

FIAT LUX NEWS

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03

The death of member
of One Direction

05

New presidential
candidates?

07

Comeback of the
Victoria's Secret Show

08

Movies for Halloween

10-11

The scandal with
Alfred's chief of police

12

Protocol for campus
shooting in Alfred
University

14

Basketball season and
their coach



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Another generation calls Alfred home by Dan Siess Rain, class of 1996

It's an honor to write for the Fiat 28 years after I graduated! I'm pleased that the paper is as strong as ever— with a balance of news and insights into student life and academics, coverage of intriguing stories from AU's campus and the Village, and quirky art and games.

Returning to Alfred over the years always feels like coming home, despite noticeable changes. New buildings pop up like violets filling in the space between familiar golden dandelions, main street businesses come and go, and there are many fresh faces. Some notable new or renovated buildings include the ceramic art museum, the Link connecting Tefft and Moskowitz (Reimer in my RA days—where we had to go outside into the cold to cover Tefft when on call), and Connors' (Openhym's) major renovation. Powell construction began my freshman year, so our temporary campus center was in the now demolished South Hall— but by 1995, this historic building was so dilapidated that student organizations were allowed to hold a free-for-all haunted house there. I recall some truly ambitious setups, including our Environmental House-based Organization for Green Living's.

With each visit over the years, the people and vibe are still unmistakably Alfred—as vibrant as the Canacadea Creek which flows through its heart, and as extraordinary as the clay along its banks, which played a pivotal role in shaping the university's and village's destiny. I've always been fond of my alma mater, but it's hard to overstate my joy in now returning to campus as an intensely proud AU dad. As you may have surmised, my daughter is the editor-in-chief, Alyra Rain (pictured below). Many of the same things seem to have drawn us both to Alfred 30 years apart: the campus's beauty and rich history, the Honors Program, which promotes academic excellence at the same time as it allows room for students' relaxed exploration of unusual topics, Alfred's commitment to generous financial aid, for which we are grateful, and above all else, the people.

Speaking of the faculty, staff, and students that are the beating heart of AU, I'm excited to see the university embracing this "Outside of Ordinary" aspect of what makes Alfred so special. It's remarkable that some of my favorite professor mentors were still teaching when my daughter enrolled, and are still around for me to visit when I return, such as Michele Hluchy (pictured below), who helped lead the Environmental Studies Program in my day, Luanne Crosby, who was my choral director and joined the faculty in my freshman year, and Lou Lichtman from the Psychology Department, who is, incredibly, still teaching in his 55th year at AU. And he is still teaching his beloved psychology of parenting class—including to Alyra!—that her mother and I took, shaping our parenting in important ways.

Some of the changes I notice three decades after falling in love with Alfred concern me, however. Dining options should have improved with years of innovation, but instead they have seriously declined—especially for vegetarians. I remember a pasta bar with 2-3 nightly choices that always assured options beyond salad, and a student-led vegan co-op that provided diverse offerings. We had special meals on family weekends that included several varieties of decadent cheesecake. I realize the pandemic set campus food services back, but AU can and must do better for student nutrition. Recycling and composting on campus has also gone backwards, sadly; though AU's partnership with DEC on glass recycling innovation is inspiring. President Zupan has demonstrated his commitment to students and alumni alike, including as a great fundraiser for important improvements, though I'm concerned about AU's planned multi-million dollar sports complex. Funds focused on trying to attract more student athletes to a D3 program might instead be more wisely spent on the existing science, art, engineering, and liberal arts programs and faculty that truly distinguish the university, and will help keep us on solid yet innovative footing well into the future.

My Alfred education prepared me well for a career in nature and environmental education. For the past 15 years, I have been serving our home town of Bethlehem, NY, where I lead the Recycling and Composting Department. Thank you to everyone who has and continues to help make AU home, for both my and future generations.



The death of Liam Payne: former One Direction band member

Singer Liam Payne, who rose to fame as a member of One Direction, died on October 16, 2024, at the age of just 31. The ex-member of the boy band fell from the third floor of a hotel in Buenos Aires.

The singer came to Argentina for the concert of his former One Direction colleague Niall Horan. He was accompanied by his girlfriend Kate Cassidy. At the event, Liam, judging by the surfaced videos, had a great time—dancing, singing along and generally being in a great mood. However, that did not go without criticism—One Direction fans wrote online that Payne, who has not communicated with Niall for a long time, was trying to pull all the attention to himself. It is noteworthy that after the concert Niall and Liam met, talked, and even took a joint photo.

The singer's ex-fiancée, Maya Henry, released a novel that talks about a girl who falls in love with a pop star. Although she positions the book as fiction, she does not hide that the story is based on her own life. In the plot, there is abuse, collision, and a hint that Liam forced her to have an abortion. Payne is rumored to have suffered a lot from such revelations and hard-to-survive discussions in the press, and relatives of the singer even contacted Maya and said that if something happens to Liam, the whole world will consider her guilty. A couple days before Payne's death, Maya sued him to protect herself from his obsessive attention.

Just a couple hours before his death, Liam posted selfies on social media with his girlfriend Kate and said he had another great day ahead of him in Argentina, but in fact, it looks like things were already bad at that point. Journalists found out that Kate, by that time, had already flown out of Buenos Aires, having had a fight with Liam.

During the examination of the scene of the death, Liam's room presented the police with a terrible picture: the room was completely trashed, and on the table lay torn rolls with unknown powder. Shortly before that, the hotel staff saw the singer in a dangerous state: first he broke his laptop and lost consciousness in the hotel lobby, and when he came to, he began to shout that he apologized to his girlfriend for his promiscuous life. At the same time, Liam behaved quite aggressively, so that during his debauchery, frightened guests even called the police, reporting a man who "may be under the influence of alcohol and drugs."

After initial reports of Liam Payne's death, fans of the artist, mostly people in their 20s and 30s, began gathering outside the Casa Sur Hotel in the Palermo neighborhood where medical professionals were working.

Liam Payne was born in Wolverhampton, England in 1993. He became a member of the band One Direction in 2010. The band was founded on "The X Factor," where five young people - Louis Tomlinson, Harry Styles, Zayn Malik, Liam Payne, and Niall Horan - auditioned solo and then joined the band. They placed third in the season finale. After the TV show, they recorded their first album.



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If you are looking for a TED Talk-like event to spark your academic curiosity, I have an event for you: the Bergren Forum. What is the Bergren Forum, you might ask? Well, it is a weekly event in which a speaker discusses and presents a subject they are personally interested in.

You might be wondering when the Bergren Forum began. It was created in the 1970s by Richard Bergren, after he was inspired by students gathering to discuss community issues. Over time, the Bergren Forums became a place where students and faculty could sign up and present their perspectives on an issue or subject they are passionate or concerned about. Today, it is sponsored by the Division of Human Studies and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

How can you participate in the Bergren Forums? For starters, it takes place every school-day Thursday from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Nevins Theater. Admission is free, and tea and coffee are provided. If you are not able to make it to the forums in person, you can also attend them virtually. The Zoom link for online attendance can be found on the Alfred University website under 'Bergren Forum.' You can apply to present, however, you must do it early in the semester, as the vacant positions go fast. If you wish to present, you should apply as soon as possible, as spots for presenters for the current semester and next semester are already filled.

The Bergren Forum is an enriching opportunity to dive into a world of ideas, gain

Underwater Adventures

Over Alfred's mini fall break, 8 students went to go and get SCUBA certified up in Buffalo and Canada. The first part of the certification process was two days of intensive academics and pool training at the Tonawanda Aquatic Center in Buffalo. During this time, students learned many pool skills and safety measures to become safe divers. The next two days of the break were where we did our open water dives at Windmill Quarry in Canada. This is where we put our newly learned skills to the test, and after 4 successful open water dives, we all successfully became certified scuba divers! Outside of the water, we got to experience famous Buffalo wings from

Elmo's, a local market in Kenmore, Canadian Tim Hortons, and did some shopping at the Niagara Boulevard Mall! This was a fun trip that the Alfred SCUBA and Snorkeling Club will be doing annually in order to get more students involved in the sport. We couldn't have done this trip without the support of the Bernstein family, our club advisor Professor Andrew Kless, or the help of the Student Senate and the Student Involvement Center. Now that we are certified, we can go to local wrecks and also travel further distances to explore the tropics.



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Their debut record "Up All Night" (2011) brought worldwide popularity, and the lead single "What Makes You Beautiful" became a hit and won a Brit Award. The band released five albums in total, including "Take Me Home" (2012), "Midnight Memories" (2013), "Four" (2014) and "Made in the A.M." (2015). Four of their songs reached the top five of the Billboard Hot 100, with "What Makes You Beautiful" topping the chart for 34 weeks. The boy band has won six Billboard Music Awards, five American Music Awards, four Brit Awards, and three MTV Video Music Awards. Cumulatively, their music videos have been viewed 14.6 billion times on YouTube.

On March 25, 2015, Zayn Malik left the band. On May 14, 2015, on the "James Corden Tonight Show," the remaining members admitted that they were "angry" about the decision and confirmed that they would continue as a quartet. In August of that year, the band announced a "hiatus" for a year, and their final album was released in November. In 2016, sources reported that One Direction broke up, and the artists began solo careers. Despite this, fans never lost hope for the reunion of the group.



The Bergren Forums: an academic community

fresh insights, and connect with others. Whether you're there to listen, learn, or even present, the forum welcomes everyone with open doors (and free coffee!). Don't miss out on the chance to be part of this Alfred University tradition—mark your Thursdays and let your curiosity guide you!

For further information about the Bergren Forum, please contact John D'Angelo at dangelo@alfred.edu.



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The 2024 Nobel Prizes

The Nobel Prize is widely regarded as the pinnacle of human achievement, recognizing groundbreaking work that changes the way we understand the world. Since its inception in 1895, it has honored those whose discoveries push the boundaries of science, literature, and peace. As a chemistry major, I've always admired the Nobel laureates, imagining how their work would shape the future of science. But I never expected AI to become such a central part of this recognition so quickly. This year, with two Nobel Prizes highlighting AI's role, I find myself both inspired, and uncertain about what this means for my future in chemistry.

This year's Nobel Prizes honored a range of remarkable achievements across disciplines:

Physics: John J. Hopfield and Geoffrey E. Hinton were awarded for their pioneering work on neural networks, a key technology that drives much of modern AI.

Chemistry: David Baker, Demis Hassabis, and John Jumper received the prize for their AI-based advancements in protein design and prediction.

Medicine: Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun were recognized for their discovery of microRNAs and their role in gene regulation.

Literature: Han Kang won for her evocative and powerful prose on historical trauma.

Peace: Nihon Hidankyo, a Japanese organization of atomic bomb survivors, was honored for their advocacy against nuclear weapons.

Economics: Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson were awarded for their research on how institutions shape economic prosperity.

AI in the Nobel Prizes: A New Era for Science

What truly stood out to me this year was AI's presence in both the Physics and Chemistry categories. The Physics prize, awarded to Hopfield and Hinton, highlighted their groundbreaking work on neural networks, which laid the foundation for much of today's machine learning technologies. This work powers innovations ranging from self-driving cars to personalized recommendations. But it was the Chemistry prize that resonated most deeply with me.

The Chemistry Nobel went to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for their work on AlphaFold2, an AI tool that predicts how proteins fold. Proteins are crucial to all biological processes, and understanding their structure is essential for developing new drugs and treatments. For years, predicting protein folding was a complex, time-consuming challenge. Scientists would spend months or even years trying to determine these structures. AlphaFold2, however, can predict them in a matter of hours, revolutionizing research in medicine and accelerating the fight against diseases like cancer and Alzheimer's. This breakthrough hit home for me because, as a chemistry student, I've always associated breakthroughs with hard work in the lab—long hours spent experimenting and analyzing data. To see AI play such a transformative role in my field made me reconsider what the future might look like for my career.

The 2024 Nobel Prizes mark a clear shift in how science is being conducted. AI is no longer just a tool of the future—it's already here, reshaping entire disciplines, including

chemistry. While this is undeniably exciting, it also raises questions for students like me. How do we adapt to a future where AI plays such a central role? What will the role of human scientists be when machines can predict, analyze, and design at speeds we simply can't match?

Despite the remarkable capabilities of AI, there's still an essential role for human intuition, creativity, and expertise. AlphaFold2 may be able to predict protein structures, but it still requires skilled chemists to interpret the results and apply them to real-world problems like drug development. AI can handle data, run simulations, and automate processes, but it still depends on humans to ask the right questions, apply critical thinking, and innovate in ways that machines cannot.

As someone studying chemistry, I now realize that my education isn't just about mastering lab techniques or memorizing molecular structures. It's about developing the skills that AI cannot replicate—skills like creativity, problem-solving, and ethical decision-making. These are the qualities that will continue to set us apart as scientists in an AI-driven world.

The 2024 Nobel Prizes have made one thing clear: AI is here to stay, and it's transforming science in ways we can't ignore. As students, we need to be ready to adapt. That means learning how to work alongside AI, acquiring new skills in data analysis, and staying curious about the possibilities that AI brings to the table.

Who is Maureen Bass, legal counsel of Alfred's chief of police?

Maureen Bass, the attorney for Chief of Police Paul Griffith in his lawsuit against the town of Alfred, is familiar with high-profile cases. She received her J.D. Doctor of Jurisprudence from the Syracuse University College of Law in 1999 and joined the NY State Bar in 2001. Ms. Bass is a current partner in the Law firm Abrams Fensterman, LLP where her profile calls her the "Partner-in-Charge of the Rochester office" and "Co-Chair of the firm's Restructuring, Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights Practice Group and a member of the firm's Litigation and Employment groups." We'll review some of her past cases.

Rachel Uchitel's bankruptcy case

Rachel Uchitel is known for her affair with famous golf star Tiger Woods, and his contentious non-disclosure agreement. In 2021, Ms. Uchitel filed for bankruptcy, and Ms. Bass agreed to represent her pro bono.

Voelkl v. Town of Greece, et al

In Mr. Casey Voelkl's (represented by Eugene Welch of Tully Rinckey, PLLC, and Maureen T. Bass of Abrams Fensterman, LLP) lawsuit against the Town of Greece, et al. he alleges that in 2021, William D. Reilich, town supervisor for Greece, out of concern for his re-election, intervened in the investigation of Greece chief of police Andrew Forsythe, who crashed a department vehicle when alcohol was suspected to be a factor. Mr. Forsythe later pled guilty to "driving while ability impaired" and "leaving the scene of a property accident." Mr. Voelkl alleges that although Mr. Forsythe pled guilty, the Town of Greece shifted the blame of the investigation onto him, and he was forced to do a "perp walk". During this time, Mr Voelkl was

deputy chief in the Greece Police Department.

During the investigation, Mr. Voelkl alleged concerns of "influence of politics on handling of the case" and requested that District Attorney Sandra Doorley conduct an independent investigation. The Deputy supervisor allegedly stated that Mr. Voelkl "should (1) tell Chief Forsythe that he (Deputy Chief Voelkl) requested the investigation; and (2) tell District Attorney Sandra Doorley that her press release should say that the Town of Greece requested the investigation," as well as notifying Mr. Voelkl that "Chief Forsythe would not be suspended during the investigation."

In the aftermath of Mr. Forsythe's guilty plea, Mr. Voelkl alleges that an investigation was conducted that targeted the police involved, claiming it to be a "preordained conclusion that those cooperating Greece officers should be punished, with no mention of Supervisor Reilich's office," and later, "Reilich's office release a false report to media, which they used to threaten Mr. Forsythe. As of the time of writing, the case is still ongoing."

Johnson v. Town of Greece, et al

In Mr. Robert Johnson's (represented by Maureen T. Bass of Abrams Fensterman, LLP) Federal court case against Town of Greece, et al. he asserts claims under "the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), and various provisions of the New York Labor Law (NYLL), as well as other claims. The prior listed claims were all dismissed by District Court Judge Frank P. Garcia Jr. Mr. Johnson Alleges that Mr. Reilich forced him "to inspect, transport,

work on, repair, and refurbish the vehicles" that Mr. Reilich sold on the side.

Rene v. Town of Greece, et al

In Mr. Jared Rene's (Represented by Maureen T. Bass of Abrams Fensterman, LLP) lawsuit against Town of Greece, et al., Mr. Rene issues his lawsuit on three claims: violation of civil service laws, first amendment violation, and violation of the Fair Labor Standard Act. For damages, Mr. Rene is requesting: no less than \$2,090,000 for lost past wages, lost wages as a result of being deprived of promotions, future wages, punitive damages and pain; cost of lawsuit and attorney; interest on judgment; others.

Mr. Rene alleges several incidents. 1) Regarding a June 2020 Black Families Matter rally, Rene was allegedly reprimanded when he criticized the GPC decision to withdraw support for the rally. 2) He was put on administrative leave when he reported Ms. Michelle Marini's role in the coverup of the previously mentioned car crash. 3) He was pressured into surrendering 96 PTO hours. 4) He was pressured by town hall to retire after a report that the "GPD Deputy Chief initiated intimate contact with a female officer in the field," which was reported to Mr. Rene, their supervisor, after which additional information was added to his file in retaliation. Lastly, Mr. Rene alleges that he was not paid overtime for the additional hours worked.

Bass frequently works on civil service cases involving police misconduct and reporting mishandling, leading some members of the Alfred community to wonder if her record might shed light on the charges Chief Griffith is facing.



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Presidential candidates that you've never heard of

Are you giving up this upcoming election? At a loss for who to choose? Well, I can't help with that. Instead, let me introduce you to a handful of the far lesser known candidates still in the race. Even if you don't pick them, as a voter you'll have your eyes opened to more of the possibilities you have to consider.

1. Afroman

If you're a frequent listener of rap music, this candidate is someone you're likely acquainted with. Joseph Edgar Foreman, also known as Afroman, has released several songs and was nominated for a Grammy for his single "Because I Got High". Now, as an unaffiliated political candidate, he has a new goal; running for president. While in office, he has one focus: to federally legalize and normalize the use of cannabis. This includes funding medical use of marijuana, and making access to the substance easier. Along with this, he wants to make it less looked down upon to smoke cannabis, especially in the federal field, and to take people prosecuted for smoking it out of jails. His goals may be centered around marijuana, but maybe someone with a clear vision before him is what we need.



2. Walter Clapp

A man built on following the "American Dream," Walter Clapp is a man not many know of. Though he has lived a relatively quiet life, Clapp was once an attorney in Washington D.C.. He gained an interest in electricity, and now has become focused on fixing both our government and the nation's energy crisis. Running as a member of the Republican party, Clapp wants to increase the size of the House of Representatives, seeing it as a solution to the crisis this nation is facing. Along with that, he plans to rebuild America with a new electric grid, something especially needed as our current one fails. At a time where America is reliant on electricity, and with such social duress, Clapp's proposals are crucial to consider.

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November 5th marks this year's election day, when months of campaigning comes to a close, and the people of this country decide who they want to see in power. The first thing you should do before setting off to your polling place is check your voter registration status. Sadly, by the time of publication, the deadline to register in New York State will have already passed, but if you're from out of state, you should check your state's rules on websites like Vote.gov or Vote411.org. The information in this article will largely be about New York State, but can still serve as a guide on what information you'll need to vote in your state. New York voters can vote early and in person from October 26th to November 3rd. Your early voting location may be different from your normal voting place; to check your early voting

3. Terrisa Bukovinac

A budding social activist, Terrisa Bukovinac is currently fighting for a cause in heavy debate right now: banning abortion. Inspired by her own experience of seeing aborted fetuses in the 1st trimester, she started her campaign as an activist. However, after witnessing the results of five 3rd trimester abortions, Bukovinac was motivated to begin a presidential campaign with the Democratic party. She currently runs with hopes to ban abortion, along with wanting to fight against racism and build support for undocumented immigrants. She, overall, plans to fight for what she believes is right, no matter the case.



4. Lucifer "Justin Case" Everylove

This unaffiliated candidate is one of the most unique people on the presidential ballot. That is because, unlike other candidates, Everylove has no vice president representative, and he only has his name on the ballot in Utah. By collecting signatures across the state of Utah at places such as monster truck rallies and concerts, Everylove has gotten support for his name going up on the presidential ballot. Due to how independent campaigners have had a strong chance in the past in Utah, he is sure that his appearance on the ballot will at least have some influence. Though not much is known about Everylove or his political views, and though you yourself may not be able to vote for him (unless you're from Utah), it's interesting to see how someone can end up on the ballot purely out of a determination to be there.



5. Vermin Supreme

Boot on his head and golden years ahead, he is an American performance artist who has been running for president since 1992. Vermin Love Supreme, a member of the Pirate Party, is a champion of some of the most important issues America has ever faced: the matter of ponies and brushing teeth. In 2020, he promised that, after investing in time travel, he would go back in time and kill baby Covid- or make it illegal. Along with that, Vermin Supreme said that under him, every American would get a free pony. Supreme has even tackled gun issues: he plans to take away your guns, and give you better ones that shoot lethal marshmallows. Amongst his other plans are mandatory toothbrushing and to harness the power of zombies by attaching them to underground turbines. Though Vermin Supreme may be an odd man, he ensures that he is "a tyrant that you should trust", and reminds the public that "a vote for Vermin Supreme is a vote completely thrown away."



Reading that list of real candidates (yes, really), maybe you aren't very moved. But, looking at all of them, it is easy to be inspired by what they hope to achieve. Whether it be social issues, fixing infrastructure or simply going for the ballot because they can, each of these people has a goal. Maybe, one day, they can achieve it.



Get out and vote this November!

location, go to your county board of elections website. For those registered in Alfred, your polling place will be the Village Fire Hall.

If you're planning on voting on election day, New York voting locations will be open from 6am to 9pm. If you're still in line after your polling place closes, you have the right to stay in line and vote. You should bring a form of ID, in case you need to prove your identity at the polling location; if you're registered in Alfred, you should also bring your student ID.

One of the reasons people don't typically vote is because they don't feel knowledgeable about the candidates. The website Vote411 can also help with this, not only showing you who's on the ballot, but also providing a biography and answers to important questions. If a candidate has not responded to Vote411's

questions, you may be interested in checking the candidate's official campaign website for information about their policies. However, keep in mind that these websites may be biased. If you can't decide who to vote for in a certain race, you may leave that part of your ballot blank. If you would like a more comprehensive guide to voting, scan the QR code next to this article, it links to a voter's guide created by librarian Kevin Adams at Herrick library. Remember, get out and vote!



Fall foods to improve your holiday

Wanting to up your game this fall season? Besides decorations and celebrations, one of the easiest ways to do that is to get a taste of some of the most popular fall foods that America has to offer. Whether you've enjoyed these treats all your life, or you're new to the country and enjoying what we have in store, I'm sure there will be something on this list you'll find yourself craving!

One of the greatest fall treats is pie. Though it originated in ancient times, and was heavily popularized in England, pie has since become an American staple dessert, with many iterations of it available across the states. Though there's heavy debate as to which pie is the greatest, arguably some of the most seasonal during the fall months are pumpkin pie and apple pie. Since fall is when pumpkins are often being carved up for jack-o-lanterns, people are left looking for ways to utilize the leftover interior—pumpkin pie is perhaps the best. As for apple pie, fall is the harvest season for apples, and it peaks during September. With activities such as apple picking becoming a staple fall tradition, there will be plenty of apples left over to create this seasonal favorite. Maybe you want the creamy, sweet taste of pumpkin pie as you enjoy it with whipped cream on top. Or the warm, crunchy bliss of an apple pie with a scoop of melting vanilla ice cream. Or maybe neither of these two flavors call out to you. Even so, I'm sure you'll be able to find a place in your heart (and stomach) for pie this season!



Speaking of apples, apples are a source of some of the greatest seasonal treats fall has to offer. One notable favorite—though it counts more as a drink than a food—is apple cider. Cider, in this case, is not alcoholic, as it implies in other countries. Instead, it is more similar to a type of apple juice. However, while apple juice is sweet and smooth to drink, apple cider is a bit more tart, and more often than not has leftover residue from processing at the bottom. The main difference between the two is their processing methods, with apple juice being more heavily processed than apple cider. Despite the similar life cycles between the pair, compared to apple juice, apple cider is more heavily associated with fall, due to how readily available the apples are, and because apple cider tastes better when made fresh. Along with apple cider, another group of apple-related fall treats are candy or caramel apples. Both of these treats are made by taking an apple, adding a stick to it, and then dipping the apple into either a sugar or caramel coating. While letting the coating cool down, toppings such as nuts, chocolate and candy can be added. Afterwards, you're left with a crunchy, sugar-coated apple that is a favorite amongst many. No matter how you look at apples this season, some way or another they'll end up on your list of fall favorites.



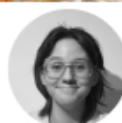
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But, maybe you aren't the type of person to enjoy a sweet treat. That's fine, there's plenty of fall food for that too! Especially since, while enjoying the autumn air and picking apples may be fun, slowly but surely, the season is getting colder. Luckily, fall holds some easy solutions! A classic recipe popular for fall time is chili. Chili itself is a type of hot stew, often made with vegetables, hot peppers, beans and some type of meat. It was first invented in Texas, and a variation of it, chili con carne, has become Texas's state dish. It is a simple dish that can be slow cooked to perfection; perfect for the upcoming cold months, as it warms your body and fills your stomach. In a similar vein, soup in general is a perfect meal as fall hits. Warm, healthy and hearty soups of any kind can keep you ready for whatever life throws at you. If the cold makes you sick, soup is also a great route, especially a cult favorite, chicken noodle—full of healthy vitamins, this soup can boost your health, and tastes great, whether you're sick or not! Both of these dishes are savory, warm, and perfect for the cold fall air. With so many different ways to make them, you'll find yourself in love.

If none of these foods appeal to you, I wouldn't worry. There are plenty of other foods to celebrate this season with. I wouldn't give up on the favorites listed above though, they're favorites for a reason!



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An ode to HEOP students

When I applied to Alfred, my personal essay was about how unlucky I must have been to be forced into a position where I couldn't afford to write about how remarkable I was, but how remarkable my circumstances were. I called it a "why", not a "who". And now that I'm here, I admit, I do still feel the burdens of my life outside of Alfred. But it's different now.

If there's any part of this article that needs to be read, it's the following; you cannot allow anyone to convince you that there's no room left for you in your own life. Your experiences do not define you, neither the good nor the ugly. That is not personhood. The human condition is taking your surroundings and carving out a space for yourself. I would hardly consider anything less to be living.

HEOP gives you the instruments for you to realize the 'who' beyond the 'why'; the person beyond the circumstance. HEOP stands for Higher Education Opportunities Program. But it's not really about 'higher education', and it's more than just a program. The point lies in the word 'opportunity'. Because it's not about

where you're from or what got you here, it's about what you're going to do with what you've been given. It's really, fundamentally, about you.

In graduating high school, I had to claw to the finish line, and I did not feel good about myself when I got there. Being congratulated felt, at best, awkward, and at worst, disingenuous. And now I'm in college, even though nobody in my life seemed like they thought I could ever get there. To the people who struggled to get here, read the following knowing that it's what I think you are owed, like, minimally:

You deserve to be proud of yourself. You took what you were given and, with your own two hands, you achieved something remarkable. You are remarkable. It is truly exhausting work. And even though there's still so much to do, you deserve the rest that comes your way. You're on the precipice of the rest of your life – it's time for you to define your experiences. Carve out a space for yourself and maybe take a nap there, I don't know. But you're owed a "congratulations".



The legendary comeback: the return of the Victoria's Secret Show

On October 15, the Victoria's Secret show, which last took place in 2018, made a triumphant return to New York. During these six years of absence, the world has changed dramatically - it has become more unstable, anxious, and even more sensitive to issues of equality, justice, and diversity. The American lingerie giant once received a lot of criticism for the lack of diversity on the runway, and began a gradual transformation. The brand invited new ambassadors, expanded its size range, supported various charitable initiatives, and filmed special projects by women and about women, putting them in the spotlight.

Victoria's Secret also explained the return of the legendary show due to fan demand: "Part of our transformation is putting our customer at the center of everything we do, and our customers told us loud and clear that they missed the fashion show. That was the jumping off point," said Sarah Sylvester, the brand's executive vice president of marketing.

Nostalgia is one of the strongest trends of recent years that affects consumers today. We all used to be happier, younger, and more carefree, so seeing the "angels" on the runway who took part in the show back in the noughties was especially gratifying for many viewers. Candice Swanepoel, Josephine Skriver, Alessandra Ambrosio, Doutzen Kroes, and Adriana Lima - all these models put on their wings again that evening.

Many fans were also eagerly awaiting supermodel Tyra Banks' return to the runway, but some enjoyed seeing her for another, more questionable reason. Viewers on social media noticed and began actively discussing that she had put on more weight than when she stepped on the VS stage years ago. Realizing that she now fits into the plus-size model

category, people online noted the irony in this fact, calling it "karma" for her work as a judge on the popular 2000s reality show "America's Next Top Model" and how she mistreated models over the years, criticizing and humiliating them for their weight.

The appearance of 42-year-old Adriana Lima also caused a special reaction. Last year, the top model was subjected to a wave of hate on social media due to the excessive use of fillers and excess weight, which forced her to give a public response about her appearance. On the eve of the show, VS published a commercial in which the Brazilian woman gets into a taxi and answers the driver's question, "where to go?": "home." She looked so gorgeous at the show!

It's hard to believe, but for Kate Moss, a supermodel of the 1990s, the Victoria's Secret 2024 show was her debut. The 50-year-old Briton's portfolio includes collaborations with almost everyone in the fashion industry, but this was her first time working with Victoria's Secret.

This year's headliner was American singer and actress Cher, and for the first time in the brand's history, the music lineup consisted exclusively of women. The stage legend was joined by young stars such as LISA and Tyla.

Of course, the show could not do without the main stars of today's modeling business. Gigi Hadid opened the Victoria's Secret show in a pale pink silk linen set that resembled an ancient goddess, while her younger sister Bella tried on a more sensual look in deep red.

One of the main complaints about the Victoria's Secret show at the time was the objectification, excessive sexualization of women, and lack of diversity on the runway. Having learned from past mistakes, this time

the brand tried to ensure a wider casting of models. Kate Moss herself noted that she was pleased to be on the catwalk with her daughter and show that such lingerie is not only for 22-year-old girls. We also saw 56-year-old Carla Bruni at the show, for whom this experience was also her debut on the Victoria's Secret runway. Model Ashley Graham, in turn, said that at 36, after having three children, she was happy to try on those same wings again and show other women that no one has the right to cut off their wings.



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Registering for classes doesn't have to be spooky!

Advising week for the spring semester began Monday, October 28th, and class registration opens for grad students and seniors on Monday, November 4th. Depending on your class standing, you might be eligible starting the 6th (juniors), the 8th (sophomores), or the 12th (freshmen). Registration opens at 8am on each date, and it can be a cutthroat process, with students anxious to fulfill their requirements and avoid 8 am classes.

With those deadlines coming up, it's important to be aware of how to register online. Firstly, students can find their class standing for registration purposes on BannerWeb, the same site where they'll register for fall classes. Go to Student Services, Student Records, and then "View Student Information" for that information, along with the name of your academic advisor (who you are required to meet with during advising week) and other information.

When it's time for you to register, you'll go to the Registration section of Student Services, and select "Add or Drop Classes." However, you'll want to plan what classes you'll be taking beforehand. To do this, go to "Look Up Classes" (also in the Registration section), where you can sort by subject, or do an advanced search by instructor, meeting time, general education requirements, number of credits, and more. Write down the CRNs, or Course Registration Numbers, for the courses you intend to register for. This way, you can

enter the CRNs immediately when your registration period opens, and you'll be more likely to get into every class you want.

For a more detailed tutorial, ask your advisor, an upperclassman, or someone who seems like they have their life together. Right now, we'll move on from the boring stuff and spotlight some super interesting classes that are running in the spring!

ENGL 217: Blood, Guts, and Alphabets: The Gory Truth about Children's Literature

Perfect for those interested in education, or those who used to be children, this course meets from 11:20 am to 12:10 pm every day except Wednesday. Students will examine "what children's literature is for, and how it reflects many of the difficult truths and injustices of the actual world we live in." This course also satisfies literature and humanities general education requirements for CLAS, COB, and SOAD.

PDAT 200: Introduction to Period Costume

In the performing arts division and taught by new faculty member Chantal Filson, this course offers the study of "a variety of cultures, socioeconomic classes, design choices and original sources to study both fashion and performance history for period costume." Taught from 11:20 to 12:35 on Mondays and Wednesdays, this course promises to be fascinating and educational for anyone interested in clothing, historical media, or anything in between.

DANC 120: Fundamentals of Dance

This is a rare course that satisfies two university-wide degree requirements: physical fitness and wellness, in addition to CLAS's art requirement. Students get to experience an introduction to many types of dance, "with an emphasis on alignment, strength, and flexibility of the whole body." You can choose between two sections next semester: either 11:20 am to 12:35 pm on Monday and Wednesday, or the same time on Tuesday and Thursday.

ASTR 106: Stars, Galaxies, and Cosmologies

Do you love to look up at the night sky? Do you ever wonder how our Sun and our galaxy came to be? Do you want to learn about the search for life on planets in other solar systems? This course is "an introductory survey of the science of astronomical objects outside of our solar system." Not only is this course fascinating, it fulfills the CLAS scientific knowledge requirement. Meeting from 2:20 to 3:10 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays, it's bound to broaden your horizons!



Three movies you could watch this Halloween

It's that time of year! Grab a blanket, some popcorn, and a friend to hold onto when you get scared.

Scary movies are a major part of Halloween. The entire month of October can be spent preparing for the big day by making sure you'll have to sleep with the lights on and pulling the covers just a little bit closer to your eyes, covering whatever may or may not be crawling out of your closet.

But alas! Perhaps you've run out of movies to watch, or you're just curious what I think of these ones. Fear not! I have watched and placed my (unnecessary) opinion on three scary movies, fit for your viewing pleasure.

The Black Phone (2021)

The Black Phone is a movie that you should really only watch if you're okay with extremely disturbing subjects. The main antagonist of the movie, played by Ethan Hawke, is genuinely unsettling to watch.

The movie follows 13 year old Finney Blake, a boy who falls into the grasp of a notorious kidnapper "The Grabber" and goes through his journey to escape while being guided by The Grabber's previous victims.

Personally, I thought it was a great movie. There's a really great part around halfway through the movie where you learn a big secret about the Grabber, and a nail-biting scene towards the end— but no spoilers. That ruins the fun.

The Blair Witch Project (1999)

This movie had SO much potential. It's the kind of movie that will make the viewer paranoid about what's going to happen. The tension-building is so good, I was waiting with bated breath for the epic conclusion to this movie, but I was disappointed.

The ending to this movie is extremely lackluster in my personal opinion— some of my friends said that it was the perfect ending but I disagree— I feel that at least a different visual, not even of the thing we're scared of, could have made this movie *that* much better.

Other than that, it's a perfect movie if you want your anxiety to spike so hard your chest hurts. If only the ending really sold that fear.



Scream (1996)

Another one of my questionable cinematic opinions. Personally, this is one of my favorite movies EVER. And I don't mean that lightly. I am a die-hard Scream fan and I mean it wholly when I say that I believe this is the perfect movie for Halloween.

It has its shortcomings; it's cliché in the contemporary horror world, and it's become so popular that the twist can be seen from the very beginning. The false sense of hope it tries to give has been ruined by its own success unfortunately.

That being said, it's still a really good slasher if that's what you're into. I definitely feel like they could've stopped after the first one but, hey, I won't lie and say I didn't go see Scream VI when it came out.



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The Tagsylvania experience



Over the break, I went to Tagsylvania in Big Flats, NY with my best friend.

My friend, Brianna, and I decided to do the financially irresponsible thing and go into every single haunted house—including Orphan House, Motel 666, Jerkus Circus, and Psycho Swamp. I also noticed a Wink 106 van outside the venue— Wink 106 is a local radio station— but I didn't see Scott or Ally. I hope they survived.

I don't scare easy, but I do startle easy, something the houses took a fantastic advantage of. Definitely was not expecting the guy with the chainsaw. Brianna and I tried to get our money's worth by taking brisk strolls through the entire attraction, something my heart did not appreciate, given that there were multiple points I would've much rather run. There was also no running allowed, so maybe speed walking would've been better.

The first house we went to was Orphan House, which we later learned was considered the scariest one. We met an unfortunate group of orphans, all with varying flesh wounds on their faces. When I asked one of the orphans her opinion on the house, she replied simply, "Your mom." I wonder if she was jealous that I had one.

After we survived Orphan House, it was off to Psycho Swamp. This one had the longest wait line, but was my favorite— there was a lot of crowd engagement from the actors, and the entire attraction was fairly long, which definitely felt like it was worth the price. The set build is so good too! The amount of work that goes into the general aesthetic is very impressive.

Upon asking for a statement from a scarecrow, he garbled English at me before saying "It's actually quite a long story—" before trailing off once again. I couldn't really hear him over a guy playing guitar. I'm sure it was a great story.

One of the scare actors recognized I was writing a story about Tags, and later, during one of the haunted houses, actually remembered that I was a journalist. Although he followed it up by mocking me for my career decisions, I'm a strong believer in "it's the thought that counts."

We ventured off to Motel 666, met by a girl covered in fake blood who took one look at us and began screaming. Completely understandable reaction, in my opinion.

Upon getting to the door, we got the rules repeated to us for about the fourth time. I thanked the actor at the door for opening it for us, to which she said that she was surprised because very few people had thanked her. The moral of the story? Be nice to the scare actors. There are still people under all the gore.

Inside the house, we got screamed at by a zombie bride, chased for being vegetarians (neither of us are vegetarians), almost joined a cult, and got our ears blown out by a foghorn. I have no idea where it came from, but I was hearing ringing for the rest of the night.

After that, Brianna and I went to Jerkus Circus. This was the shortest house, only taking us about 3 minutes to walk through entirely. There were a lot of bright colors and strobe lights that made it hard for me, and a scare actor eventually ended up showing us the way out of the maze because neither of us could see.

Upon escaping, we had finished our adventure at Tagsylvania. We bid farewell to the Fear of the Southern Tier, and made our way home. I would definitely recommend Tagsylvania to those looking for something to do in Elmira, but be warned: you might not make it out alive.

A trip to Niagara Falls



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As an international student who's traveled extensively across the U.S.—from the rugged landscapes of Montana and Nevada to national treasures like Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon—I've witnessed some of the most magnificent natural wonders. Despite my many travels, Niagara Falls left a unique and lasting impression on me that I didn't expect.

A Stop in Buffalo: Wings and History
Before making my way to the Falls, I spent some time in Buffalo, where I had the chance to try buffalo wings at Teressa Bellissimo's, the birthplace of this American classic. While I found the wings underwhelming even compared to Domino's, the historical significance of the place was undeniable, making the stop more meaningful. Sometimes, history holds more weight than taste.

A Close Call with Canada: Beware the Border
Driving down Main Street toward the Falls, I had an unexpected detour—almost driving right into the Canadian border check! The signage was unclear, and I wasn't the only one who got confused; I actually met another group of people there who had made the same mistake. Apparently, this is a common issue. For anyone not planning a spontaneous trip to Canada, I'd remind you to be extra careful with directions in that area!

The Journey to Niagara Falls

I arrived at Niagara Falls around sunset, greeted by cloudy skies. At first, I was worried that the clouds would obscure the view. However, the sunlight occasionally broke through, creating a unique lighting effect on the waterfall that you wouldn't get on a completely clear day. It felt like a rare moment, and the shifting clouds made the scene more dynamic, adding to the magic.

The Sunset and Skyscraper Disappointment

As the sun set, I was disappointed to find that the skyscrapers on the Canadian side blocked what should have been the best angle for the sun to illuminate the falls. While it was a little frustrating to have human development interfere with such natural beauty, it was a reminder that the relationship between nature and man-made structures is often complex.

Despite having seen some of the most famous natural landmarks in the U.S., Niagara Falls still left a deep impression on me. The combination of human influence, unexpected beauty, and the sheer power of the falls makes it a place that continues to surprise. Whether you're visiting for the first time or the fiftieth, there's always something new to appreciate—even if it's just a reminder to keep an eye on the road!

INTERVIEW

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This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Nicole Foster owns the local bakery just off Main Street. She is originally from South Dakota, and came to Alfred because of a friend's suggestion. Nicole has worked hard to make her dream of opening her own bakery come true. After finishing French culinary school in Houston, she got an opportunity to work in France for a few months. This allowed her to gain a lot of valuable experience and knowledge for opening her spot in Alfred. She opened the N'Dulge bakery on November 23rd, 2023.

Q: Can you give us a brief overview of your bakery and what makes it unique?

A: This is not just a sweets bakery; we have all the savory stuff, like breakfast pizzas and lunches. Also, I can do any custom cakes, wedding cakes, or celebration cakes. We have a unique variety of things, which changes every day.

Q: How is it going with the bakery, and do you have any big achievements so far?

A: Everything is going well; we edited all the coffee drinks and smoothies, which helped a lot. Just last week, we started doing bagels and croissants, so we are going to have breakfast sandwiches, and I think doing lunch also helps us to maintain our variety. Last year, we only had drip coffee, and I was not sure if it was going to work out. I just keep adding more to whatever I am doing.

Q: What role does the local community play in your bakery, and how have you connected with your customers?

A: Last year, everybody was just coming to my bakery to meet with someone, and that's how I started building relations with others. Now, I do a lot of donations for different things in Alfred. Also, everyone was very grateful that I stayed open during the summer, and I think that helped a lot.

N'Dulge by Nicole: how it feels to be a local small business owner in Alfred

Q: Can you tell us about your journey and what inspired you to open this bakery?

A: Well, I've been baking since I was little. Opening my own place has always been a dream my whole life, so I went to culinary school. I really wanted to experiment, and do a lot of different things with different flavors, not just what other bakeries do. Over the years, I have had plenty of ideas, but I felt like I was staying in the box. I just kept going, and waited for the right time and right place for those things.

Q: In what ways has Alfred University supported your business since you opened?

A: Most of my customers are faculty and students, and that is what kept us going over the summer too. In addition, there are the marketing classes that are doing their projects with me. They helped me a lot with ideas for marketing, and especially social media, because I can do a lot of different celebration cakes, and I feel like most people do not know that.

Q: What challenges have you faced as a local business owner, and how has the university helped you address them?

A: It was really hard during the summer, when most of the college kids left. I had to figure out my new working schedule. Even though I changed my schedule, I was still pretty busy during the summer. I also need to get better at Instagram, since everyone keeps telling me that I need to post more.

Q: What are your future plans for the bakery?

A: I really like the spot I have, and I only wish it was a little bit bigger. We will definitely do more catering and more events, including some of the college events. I have already participated in some of the school events, but I also wish we could work a little bit more closely. Next, I plan to do more different types of celebration cakes and events. I really want to keep these

breakfast and lunch options going. I will keep trying new products and see if people like them, so hopefully I'll be here for a long time. I would not be opposed to opening a second spot and doing something else, like cuisine items.



Police chief controversy continues: an interview with attorney Maureen Bass

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Before the academic year began at Alfred, Alfred Police Chief Paul Griffith was put on paid administrative leave, for reasons that have not yet been disclosed by the village board. The Fiat Lux contacted Griffith, as well as his lawyer, Maureen Bass, a partner at Abrams Fensterman, LLP in Rochester, NY. Reporters Abby Sexsmith and Reagan Rought sat down with Bass to ask her about the situation.

What should we know about Chief Griffith?

When you meet somebody like Paul who's been around for 27 years in law enforcement, you know that those common [employment] problems are not there, because if they were, they wouldn't be in a position of a Command Staff. He automatically has a level of credibility. He's had a stellar career, in addition to the certifications in New York state that allow him to be a chief.

There's a saying we use, that somebody goes from hero to zero, and that's when somebody is a perfect employee, and then all of a sudden, every single thing they do is wrong. One of the first things Paul said to me was, he was being told for the first time that the community doesn't trust him.

Why do you believe he was placed on administrative leave?

So this is my personal opinion: all roads lead back to the hiring of a part-time law enforcement officer, who was going to be the first African-American part-time officer in the village. To this school, and the school across the street, diversity is very important, and it's very important in law enforcement. When I talk to Paul, everything leads back to this hiring.

But you don't burn a police chief down for a bad hire. Police chiefs make bad hires all the time, and you typically don't blame the chief. One of the reasons for that is because there's a really rigid process to become an officer in the state of New York in particular, with a two-phase police academy.

What was the timeline of him trying to hire the part-time officer and getting put on administrative leave?

The part time officer hire came up on August 14th. The day that Chief Griffith was suspended was the 23rd. So that gives you the idea, how quickly he went from hero to zero.

In an article of the evening tribune, you mentioned concern over community involvement. Would that include more things than just the part-time hire?

There's a concept called pretense, when you do something as a cover up, when you do something that you shouldn't do, and then you say, no, we did it for this other reason. When the decision was made to not hire this candidate, within a few days Paul received feedback, he received a document that said that the community was not happy with his involvement. I don't want to say what's in anybody's heart, but that's basically a classic example of a pretense.

Do you feel there's been an attempt within the community to taint his image since the attempted hire?

Absolutely. I refer you guys to the Alfred page and there's a statement... and it's a platform with credibility, right? There's a reference to a 27-year police officer who is under investigation, and that's troublesome.

I thought that you could infer from the

responses [by the board at a meeting last month] that he had done something really wrong. When something like this happens to a chief of police, everybody assumes the worst, because you don't burn down a police chief unless it's something very serious.

So do you have any other assumptions? Do you have any other second possibility?

No, I don't. Paul's like, "I don't know, maybe it's the party that I'm registered with?" But, again, when a police chief gets in trouble, it's got to be something serious. Another problem police chiefs have is they become more popular than the politicians, so sometimes you can have that kind of friction, where it's more like a jealousy thing, but in this particular case he's not a vocal guy.

If the Village of Alfred hired a black person tomorrow, would you assume your assumption was wrong?

No, because a cover up stops when they decide it stops. I also think that there needs to be a serious conversation about implicit bias. I've spoken to the candidate; the candidate has been in the military for like nine years as a military police officer. Sure, when he was younger he had some young kid stuff, not crimes.

How is it, with Alfred being as diverse as it is, with both colleges, that there has never been a person of color hired in the police department?

I can offer you my personal opinion. I think some people are still afraid. Let me say, I know the candidate, he's very dark and I think some people are still afraid of black men. I think some people are afraid of black men around young white college students.

There's a lot of talk about the candidate, I look at him and I say to myself here's a guy who's been in the military for nine years. He has a clearance level I've never even heard of; he's a ranking officer. If you have somebody who has not only survived but thrived in the United States military, how bad could this guy be?

Is it rare to get applicants from the military?
No, it's not rare, but you don't see it all the time.

If Griffith was to be taken off this leave, how would that work? What actions would have to happen before that?

Technically, Chief Griffith is out on administrative leave, so he could be brought back in at any time, by just a phone call. In fact, he's still required to respond to anything that the village tells him to do, so administrative leave is just a village saying, don't come to the office.

If they make decisions about a permanent leave, how will you react?

He's a civil service employee, so there would have to be grounds to terminate his employment. If an employee believes that those grounds are unfair, there's a lawsuit, if not an investigation.

What's your current plan in regards to this administrative leave?

Our directions to Chief Griffith are to continue to cooperate and continue to do anything that he's asked to do. With respect to Chief Griffith and I, he's got nothing to hide.

How far into the application process was the part-time officer?

The applicant had only been through phase one; they hadn't had the graduation yet.



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The concern now is, this has gotten some publicity, so is it going to impact his ability to get a job elsewhere? A member of the board told him "I really like you, tell me where else you're applying; I'll help you get the job." That, to me, says you're good enough to be a police officer, just not in the village of Alfred. They sat there and said to him, I really like you, let me help you get a job and then said in another breath, he wasn't qualified to be a cop here.

Any last comments?

Paul heard so many students came to that board meeting and said things. It was very moving to him that people walked over there, and said, hey, what's going on? That was very moving to Paul, and I hope the students stay involved.

There's this great article, it's a letter to the editor in the Wellsville Sun. The letter said, if he did do something wrong, would they have been able to solve that legally by now? It does seem to be a fairly long investigation. Everybody's entitled to a prompt resolution, and in this particular case, your police chief is being paid to not do anything for the public safety of this community.



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“The division breaks my heart:” Members of the Alfred Village Board discuss police chief controversy



Lately, the Alfred community has been divided and confused by police chief Paul Griffith's administrative leave. We spoke to Dr. Tim Nichols and Dr. Meredith Field, who are both village board members and AU faculty, about the situation. Dr. Nichols is the chair of AU's education department, and Dr. Field is an assistant professor of sociology, as well as the deputy mayor of the village of Alfred.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Is there anything you want to say before we start?

Field: Having multiple roles, especially in a small community, is tricky. We're on the village board, this has nothing to do with the university, but we're still faculty. This is my take as a board member, and as a sociologist, but not as AU faculty.

Q: What do you think about the other media coverage on this issue, like by the *Wellsville Sun*, which published controversial accusations?

F: The mayor has already said that we do not make any hiring decisions based on gender, race, or identity, and I would reiterate that. Any implications that the board is racist, or making decisions based on race, are completely inappropriate. They distract from the primary issue, and they've thrown an innocent person into the mix. The candidate that we did not hire probably wants privacy, and it was inappropriate for the chief to imply that this was related to him. He's a casualty of the whole process, and I'm sorry for that.

Nichols: This whole issue has put the board in a tough position, because the chief and his attorney seem to feel free to say anything they want, but we are bound not to say very much. I want to disavow that this whole process has anything to do with race. It was really inappropriate to suggest that, and that whole narrative has absolutely nothing to do with this issue.

F: It has also created more tension and division in our community, which breaks my heart. We ran for the board because we care, and we take our roles very seriously. Creating this turmoil isn't fair to the community, and it's irresponsible.

N: I love living in Alfred, and I love AU's history of inclusivity, back to 1836. Students of color still struggle, and there is ongoing racism to discuss here, but this is not that. I don't want these irresponsible accusations to fuel that feeling of exclusion.

Q: Is there anything you can say about the factors that went into that hiring decision?

F: In any hiring decision, it's not just about the person, it's about the community. We decided that based on his background, it wasn't the right fit.

N: We have about 7,000 college students that we're ever-mindful of, so that affects our hires, and what the right fit is. We look for candidates that are particularly well-suited to serve our population.

F: I've spent time with the police department, and it's impressive. They're conscientious, especially with students, to keep people safe and avoid escalations. I'm proud of our police department, and I want it to stay that way.

Q: Can you say anything about why the chief is on leave?

F: I don't think we can— that's honestly the

hardest part. With personnel things, it's so tricky, and we don't want to compromise the investigation process or anybody who's involved.

N: Once the investigation is complete, I think the public will learn more about the situation, but that won't come from us.

F: This process is part of civil service law, which has its own rules. The municipality conducts an investigation, and depending on the outcome, they might serve charges to an employee. I have a lot of confidence in our legal counsel; it was a thorough investigation. He should be sharing his findings with us soon, and I am on the edge of my seat, because I really want this to be over!

N: Obviously, our lives would have been easier if we didn't do anything, but sometimes you have to do the tough thing. Usually, the board is discussing what trees are being cut down—

F: Or having a video camera go through the sewer—

N: Not this kind of thing.

F: It's not easy to get people to run for these jobs. It's a thankless job, you get a tiny paycheck, and it requires a lot.

Q: Can you elaborate on the negative impacts this has had on you?

F: In small communities, people talk. If they don't know what's going on, they theorize about it. It's hard to hear rumors about myself; having regional media implying the board has done something malicious makes it harder—we've gotten calls from people in Buffalo who don't know anything about our community. It also makes you question your safety. I teach about conspiracy theories, and how they can spin out of control and lead to violence, and that's scary. However, I've also had people reach out quietly to offer their support, which was lovely.

N: I've noticed that the controversy has originated outside of the village. The protesters at the public meeting weren't villagers. I haven't run into much anger from people in the village, who understand the nuances of this kind of work.

Q: You've said it wasn't appropriate for the chief to speak out. Can you elaborate on that?

N: If I were involved in some kind of dispute with my employer, I would try to preserve the relationship in hopes of moving forward, although I can't speak to his motivations.

F: I agree, I don't know that going to the media helps the situation. I also was not implying that him speaking out was a problem, but the narrative that he put out there was irresponsible, because that's not what has actually gone on at all.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to share about this process?

F: Thank you for talking with us, because sharing this is important to our relationships with the community.

N: I also think it's wonderful for students to be interested in the village, instead of living in a bubble within campus.

F: I hope that students who are paying attention to this are thinking critically, and asking questions that the regional media isn't.

Campus safety preparedness: Inside Alfred University's protocols for active shooter and emergency situations



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On October 7, we interviewed Amy DeKay, the Vice President for Student Experience, and Scott Richardson, the Director of Public Safety, to inform students about Alfred University's preparedness for an active shooter event.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What specific security protocols does the university have in place to handle an active shooter situation?

Amy DeKay: Similar to other colleges and universities, Alfred University has an emergency management plan called an ICP (Integrated Contingency Plan). If an emergency, such as a shooting or hazmat incident occurs, the plan is invoked and outlines step by step what happens and who is contacted. It contains personal contact information and confidential maps that would be provided to the police to respond to different areas on campus.

Q: What does the plan consist of?

Scott Richardson: We follow the NIMS (National Incident Management System), which is nationwide and used by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). We have a command center and posts where personnel are deployed. Every situation is different, so there's no such thing as a cookie cutter that's going to apply, but the NIMS system ensures that everyone is trained and knows their role when responding. Public Safety is unarmed, so in the event of an active shooter, our role would be to go into lockdown and rely on state police, village police, and sheriff departments to handle the situation. We all train with the same procedures to locate, isolate, and eliminate the threat.

Amy DeKay: The Marketing and Communication Department oversees our Rave Alert System. We work closely together to put out campus alerts to the entire campus, along with our partners at Alfred State, as we're signed up for each other's alerts.

Q: How do you inform students and staff during emergencies?

Amy DeKay: We have pre-prepared alerts for various scenarios like shootings, floods, or tornadoes that can be quickly edited and sent out. Notifications are sent via an app, campus-wide email, and alerts to ensure coverage. This year, we pushed a form to all undergraduates requiring them to update personal contact information, and we made the alert system opt-out instead of opt-in, so students are automatically signed up unless they opt-out.

Q: Are there surveillance cameras or restricted access points to prevent such incidents?

Amy DeKay: Cameras don't prevent shootings but can help locate a shooter. We've made a pretty significant investment in security since I started here. We've invested over \$100,000 in security cameras on the campus, and we're committed to increasing the number of cameras. There's now cameras in all the first year residence halls, in Harder Hall, and we're going to continue to upgrade the camera system throughout campus.

Scott Richardson: We don't monitor the cameras 24/7. They wouldn't predict or necessarily stop an incident but they're useful for post-incident investigation.

Amy DeKay: In my former university, there was a person who made a threat on campus. We did find him on the cameras in our campus center and we were able to pinpoint him and tell the police where to respond from the cameras.

Q: Has the university ever faced an active shooter situation or similar emergency? How did you respond?

Amy DeKay: Not since we've been in our positions, but there was an incident involving a Nerf gun that led to a police response. The situation was quickly resolved without activating the full command post.

Scott Richardson: The Nerf gun incident was reported as a student with a gun, but it didn't escalate to the point of setting up a command post. Many incidents get resolved before reaching the level of an active shooter.

Q: What is the school's policy on firearms?

Scott Richardson: Weapons, including guns, are prohibited on campus.

Q: How has the university's approach to security evolved in response to shootings at other institutions?

Scott Richardson: We conduct tabletop drills and live training sessions with local agencies. These drills help us stay prepared. While our drills are typically done when school is not in session, we may involve staff and students if they are on campus at the time.

Amy DeKay: We work closely with Alfred State College, and we're fortunate to participate in their drills, just as they participate in ours.

Q: If there were an active shooter at Alfred State College, would Alfred University Public Safety be involved?

Scott Richardson: Since we're unarmed, our involvement would be peripheral. We would go into lockdown and assist with gathering information, but we wouldn't directly respond to the scene.

Q: Given that Public Safety is unarmed, do you think this puts the university at a disadvantage?

Scott Richardson: We might be at a disadvantage, but arming Public Safety requires state certification and legislative approval, which is a lengthy process. We've had discussions, but given the size of our campus and proximity to local law enforcement, I'm comfortable with the current arrangement.

Q: How many people are in Public Safety?

Scott Richardson: We have 10 full and part-time personnel, including myself.

Q: What steps is the university taking to assess and improve security measures?

Scott Richardson: We emphasize "run, hide, fight" for civilians and encourage the campus community to be alert. We also work with local agencies to train staff on recognizing threatening behaviors to prevent incidents before they escalate.

Amy DeKay: We also have policies that allow us to place students on involuntary leave if they pose a threat to themselves or the university. Additionally, we test our alert system once a year, ensuring that everyone is aware of its functionality.

Q: Will there be active shooter drills for students?

Amy DeKay: Our hope is that students follow the instructions given during an alert, such as lockdown procedures. We're looking into offering more educational resources like videos on "run, hide, fight."

Q: Are there any final thoughts or additions you'd like to make before we wrap up the interview?

Amy DeKay: I just want to emphasize that our emergency plan covers a range of potential incidents, not just mass shootings. We've dealt with various emergencies, such as student deaths, fires, and floods, and this plan helps us respond to any crisis.

For more information, Scott Richardson can be reached at richardsons@alfred.edu, and Amy DeKay can be reached at deKay@alfred.edu.



A roaring good time: an interview with the director of *Don't Dress for Dinner*

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What initially attracted you to this project?

Kevin Bradley: Well, back in theater school, we did this play. They held auditions, and all the acting majors went. Ultimately, I didn't get a part but I went to support my friends, and I remember being in the audience, just laughing the whole time. It's stuck with me all these years, and now I'm excited to bring my own vision to it.

Q: What themes do you think are the most important in this play, and how do you plan to highlight them in your production?

Kevin Bradley: The play makes fun of the complexities of life, particularly around relationships. It's about how we juggle lies and deception, and that feels really relevant today. The chaos and confusion of keeping track of lies, think of politics. How do we keep track of all these lies? It resonates now just as much as it did when the play was first written. The focus is on those chaotic moments, drawing out the humor in the characters' situations.

Q: How do you incorporate the input from your actors and designers during the production process?

Kevin Bradley: As a director, when you first read the play, you might have a strong vision, but you have to leave room for collaboration. Over the years, I've learned to be open to new ideas, even if I have a clear direction in mind. You never know how someone else's perspective might enhance the story.

Q: How do you help the actors connect with their characters?

Kevin Bradley: For the first two weeks, we don't

even move around on stage—we stay seated and do what we call "table work." I focus on the details, like asking the actors where they imagine the play takes place, if it's not specified. I want them to develop their own backstories and motivations. This helps the actors create characters that are unique to them. As a director, I can guide them, but ultimately, it's up to them to breathe life into their roles.

Q: How do you envision the audience responding to the play?

Kevin Bradley: I think the audience is going to have a blast. This play is funny from start to finish. You'll be laughing at the characters' stupidity—at how ridiculous their lies and schemes become. My goal is for everyone to leave the theater in a good mood, having had a great time.

Q: Is there a deeper message, or is it purely for laughs?

Kevin Bradley: On the surface, it's definitely a comedy meant to make people laugh. But what resonated with me, especially when I first saw it in college, was how the play deals with the consequences of lying. It really stuck with me—how you tell one lie, and then it all starts to fall apart. It's something everyone can relate to, especially in relationships. It's a universal theme that still holds up today.

Q: What do you believe is the most compelling aspect of this play for contemporary audiences?

Kevin Bradley: The play deals with relationships, especially the downfall that happens when there's deceit. People are always searching for that perfect connection, and this play explores what happens when you



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think you've found it—but with more than one person. It's funny, but it also reflects something real about human nature, which is why it's still relevant.

Q: How do you plan to create a connection between the play and its audience?

Kevin Bradley: I think the connection will happen naturally. Even though the setting is in a grand house with wealthy characters, you could imagine this happening anywhere. The humor and the situations are universal. It could just as easily take place in a small town as in a big city. The boredom and the intrigue that lead these characters to cheat—it's relatable in a lot of ways.

"Don't Dress for Dinner is a roaring good time, so, if you want fun in the theatre, this is the show to see!" —Kevin Kolton Bradley



SPORT

Saxons host youth football players and teddy bear charity drive



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On Saturday, Oct. 2, at 1:00 p.m. Alfred University's football team, the Saxons, will play against St. John Fisher University. With the support of the football program, the University will host a Youth Football Day during this game. Youth football players from around the southern tier are invited to attend and can get free admission by wearing their youth team jersey. Youth football players can receive signed autographs from university football players and take pictures with them on the field after the game.

Additionally, The men's lacrosse and softball teams have also organized a joint charity drive to collect stuffed animal donations to the Wellsville Salvation Army Angel Tree Program. Fans are asked to bring a stuffed animal if they are able to, and during halftime, the public announcer will invite everyone to toss their stuffed animals into the Pit to be collected and handed off to the Salvation Army.

This Saturday's game is more than just a matchup between Alfred University and St. John Fisher University—it's a celebration of community, teamwork, and giving back. Youth players, families, and fans alike are invited to join in the excitement, connect with Saxon athletes, and support a meaningful cause. So, wear your Saxon pride, bring a stuffed animal, and get ready for a day of football, fun, and generosity that truly reflects Alfred University's spirit!

Inside the huddle: Alfred men's basketball coach on the road ahead in the Empire 8



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Erich Kaempfe is in his 4th year leading the Alfred men's basketball program. Coach Kaempfe has a career record of 51-32 coaching the Saxons. Under Kaempfe, the Saxons have finished each year as Empire 8 Championship Semifinalists.

Coach Kaempfe talks about his journey coming to Alfred, how the Empire 8 expansion changes his program, and his expectations for the 2024-25 season.

This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: You coached at 3 different D3 schools in the NE region. What brought you to Alfred University?

A: The first reason is a chance to move over a chair, right? That's one of the end goals in the coaching field. Another big thing for me was family proximity: my brother lives in Buffalo, my parents are in the Rochester area, and my wife's family is in the Syracuse area. Sharing this whole experience with them is the coolest part. When I was coaching in the capital region, I loved it, but I got to see my brother maybe twice a year; now he comes to over half of our games. I also think there's some really cool things going on at AU right now. I felt that during the interview process; it felt right. I'm very fortunate that someone believed enough in what I was talking about to hire me. I'm very happy here.

Q: Every year, the team opens the season with a game against a Division 1 school, St. Bonaventure. Why play them every year, and what are you looking to get out of that game?

A: That tradition was inherited when I got here. If you're familiar with the Schmidt family, you know all of coach Mark Schmidt's kids played here at Alfred, and I think it was a way for him to be a part of his kids' careers. I feel very fortunate that he and their athletic department continue to do it. I know that it's a nice dry run for them in terms of game day operations, from ticketing, to concessions, to parking, to officials.

Most importantly, it's a really cool experience for our players. I look forward to that game every year; I love walking back into the gym after the game and seeing our guys taking pictures with their families. It's also a good recruiting tool. I don't think it hurts us in the recruiting process when I tell somebody, "yeah, we have a long standing contract with an Atlantic-10 school, and you're going to be on ESPN+." I'm not sure there's any negatives.

Q: SUNY Brockport, Geneseo, and Polytechnic are newly added teams to the Empire 8. How do you think this changes Alfred basketball and the Empire 8 as a whole?

A: It's a huge boost for the league. The Empire 8 had a good reputation, but by adding those teams, we've gone from good, to the best conference in our region. We've taken two playoff teams from the SUNYAC and added them, and we've taken a team that has been to back-to-back finals in the NAC, and added them. Objectively, we're adding three playoff teams to a league that already had depth. It makes a very deep, talented conference where there are no nights off.

We've created a scheduling model that will allow us to get multiple bids in the NCAA tournament, if we're all doing our jobs. If you're competitive, that's exciting. You want to see how you stack. Thankfully, the conference expanded the playoffs, which was critical. All of the coaches were huge components of that, and I'm glad we got that done, because there's going to be some fun stuff come February.

Q: Last year, your team finished 12-15. What did you, as a coach, take away from a year with so much adversity?

A: I think it was good for all of us, myself included. It's more important how you handle adversity than whether adversity comes your way. Last year, we dealt with a lot of challenges, but I was really happy with the last 3-4 weeks of the season. It was a difficult year—we didn't achieve what we wanted. However, we played our best; I would argue we played our best game in the first playoff game, and then we gave ourselves a chance to win in the conference semifinal game against Utica. We had every reason to give up that season, but we showed up every day and tried to get better, and we made progress.

On the flip side, we had to ask ourselves, "are we doing all the things right, basketball-wise? Are there things we can do to put ourselves in a better position this year?" I believe we're starting to make progress with some of those things now and I'm happy with the direction we are heading.

Q: Lastly, what are your goals/expectations for the 2024-25 team?

A: If I had to give one goal, we want to be the best version of us come January and February; you look at any good program, they peak late season. You want to be at your best, individually and collectively, during those last 10-12 games of the season. We have to get better—that's the goal! Our schedule this year is harder than last year, so we have to be that much better. I'm really excited, and can't wait to get going. I think the biggest goal is to use last year as a tool to put us in a better spot this year, but the ultimate goal is to win as many games as possible, and we don't want to hide from that. So, we're going to try to win a bunch of games, and do the right things on the way there.



The hidden election impacting America

For most students on campus, the upcoming 2024 presidential election will be the first presidential election they will get to participate in as voters. You'll hear some older staff and faculty say this is perhaps the most important election of the last fifty years. But what if I told you this election isn't even the most important one happening this year? Would you believe me? You should, because as the nation fixates on Trump v. Harris, it has become abundantly clear that the one election that Americans truly owe their attention is being overlooked, to the detriment of the nation.

Political pundits are debating trifles like a "quality of life for the average American" and "the fate of democracy itself", or perhaps "a good portion of Americans seem to think our nation is actively funding a genocide" and "it was nearly 80 degrees in late October, we're all going to die". But what we really need to focus on is the following; which party is right and which party is wrong? The Democats or the Ruffpublicans?

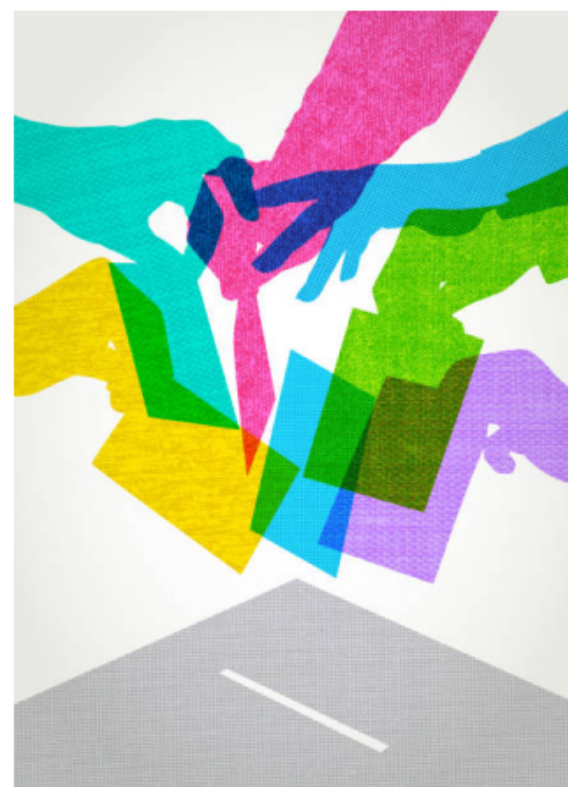
Now I know what you may be thinking; that's a pretty big typo, aren't these articles, like, edited? And I have two things to say to that: 1. no, we print first drafts and cross our

fingers nobody notices, and 2. that wasn't a typo. You read correctly. Democratic nominee Vice Pawsident Kameowla Hairball and Ruffpublican former Pawsident Doggald Jump are currently hairy-neck-and-hairy-neck in the most critical election of our lifetimes. Former Pawsident Doggald Jump is competing against Democratic nominee, Mice Pawsident Kameowla Hairball, alongside running mate JDog Vance. Hairball, from home state Catlickfornya, is alongside running mate Tim "Tim Walz, But a Cat" Walz. Their most recent debate was the root of a lot of controversy. From Jump making outlandish claims like, "[The pets are] eating the immigrants, the cats and dogs there, they're eating the people that are coming in," to Hairball revealing that she owned a gun. Like the normal human kind, not one adapted for cats, which raised a lot of eyebrows.

Tension between the candidates remains high, which comes as no surprise to anyone after the heat of a debate like that one. Citizens are left divided amongst themselves or otherwise entirely unaware of this issue that has seismic implications for the future of our country.



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Not-so-fake ghost stories



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Campus is full of the potential of endless ghouls and ghosts wandering the streets and buildings. Here are some stories to spur your imagination on dark spooky nights.

Harder Hall is a strange labyrinth of white hallways, tangled together in a web of insanity. Do you ever feel like it is repeating? Not the hallways, but the artwork on the walls, drying on the racks, and sculpted on a podium? If you look close, do you see any similarities?

Years ago, there was a crumpled piece of parchment found in the ground behind Harder. The ink was faded, the corner gnawed off by an animal, and it was the color of dirt. The only ink left was a scribbled Oct 28th, 1930, and a child's drawing of a smiley face. After that, people saw the face appearing in all artwork in the building.

Students felt watched, and one even claimed that he could see his own painting shifting to fit the face as he worked on it. Only the students could see it, the professors (and eventually counselors) couldn't ever find it. And after each report, a student would disappear. Suddenly drop or transfer with no explanation.

The next time you're admiring the paintings on the walls, sculptures in the halls, and the paint splatters in the dark corners, try to ignore its smile shining at you. And don't smile back.

I always hated having late classes, and the astronomy lab was no exception. I didn't finally get to start my walk from the observatory until 11pm most Thursday nights, and it always put me in a bad mood, so I always grabbed myself Cherry Coke at Market C before going up the steel steps to my single in Moscovitz. The steps behind Ade are dark, and I always tripped going up – on the eighth stair to be exact – but I never thought anything of it.

When I started up the stairs one late October night, it was quiet. The air was still, and all of the cicadas long dead. Something seemed off, so I turned on my phone light. Blackened stomped leaves dotted the purple stairs and the rail chilled my fingers. Each step

sounded like a drum. Bang, bang, bang...

When I reached the seventh step, I paused. Loud breathing interrupted the night. I looked around and saw no one.

Then I saw it.

I jumped back and my Cherry Coke clanged as it hit the stair and rolled to a stop. Slowly, a human hand appeared from under the stairs. It grasped the Coke and dragged it under the stairs.

I ran back to my dorm that night. A week later, I returned to a Cherry Coke resting on the eighth stair. The next week two. Then three.

I stopped taking that path. I've gone a month finding other routes to avoid the stairs, but whatever was trying to catch me has learned. There have been Cokes sitting in alleys I pass, by dark doors, and near my dorm. But tonight, as I write this, I am staring at a Cherry Coke I have never seen before sitting under my bed. I don't know how much longer I can run.

The bells overlooking campus haven't worked for years. But the ghosts still remember how to play them.

One Halloween night, there was a student sitting against the bell tower in the darkness, admiring the view of campus under the stars. When she got up to leave, the bell tolled. A mighty crash that resonated all through the valley. She thought nothing of it, and began the trek on the shadow-covered road behind the Science Center, a long road with only 3 street lights.

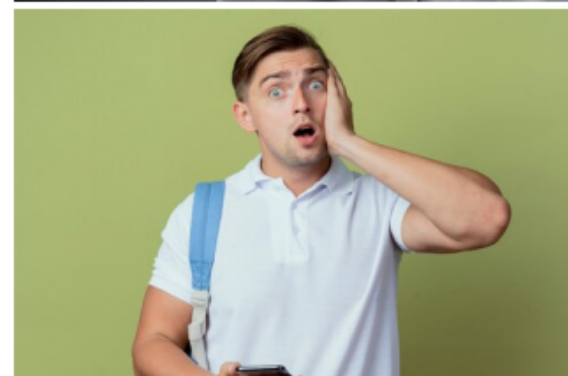
She walked in the darkness, pulling her jacket tighter as the whistling wind chilled her to the bone. She walked into the first streetlight and the bell tolled again. Back into the dark she went. Something seemed to be moving by the next light pole. When she neared it, she paused. There was nothing there. As she entered the light movement caught her eye; it was her own shadow. Her second shadow. The bell tolled again.

She walked faster now down the trek, her mind making up whispers in the air. At the next

light all of the noise and movement happened again. But three shadows followed her. She ran as quickly as she could, now close to the dorms.

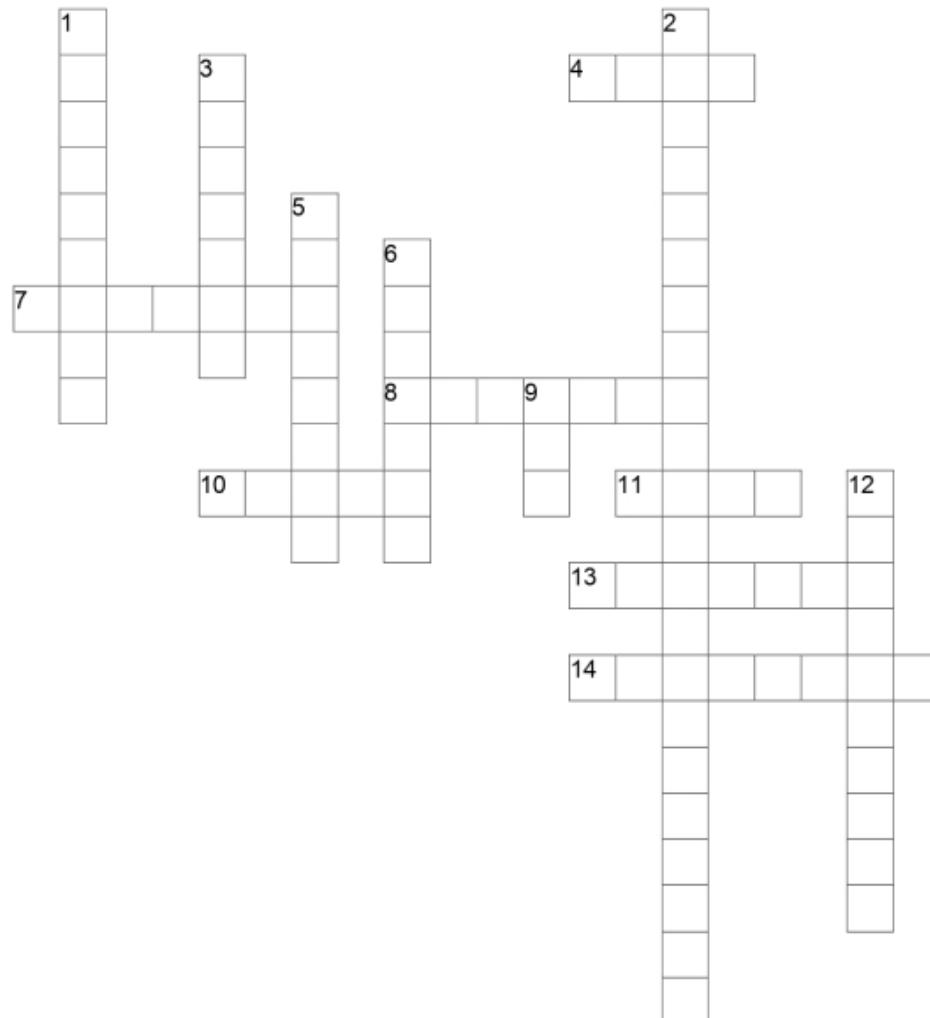
When she emerged into the light for the last time she yelled. At her feet was no shadow at all.

The bell rang for the final time.



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COMMON KNOWLEDGE QUESTIONS



Across

4. Name of the president of Alfred University
7. Antonym for progress
8. A popular Italian dish often layered with cheese, sauce, and noodles.
10. Ancient tribes which created a foundation for Halloween
11. The longest river in the world, running through northeastern Africa.
13. A famous ship that sank in 1912 after hitting an iceberg
14. Explorer known for his voyages to the Americas in 1492

Down

1. A place for books in a library
2. Hated by professors, liked by many students, has a fair status of intelligence
3. The largest planet in the Solar System
5. A popular sport played with a bat and ball, typically involving two teams.
6. A form of artistic expression that emphasizes ordinary life and realistic details.
9. A mixture of gases used by humankind every day
12. The method of keeping track of income and expenses.

ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD

1) zombie, 2) costume, 3) ominous, 4) horror, 5) possession, 6) Frankenstein, 7) supernatural, 8) darkness, 9) frighten, 10) haunted, 11) scream, 12) autumn, 13) pumpkin, 14) coven