Edmondson to take AU prez post

BY JAY WEISBERGER
MANAGING EDITOR

AU's question of the year was answered last Wednesday when it was announced that Charles M. Edmondson will succeed Edward G. Coll Jr. as the next president of AU.

Edmondson will leave his position as vice president for academic affairs and provost at Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. He plans to take office as the 13th president of Alfred University July 1.

"I was delighted," Edmondson said over the phone from Winter Park last Wednesday, describing his first reaction to the news.

The news was broken to the bulk of the AU community by way of a memo from Chair of the AU Board of Trustees Gene Bernstein.

Referring to Edmondson as an "inspiring leader" in his statement to the campus, Bernstein highlighted Edmondson's experience at Rollins.

The statement also noted that the decision to hire Edmondson over AU Provost W. Richard Ott was difficult.

"Both candidates forwarded to us by the Presidential Search Committee were eminently qualified to be president of Alfred University," the memo stated. "Dr. W. Richard Ott's long association with, and outstanding contributions to, the University made the decision even more difficult."

Nevertheless, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees decided that the winner of the presidential winner anyway.

"It's always tough to narrow down and try selecting candidates among such a strong pool," said Senior Mike Pelliccotti, the student representative on the search committee.

The search committee recommended candidates to the board, but did not make the actual selection.

Edmondson noted that he had been invited to meet with the executive committee, but he had no idea how many other people he was up against.

In an interview, Bernstein wanted to ensure that the campus knew he alone was not responsi- 
ble for the hiring of Edmondson. However, Bernstein said he had been impressed by AU's new 
president-elect.

"I was extremely impressed with his thoughtfulness about higher education in general and his passion for educating the whole person, both of which were articulated in a very genuine and exciting way," Bernstein said.

Edmondson's faculty-accompanied trip through the campus center a few weeks ago left a big impression on Bernstein as well, he said. "(Edmondson) noticed that, every time he was being taken to a meeting, the faculty member invariably stopped to talk with students in the campus center," Bernstein said.

Bernstein said that Edmondson had commented that this told him the faculty had their priorities straight — they focus on the students, not on the administration.

"That Edmondson was pleased rather than offended by this behavior was very telling to me," Bernstein said.

Edmondson had been impressed by the staff of Alfred, too.

"They were very clear-minded and articulate," Edmondson said, adding that he had jokingly asked where the administration had the real AU students behind them.

Edmondson said that, despite the news coming earlier in the afternoon, by the time of the interview, he had already received over 300 e-mail messages congratulating him from his colleagues at Rollins.

"I'm going to miss the friends I've made," Edmondson said of leaving Rollins, a university he has been a part of since 1979.

"Surprisingly," he added, "I'm not going to miss the weather [in Florida]."

Edmondson is looking to make a trip back to New York coming months. He mentioned that his 11-year-old daughter, Eriton, had just made her debut to the role of Greyson, Edmondson's wife and a professor at Rollins for the last 18 years, will also be making the move to Western New York.

After he takes office, Edmondson said he is not plan-
ning on changing anything imme-
diately.

Bernstein praised this notion.

"He impresses me as a person who cares deeply about other peo-
ple and respects what we have

SEE ENDOWMENT, PAGE 5

AU looks to improve endowment value

BY MIKE PELLICCIOTTI
STAFF WRITER

Many students do not know about AU's financial endowment, nor do they realize its importance to the campus.

"Any endowment represents a multiplier of student tuition dol-
lars," said Mike Hyde, vice presi-
dent for University relations.

"Schools with large endowments are able to spend more money on their students," he explained.

Hyde said that a large portion of the income generated from the endowment is dedicated for financial aid, special projects and endowed faculty chairs.

Other area schools compare differently to AU in the size of their endowments.

Hyde said that some regional schools like St. Bonaventure University have smaller endow-
mens than AU, while St. 
Lawrence University has a larg-
er one.

He said that the University of Rochester's endowment recently reached $1 billion.

"It's the only major weakness the University has," said President Edward G. Coll Jr. "We're at 76 million [dollars] and we should be at double that.

Coll feels that the next campa-
ig to increase the endowment will allow the University to gain the financial resources it needs.

SEE ENDOWMENT, PAGE 5

Students back after fight

From the AU News Bureau

Five Alfred University students charged in an alleged assault Feb. 12 have been removed from inter-
im suspension.

The University is still conduct-
ing its own investigation into the incident. Meanwhile, the students may return to classes. The stu-
dents, all members of the men's lacrosse team, remain suspended by the team.

The students charged with first-
degree gang assault and second 
degree assault are seniors Thomas 
Bailey, Bradley Morrison, Adam Olmstead, Brian Olmstead and Michael Pilliod.

Vice President for Student Affairs Jerry Brody emphasized that AU is not looking at the situa-
tion as a "muck" event, even though the lacrosse team itself is not being implicated by AU in any way.
AU still not a diverse campus

Dear Editor:

I commend Stephanie Webster for saying what so many mem-
bers of the Alfred community seem unable to.

The liberal education we all are receiving has been naive-
ly focused on the promise that Alfred provides us with a diver-
sity of people, experiences and thoughts. Alfred’s web site even
claims that we are one of the most diverse small universities in
America.

How exactly has our adminis-
tration defined diversity? In ac-
demic majors, athletic teams and
special interest housing?

It’s time we all try and grasp
the overwhelming fact that
Alfred is not a diverse campus.

As an openly gay freshman,
and I have experienced the big-
ot, intolerance, and ignorance
that pervades this campus. I
chose to be “out” in our soci-
ety because society and intellect-
ual setting have encouraged me
to do so.

Our lack of diversity and its
negative side effects almost
always surface in the most silent,
discreet ways — unseen by those
in the majority.

I want to underline that
Alfred is an uncomfortable place
for many minority students. Not
only because of the lack of sup-
port structures but also because
so often the diverse minority
that does exist at AU is patron-
ized for the benefit of the majori-
ty.

While I do have wonderful
friends at Alfred, a supportive
family, and an amazing boyfriend, my experience continu-
ues to be marred by Alfred’s lack of diversity and understand-
ing. I am hoping to transfer next fall, but not merely to jump
ship.

Despite attempts to educate
others, I’m tired of ignoring peo-
ple unwrangling and unable to open
their eyes. Besides, it’s not my
duty to teach each and every stu-
dent about diversity. We each
need to be those that teach them
about diversity. We need more
programming, more discussions,
and more focus on diversity in admi-
strations and staffing are all needed.

Hopefully one day Alfred will
truly be a diverse place with a
wide range of people, thoughts,
experiences, and programs.

Then, perhaps, we will be receiv-
ing a liberal education.

Sebastian White
Class of 2000
...Elections
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
All of the results should be announced at Senate tonight at 8 p.m. in Nevins Theatre.
President-elect Edmondson and Vice President Carla Edmondson will present.
This came as a surprise to them, as both delivered thanks and recommendations to the Senate executive board and body, as well as many others.
Spear actually gave a speech highlighting the past year of Senate. Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs Jerry Brody also had words of praise for the outgoing Senate executive members. All the thank-you and good-byes, however, were quickly overshadowed by the news of the shooting.
Before that, nominations were taken for the remaining executive board positions, except for finance chair.
That was taken care of a week earlier when the Senate approved the appointment of Jalal Clemens, a freshman, to the position. Clemens was approved by an overwhelming majority.
Nominations for the other executive positions will continue tonight.
Few people who left Senate last week had committees reports on their mind when they left, but the committees did present their semi-weekly reports.
Four new organizations were welcomed to Senate last week as well.
All of the proceedings were overshadowed by the election announcement, though. At one point during the controversy, some senators contemplated moving to suspend use of the constitution, a motion that is not permitted.
There was a motion to amend the constitution so as to avoid a similar scenario in the future.
An ad-hoc committee has been created to do so. 

...Edmondson
CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
James Edmondson has already accomplished at the University, so when he takes office I expect him to move swiftly in terms of any changes," Bernstein said.
"He said at one point, only insusicere people come into a new situation and make wholesale changes," Bernstein added.
Indeed, Edmondson noted that students need not worry about any drastic changes in the coming year.
"I want to preserve the won-
derful qualities that make Alfred what it is," Edmondson said.
Edmondson added that he wants to continue the trend of "energetic leadership" that stu-
dents have become accustomed to.
Bernstein noted this is an excit-
ting time for the University.
Noting that Edmondson’s tenure will follow a great period of growth for the University, he wondered what lies ahead.
"Imagine if Edmondson is as successful in his presidency as Ed Coll has been in his," Bernstein said. "It’s very exciting, to say the least."
Students up for Fulbrights

BY JAY WEISBERGER
MANAGING EDITOR

Two AU students have been named finalists for Fulbright Scholarships, and a professor believes they have an excellent shot at winning the award.

“People at this stage almost always win,” said Paul Strong, professor of English. Strong heads up the Fulbright application process at AU.

He was quick to add, however, that “there are no guarantees.”

The Institute of International Education requests that the names of the finalists remain under wraps to the public until the awards are announced.

The idea behind the scholarships, Strong explained, is to allow a student to study for a year in a foreign country.

It sounds like a simple idea, but Strong noted that there is much more involved with Fulbrights.

“Students who want to apply have to see me in the spring,” Strong said, adding that the deadline to get started is at the end of the spring semester of a student’s junior year.

He said students need to start the application process at that point so as to be able to get everything needed to apply together.

Web team works to improve AU site

BY ELIZABETH GOETSCHUS
STAFF WRITER

Anyone surfing onto Alfred University’s website within the next few weeks will discover some innovative changes. A new team of six students is working hard to generate updated and changing material for the site.

A new student web team has been created and charged with updating the site. Jasmine Lefrak, Ali Martin, Jen Butters, Justin Morton, Beth Wenas, and Kristin Ekel have been hired as content creators for the website. Ekel is the new web graphics designer.

The group was created, said advisor Abby Brody, because “we [Students for Technological Assisances and the AU Web team] wanted to make the AU website a more fun place to visit, a place that better communicates the personality of AU and one that offers much more student-generated material.

The team will write about art, how-to features, Quinn’s, charts and polls for the website. Other duties include strategic planning and development of some of the site’s important webpages. STAS’s web engineers do the actual building of the pages that the new team designs.

“Our content team is turning into a great sounding board for all of our web-related efforts. They have critiqued the existing site and proposed changes that are going to happen,” said Brody.

Some new features soon to be showcased on the site include an “Alfred People” page, revamped “Community Pages,” and a “Rooms of AU” page. These features, along with future ideas, will spice up the site, making people want to visit it again and again.

The “Alfred People” page will profile campus and community members. This page will give site visitors insight about the character of Alfred and its inhabitants.

“I am really interested in including really fun and unique facts about Alfred people,” said Lollock.

Right now, the “Community Pages” consist of little more than a directory of links to community resources. These pages are being reworked to include more information about Alfred.

The “Rooms of AU” page is an innovative idea that will feature some of the “coolest” residence hall rooms on campus and their residents.

Currently, the members of the web team are attending seminars on the technology necessary for their jobs. They are learning about the style of web writing, navigational design and interactive design, use of images and the basics of marketing higher education institutions on the Internet.

By BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

The speakers at the Feb. 16 Global Awareness Roundtable indicated that more people should be aware of Tunisia’s long, influential history.

“Many people confuse Indonesia with Tunisia. It’s not a rich country, but it has a lot to offer as far as women’s liberation and history: It goes back to the Stone Age,” assistant professor of French Zakia Robuna explained, emphasizing how important it is for people to realize this.

Robuna was one of the speakers in the Knight Club, sponsored by the division of modern languages.

Her husband, Abderrahman Robuna, who is a professor of business and freshmam Mariam Djellibi also spoke.

Zakia indicated that Tunisia has had a rich history. The ancient Romans contributed amphitheaters and aqueducts to Tunisia, while both the Romans and Phoenicians established ports, and the ancient Christians left temples and cathedrals.

Djellibi, who lived in Tunisia from the age of two to four, discussed an even earlier historical period: the legend behind the founding of Carthage, one of the earliest cities in Tunisia.

The legend says that Queen Alyssa paid a lot of gold to the Barber chieftain in exchange for an area the size of an ox-skin, which is no bigger than a typical residence hall room. Djellibi revealed that the Barber cut the skin into long, thin strips and sewed them together until it circled an area big enough to be an entire city.

“Carthage was not just a city, but a whole empire,” Djellibi explained.

Abderrahman, who came from Tunisia to America in 1969, indicated that presently, Tunisia has a strong economy, which has significantly reduced poverty over the years.

“There used to be [a] 36 percent poverty rate; now there is only 62 percent. Like America, there is a real middle class in Tunisia,” Abderrahman explained.

He also indicated that the economy is good because Tunisia has no debt.

Both Zakia and Abderrahman expressed their pride in their country.

Furthermore, Abderrahman especially felt that going abroad is the best way to learn about a country.

In 1992, he took the Alfred University Jazz Ensemble to Tunisia.

“Students are the best ambassadors to go to other countries,” he said.

Abderrahman, Zakia and Djellibi indicated that another country would be discussed in the near future.

Junior Jesse Martin affirmed Buttaro’s sentiments.

“As it turns out,” he added, “web aesthetics are completely different than print media. People can interact with the Internet in ways that newspapers and magazines couldn’t offer.”

Abby Brody and the members of the web team are extremely excited about this opportunity to leave their mark on Alfred University. They are happy to have the chance to, in the words of Lollock, “showcase the very unique place that Alfred is.”

Jen Butters feels that the idea of a student web team is a great one.

“It really demonstrates how involved students can be at Alfred, and shows that students really do play an important role in the decision making process for the University,” she said.

Martin is excited to have the opportunity to participate in this new, as yet undefined art form of web writing.

“We’re making the rules up as we go along — we’re always changing, in fact,” he said.

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Baltimore, MD 21208
(410) 337-9697
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Tunisia the topic at Global talk

March 1, 2000
News / Features — Page 4
Fiat Lux
Union steps up campus presence

BY KRISTEN HOFFMAN
STAFF WRITER

A few weeks ago, students may have noticed an e-mail from the Art Union offering free photography lessons in Harder Hall. Senior Ben Ellcome, a photography major, has been an active member in the Union since his sophomore year. He explained that this idea was a good way to bridge the gap between the private and public sectors of Alfred University.

“Cameras are empowering for many reasons. Learning very simple things [about the camera] can give that little bit of extra knowledge, which gives people an advantage,” Ellcome explained.

Sophomore Lindsay Sampson, the president of the Union, agreed that Ellcome’s idea was a good way to bring the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the School of Art and Design together.

“The… Senate doesn’t know how to deal with problems that come from the art school. If those two were united, there would be one voice for the entire student body,” Sampson emphasized.

Both Sampson and freshman Betsy Barnhart, also an active member in the Union, indicated that the Union changed a lot since his sophomore year. He explained that this idea was a good way to bring the entire student body, “…students, faculty, and administration,” together.

Ellcome and Barnhart all agreed, however, that the Union turned into much more than just dealing with problems.

Getting the general community involved in activities, like the Veg Out which took place Feb. 23, is very important, they noted. The $640 that was made in this event will be donated to a local charity and art organizations in need of funding.

The Union holds their meetings at 9:15 p.m. on Wednesdays in Harder Hall at the Moka Joka. Students who want to be heard and are interested in reaching out to the general community are encouraged to attend.

Endowment limit the University’s endowment spending to six percent each year. He said that the remaining interest goes back into the endowment.

Hyde credits AU’s recent involvement, or the group might not survive,” Barnhart said. Sampson and Barnhart are glad that the group is primarily comprised of freshmen at this point.

Ellcome indicated that the Union was created so those students could have a voice on matters affecting them.

When Nina-Merrill Hall closed down, many art students swarmed to Senate because they were furious about losing the space. Sampson indicated that ideas for alternative space, mainly out in the community at the Town Hall or in Wellsburg, resulted from this.

“A union is a more organized manner to deal with authority. We can give authority more respect this way,” Sampson said.

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...Endowment
Continued from front page

A piece of art stands in Harder Hall as part of last week’s faculty art show. Both three and two dimensional pieces were shown.

Review

Student directed Vanities well done

The show entertains as Furniss finishes senior project

BY LUKE JACOBS
STAFF WRITER

From Feb. 17-19, senior Marnie Ellcome and senior Jasmine Furniss performed their senior project in theater with a production of Vanities

The play, which was performed in the Rod Brown Acting Studio of the Miller Performing Arts Center, was a wonderful example of student-directed theater here at AU.

The plot follows three women from high school in 1963 to college, and finally to a reunion in 1973. As the play progresses, the characters change and grow apart.

The character of Joanne was played by senior Jasmine Leblanc, who mastered Joanne’s perky façade while still allowing the audience glimpses of her internal hysteria and self-doubt.

Sophomore theater major Ashley Long, played Kathy. Long played the part splendidly, showing a progression throughout the play from youthful ignorance, to a hardened maturity.

The part of Mary was played by sophomore English and communication studies major Laura Randell. Randell skillfully portrayed Mary’s internal struggle between the bonds of friendship and the freedom of hedonism.

None of these fine performances would have been possible, of course, without the skillful direction of Furniss. From beginning to end, the show was filled with powerful moments and images, sometimes earning gasps from the audience.

The set, designed by junior theater major Earl Stephens, was simple yet elegant, subtly drawing attention to center stage.

Sophomore theater major Jason Shattuck did a fine job as costume designer. The costumes were well-suited to the characters during each scene.

Overall, Vanities was a powerful production filled with laughter and tears. Everyone involved should be proud of the skilled and talented work they have done. If you missed it, I’m sorry. Should you be kicking yourself now for not going to see it? You. Definitely.!
A little bit of everything at dance concert

BY JUDY TSANG
COPY MANAGER

“You touched me, Lucas” Susan Roebuck, associate professor of dance, was not the only one touched after the division of performing arts’ dance concert, All About Love, Feb. 24-27.

Directed by Roebuck, this year’s dance concert brought another smorgasbord of dance entertainment that catered to every taste, especially the sentimental.

“Legacy,” the sixth number of the concert, was Roebuck’s memorial dance to her mentor and friend, Lucas Hoving, who passed away recently.

“Due Intermezzi” was dedicated to the memory of Gary Parks, reviews editor of Dance Magazine. This ballet piece was strong in its elegance and feathered grace in both the choreographic and the dancers.

“Legacy,” Roebuck’s homage to Hoving, crossed over dance and Adjunct ballet professor, “Due Intermezzi” was dedicated to the memory of Gary Parks, reviews editor of Dance Magazine. This ballet piece was strong in its elegance and feathered grace in both the choreography and the dancers.

With wondrous green lighting, “Mantis” created the perfectly mysterious forest setting for a mantis, Hannah Lash, dressed in a green body-fitting unitard, to travel through. “In My Other World” was the featured dance in the advertisements for All About Love. A duet between Holly Louis, a junior, and Weinrich, the piece touched learners’ hearts. Weinrich proved that the floor did not have to exist for her, with lifts, jumps and support from Louis.

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“Little Elian” focus of international furor

BY JULIE WOHLBERG  STAFF WRITER

In what seems like a remote area of the country with a very different social climate, a heated debate is going on over the guardianship of a little boy named Elian Gonzalez.

This debate seems to have little impact on the lives of many people in the northern United States. However, the repercussions of the final decision in this struggle may, in fact, have a large impact on our lives.

On a November morning last year, a group of 14 refugees gathered to board a small tug-boat in Cuba.

They were fleeing what they considered to be intolerable oppression. Their destination: America.

These refugees are protected under the Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966, which says that if they get into American waters they are guaranteed the right to stay in America as political prisoners.

One year after their arrival, they can apply for permanent citizenship.

In the rough waters of the Florida Straits, the overcrowded boat capsized. Of the original 14 passengers, 11 died.

On Nov. 25, 1999, 5-year-old Elian was found tied to a life raft. He was brought ashore and treated for hypothermia and dehydration. Elian’s father allegedly called his uncle, Lazaro Gonzalez, after the boy was recovered and hospitalized.

During this alleged conversation, Elian’s father asked his uncle to care for the boy now that he was in America.

Once released from the hospital, temporary custody of Elian was granted to his family in America, until the Immigration and Naturalization Services could make a permanent custody ruling.

The other two survivors were granted permission to stay, and are currently residing in Miami.

The female survivor is currently asking Cuban officials for custody of the dead child who was left in Cuba. These pleas have gone unheard in the media, and her requests have been denied.

Fidel Castro, the leader of the last remaining Communist country in the Western Hemisphere, became personally involved, critiquing the Gonzales family in America and demanding Elian’s return.

Elian’s father has denied ever making any phone calls to Lazaro Gonzalez, and claims that he desperately wants his son back with him in Cuba.

INS officials went to Cuba to interview the father and determine whether or not he was an able father for Elian. Elian’s mother, Elizbet, had custody of Elian until her death, and although his father did have visitation rights, it has been alleged that he was not an active member of Elian’s life in Cuba.

The INS determined that he was, in fact, a fit father, and plans were made to return Elian to Cuba.

INS officials asked Elian’s father to come to America to claim his son. He, however, refused. Instead, Elian’s grandmother came to America, and engaged in what some believe to be very suspicious behavior.

When interviewed by a Pro Lit staffer, Elian’s other great-uncle, Delfin Gonzalez, who currently lives with Elian, commented on the grandparents’ visit.

“Don’t you think it’s a little strange that when Elizbet’s own mother came to America, she never once thanked the fishermen who saved Elian’s life, didn’t ask if her daughter’s body had been found, and never inquired as to her daughter’s funeral arrangements? Instead, she simply voiced political opinions that I do not think are her own, and repeatedly said that Elian had to be ‘saved.’ Saved from what? From democracy?” Gonzalez asked.

Protests by Cuban-American refugees and action by various politicians called attention to the case, and Elian was subpoenaed to testify in court as to where he wants to live.

Thus, Elian was granted a temporary stay in America. The INS told the Pro Lit that it was “still in the process of reviewing the subpoena to see what, if any, impact it would have on their decision to return Elian to Cuba.”

United States Attorney General Janet Reno strongly upholds Elian’s return to Cuba, but her office would offer “no comment” on her position regarding the subpoena.

Elian’s family in America said, “If we were sending Elian back to his father in a free country, a country where life was happy and democracy ruled, we wouldn’t have hesitated to return him. However, we were sending him back to Cuba, a country where human rights don’t exist, and there is a terrible quality of life. We only want what’s best for him, and that can be found in America. It cannot be found in Cuba.”

Cuba, once the recipient of billions of dollars in annual financial help, now has one of the lowest qualities of life of any Hispanic nation.

These are only some of the conditions about which Delfin expresses concern. He also fears that Elian’s psychological healing over his mother’s loss will be severely inhibited if he is returned to Cuba.

“How will he be able to heal his wounds if he returns to Cuba and hears the people there call his mother a traitor? And why would she be called a traitor? Because she died trying to provide a better life for her son,” Delfin said.

Some American officials, however, believe that Elian does belong back in Cuba. His father has been declared a fit father, and American law grants custody to a surviving parent unless he or she is deemed unfit.

Why should the students of Alfred University care about this little boy?

If the INS decides to keep Elian in America, it could make recovering American children who have been abducted to foreign countries more difficult to reclaim.

The United States has used the argument of precedent in these cases, an argument that they will lose if Elian remains in America.

In closing, Delfin Gonzalez said, “Thank you for taking an interest in something that many up North don’t consider as important as we who are caught in the middle of it. But it does affect you. Either way, it will affect you. It is important for everyone to form an opinion and get involved, and hopefully we can stir up some interest up North.”
Band Makes Splash at AU

BY JASON PILARZ
BILLING MANAGER

A taste of the modern rock music of the future was on display recently in the Knight Club, as Boston-based Splashdown played a short but high-energy show.

Following a recorded sound-tracked intro, the band hit the stage and never looked back. Before the band even began playing, its appearance was noted to be chic and futuristic; a portrait of the music to come. Vinyl pants, shiny silver jackets and the blue hair of guitarist Adam Bulher showed that Splashdown was no ordinary band.

The band itself consists of three members: singer and songwriter Melanie Kaplan, guitarist/bassist Adam Bulher, and Kason Crooker on drums. In order to recreate their sound live, the band brings along keyboards, and other sound effects. In order to recreate their sound live, the band brings along keyboards, and other sound effects. In order to recreate their sound live, the band brings along keyboards, and other sound effects. In order to recreate their sound live, the band brings along keyboards, and other sound effects.

Kaplan appeared dressed all in black, a compliment to her long dark hair. Her voice was a bit reminiscent of Fiona Apple, with an added Middle Eastern inflection. Indeed, at times the entire sound was somewhat Middle Eastern, especially the songs "Karma Slave" from the upcoming movie Titan A.E., and "Dussert." Other songs included "Creation Chick," which featured Crooker’s keyboard skills, "Panther," and "Pandora." A song about a bad roommate, "50%," proved that for all the progressive and futuristic aspects of the band, Splashdown was still a rock band at heart.

Splashdown indeed may be a band of the future. The music and lyrics more than stand on their own, the band's live show is powerful and polished, and the band has the connections to make it to the top. Currently, they are signed to the Java label of Capitol records and played six shows on the past summer's Lilith Fair tour.

Not bad for a band that is still relatively young. Splashdown was formed in 1996 after Cynthia Bulher, Adam’s wife, introduced the members to each other. That same year the band released "Pandoradoser," a seven-inch vinyl single on Castle von Bulher Records, a small indie label out of Boston co-owned by the Buhlers.

Also in 1996, Splashdown released their only full-length album Stars and Garters. "Halfworld," an EP, was released in 1998 and represented the band's final release on the CVB label, as they were soon signed to Java Capital. On that label the EP "Redshift" was released in 1999. April of this year will see the band's second full-length album, Blueshift. Songs have also appeared on numerous compilations.

Alfred students may also have another opportunity to see Splashdown again soon, as the band plays in Rochester relative-ly often — three shows in the past year.

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FROM ALL OF US

HERE AT AU DINING SERVICE
Abortion rights center of Roundtable discussion

BY EMILIE HARDMAN

It has been 27 years since the Roe v. Wade decision was passed in the Supreme Court, making it legal for women to obtain abortions in the United States. So why after all these years, is everyone still talking about it?

That’s what Rendi Hewitt, this month’s speaker for the Women’s Studies Roundtable series, wants to know.

Hewitt is the public affairs coordinator for the Southern Tier area Planned Parenthood, the nation’s oldest and largest family planning organization.

“What’s the big deal? We are talking about a medical procedure. Why are people so concerned? I can talk about you,” said Hewitt.

Even though the Roe v. Wade decision was made 27 years ago, Hewitt continued to be a hot topic all this time, mostly because of the fervent efforts of those who disagree with the ruling that supported women’s ability to choose.

“We have always heard the anti-choice movement,” said Hewitt. “We’ve heard their slogans, their terrorism of young women and doctors.”

Hewitt identified two different sides to the anti-choice movement. The least dangerous to the pro-choice movement are those who believe that “a child is not a choice,” said Hewitt. She pointed out that religious concerns and belief in “fetal rights” generally prompt these people.

The other position in the anti-choice movement is one that is fueled by patriarchal beliefs. Hewitt said that while perhaps they do not participate in a conspiracy, male politicians work against abortion rights as an indirect means of oppressing women.

“ ‘It’s easier for a politician to say, ‘I’m against abortion’ than it is to say ‘I want to keep women empowered and out of the way so that as good old white boys can stay in power,’” said Hewitt.

Hewitt drew a clear parallel between the denial of reproductive freedom and women’s lack of power. She imagined the economies of a society without the choice of abortion as one very similar to the family unit-based economy that existed hundreds of years ago.

Because of the population explosion she hypothesized would occur without abortion, women would be drawn out of their jobs and pulled away from pursuits of higher education to care for their children.

Hewitt said that the United States already lacks daycare. So what would happen if there were more children to be cared for?

It’s not something Hewitt wants to even contemplate.

“I’m here to tell you that we are getting very close to living without legal abortion,” she soberly told the crowd of 34 students and faculty members that had gathered. That’s why Hewitt is talking about choice issues 27 years after Roe v. Wade. That’s why she is encouraging people everywhere to get involved now, before, as she said, it is too late.

“ ‘Reproductive freedom is not like freedom of speech,’ Hewitt explained, ‘it’s not a part of the Bill of Rights. The decision to allow legal abortion is one that can be overturned at any time.’

‘To stress how close the government is to reversing Roe v. Wade, making abortion illegal and destroying Title 10, which also provides the national funding for birth control, Hewitt offered some numbers.

The United States is only three votes away in the Supreme Court from overturning Roe v. Wade. In the United States Senate, 49 percent of senators say that they would get rid of legal abortion.

‘One generation had always lived in a time with a reproductive freedom, but the time could be coming when we won’t be there,” said Hewitt.

Hewitt urged the audience to get involved in the pro-choice movement. Historically a quiet group, pro-choice needs to start speaking up, Hewitt stressed. The easiest way to do that is to vote for pro-choice candidates and pro-choice legislation.

“Don’t skimp on George W. Bush and John McCain feel you, they are anti-choice and have already admitted that they are committed to appointing anti-choice Justices to the Supreme Court,” said Hewitt of the Republican candidates.

Barry is the pro-choice. Gore has a history of anti-choice voting, but claims to be pro-choice now,” said Hewitt.

‘Voting however, is the absolute minimum level of activism,” Hewitt stressed.

Those interested in pro-choice issues should also sign up for the Planned Parenthood e-mail alert system that sends the notice of issues concerning the movement. This way, said Hewitt, people can keep in touch with what is happening and write letters to their representatives in support of pro-choice. Interested people can register at www.plannedparenthood.org/choicelaw.

Also, March 19 is national abortion provider appreciation day, that is you,” said Hewitt. “I know you would love to get a letter.”

Talk as students filled out the doors was activism on campus in place of the rally of groups that exist and changing the world.
Riders work hard

BY CHARLIE CASPARIUS
Web Manager

Becky Backer, coach of the Alfred University Equestrian team, has been around horses for more than 40 years.

She bought her first horse when she was 15. She was brought by her father to stay in college with a promise of riding school after she graduated. According to Backer, her father is still waiting for her to grow out of her love for horses.

Out of the 23 riders on the team, only two are men. Dan Dickmann, a freshman, said “It is a very good break to come to practice, getting away from all the school hassles.”

Dickmann was also very well informed about his sport. According to him, although equestrian is not a NCAA sport, the concentration of practice in the spring semester is a very strict governing body, which makes the sport very competitive.

Dickmann also mentioned that equestrian is an all year sport with three horse shows in the fall semester and at least six during the spring semester. The horse shows are held on the weekends and are strictly held in indoor arenas.

The team has 20 or more horses that the riders are assigned to.

According to Backer, the horses are new to the riders and they have no time to warm up, they must go out into the arena with their horse and do the show with no prior practice.

Backer also described the point system for equestrian — a very different system from other sports.

In each horse show there are about six divisions based on difficulty that allows even the most inexperienced riders to participate in the horse shows.

Each time a rider places they get a certain number of points that the points being awarded to first place. If a rider accumulates 35 points, they qualify for regionals. The postseason moves to zones and then nationals. If a rider accumulates enough points to make the postseason they are also elevated to the next division, and continue to compete there until they are elevated to the next division and so on.

The interesting thing about the point system in equestrian, according to Backer, is that the points carry over into the next season, as eventually a rider is bonused for making the playoffs and move up in a division of their collegiate career.

Practices are a whole different ballgame though. The team kicks off practice at 5:30 p.m., and makes the half-hour trip out to Belmont where they meet Backer and maybe run into Willy, the friendly stable goat.

The preparation for practice is quite rigorous with riders doing chores to help out Backer and her stable, and getting ready to ride the horses. The hardest part of preparation is the boots. The riding boots are long boots that cover the person’s ankle.

The attitude for horseback riding originated from the military, in which the long boots were used to protect the infantryman’s legs from getting cut or bruised.

When the arena is set up and the horses and riders are ready to go, the riders start by jogging their horses around in circles, practicing basic riding form.

Backer said, “The hardest part of riding a horse is not only do you have to control yourself, but you also have to control a 2,000 pound animal.”

There is a lot of concentration and subtle body movement that makes a difference when riding a horse, and Backer’s job is to make the riders look like the horse is doing all of the work.

Backer is also planning to take about 20 students to Ireland this year. It will be her third year going, and, while not all those who go ride horses, the main purpose of her trip is to ride through the countryside of Ireland on horseback.

Backer also mentioned that once a year they bring in Bruce Dickson, who has been to the Olympics every year since 1975 except for two. He is a 13-time national champion and a four-time world champion. He comes to Brewtest and holds clinics once a year.

Swimmers hit States

AU women break records

BY ANDY BERMAN
Sports Editor

The AU women’s swimming and diving team finished ninth out of 16 teams at the New York State Swimming and Diving Championships.

The team also set three new AU records at states. The 200 meter freestyle relay of Katy Gaydos, Melissa McAllister, Anne Martin and Carissa DeMay broke the old record with a time of 1:44.52. The record-setting performance was good enough for eighth place in the event.

McAllister also set a new school record in the 199 backstroke with a time of 1:00.45 during the final leg of the 400 meter relay.

Freshman Cheryl Juncker set the final new record while finishing twelfth in the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:18.69.

The team had 10 top 15 finishes at the meet. McAllister, Danielle Ohlson, Gaydos and DeMay had the sixth best time in the 200 meter relay, the 800 meter freestyle relay team of Juncker, Becky Cochran, Kristin Cary and Becky Franey took twelfth place, and the 400 freestyle relay team of

Men’s LAXers get ready

Team’s tough schedule will bring a challenge

BY ANDY BERMAN
Sports Editor

Despite having no returning players from last year’s team on defense and the ninth hardest schedule in all of Division III, the AU Men’s lacrosse team is optimistic about making the playoffs this season.

The team will be playing three teams in the top 10 in the Division III pre-season poll (Nazareth, R.I.T. and Ohio Wesleyan) and four others who will contend to be top 25 teams (Rhode, Hartwick, Cortland and Whittier (Calif.).

That does not frighten coach Preston Chapman, though.

“We have some breaks, things will come together,” Chapman said.

The team will be led by senior captain Jamie Pierce this season.

Pierce scored 16 points in the first three games of the season last year, before missing most of the season with an ankle injury.

“It is a great leader that leads by example,” Chapman said. “He makes players around him better.”

Other leaders on attack this year will be R.J. Dawson and Travis Brown.

The biggest question to come up will be how well the young defense will play. Transfer student Andy Reeve will try to lead the team in the back, while freshmen Jared Podolak and Adam Jaworski will try to stifle opponents.

Last season, defense was the team’s biggest weakness allowing almost 11 goals a game.

Last season Josh Dunn played most of the season as goalie for the Saxons, however fellow sophomores Patrick Campbell and Kevin Ramnaran have been battling very hard for the starting spot according to Chapman.