

Bechdel to speak as part of graphic novel series

By Caitlin Burnham
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Alison Bechdel, Lock Haven, Pa., native and author of the groundbreaking comic strip "Dykes to Watch Out For" is coming to speak at Penn State in March.

Bechdel, a lesbian, is also well known for her graphic memoir "Fun Home," which chronicles her early life growing up in central Pennsylvania.

Bechdel will speak March 4 in room 129ABC in the HUB-Robeson Center, said Eileen Akin, coordinator of the Fred Waring Collection and Audiovisual Collections in the Special Collections Library.

Bechdel's visit is part of the "Graphic Novel Speaker Series," which Akin started in spring 2007, she said.

The coordinator considers Bechdel the "Mark Twain of our time" and said she's wanted to bring the author here since the series began.

"[There are] a lot of people interested in seeing her among the gay and lesbian community, and among those interested in graphic novels and comics, and any-

"It's just a terrific, wonderful, smart memoir. It's set in Pennsylvania, and it just seemed like she should be here."

Susan Squier

professor of women's studies and English

one else who may be intrigued by her work and may want to know more about her," Akin said.

Susan Squier, a professor of women's studies and English, said the Ph.D. seminar she teaches is focusing on graphic novels and will be reading "Fun Home" this semester, which is why she wanted Bechdel to visit Penn State.

"It's just a terrific, wonderful, smart memoir," Squier said. "It's set in Pennsylvania, and it just seemed like she should be here."

Bechdel will speak to Squier's class in the afternoon and will then speak to the public in the evening.

Allison Subasic, director of the LGBT Student Resource Center, described "Fun Home" as a "touching and moving story," saying students will be interested to hear from Bechdel.

"I think it will be nice for the Penn State community to hear her experiences of coming out in Pennsylvania and what that was like for her and maybe ways people can learn to be allies for the LGBT community," Subasic said. "She's very entertaining and nice, so I think people will see her as a real and genuine person."

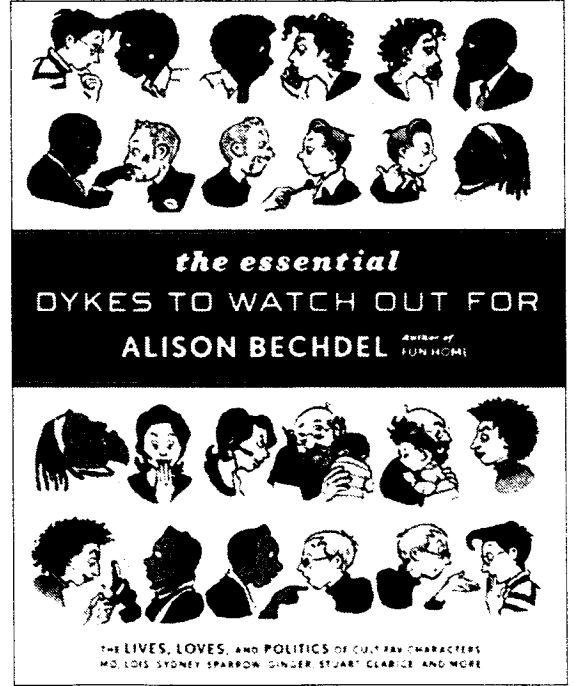
To e-mail reporter: cmb5305@psu.edu

If you go

What: Author of "Fun Home," Alison Bechdel

When: 6 p.m. March 4

Where: HUB-Robeson Center, room 129ABC



Alison Bechdel is well known for her graphic memoir "Fun Home." Bechdel grew up in central Pennsylvania.

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CIGARETTE SMOKERS NEEDED for Research Studies. The Smoking Research Lab at Penn State University is looking for smokers to participate in a paid research study. Earn up to \$50 for completing the study. Must be 18-45 years old, smoke on a daily basis, and willing to NOT smoke for 12 hours. Must also be willing to refrain from using alcohol and recreational drugs for 24 hours. For more information, contact Jackie Gardner at 814-867-2333.

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HOROSCOPES

By Jacqueline Bigar

HAPPY BIRTHDAY for Tuesday, Jan. 26, 2010: This year, you often find that others are upset. This state of events and emotions could have more to do with the individual parties than with you. Understand your limitations more fully. Know when to say "enough." Learning more diplomatic ways of saying what you think could make all the difference as well. If you are single, you often wonder if you have what it takes to make a relationship work. You will have an opportunity to find out. If you are attached, the two of you will learn to juggle your different concerns in a more reasonable manner. GEMINI makes you laugh.

The Stars Show the Kind of Day You'll Have:
5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-So-so; 1-Difficult

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
*** Keep communication flowing, even if at some point you might want to slam the door shut. Rest assured, that will get you nowhere. Sometimes what appears to be a disaster transforms into good news, and quickly at that today. Tonight, Visiting with others.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
*** Know the costs before you even entertain the idea of a project or some kind of joint venture. If you have a better idea of your liability, you can make a sounder decision. No one can be responsible for your choices but you! Tonight, Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
*** A boss most certainly could rain on your parade. Can you handle it, or will you handle it? Your ability to read past the obvious and see another's true intent

sometimes needs to be re-elted on slightly less. Tonight, As you like.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
*** Know when to back off and allow someone else to come forward and make necessary demands. There are times when everyone needs to do some things differently. You might want to rethink a decision involving a personal matter. Tonight, In the thick of things.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)
*** Zero in on what you feel you must. What is certain is that you can no longer hide from the inevitable. You could feel out of sorts and pushed beyond your limits. Listen to your sixth sense, and refuse to get angry when dealing with an associate. Tonight, Let another person inspire you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept 22)
*** Continue to assume your natural leadership role. When you really have had enough, it will become quite clear. Knowing your limits is important, but sometimes deterring to the cause could be equally as significant. Tonight, Discuss a problem rather than have it eat you up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct 22)
*** Keep unusual thinking in mind when trying to get past a problem. Ask yourself how opposing ideas both could be right. Often, you might feel that no matter which direction you go, you hit an obstacle. The trick will be to rise above the obstacle. Tonight, Where the action is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
*** You are working with a difficult person, and getting the appropriate response could be nothing less than difficult. Understanding will flow as long as you can stay out of the blame game. At

this point, creativity could cause more of a problem. Tonight, Togetherness is the theme.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
*** Deter to others, knowing full well what is going on between you and another person. Know that you don't always need to agree. Investigate another's response more fully. He or she might have a worthwhile point here. Listen. Tonight, Go with the most appealing suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
*** Getting a project done might be more important than ego. You will focus on the job, while others' egos emerge. You understand what is happening here. Others might not. Listen to what is being shared. Tonight, You deserve a break.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb 18)
*** You certainly are the idea person, but unfortunately, with each idea you seem to incur another person's ire. This situation could be close to unacceptable but you can change it. Simply say less right now. Tonight, Evaluate the importance of a key relationship.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
*** You know what you want, though you might not be sure what is appropriate to say. The pros and cons of a home office need to be weighed first rather than acted on. Tonight, At home.

BORN TODAY
Musician Eddie Van Halen (1955); talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres (1958); singer Anita Baker (1958).

Jacqueline Bigar is on the Internet at www.jacquelinebigar.com
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