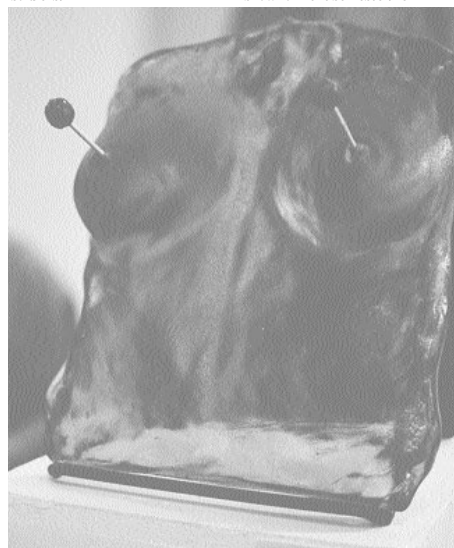


PHOTO BY SARAH GUARIGLIA

Tom McCabe's piece "Verbal Offense #1" on display at the recent show.



Fiat Lux

# Safety first; even before class time

While we believe that going to class is a wonderful idea, we feel that there comes a time to ask whether or not it is really worth trying to hold classes. You remember the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. The snow, the ice, lingering news reports of Buffalo and the surrounding vicinity were under feet of snow and, yes, we had classes.

Sure the weather in Alfred was decent enough to hold classes. However, it would be nice for the University to keep the safety of students in mind before breaks begin.

Professors who had the foresight to allow students heading into the snow mess that was Buffalo to be excused from class should be commended. Some professors just plain released their students from class so as to avoid any travel problems.

A student should not have to choose between cutting a class, perhaps affecting their grades, or making a safe trip home in daylight.

We knew that Buffalo and a huge swath of Western New York was being buried under lake effect snow on Monday. What would it have hurt to have scrubbed classes Tuesday? Just for safety's sake? Is there really anything that couldn't be made up in a later class?

Some students found getting home that Tuesday night nearly impossible — hey, for some it was. Those airport shuttles to Buffalo weren't going anywhere.

By mixing classes on that Tuesday, students may have had time to look at travel plans, change them, get a head start ... anything to help out.

But to ask everyone to stay and just hope everyone makes it home OK seems to assume that most AU students head south and east to go home. We'd like to see proof of that.

The safety of students is something this University touts as being of superior importance.

Apparently, it's not as important as going to class. ○

# Drinking not a way to ease finals stress

Stressed? Don't answer, we know you are.

However, before you procrastinate another minute on that take-home final, do yourself a favor and leave the Sam Adams Winter Lager in the fridge a little longer.

Drinking is not the thinking student's way to deal with stress.

Nor is going out and partying to "relax."

Sure, we all deserve a little down time and a venue to release our tension. And surely, AU has event after event to fix that.

Have you read Dan Napolitano's weekly Weekend Update e-mails?

There are movies, plays, concerts and so much more. These listings go on for awhile. The point is, if you think going out and reaching for that can of beer will relax you, you're dead wrong. More often than not, people become even more irritable and more conflicts occur as a result.

Dealing with confrontations and the consequences of conflicts are not what you want to deal with once the alcohol has worn off. Considering Alfred University is not very forgiving to either alcohol-related incidents or physical fights, it will be a pretty big burden.

While you are crunched for time to finish a project or studying for a final, it is also not the time for students to vandalize school property as a stress reliever.

A general consensus agrees that the campus becomes more trash-ridden at this time of the year because students are getting careless and less respectful of environment around them, and students are becoming more self-involved and selfish.

Well, back to reality, guys. You have to deal with other people in times of stress, and alcohol and vandalism doesn't help anyone any.

Suck it up. In two weeks, you'll be home again. ○

COLUMN

# Internet can save holiday stress

BY JAY WEISBERGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



I love the Internet, especially at this time of year. I now know why Al Gore invented the thing!

This is not the easiest time of year to be an Alfred student if you intend on buying your friends gifts for Christmas, Hanukah or whatever gift-giving festival they may celebrate.

This is especially true for those of us travelling greater distances, already weighed down by the skis Mother Nature decided to let us use before we leave for break. Adding gifts to our luggage is not in order: Amtrak gives me enough grief over those skis.

So, that leaves limited gift buying time for us. We are far too busy to even think about shopping during finals even if we can get the stuff home.

You could have tried those few days after Thanksgiving. Face it, though: you have to like shopping to the point of actually wishing it was televised to really want to do too much of that.

That means most Alfred students will get to scramble in the 10-15 days before the Christmas (less for Hanukah) to find gifts once getting home. No fun!

While I will probably be taking time to shop in actual stores when I get home, I've decided to avoid the parking mess, the lines and the chaos of places like the King of Prussia Mall.

Which brings me back to this Internet business. Folks, if you haven't found the beauty in Internet shopping yet, please, try it. Most credit cards guarantee security on the web and why not take advantage.

Obviously, I can sit here and sip tea, not needing to try my luck with icy roads, and find gifts for some of my friends. Heck, you can even ship stuff directly to your more-distant friends. Somebody will say that's impersonal. I say it's intelligent.

Plus, you can totally cheat the system in some ways.

Our Lady Peace is releasing a new album on Dec. 12 in *Canada only*. We Americans are going to have to wait until February to see it on our record racks. Show the music lover in your life how

smart you are and log on to Chapters.ca or any number of other Canadian shops. The grand total for the OLP CD came to barely \$15 American, including shipping. Sure, it may take a little longer to ship. But, hey, what friend of yours wouldn't mind getting something no one here can have for a while?

It's all out there, ready for you to click. No messy shelves of already-sorted-through-by-weirdo-people clothing. No guy in front of you who has three credit cards rejected for being over the limit.

Some people say they would rather see the item in a store, and I guess I understand that. Plus, I know that there are some things that I'm not going to find online — things from small businesses, mainly.

However, with all the stress of the last three weeks of school, including finals, we'd be wise to make sure our winter breaks don't find us tearing our hair.

With all the garbage on the Internet, all this online shopping is making sure the Internet has a place in today's hectic world. ○

COLUMN

# Foresight would have helped us

BY JASON PILARZ  
COPY MANAGER



As our presidential election enters its second month, I'm sure people are tired of hearing about it. However, I would like to add a couple of thoughts. I think one thing that is lost among all the discussions of dimpled ballots, hanging chads and Katherine Harris's makeup is how thoroughly amusing this entire situation is.

Here we are, trying to elect the leader of the free world, and the election has turned into a national disgrace and an international joke. The problem this year is that the closeness of the race caught election officials across the country with their pants down.

If you look at the disputes, especially in Florida, it is obvious that most of this should have been cleared up before the election, not after. Normally, a race is such that a few thousand votes can be discarded without any effect on the outcome. This year

this is not the case, and the shoddy job these officials did has led to numerous court challenges to straighten out the whole mess.

The whole blame should not be put on the election officials however. It is the responsibility of the voter to be familiar with the ballot and voting procedures. True, there is no requirement that you need to be smart to vote, but voters owe it to our nation to be educated about what they are doing. And again, the time to clear up confusion is before, not after.

Of course, since there is controversy, there must be protests. Every day, since the day after the election, you can see crowds of protesters for both Bush and Gore on the nightly news. Don't these people have jobs? I appreciate their interest in our nation's democracy (or at least their interest in seeing their candidate win), but if they had voted correctly in the first place, none of this would have happened.

One point I find interesting is how everyone expected complete, accurate election results on election night. Common sense

would dictate that it might take a little while to count 100 million votes. The closeness of this race necessitates accurate results, and this takes a while.

You want quick results on the latest change in government? In some countries, if an opposition party wants to take power, the established government brings in a few tanks, kills some people, burns a few buildings and that's it. I'd rather wait a few weeks or months for election results than to see Washington, D.C. turn into a battleground every couple of years. No one ever said democracy was expedient.

So what's next for our nation? Personally, I hope the court challenges go on for a good long time. In a race this close, it is imperative that the true winner of the election is the one who takes office in January.

It is important that every vote be counted, even if it takes a while. George W. Bush may complain that Al Gore is trying to steal the election, but I want to know that whoever takes office is the one the people elected. ○



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The Fiat Lux would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

See you in 2001!

# From scrum to yum in Scio

BY JUDY TSANG  
MANAGING EDITOR

What's a Thanksgiving meal with eight generous AU women's rugby players?

The Thanksgiving dinner for the Allegany Youth Compeer Program at Scio on Friday, Nov. 17, of course.

The team's skills left the playing field that night and headed into the kitchen and dining area where they served about 99 children and their families participating in the Compeer program.

Every year, Compeer holds an annual Thanksgiving dinner and this year it was held at the Scio Fire Hall. Eight Alfred students were on hand to help set up, cook and clean.

Under the advisory of John Dietrich, director of Powell dining and advisor to the rugby team, the group left Alfred and arrived in Scio a little after 3 p.m. bearing hot food and generosity. The dinner was scheduled for 5 p.m.

According to Dietrich, the team has talked about volunteering their time since the summer.

"They [the team] were interest-

ed in helping out, so I said, 'OK, let's go,'" he said.

"We tried to make it as cool as possible," Alicia Culbertson, co-captain of the team, said. "The kids were impressed when we took their jackets for them and served them."

The kids weren't the only guests that were impressed.

"Parents thanked us up and down and a thousand times," Culbertson said.

"Parents said what a good idea it was for us to help out," freshman Katie Downey said. "It [the evening] was a lot of fun and I had a great time and experience."

Culbertson shared the same view: "The kids were cool ... I enjoyed it and I'm not even a big 'kid-person.'"

After everyone was served, the rugby team also got to eat.

"The menu was great," Dietrich said of the food for the dinner. Aside from the staples of turkey and stuffing, there were mashed potatoes, scallops, corn and rolls. Families were requested to bring a dish to past around — either a salad or a dessert.

"It was a great big buffet line,"

Dietrich exclaimed.

Compeer purchased the food from AU Dining Services at cost, Dietrich said. He wanted to emphasize that although he and the women volunteered their time, they did not volunteer AU students' food as well.

"I had a ball, it was a lot of fun," Dietrich recalled. "I brought a chef's hat and everything, and the children were certainly impressed."

Volunteering outside of campus was something the rugby team hadn't done in the past couple of years, Culbertson recalled.

"We helped out with Beach Night (one of the dining halls' theme nights), but this is really the first volunteering project we've done outside of school," she said.

"It was nice for the women's rugby team to be involved with helping the community," Downey reflected.

Culbertson echoed her sentiments and clarified the role of the team.

"We do other things for the community. We don't just play rugby and rough people up," she said. ○

process "worked out" and that it is a "good one," Zuckerman said.

Besides, this "is not the first electoral snarl we've had in this country," said Ostrower. "I doubt whether it will be the last," he said.

Although in some people's mind, Gore is depicted as the "sore loser," each of these experts believes that if the roles were reversed, Bush would be filing the same kind of lawsuits.

Young said, "both candidates are acting in their own self interest."

Ostrower agreed. It is in the interest of the "Republicans to pretend Bush won" and it is in the interest of the Democrats to "challenge this perception," he said.

But whoever wins, either candidate will have a hard time getting things done, with a slim republican majority in the house, and a possible 50-50 split in the senate.

The next four years will be filled with "filibusters" said Johnson, and therefore an "unproductive few years."

Ostrower agreed that we can look forward to gridlock, but its comforting to him to know that "the Democrats will not be able to pass irresponsible spending measures, and the Republicans will not be able to approve irresponsible tax cuts."

But you don't have to just take it from these political "experts;" here are what some other people in the Alfred community have to say.

Junior Brandon Chamberlin said that the election process has "become a joke." "People don't care anymore," Chamberlin said.

Ted Smith, a resident director in Openhym Hall feels that this election will "discourage" people from voting in the next election because of all the controversy.

People don't want to be a part of a system they feel is "not working" he said.

Jamie Hall, a sophomore, said that this election may only affect Florida's voter turnout.

"It was really only Florida's votes that counted," she said.

Sophomore Jonathan McCann is confident that "rules and standards will change." But on a more positive note, sophomore Colin Kennard feels that this is the "most exciting election we've ever had."

Seconding that thought, Zuckerman noted that we now have a "more educated public." People are still paying attention; they are still watching, and still forming opinions. "That's exactly what this country needs," he said.

Johnson said that this process will remain in people's mind for awhile. People will be writing "books about this for years" he said. ○



## WORLDNOTES

### LOCAL

The BAFA Student Exhibition will feature the works of freshmen and sophomores in the BAFA program. The exhibition continues through Friday, Dec. 8.

- The Inter Greek Council is sponsoring a charity dinner and auction tomorrow night to raise money for the AU for Andy fund, for AU alum Andy Bartholomew.

- Student Senate has chosen this year's Hot Dog Day Committee chairs.

The annual festivities will be led by Aminah Brelvi, Chrissy Nyman and Lauren Pidcoe.

- Residence halls close for winter break Saturday, Dec. 16 at 10:00 a.m. They will reopen Sunday, Jan. 14 at 10:00 a.m.

### NATIONAL

The U.S. Supreme Court on Friday heard for the first time in its 210-year history a case involving a presidential election, in which the nine justices weighed a decision by Florida's highest court against the U.S. Constitution and federal and state elections laws.

Attorneys for Republican nominee George W. Bush and Democratic nominee Al Gore came under sharp questioning from the justices, who sought to determine why *Bush v. Palm Beach County Canvassing Board* even belongs in the federal system and the legal basis for the Florida Supreme Court's Nov. 21 ruling.

- Last Thursday's anniversary of the World Trade Organization protests led to dozens of arrests, as peaceful protests soon got out of control.

Demonstrators threw rocks and bottles, and police used pepper spray to disperse them. Approximately 140 people were arrested.

All but 29 of the protesters remained behind bars after failing or refusing to post bond. Many will go before a judge Saturday. Ninety-two people were arrested on a misdemeanor charge of failing to disperse.

Police maintained that they issued three orders to disperse before arresting protestors, while some demonstrators claimed that police blocked their path.

### INTERNATIONAL

Vicente Fox was sworn in Friday as president of Mexico, ending 71 years of single-party rule in North America's third-largest country.

Fox defeated the PRI's Ernesto Zedillo in a hard-fought election in July, campaigning on a promise to revamp the country by combating problems ranging from corruption to poverty.

"Let us proceed sensibly and bravely to demolish all vestiges of authoritarianism and to build a genuine democracy," Fox said in his inaugural address before 8,000 heads of state, officials and other dignitaries from around the world.

"What is at stake over the next six years is not just the change of a party in power. What is at stake is much more significant and profound: the hopes of millions of Mexicans," he said.

- Forty-one people have died of hypothermia in Moscow since early October, as power and heating cuts grip the eastern part of the country.

A cold wave in November, during which temperatures plunged to minus 16 Centigrade (3 Fahrenheit), claimed 28 lives, while another 13 died in October, according to the city's health department. Hundreds of people freeze to death in Russia every year. Officials say most are homeless people or those who pass out on the streets after drinking alcohol.

Russia's Emergencies Ministry said about 40,000 residents of the Primorye region remained without heating, with temperatures outside plunging to minus 27 Celsius (minus 17 Fahrenheit).

Television pictures have shown children bundled up in winter clothes in apartments, homemakers unable to thaw frozen food and enterprising residents rigging up makeshift heaters.

## ...Election

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
many states have a vested interest in the system. Ratifying a constitutional amendment [in this case to abolish the Electoral College] would require 37 states consenting. The likelihood of that happening is as likely as an "asteroid hitting earth tomorrow," Ostrower said.

Young feels, however, that for the "sake of pride" the country should "reevaluate the process" so we do not make the same mistakes in the future.

Despite all of this waiting for the new president to be elected, in January when the new president is inaugurated, people are going to see that the election

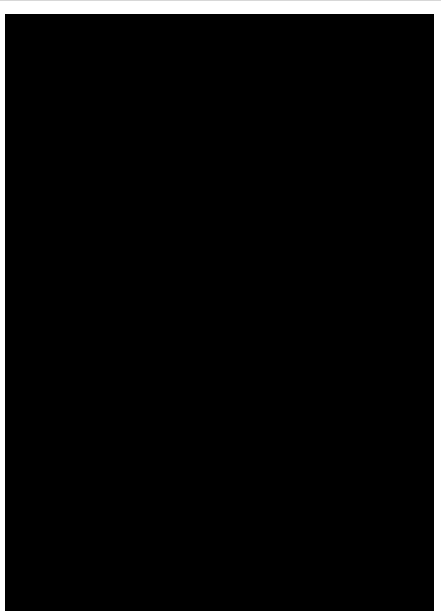


PHOTO BY PHOTO EDITOR CATHERINE KEVETT  
Two men go at it in the annual Lambda Chi Alpha karate tournament held in Davis Gym.

*Fiat Lux:*  
The photo staff is  
out of control.

# Burchett: Education needed

BY STEPHANIE BLISS  
STAFF WRITER

Today's institutions need to bring in the best programs for reform, said Rob Burchett on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Susan Howell Hall.

"Education is the most effective way to reach inmates, and I was one of the lucky ones," said Burchett, an ex-convict who excelled in an educational program while serving time in prison.

Born and raised in Charlestown, Mass., a small Irish-Catholic community, Burchett graduated from high school and joined the Marines, completing an honorable three and a half years at the U.S. Embassy in the Philippines.

After leaving the Marines, Burchett returned to his hometown where he was involved in the accidental homicide of a known pedophile and went underground to escape prosecution.

In the ensuing months, Burchett became an accessory to several bank robberies that generated money for a group in Ireland.

After his arrest, Burchett was convicted of manslaughter and armed robbery at age 21 and sentenced to serve 31 to 35 years in a correctional facility.

"No taking of any life, unless in self-defense, is justifiable; I was relieved when I was caught

because I admit I was scared," said Burchett.

Prison is a whole new social structure and you learn three important lessons, said Burchett. The first lesson is to keep your mouth shut, the second is the "pecking order" in the institution, which means, know who is "the boss." The third lesson is to take lessons one and two seriously, or you will get hurt, Burchett

**"I wouldn't be who I am today if I wasn't given the opportunity to reform myself through education."**

— Rob Burchett

explained.

"I got caught up in something I didn't really want to, so I cut all my ties. I did my own time," said Burchett about severing relations with other inmates in order to begin a more productive life.

Burchett's exceptional behavior in several institutions across the United States earned him a place in a new educational program instituted

by Boston University.

Out of 10,000 inmates, Burchett was one of the 50 chosen to participate in entry-level college courses.

Stipulations for the program were 22 credit hours maximum each semester and a 3.5 GPA was needed to advance in the program.

Burchett not only excelled in his classes, he also participated in other programs, such as becoming a representative for fellow inmates.

"You have to give respect to get respect," said Burchett about his leadership positions.

While in prison, Burchett also implemented a number of programs, such as a daycare center for visiting friends and relatives and a "scared straight" program for counseling juveniles that are still running in various institutions today.

After earning his master's degree in liberal arts and interdisciplinary areas, such as marine biology, Burchett was released after serving 18 years in prison.

Now residing in Alfred with his wife, Burchett would like to earn a doctorate and continue to "give back to the community."

"I wouldn't be who I am today," said Burchett, "if I wasn't given the opportunity to reform myself through education." ○

# ...Edmondson

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE that offered a unique combination of high-level research and scholarship, with close attention to the personal development of students," said Edmondson.

"My five months as president have reaffirmed this conviction. Although higher education faces a challenging environment, Alfred University has an exciting future and I feel privileged to have the opportunity to shape that future," he said.

For Bernstein, the installation of Edmondson as Alfred University's new president is the culmination of a process that began more than a year ago, when the search committee, which Bernstein chaired, interviewed Edmondson — and 12 other candidates — for the first time.

What Bernstein and others have seen in the months since Edmondson took office have affirmed the committee's recommendation, and the Board of Trustees' decision, to appoint Edmondson to the presidency, effective July 1.

"When President Edward G. Coll Jr. announced to the Board of Trustees that he planned to retire in June of 2000, we knew we would be facing the most important task of trusteeship — picking a new leader for the institution," said Bernstein.

"The search committee met many times to come up with a job description that would capture the qualities we believed the University needed. After sorting through some 70 applicants for the

presidency we were prepared to interview a dozen by each stating what we were looking for. My description was 'The WOW Factor,'" Bernstein said. "It's been six months since Charley assumed the presidency and we have worked quite closely together during that time. All I can say so far is 'WOW!'" Bernstein said.

Trustee Robert McCormsey of New York, a member of the search committee and vice chairman of the board, agreed with Bernstein. Hiring Edmondson "is another home run for Alfred!" he said.

Peggy Broderick, who represented the Support Staff Council on the search committee said the campus has reacted well to the search committee's choice.

"When President Edmondson's name has been mentioned, the comment I hear is 'He is an excellent choice for president — the search committee did an awesome job!'" she said.

Trustee Ruth Scott of Rochester is pleased with the decision.

"One of the most exciting things I see happening at Alfred since Charley Edmondson's arrival is the engagement of the deans in charting the future of the college and presenting their ideas before the board of trustees.

"As a member of the search committee, I believe we made the best choice of the candidates. Charley has the potential to be a great president as we move into the next century," she said.

Edmondson came to AU after serving as vice president for academic affairs and provost at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. for the past seven years. ○

# ...Renovations

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE Physical Plant on Jan. 31 or Feb. 1, while the first floor will be turned over six to eight weeks later in order for lab and office equipment to be installed over an extended period of time, eliminating the need for storage space.

"After the top two floors, it will go very quickly," said Johnson in reference to the basement and the sub-basement, which will not

require as much work to finish.

Thompson indicated that the roof has been restored, while a new stair-tower will allow students to come into Binns-Merrill from any floor in Harder Hall. One of LeChase's current projects is restoring an art gallery by adding two giant skylights and installing new flooring.

Wood is looking forward to getting the building back and resuming classes in it during fall 2001.

"People are excited about getting the building back and we're [faculty and staff] worried about

the impact on students. We hope they will be just as excited," she said.

She indicated that faculty and staff will occupy the building in sections as each academic program becomes fully functioning inside.

"It will be nice to have all classes back on campus," Wood said in reference to the students whose classes are accommodated for off-campus.

When Binns-Merrill is finished,

Johnson estimated that the project's cost will be anywhere from \$7.5 million to \$8.5 million. He has been pleased with the funding for this restoration.


"The State University Construction Fund has been good to us [the Ceramic Physical Plant and the College of Ceramics]," Johnson said.

Johnson indicated that McMahon Hall will be restored after the completion of Binns-Merrill. ○

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REVIEW

# Concert band entertains AU

BY AMINAH BRELVI  
STAFF WRITER

Sounds of whistles commenced the concert put forth by Alfred University's Concert Band at Holmes Auditorium, Friday, Nov. 17, displaying the band's hard work delightfully. Material presented ranged from familiar

tunes to mystical melodies. The concert, conducted by Marc Sackman, assistant professor of music, consisted of six songs that evening.

Beginning with Karl King's "Barnum and Bailey's Favorite," a highly energetic piece, the band introduced the crowd to a night filled with fun songs.

Also heard were Aaron Copland's "Down a Country Lane," arranged by Merlin Patterson, a quiet and harmonious song. John Barnes Chance's "Incantation and Dance," started out featuring flute and clarinet, but slowly, the remainder of the band joined in.

At the end of the second song, there was an unscheduled, humorous intermission to fix a broken bassoon strap. Sackman entertained the audience by taking questions, such as how each piece was chosen. For your information, the band members make requests and the conductor has to agree. When deciding, he also takes into consideration that the band will have enough time to learn the song since this is only an extracurricular activity. Once the bassoon was fixed the show went on.

A universal favorite was performed with a medley of selections from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story*. The medley, arranged by W.J. Duthoit included "I Feel Pretty," "Maria" and "America." Thunderous applause followed this particular performance, probably due to its familiar and toe-tapping sounds.

Sackman chose the perfect song to close the concert with: Haydn Wood's "Mannin Veen." This piece was very soft yet carried a cheerful vibe, leading into big climax to make a perfect ending. ◯

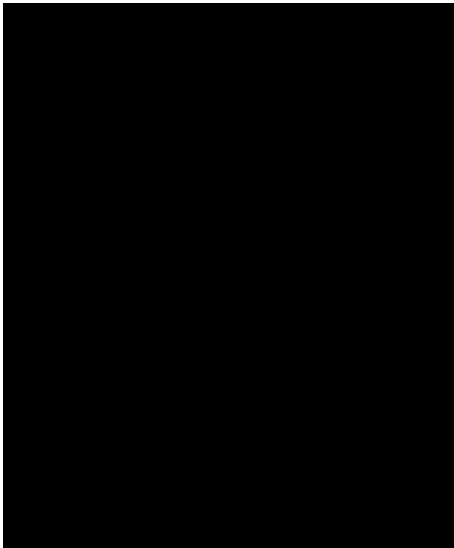


PHOTO BY PHOTO EDITOR CATHERINE KEVETT  
Band director Marc Sackman leads his band through a piece at the AU Concert Band performance.

# Falun Dafa explained

BY ASHLEY BRENON  
STAFF WRITER

The practitioners of Falun Dafa, a Chinese meditative exercise to cultivate physical and mental enlightenment, have been outlaws in China for over a year.

Larry Greil, professor of sociology and health policy, and his Cults, Sects and the Main Line class invited Helen Chou and two practitioners, to Alfred University to speak about and demonstrate their practice at 7 p.m. Nov. 13 in Nevins Theater.

Chou said that the Communist government in China is nervous that a large group may attempt to seize political power.

Li Hongzhi founded Falun Dafa based on the ancient principles of Thi Chi, Buddhism and Taoism and introduced the practice to the public in 1992.

Falun Dafa aims to achieve truthfulness, benevolence and forbearance through five sets of gentle movements. Li Hongzhi wrote two books to explain the principles, *China Falun Gong* and *Zhuan Falun*. Since 1992, the practice has spread throughout China and the world by word of mouth.

Although the number of practitioners in China alone has reached 100 million, Chou insists that they have no interest in politics, money or religion.

The participants cannot reasonably be called a group because they have no organiza-

tion. They consider Li Hongzhi their teacher, not their leader. Groups of practitioners do meet to exercise and meditate, most often in the public parks in major cities. They invite all people to participate free of charge. Those that know the techniques teach those that do not.

After the introduction of Falun Dafa, the Chinese government promoted it as a way to increase physical health and positive involvement in society. The media reported that China was looking forward to the beneficial effects of Falun Dafa lowering health care costs. When the numbers of practitioners grew, the government began to get nervous about how Li Hongzhi would use the people for power.

Out of fear, the Chinese government outlawed the printing and distribution of Falun Dafa materials and burned books in the streets. In April of 1999 practitioners held a peaceful protest outside of the Chinese Leadership Compound in Beijing.

In July, the government raided homes, imprisoned thousands of practitioners, outlawed Falun Dafa and arrested Li Hongzhi. In all, 40 practitioners have been beaten to death.

Several countries have responded to the civil rights violations, including the United States. Li Hongzhi has since moved to the United States where he continues to teach. Practitioners choose to respond non-violently. ◯

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## REVIEW

# LeVande rolls in Li'l Alf set

BY JAY WEISBERGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Meredith LeVande was giving a short spelling lesson introducing a song at her Nov. 18 coffeehouse.

"That's w-e-a-t-h-e-r," she said introducing the song "Weather You Call."

"[It [the weather] can really dictate your mood," she said.

Indeed, there was something beautiful about the year's first measurable snow outside, no doubt helping AU students feel a little better as the semester hit crunch time.

There was certainly something beautiful in the songs as well.

LeVande presented a sharp set to a nice Li'l Alf coffeehouse crowd (hopefully not the last time Student Activities Board moves the coffeehouse down a floor from the Knight Club).

LeVande's softer songs were accompanied by a great deal of energy on her part, even exuberance at some moments.

Those who feel the simple guitar/vocal presentation is limiting could learn a lesson or two from LeVande.

This is because both LeVande's voice and playing are incredibly engaging. Her voice is what stands out the most as she plays. She sings with a polish some larger acts lack.

Also, the first few plucks of the guitar for "Sore Spots" set the tone for the song. LeVande explained it was "about a friend dumping me."

No, not a significant other, just a good friend, she explained.

Through her explanations, LeVande drew in the crowd, either by sharing a common experience, as "Sore Spots" did, or just by breaking down the audience-performer barrier. While presenting serious music, LeVande kept the mood light, discussing her often comical views on stalkers, men, women and her alma mater, the University of Rochester.

There were many nice moments throughout the set. LeVande sim-

ply shined with her performance of "Void," a track from her album *Through the Clouds*.

Also nice was her performance of "Needles and Pins" a track from the same album but better known to AU students as her piece on the *Sounds of the Semester* CD.

Despite the informality of the coffeehouse setting, it's easy to see that much seriousness is behind the personal songs LeVande brings.

Her lyrics open up a glimpse into her personal views and experiences. As she sings in "Void:" "Don't let my baby face deceive you / cause the sign of age is here / the scarlet of death raped all that I loved / and I've seen a lot for my years."

You get the idea immediately that there's much more behind the guitar and the singing. The way LeVande presents is compelling.

LeVande's performance was enjoyable, thought provoking and provided a nice night for all in attendance. ○

## Feminist LeVande anti-industry

BY JAY WEISBERGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When Starbucks wanted to put out a compilation CD of some performers, Meredith LeVande ended up with a track on it.

Now, her music is going to be featured on *Dawson's Creek*.

A big major-label contract is sure to follow, right?

"I told my people not to shop me to major labels," LeVande said. "I just don't want to be in it."

"If I were to sign, I wouldn't be 100 percent happy," she added. "I'd be in it to change it."

At first it sounds a little odd; after all, most musicians spend years trying to get signed. LeVande, however, is one of those rare musicians who can say with conviction the industry is not for her.

"I don't want to be part of a culture that exploits 17-year-olds," LeVande said. Indeed, LeVande expressed at length what she sees as the problems with many of the women in music.

"I have issues when people use women's sexuality to show how powerful women are," she said, pointing to Madonna as an

example. LeVande said she wonders how viewing women as purely sexual beings empowers them.

"I have had people come up to me and say, 'you're pretty, you'll make it.' It almost makes me want to be unattractive," she said addressing those who concentrate on her looks before her talents.

As for equality, LeVande has something to say about that as

**"I'm coming off as a radical, I guess."**

—Meredith LeVande

well, though not in the way you might think.

"I have a problem with women wanting to be equal," she said. "I do not want to be equal to a man. I would like to see a more feminine ideology."

"I'm coming off as a radical, I guess," she said.

With these views, LeVande said she often gets interesting

reactions from men.

"The way men talk to me," she said, "they're often negative because they're scared."

Truth be told, there seems to be no reason to be scared. In a two-hour interview, LeVande comes off as one of the more amiable people around.

LeVande related how she goes to a lot of schools, on the road 20 days of a month. In her hometown of New York City, LeVande has played venues like the Luna Lounge and the Living Room.

While LeVande mentions PJ Harvey and Paul Simon as holding spots in her music collection, LeVande expressed a great amount of esteem for Ani DiFranco.

"Ani is one of the most important people in the world," LeVande said. "I wonder if she knows how important she is."

LeVande is referring to more than just the music.

"So many people are into Ani because it's cool. If you listen to what she says, though, you'll be blown away," LeVande said.

Like DiFranco, LeVande is a traditional singer/songwriter; something that she said is almost a liability today.

"You hear singer/songwriters aren't in!" she said. "Well, Paul McCartney was a singer/ songwriter."

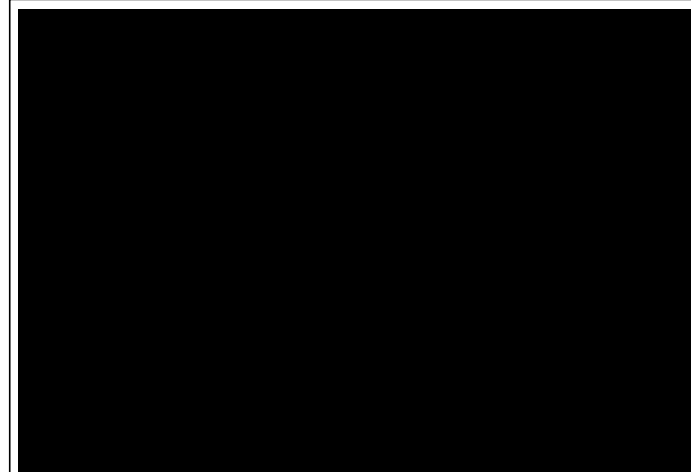
Point taken.

One would think that an artist set up against the established industry (and not in the "we'll take the money anyway" Rage Against the Machine way) would convey a lot of bitterness.

LeVande, though, seems perfectly at ease. She mentioned that teaching in a women's studies program at a university later in life looks like it could be appealing. Music, while certainly a huge part of her, is clearly not the only thing that LeVande has going.

"I am willing to sacrifice fame to make a difference," LeVande said. "I don't know that I will."

Can one forge major changes? The odds are tough. However, should LeVande continue to spread her gospel through her songs and studies, you never know. ○



Meredith LeVande conducts a brief soundcheck before opening her coffeehouse performance. PHOTO BY JAY WEISBERGER

## "Say no to all-nighters": Students need sleep

BY ALISON SAVETT  
STAFF WRITER

"I was up studying all night last night!" Is this a phrase you have heard recently? Or how about, "I haven't slept in forever!"

You may have used these phrases, or something similar, when pulling an all-nighter to finish an assignment, cramming for an exam, or just feeling too awake to sleep.

The idea that staying up all night will help your ability to perform in an exam situation is a myth, and more of this nation's young adults (18- to 29-year-olds) are complaining of sleepiness, waking up feeling unrefreshed or lacking the ability to get to sleep early enough to get the right amount of sleep.

According to the National Sleep Foundation, college students need between 8.5 and 9.25

hours of sleep per night. NSF suggests that, in order to get the required amount of sleep, students should "say no to all-nighters. Staying up late can cause chaos to your sleep patterns and your ability to be alert the next day, and beyond." NSF also says that the best thing someone can do in preparation for a test is to get a good night's sleep.

Lack of sleep doesn't only affect how you perform in school, and in sports or other extra-curricular activities, but also it affects your ability to make the right decision quickly, for example, while driving.

The National Institutes of Health have identified that people aged 12-25 years are at a high risk for sleepiness.

In fact, drivers 25 and younger are involved in more than half of asleep-at-the-wheel crashes. The National Highway

Traffic Safety Administration says that drowsiness or fatigue has been identified as a principle cause in at least 100,000 police reported traffic crashes each year, killing more than 1,500 Americans and injuring another 71,000.

"At any age, the effects of sleepiness range from annoying to deadly," said NSF Executive Director Richard Gelula. "But younger adults appear to be at higher risk for suffering consequences due to sleepiness. Most frightening is that a full 60 percent of this age group has driven while drowsy in the past year, with nearly one out of four (24 percent) revealing they have dozed off at the wheel. Twenty-two percent of young adults also report driving faster when they're tired. These statistics indicate a large population of sleepy risk-takers on the roads, and that combination can

be deadly."

The largest environmental accident in North America, Alaska's Exxon Valdez oil spill, was caused because the first mate fell asleep at the wheel.

New research shown by psychologists Mary Carskadon and Amy Wolfson proves that the people who tend to stay up the latest are the low-achievers. They categorize the low-achievers as those students getting C's or lower, and, not coincidentally, these are the students who have irregular sleep patterns.

Also, NSF's latest poll shows that the consumption of alcohol can seriously disrupt sleep patterns, and the low-achievers are the ones who tend to be consuming.

If you feel like you're having major mood-swings, sleepiness could be the reason.

The NSF says that sleep

deprivation causes increases in anger levels, sadness, or fear. Emotions become a lot harder to control. Loss of short-term memory, decreased learning ability levels, inability to think clearly, impaired judgment, irritability and difficulty sitting still are all caused by lack of sleep, according to the NSF.

What can you do, during the stressful finals week, to avoid sleepiness? Set a bedtime and a wake-up time for yourself, and keep within an hour of it on the weekends.

Don't stay up all night for any reason, ever. The consequences go beyond the tasks the next day. Avoid caffeine and other stimulants, including alcohol, within six hours of your bedtime.

Most importantly, remember that "sleep is food for the brain," and without it, your performance will suffer. ○

## 1ST-PERSON COMMENTARY

## New actor gears up for show

BY ALVARO VALENTIN  
STAFF WRITER

Opening night, Nov. 29, two hours until show time, and a few cast members are sitting around a table at Ade Dinning Hall. "Time to go," says Omar Perez, who plays Teto.

We make our way nervously across the street and into the dressing rooms of the Miller Performing Arts Center. Mixing make-up is still new to some of us and I spend a lot of time just trying to figure out what colors to use.

Half an hour until curtain: the pressure starts mounting. Steve Crosby, chair of the performing arts division, then takes us through some exercises. These are meant to relax our bodies and relieve some tension. I don't really

know how much it helped, though. *De Donde?* is truly an ensemble; this means that every character is important. It's not just about one or two main characters, everyone has to carry their own weight in order for the play to be a success.

Ten minutes to curtain: as we sit in the green room waiting to start, many of us begin reviewing our lines. I think about it for a while but try not to over-prepare. For many in my cast this will be our first night on stage.

I think back to all the nights in rehearsal. The way we'd go over the lines again and again and sometimes still couldn't get them out right when we did run through the play. All the notes Crosby gave us begin ringing in my mind. "Remember, be loud, high energy, project!"

Two minutes to curtain: "Come on guys, we got this" is heard from a corner in the room. Everyone then gets excited. Hoots and hollers can be heard outside the green room door as Joshua First, stage manager, who the cast has nicknamed, Bubbles, is heard over the intercom saying, "Places!"

The musicians play, house lights go down, and the play begins. I make my first appearance in Act 1, Scene 2 so I still have a few minutes left. As I crouch in a corner, Julisa Cruz, who plays La Extrana, rubs my shoulders. I stand and wait for my cue. As the lights fade, I have a sudden moment of clarity. I'm no longer tense, no longer nervous or anxious. As I make my way out on stage, I think to myself, "Break a leg!"

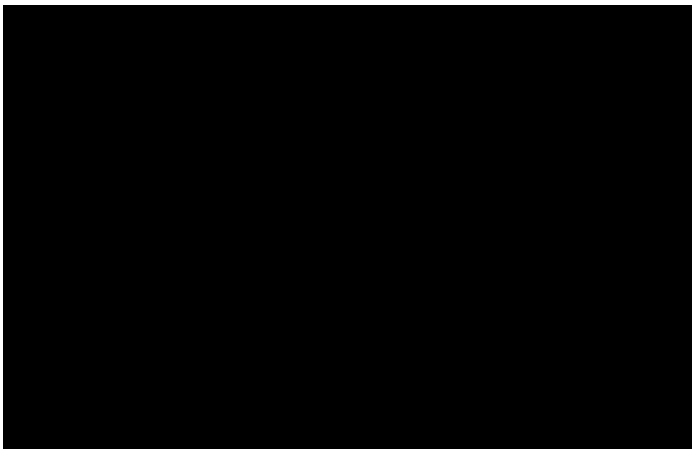


PHOTO BY CHUCK BRITT

Jennifer Havey rehearses a scene during the final dress rehearsal of *De Donde?* last week. Zachary Wickham, left, and Joe Miller also take part. The show ran through last weekend.

## REVIEW

*De Donde?*'s realism makes for great show

BY JUDY TSANG  
MANAGING EDITOR

The Performing Arts Division's theme this year may be Crossing Borders and exploring new territory but *De Donde?* may just have proven themselves wrong.

*De Donde?* — though presented in a very different style than before — demonstrated what everyone, regardless of race and nationality, still tries to do: tell their story.

Last week, the C.D. Smith Theatre opened its doors to let viewers hear stories of over 40 characters portrayed by about 20 actors with *De Donde?*.

Upon entering the theatre, a simple two level structure tattered by graffiti tags resided upstage. An accordion player and guitar player entered the stage strumming their instruments before the show began.

*De Donde?* began with two American officials on the night-watch. These guards, Teto and Willy, were played by Omar Perez and Earl Stephens, respectively.

The scene quickly turned to three refugees attempting to cross the borders into the mystified free America. Despite being new to the stage, junior Alvaro Valentin powerfully displayed his aggression over the other two refugees, played by Miguel Cabral and Julisa Cruz.

Distinct with this play is the many new faces on stage despite the numerous amount of upperclassmen, as well as the ethnically diverse cast.

Director Stephen J. Crosby pulled out all the stops in showing the harsh reality of attempts to

relocate and escape from Central America. Combining street talk, Spanish and physical aggressiveness, the audience was getting a more authentic portrayal than expected.

It's questionable whether these actors are *really* getting injured or not, in the abusive scenes. Actors dropped to the floor, threw themselves, and each other, against furniture, and many grabbed each other. The close physical contact of the actors just further emphasized the ordeals refugees faced head on.

Sophomore Jessy Natal effectively played Felicia, the strong minded, independent "Americanized" college student. Her naivete and urge to help was probably what most audience members related to.

Quite prevalent and powerful of *De Donde?* was the many layers of stories and testaments told at the same time. A clever example of this was when three pairs, an attorney and a detainee per pair, sat in discussion separately, yet their words managed to overlap melodically. This number ended in a unison cry of "You can't lose hope."

New actors may be taking the stage but senior Joe Miller proved that experience does pay off. Playing Pete, or Pedro as his "la extrana" calls him, Miller's talents gave the audience the perfect, awkward geek that you can't help but root for. Miller skillfully expressed Pete's frustration with the laws and his true feelings for La Extrana, played by Cruz.

"De Donde" loosely translates to "Where are you from?" but many find this too difficult to answer. ○

## REVIEW

## One act arouses thought

BY CATHERINE KEVETT  
PHOTO EDITOR

On the night of Nov. 18, viewers saw if *Reflections of Each Other in This Shallow Pool of Earth*, directed by Renee Towers, lived up to its warning of strong language and sexual content.

Clinton Powell, senior theatre major, playing the character Seventeen, was sitting on the stage coloring with crayons in Holmes Auditorium when audience members took their seats.

Paul Kahan, a junior, who played Forty-Three, was leaning up against the wall on stage, smoking a cigarette. Forty-Three was the only character that was outside of Seventeen's head. Paul's character represented many facets of the stereotypes in Seventeen's mind; besides being a father figure, he also was the type of man Seventeen was most afraid of becoming.

Emily Tucker, a sophomore theatre major who played Gutterboy, and Kristin Grillo, a junior who played LSD, were barely noticeable in the audience before the play started. However, their characters were very noticeable throughout the play as the voices inside Seventeen's head.

"I really like *Reflections* because

of its visual imagery and the stream of consciousness style in which it was written. When you sit down and read the play, it flows like poetry," said Towers.

Towers chose to use a sparse amount of props, but her choice made the props she used that much more pivotal to the play's progression.

"I am always impressed with what can be accomplished with minimal tech support and strong actors," said Professor of theater, Becky Prophet.

Surprisingly, *Reflections* was not written by a well-known playwright. Towers' friend at Nazareth College gave her the play last year to critique. "When I read it," Towers said, "I knew that I had to stage it and also knew that it had to be in Alfred in order to get a good reception."

This play probably isn't for everyone. Some people may have been offended by its vulgar descriptions and language. However, it definitely sent a strong message to its audience about hypocritical religion, cacophonous nature of humans and the ugliness of society.

Towers said, "I really wanted them to think about their lives and what they're doing." ○

## Writers' publishing experiences shared in class

BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN  
NEWS EDITOR

Writers who are looking to publish their work should be prepared to encounter many rejections before an editor decides to accept their writing, said Linda Underhill, a published writer who spoke with the Mass Media and American Life communications class on Nov. 10.

"Nobody has a career as a writer," said published writer Kate Braverman, who also spoke to the class.

Underhill attended graduate school at the University of Arizona, where she received her master's degree. She taught college English for nearly 20 years, until she moved to Alfred in 1989. In 1999, she published a collection of essays on the natural world called *The Unequal Hours*.

Braverman graduated from University of California at Berkeley and has published nine books, including a collection of short stories called *Squandering the Blue* and *Palm Latitudes*, which is about three Hispanic women living in a Los Angeles barrio. She won best American short story in 1991 and 1995 and has been published in a college textbook, the *Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*.

Robyn Goodman, assistant professor of communication studies, invited Underhill and Braverman to talk to this class in order to provide insight into the difficulties a writer will face when attempting to get published.

Although the process of attempting to publish can be painful for the writer; it is important to never give up, said Underhill.

Underhill explained that the enthusiasm of an editor often determines how quickly a book will get to the bookstore shelves. Her essays in *The Unequal Hours* were published in about three months, but about a year went by before the books were on the shelves.

"When you hold the book in your hand, it feels so good," said Underhill.

Braverman stressed the importance of having good connections in order to have a better chance of getting published.

After *Palm Latitudes* was published, she was interviewed by *Time* magazine and received several positive reviews from well-known people.

Because Simon & Schuster published this book with much enthusiasm, Braverman thought she had a career, until she submitted *Squandering the Blue* for

publishing.

"My editor said my short stories were so bad, they were unreadable," said Braverman. With a smile, she voiced her frustration with Simon & Schuster by telling the class that it is important to lie by fabricating awards and telling the publisher that prestigious people like the writing. She is willing to take the blame if any writer attempting to be published is caught in a lie.

A person must be a masochistic in order to persist in the world of publishing, said Underhill.

One of Underhill's strategies for publication was to look at what readers were most interested in, which was non-fiction at the time, and write for that genre. Braverman never thought she would tailor her writing to fit the demand of the readers because it is no longer possible to represent the cultural diversity in America with one novel.

"A human being cannot synthesize the culture, it's too big for a person to speak for," said Braverman.

Underhill will continue to write as a hobby, despite the frustrations, because she said she enjoys provoking, inspiring and annoying her readers with the ideas she presents. ○

# Student athlete mentors provide team support

BY JENNIFER BROWN  
STAFF WRITER

The Student-Athlete Mentor program is in full swing this semester, encouraging all athletes to take advantage of these new services provided by Jennifer George and her team of peer mentors.

"I hope to see it become recognized as a positive group on campus; student-athletes as leaders on campus," said George, the coordinator of alcohol and other drug education and co-advisor of the SAM program.

The SAM program, founded this semester by George and Jim Moretti, athletic director, consists of students who serve as role models and leaders on their respective athletic teams. The mentors are available for teammates in case anyone has a question, concern or crisis dealing with alcohol. Athletes

involved in the program also help to provide alternative, alcohol-free social choices for students.

Inspiration for the SAM program came at last year's annual Apple Conference in Virginia. After having attended the leadership conference hosted by the University of Virginia, George and Moretti, along with senior psychology major Julie Hughes, set out to create a SAM program modeled after the one at UVA. Having received a special grant called the Choices Grant from the NCAA, AU finally had enough funding to implement the program on this campus.

"We wanted to start a program here, but didn't have the funding or the drive; the Choices Grant gave us the opportunity to set it up," said George.

The SAM program consists of approximately 30 student-athletes. Each team has

four representatives who have either been chosen by their coach or elected by their teammates or captain. These representatives then must participate in a number of functions set up by the program.

The responsibilities for the mentors include attending home athletic events in order to promote school spirit. SAMs hand out pom-poms and encourage students to attend the events as an alternative to other, alcohol-related events. The mentors will also provide an educational program for their teammates in the spring. The program must be about alcohol in relation to a topic of specific importance to that team.

"It's a support system," said Hughes, an active SAM at AU.

The program provides a concerned eye for the high-risk group that is the student-athletes. It is not intended to be a punitive,

watchdog group. The peer mentors are able to relate to their teammates on a different level than counselors and coaches do.

"We don't tattletale," said Sue Haarmann, a senior involved in the SAM program. As captain of the women's lacrosse team and an active member of the equestrian team, Haarmann can see the need for guidance among many of the younger teammates.

"We encourage and support our teammates. The SAM program has made it clear that there are peer resources for the athletes to turn to," said Haarmann.

George is hoping to expand the SAM program in the spring. SAMs will participate in training in order to be able to address alcohol-related situations properly. The large number of student-athletes on the AU campus now have an outlet and a resource for their alcohol concerns. ○

## Schwartz addresses complaints

BY CHARLENE KAHN  
STAFF WRITER

AU Security is working hard to serve the campus, but some students aren't pleased with the level of service they receive.

"They [AU Security] try to do the best job they can do. They really try to keep Alfred University safe; it's like their second home," according to Pat Schwartz, director of safety, security and telecommunications.

Gripes concerning AU security have included handicapped parking, lack of response to calls and ticketing in the suites.

An AU student had a handicapped sticker in her window, because she was on crutches. Unable to park in a handicapped space, due to non-handicapped cars parked, she decided to park on Academic Alley, where she received a ticket.

After speaking with Schwartz about the situation, the student said that there is to be no parking on Academic Alley under any circumstances. When asked where a student on crutches is to park when people illegally park in a

handicap spot, Schwartz said that parking anywhere but on Academic Alley and fire lanes is fine. Handicapped parking allows a person to park in visitor, student and faculty/staff spots for convenience.

During the week, Sunday through Thursday, the security office closes at 4 a.m., and on Fridays and Saturdays it closes at 6 a.m., said Jeff Leo, who works for security. Anytime after those hours, all calls are forwarded to the Saxon Inn where a person is there 24 hours a day. Also, there are no escorts offered after closing times. If there is a need for medical assistance or a security matter comes up, an ambulance or the police will be notified, according to Schwartz.

Both Leo and Schwartz said that nobody is to be denied an escort by security. If it does happen, students should notify Schwartz of the problem. For those who say that nobody is answering at the security office from a blue light phone, again, students should notify Schwartz because it may be broken. All phones are checked at least once a

week if not twice, and if there is a problem with one of the phones, then they try to take care of the problem as soon as possible, said Schwartz.

If a person is loading or unloading their car in the suites, they are to leave their hazard lights on. Every car is allotted 10 minutes for parking, due to the area being a fire hazard. If a person finds a ticket on their car, it's because their car was parked in a dangerous area for too long. There are cases where a person is ticketed for parking in a loading zone for less than 10 minutes, but everyone is allowed to contest their ticket.

As for parking behind the suites near "Hairpin," parking is allowed, except where signs are posted. Security is working now on putting an emergency phone and lights in the area, said Schwartz.

For anyone who bought a parking permit, consult the rules and regulations guide that was handed out along with the permit for any other questions. If there are any complaints about security matters, consult with Schwartz. ○

## St. Louis gets taste of AU programming

BY JASON PILARZ  
COPY MANAGER

Responsible alcohol use was the topic of a presentation given recently by two AU students at a national peer education conference.

Alcohol education is important to college students because alcohol is easily obtained and can have serious consequences, said senior Shannon Walter. Walter, along with junior Sara Yager, presented the program, "Party Like It's 1999" at the National Assembly of the BACCHUS and GAMMA (Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol) Peer Education Conference in St. Louis.

"Party Like It's 1999" is a program using role-playing situations to teach students about the possible consequences of irresponsible alcohol use, said Jennifer George, coordinator of alcohol and other drug education, who developed the program.

George noted that the program has been popular on the AU campus, primarily in freshman residence halls, and wanted to share the idea with other schools.

"The program was presented ... to give other schools across the country a new idea, or perhaps a new twist on how to educate their campuses about alcohol," said Walter.

A process of trial and error was used to develop "Party Like It's 1999," but the overall goal was to "find a way to have students be active" in the program, said George.

The program is a simulated party scene, with each participant given a role to play. The students interact in their roles, and then come together to discuss the various scenarios that could occur at a party. Themes discussed include sexual assault, violence and drinking problems, according to George.

The program "offers so many different opportunities to talk about a variety of issues and not just alcohol," said George.

There are a variety of rea-

sons why alcohol education is important, noted Walter.

A main reason is that many people develop drinking habits in college that they will carry throughout their life. If educated now, people will likely maintain healthy drinking habits in the future, Walter explained.

Education of such in Alfred is especially important, said George, due to the common belief that there is nothing to do but drink, and students often drink to excess.

She noted that alcohol has been shown to have a positive effect on the heart when used in moderation, but can cause damage when used to excess. "Maybe the thing to do at college is to drink, but the way to do it is responsibly," said George.

BACCHUS is one group that works to educate students about alcohol use.

Its goal is to increase awareness and education regarding alcohol use, and to support students who have made the decision not to drink.

"It is not meant to make the campus dry," said George.

Walter noted that BACCHUS also seeks to educate students about alcohol use in the campus community.

Over the course of an entire week, 63 percent of AU students consume less than six drinks, George pointed out.

This mission is achieved through educational programs in residence halls and recreational events on campus, said Walter. These events include alcohol-free happy hours and WORM, a Week of Responsibility and Moderation.

BACCHUS and GAMMA, both dedicated to educating the University community about responsible alcohol use, are part of an international peer education network, according to George. The conference included 900 participants representing three continents.

"This was truly an honor to present to this conference," said George. ○

## Students, store differ on expansion

BY HEATHER LIGERMAN  
STAFF WRITER

Some students argue that they want the AU bookstore to have longer hours and sell more over-the-counter drug items as well as health and beauty aid products.

"It's only convenience that we are asking for," said AU student Alexis Piekarsky.

Many times Piekarsky has walked to class wanting to grab a health and beauty aid product or a container of over-the-counter drugs, but the bookstore does not sell a large selection of those items. She also feels that whenever she goes to the school store after her classes are over for the day, it has already closed. Piekarsky thinks this is another inconvenience.

She said that it would be much more convenient to pick up products of the like in the bookstore and not have to walk all the way down to the Alfred Pharmacy. Piekarsky said that she would also like the school

store to have longer hours.

Bookstore manager Marcy Bradley said that there is not a large selection of health and beauty aid products or over-the-counter drugs at the bookstore because it is a University request. AU does not want their school bookstore to look like a pharmacy. If the store makes a bigger selection of those products available, then it will look like a pharmacy, according to Bradley.

Bradley has been manager of the school store for three years.

"I support the people and I support you," said the pharmacist and owner of the Alfred Pharmacy, Anthony Graziano.

He said that his pharmacy does sell many of those products. There is a large AU student population that comes to his pharmacy to buy those products, he said. He does feel that if in the future the school store does decide to sell a larger selection of those products, it will hurt his business.

Graziano said that the store hours are Monday through

Friday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and closed Sunday. He does have a 24-hour emergency service which people have used in the past. In the past 12 years Graziano has been the owner, he said that he has tried to keep the store open longer hours but it did not help much.

According to Bradley, in order to sell a larger selection of health and beauty aid products and over-the-counter drugs at the school store as well as have longer hours in the future, the school store would have to survey the AU students at the end of this semester or the beginning of next semester. The decision would depend on the survey's results as well as University approval.

If the school store gets the larger selection of these products in the future, Bradley thinks that the school store would see a small increase in the student sales, but students who are more conscious of prices would go to the Alfred Pharmacy. ○

Oh! *Fiat Lux, Fiat Lux ... Fiat* all the way!



# Powder Puff girls power through snow in game

BY KIM GRAY  
STAFF WRITER

Junior and senior AU women traded their skirts for football jerseys when they participated in the first Powder Puff football game Nov. 18 on Merrill Field. "I had the most fun I have

had in a long time," said junior Diana Moller when asked about the game.

The football jerseys, although too big for the girls, allowed for the players to put layers of clothes on to keep warm and provide minimal amounts of cushioning when being tackled.

The Powder Puff football game was largely due to the efforts of senior, Wes Choy, who organized the event.

Coaches and players were allowed one week to prepare so that any female junior or senior who wished to play was strongly encouraged by Saxon play-

ers. Junior and senior football players served as coaches for the two teams.

Seniors were coached by Choy, Brian Keefer, Rob Graham and Ryan Rambacher. Juniors were coached by Erik Werner, Will Till, Todd Strong, Nick Freeman and Brain Keenan.

When asked how Choy came up with the idea, he said, "I used to play in high school."

The seniors carried 14 people on their team while the juniors had the number advantage with 22.

Both senior captain Choy and junior captain Werner said they had a great time coaching. The concept of the game was most challenging for the captains to teach.

"What seemed elementary to me was hard to explain," said Werner, "we definitely had the athletes and skills needed to play."

The seniors started the game as the underdogs largely due to their number in players.

The juniors took a not so surprising lead, scoring the first touchdown of the game.

The seniors rebounded with a touchdown and extra point.

With less than a minute remaining in the fourth quarter,

junior Keri Foreman used her speed and athletic ability to maneuver around the defense into the end zone. The touchdown allowed the juniors to pick up the win.

Foreman's touchdown to win the game was a "miracle run," said Choy.

"I had no doubts we were going to win," said junior coach Werner.

Even after bruises and sore bodies, there is a desire among the players and coaches to make this an annual event.

"I will undoubtedly do this again," said Moller.

According to Werner, for a Powder Puff football game to take place next year, he will have to be responsible for organizing it.

The overwhelming consensus that the players had fun was obvious through their laughter both during the game and after.

Although all seemed to enjoy it, some argued that the title given to the game needed to be changed.

"Powder Puff football is a demeaning name," said Moller.

"I was definitely pleased with the outcome, said Choy. It was an excellent game." ○

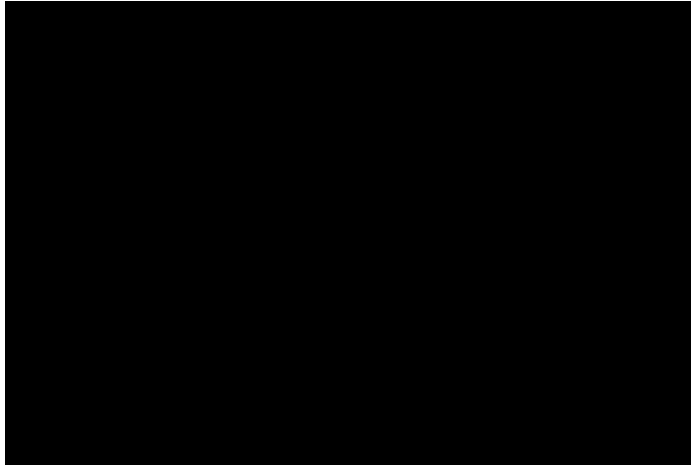


PHOTO BY PHOTO EDITOR CATHERINE KEVETT

A player dashes through the snow-covered turf of Merrill Field during the 2000 Powder Puff football game. Teams were coached by members of the AU football squad.

## ...Downing

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

picked up a basketball. In fact, he said, the first time he did was in a pick-up game when visiting Chicago.

"I played with them, and I realized that I still had it," said Downing about DePaul's team. "That was when I e-mailed [AU] Coach [Jay] Murphy and begged him to help me figure out what I needed to get back into school."

Murphy said that he was more than ready to welcome Downing back into the "basketball family" at Alfred.

The family, however, has grown and changed since the 1997-98 season, when Downing last played.

According to team captain Robbie Stedman, there's more versatility now, and the team is no longer dependent on Downing, as it may have been two years ago.

"The structure of the team was a lot different then and Downing has made the necessary adaptation [from the past to the present]. Everything has changed for the positive," Stedman said.

Stedman played with Downing two years ago, along with fellow captain Kareem McKinnon, who also sees the positive change.

"He's more of a team player now. He looks to get his teammates involved," McKinnon said.

Murphy also sees Downing's new attitude on the court, noting he has matured a lot since 1998. He added that Downing really takes coaching to heart. According to Murphy, Downing now asks what he needs to do to help the team, which is beneficial to this incredibly talented team as it helps Downing to see where he fits and blends.

One of Murphy's principles is focusing within the team, not on the opponent. He has the team ask themselves, "How good can we get from yesterday?" Downing's focus is good, and he works hard with team, Murphy said.

The major change on the court, however, has come in trusting other people's abilities to complete the tasks at hand.

"He used to not trust [his teammates and the coach]; now Devon understands that you are what you do, not what you say, and he's developed a lot more trust for his teammates as well as me," Murphy said.

He said he feels that if Downing and teammate E.J. Docteur reach each of their potentials, "We'll have two all-Americans. For individuals to come, the team has to do

well."

Murphy said that the largest change to come about in Downing since his return is off the court.

Valuing the education component of college more than he did before, Murphy said that Downing has a "better balance in his life now. He's going to all of his classes, and getting good grades. Devon's really taken being a student to heart."

Stedman said he also sees Downing's improved maturity level, and his terrific focus on helping the team.

Downing himself also feels that the time at home allowed him to mature.

"The break was good for me; it taught me not to take anything for granted. It allowed me to sit back, look at life and decide what to do with myself," he said.

Downing, an elementary education major, said he never considered going anywhere else for school during the break. Playing with a more talented team than before, Downing said he feels he's a more improved player, "but I am still shaking the rust off. I still need some fine-tuning."

More in control of his life both on and off the court, Downing said he's glad to be back at AU, studying as well as playing ball. ○



PHOTO BY STEVE TEDESCHI

Devon Downing calls the play for the Saxons against Allegheny last week. The game was Downing's first game in McLane since 1998.

## ...Basketball

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE associated with Saxon men's basketball.

"We're hoping to have nights where we can put eight to 11 guys on the floor," Murphy said in praise of his squad's depth.

"On any given night, anybody

[on this team] could have 30 points," Downing said. "We're multi-dimensional."

"This is one of AU's best teams ever," he added.

Docteur goes even further when a certain spring national tournament is brought up.

"Oh," he said, "we're gonna go." ○

## ...Swim teams

CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE tem instead of semesters so you never know who is going to come and swim for them," said Davis.

The teams are optimistic considering they were both able to

post victories against RIT last year. Also on the week's agenda was a home meet last night vs. ranked Ithaca.

"Ithaca is a big rival, and we are looking for good swims against both Ithaca and RIT," said Davis before the weekend began. ○

## New ambulance arrives in Alfred

BY MELISSA WYANT  
STAFF WRITER

Alfred recently acquired a new ambulance.

"The new ambulance will help us continue our record of service to the community," said Robert Pipal, professor of chemistry, who has been an emergency medical technician for 16 years and emergency medical Services Captain for a year and a half.

Almond E. Crandall Hook & Ladder Company, which owns Alfred Ambulance, first started

to look for a new ambulance last Nov., according to Ted Smith, AU resident director, who is a 5-year E.M.T. and 2-year E.M.S. captain. They saw a need to replace the older ambulance in order to maintain their high level of quality, Smith added.

The 2000 Ford E450 Road Rescue Type III Ultra Medic Ambulance arrived on Monday, Nov. 20. "It was purchased with budgeting and appropriation by the company," said Smith.

"The ambulance it replaced is 10 years old and though still

fairly reliable, it was showing its age," said Pipal. The old one is now out of service and will be sold, added Smith.

The new ambulance has many updated features in comparison to the older one. According to Pipal, "it has built in containers for used IV needles and a higher ceiling in the passenger compartment ... the ride is much nicer, which will benefit the patients as well as the drivers and E.M.T.s."

He also added that the engine is larger, which is ideal for Alfred's hills. ○

Saxons at Williams Tourney  
At presstime: Defeated Westfield St.  
85-75 in first round.



AU Women's Basketball

1/11 at Cortland. 6 p.m. tip-off.

## Saxons rolling with best start in over 10 years

BY JAY WEISBERGER  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Before basketball season started, some players on the Saxon men's squad didn't rule out the possibility of a NCAA tournament berth come spring.

While that remains a long way off, with many more wins needing fall in, Saxon fans have to feel confident with the team's 4-0 start.

Some of that confidence is spreading to the players.

"We have a deep team," said junior forward E.J. Docteur after screaming past Allegheny 82-67 in the Saxons' home opener last Wednesday. "We're playing really well."

Indeed, it's not often that a team can go scoreless for almost the first 10 minutes of the first half and end up running away with the game. Yet, behind Docteur's 20 points, junior guard Devon Downing's 17 and a total of 12 Saxon three-pointers, AU was able to dominate the visiting Gators.

How many games has head coach Jay Murphy coached that his team has won after not connecting for almost the first 10 minutes?

"Probably zero," Murphy said.

Murphy pointed out that the squad was a bit tired, coming off another decisive victory at Cazenovia a night earlier.

Certainly Murphy liked the outcome of the Allegheny matchup, but when talk shifts to the remaining schedule, Murphy is more cautious. Whatever post-

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

season aspirations his players may have, Murphy refuses to look that far ahead.

"It's one game at a time," Murphy said.

Over the weekend, his squad traveled to Williams (Mass.) for a tournament and last night opened its Empire 8 schedule against St. John Fisher at the McLane Center.

Murphy pointed out, though, that while the early season has been encouraging in many respects, after AU travels to St. Lawrence Saturday, the squad does not play again until Jan. 5. "It's a tale of two seasons," Murphy said. "If these guys don't keep working out over winter break, we could be in trouble."

As far as keeping the hunger to win, junior Devon Downing, back after a two-year absence, said he is hungry to get back to the NCAA tournament where he went with AU in 1997.

"It was a great experience," Downing said. "If the team knew how good that felt, they would play all that much harder."

Still, Downing is happy to be back.

"It feels great," he said after playing in McLane for the first time since 1998. "The guys have accepted me back with warm arms."

Murphy, too, is enjoying having Downing back in the #3 jersey.

"It's really helped out that Devon has an attitude that he's going to be fitting in," Murphy

said, alluding to a few seasons ago when Downing was the main go-to guy on the floor.

With all the power on the floor now, Downing is still making his presence felt. Going into the Allegheny game, he was averaging 21.7 PPG. With Docteur and senior center Kareem McKinnon also averaging double figures, the Saxons have a scoring triple-threat that could give opponents quite a bit of trouble.

And, Docteur said, that's not all.

"Defense is our main emphasis," he said. Evidence: while AU couldn't score early against Allegheny, the Gators mustered a mere four points.

"I like our togetherness," Murphy said. "We tell ourselves that every game is an opportunity for us to get better."

Whatever may come, there is an optimistic air around many

SEE BASKETBALL, PAGE 11

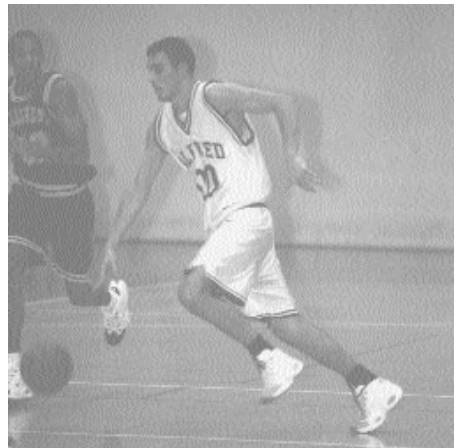


PHOTO BY STEVE TEDESCHI

Saxon forward E.J. Docteur runs the floor against Allegheny.

## Downing happy to return

BY ALISON SAVETT  
STAFF WRITER

After a two-year absence, Devon Downing has returned to AU's basketball scene with a new attitude, both on and off the court.

The two-year All-American athlete took a leave of absence in October of 1998, needing time to cope with family issues. The death of Downing's younger brother earlier that year combined with the separation of his mother and stepfather left him in a state of confu-

sion. Realizing that he lost a lot of his focus, Downing thought it best to withdraw and head home to

Canton, Ohio, until he had his life under control.

While at home, Downing went through tough times and had many different jobs, landing a factory job that paid well.

"I didn't know what I wanted to do with my life. I didn't even know

if I wanted to return to school. Although I had a factory job making good money, it wasn't what I had in mind to do for the next thirty years," he said.

This thought was what helped the 22-year-old decide to return to school, but he said he fully made up his mind when he was visiting a friend who played Division I basketball for DePaul University in Chicago.

Throughout his time at home, Downing had not so much as

SEE DOWNING, PAGE 11

## Loss to GSU has bright spots

BY BENJAMIN LEE  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Saxon men's and women's swim teams are coming off a disappointing home loss to Geneseo Nov. 18.

"You get a sense for a team before you swim them. Geneseo just swam way above what they were on paper. They were just a better team that day, bottom line," said head coach T.J. Davis.

Despite the loss, both men's and women's teams came away from the meet with many positive outcomes.

"The men and women both had some really outstanding performers," said Davis.

On the men's side, the Saxons were led by their core group of point scorers.

The men's 400 medley relay comprised of Pat Kerwin, Ben Meissner, Justin Healy and Todd Striker swam 3:42 to place nine seconds ahead of Geneseo's fastest team.

Other outstanding performances were delivered by Carl Schwarting with a win in the 100 free, Dave Berman winning on both the one meter and three meter boards, Striker logged two more wins in the 200 I.M. and the 200 backstroke and Kerwin added a win in the 50 free.

The women's afternoon was

### SWIMMING & DIVING

just as lucrative as the men's. The 400 medley relay consisting of Melissa McAllister, Sara Thompson, Christine Turner and Tabitha Maher posted a second place finish with a time of 4:24.

Greta Jeitler matched her fellow diver Dave Berman with her own double victory on the one meter and three meter boards.

Also a double winner was

Thompson adding a win in the 200 breast stroke.

"We won our events, but they just ended up having more talented depth. It was a tough loss. You never want to lose to Geneseo," said Davis.

With a meet of mixed emotions behind them, the Saxons were looking ahead to last weekend's meet against the usually fickle RIT.

"They're an unpredictable team. They're on a quarter sys-

SEE SWIM TEAMS, PAGE 11

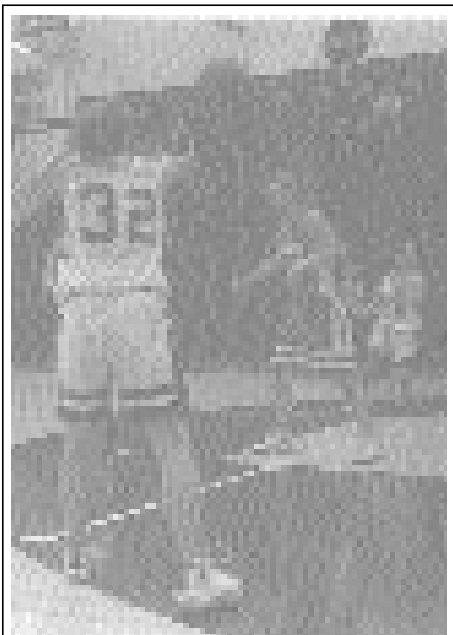


PHOTO BY ALISON SAVETT

Saxon Melissa Mayo tosses a pass to teammate Nicole Yoculan in early-season action against Bridgewater State.

### Saxons in action: Winter break...

Men's and Women's Basketball: Jan. 5, vs. Nazareth; Jan. 6, vs. RIT; Jan. 11, at Cortland

Men's and Women's Track & Field: Jan. 13 at Kent State

Men's and Women's Swimming: Jan. 10, at Lycoming

**Fiat Lux**

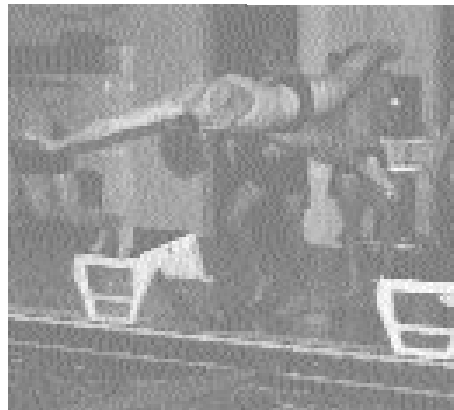


PHOTO BY AMY KLEIN

Saxon swimmers launch into the water during a practice last week. The team will head to Florida to train over winter break.