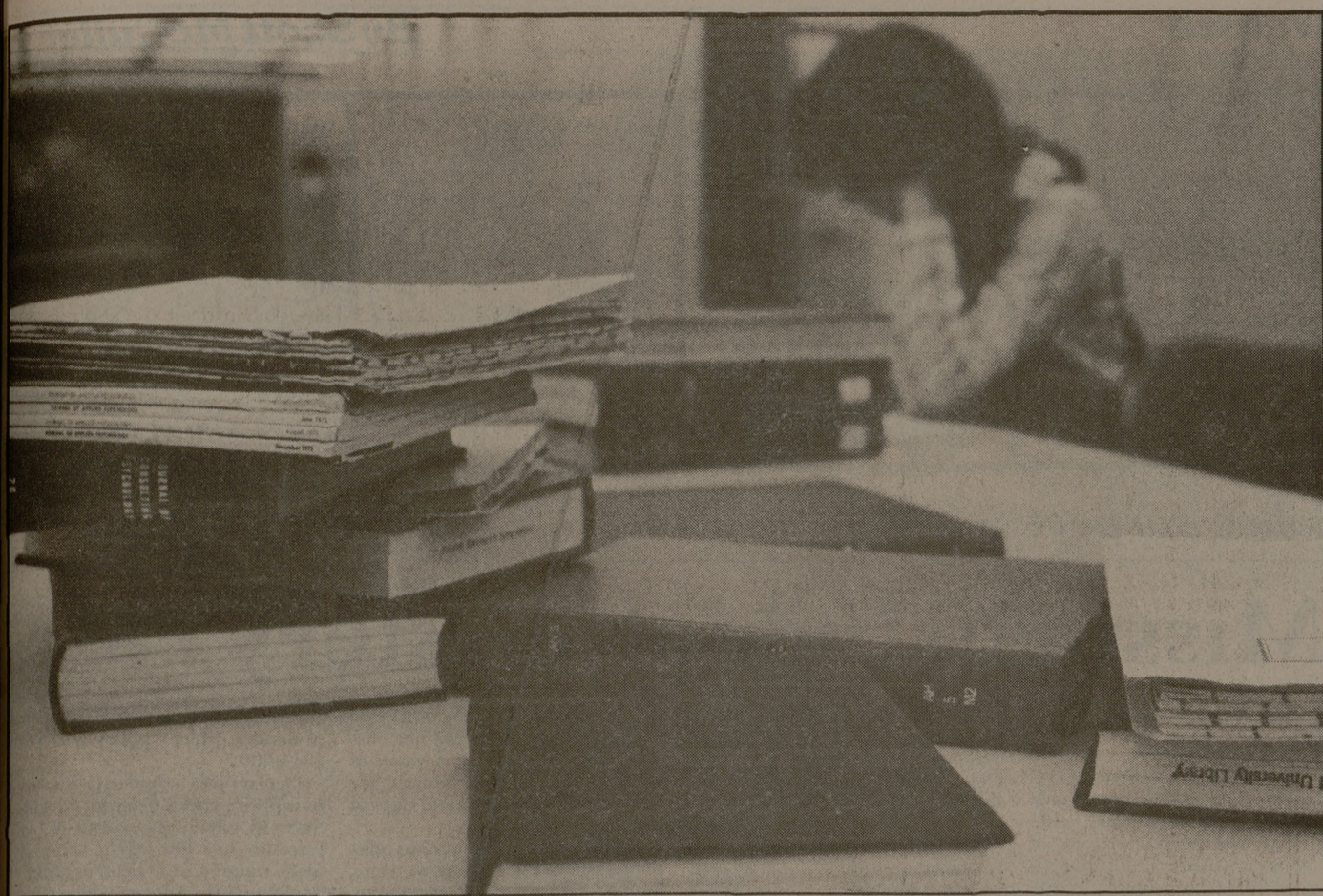


National



The final push

Staff photo by Dave Einsel

This student seems to be swamped with work. During dead week, students will be very familiar with this sight. Papers are due in many classes, and final exams are coming up next week.

College senior builds H-bomb plastic model

United Press International
WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — A college senior said Saturday he has designed a model of a hydrogen bomb by using declassified government documents and other material.

Today he will lecture professors and students on how to build the real thing.

Albert R. Stoner, 21, an astronomy major at Lycoming College, said he will lug his model into a classroom and describe "the actual workings of the thing and design of it."

The project is one of two that Stoner must complete in order to graduate next spring.

"I will be detailing how you could build one, and I'll also be giving a list of where you could procure materials for it," he said.

Stoner said his model, which is made of plastic foam and shows the inner workings of a bomb, is three feet high and two feet wide and looks sort of like a missile rounded at the top.

Stoner, of Altoona, Pa., said he is opposed to nuclear weapons and hopes his presentation will help others understand the bomb's destructive power.

"It's a terribly scary weapon when you know this thing is actually real," he said. "The whole thing is mind-boggling and I am against their construction and proliferation. By giving my talk, I hope to make my little community aware of it."

Out of curiosity, Stoner began research as a freshman. He said a controversial article on how make an H-bomb, published in 1979 in

The Progressive magazine, encouraged him to work on his own design and to improve on the bomb explained in the article.

Stoner said that one of the better documents he obtained was the Los Alamos Primer, a publication prepared in 1942 by the government to be distributed to the atomic scientists who worked on the Manhattan Project.

"They ground out 30 copies and handed them out to scientists in New Mexico," he said. "In the late 1960s, they were declassified. I got a copy from Drexel University."

Drexel University is in Philadelphia.

He said he obtained details on the bomb's trigger mechanism from Penn State University and that discussions with Lycoming faculty members provided other information.

Stoner, who has a 3.1 grade point average, said disseminating information about the bomb does not pose a threat.

"It takes gifted physicists, scientists and engineers to get the whole thing to work," he said. "Any person or groups just couldn't go ahead and build one without millions of dollars at their disposal for equipment."

Stoner said his project is applicable to astronomy because "the reaction that allows the hydrogen bomb to function — that is, fusion — is the driving nuclear force in stars. Our sun runs by the same process that the hydrogen bomb does, except that the sun is a controlled type of hydrogen fusion."

Richard Erickson, Stoner's project adviser and chairman of Lycoming's department of astronomy and physics, described Stoner as a good but not exceptional student.

"His academic performance is variable," Erickson said. "He does well in some courses, not so well in others." But he said that Stoner is well-read and has a "better background of knowledge than the average college student."

Citizens, court argue over nativity scene

United Press International
PAWTUCKET, R.I. — About 150 people put up a nativity scene in a private park Saturday, carrying on a 40-year tradition that a U.S. District Court order threatened to break.

The nativity scene has become a rallying point for citizens in this city of 76,000.

U.S. District Chief Judge Raymond J. Pettine ruled in November that the nativity scene could no longer be part of the city-owned display of holiday decorations because it was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

"Government may not assist in the fight to keep Christ in Christmas," Pettine said in the 84-page decision in which he ruled the nativity scene a religious symbol. The city has appealed.

The American Civil Liberties Union in Rhode Island had challenged the scene, claiming the city's use of tax dollars for the display violated the First Amendment prohibition of government sponsorship of religion.

To continue the holiday tradition, the Citizens Committee to Continue Christmas raised money and bought the scene's 14 aging rubber figures from the city. Pawtucket retained the right to buy them back if the 1st Circuit U.S.

Court of Appeals in Boston decides it can use the display until the issue is decided.

Oral arguments will be heard Thursday on that request.

Carolyn Palo, 27, and her husband Robert, 32, supplied the two trucks that carried the figures from their storage garage to the downtown park.

"I wanted to see them go up no matter what. Even if private citizens had to do it," she said. "Christmas isn't Christmas without a nativity scene."

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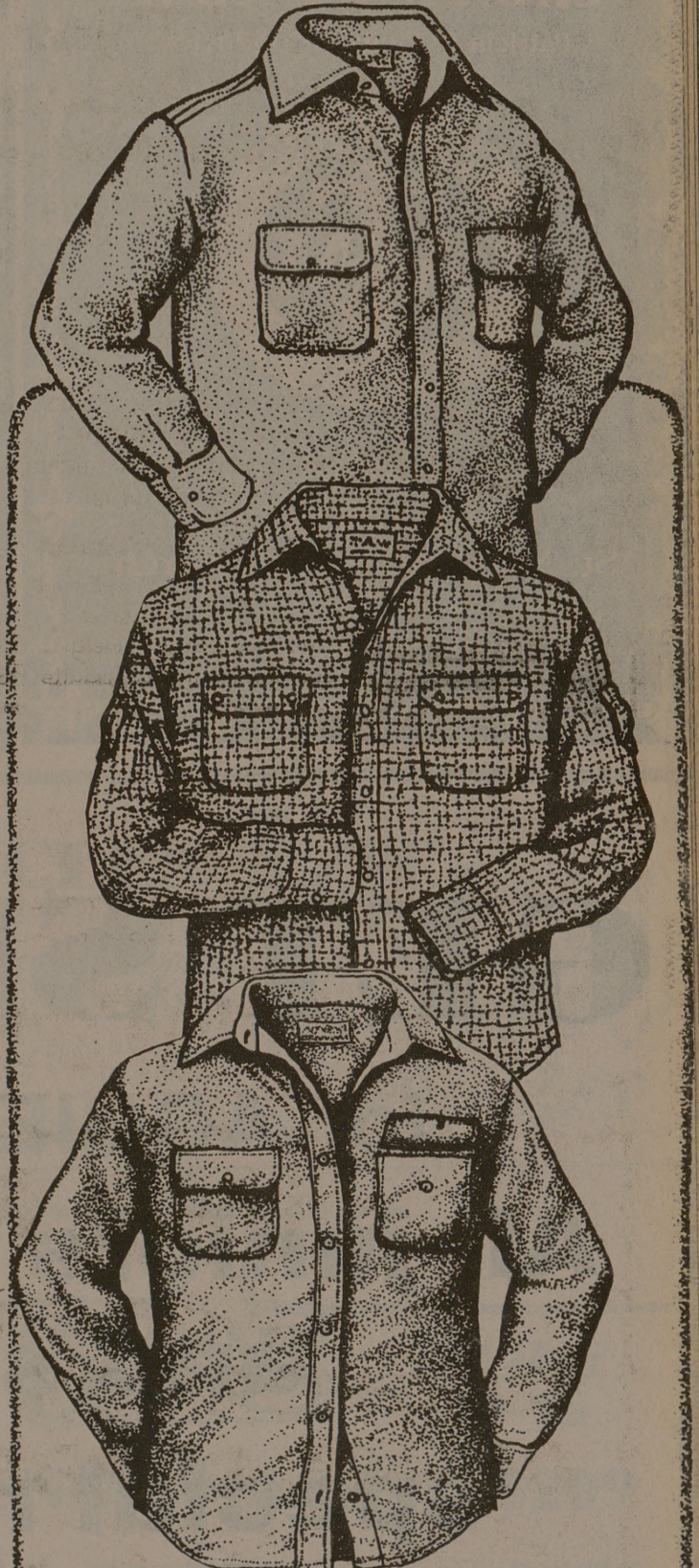
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a teeny tiny science fiction convention brought to you by cepheid variable, the science fiction/fantasy committee of the memorial student center

howard waldrop

winner of the 1981 nebula and international fantasy awards for his short story "the ugly chickens," will give a talk and/or reading at seven thirty p.m. in room seven-oh-one of rudder tower. admission is fifty cents. a reception will be held afterwards at which the movies "godzilla versus the thing," "bambi meets godzilla," and "bambi's revenge" will be shown. all welcome.

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