At a Glance...

CAMPUS

New smoking policy in effect in residence halls.

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LIFESTYLES

Students no longer have access to free legal advice.

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EDITORIAL

Opposing editorials on the Iraq situation.

See page 2.

King Alfred statue nears completion

by Gregg Myers

On the hill above Roger’s Campus Center, amidst mounds of dirt and wire fencing, stands a structure that has been garnering many funny stories. Created one freshman, “It looks like a giant condom-covered phallus.”

The pedestal, a full nine feet tall, has indeed caused much curiosity and will attract the attention of all as atop it is placed a statue of King Alfred, created by Dr. William Underhill, associate professor of art and design. It will become the new symbol of AU’s dedication to education and integrity.

To be surrounded by a plaza 25' x 50' and lit by miniature lighthouses three feet tall, the monument will be dedicated on Friday, September 21 at 4 pm. Jim Feldbauer, director of the physical plant, has indeed caused much curiosity and soon will attract the attention of all as atop it is placed a statue of King Alfred, created by Dr. William Underhill, associate professor of art and design. It will become the new symbol of AU’s dedication to education and integrity.

“This Barresi, traditionally a freshman hall, became housing for upper-classmen who otherwise would have come to Alfred. Meyer said, “It creates a ripple effect for everyone else.”

AU also continued its standards for admitting conditional (B average, 1000 SAT) students, while other private colleges not only admitted these students unconditionally, but also gave them better financial aid packages.

Director of student financial aid Earl Pierce said some schools went way over budget in freshman financial aid “to buy a freshman class. They’ll pay for it somewhere down the line. It’s a common quick fix.”

Problems in the financial aid application process itself also contributed to the lack of enrollment at AU and other private schools. College Scholarship Service in Princeton, N.J., delayed processing Financial Aid Forms by up to six weeks early in the process.

“We are confident we will not face this situation next year,” Meyer said. Plans include “walking the tightrope” of admitting more students without sacrificing quality. “Bright students attract other bright students,” he said.

“We have to maintain a personalized approach in recruiting,” said Meyer. Recent improvements include the addition of regional representatives in New York City and the greater Boston area to work with prospective students. In addition, more aggressive alumni recruitment is being implemented along with a computer tracking system.

Continued on p. 3

 Enrollment down 20 percent

“Not just AU was hurt, but the whole private sector,” said Pierce.

“People didn’t hear from their FAFs in time and decided they better not even think about a private school like AU,” opting instead to go to more affordable state schools.

“All these factors combined to deplete AU’s yield. Meyer said usually 30 percent of those accepted enrolled, while this year only 26 percent decided to come. AU accepted 64% of approximately 2100 applicants this year.

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Continued on p. 3

Saxon Inn opens doors again

“Distinctive lodging at historic Alfred University.” That’s how the new Saxon Inn is being billed. The two-story, 26-room facility celebrated its grand re-opening September 5 as final construction was being completed.

According to acting hotel manager Dawn Schirmer, miscalculations and construction delays caused the opening to be delayed two weeks from the expected date of August 22.

Schirmer took over as acting manager September 1 when the Innkeeper, Robert Nixon, became ill. Nixon was scheduled to return from sick leave on September 10.

“The first stages were kind of depressing,” Schirmer said. “We see it really developing and coming together now. We’re really excited.”

The Saxon Inn had accepted reservations for move-in weekend August 25 and 26, however, and had to accommodate guests before the building was finished. Schirmer said all 15 rooms on the second floor were occupied both nights. A temporary occupancy permit allowed the Inn to open while construction delays continued.

“Most of the decline occurred in the private sector,” Meyer said.

Applications at AU were up by one percent this year while other schools showed a decrease in applicants of five to 12 percent. This decrease caused AU to compete with schools it would not normally deal with, “schools the public perceives as being better than AU, like Ivy and near Ivy,” Meyer said.

Schirmer said hotel staff received a few complaints from guests about the ongoing construction, but all were settled amicably by adjusting the guests’ bills.

Continued on p. 7

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Continued on p. 7
Lets stay out of the Middle East
President Bush has priorities mixed up

On August 9th, 1990, at 2 a.m., Iraqi tanks rolled into Kuwait and overthrew its monarch.

The world was shocked; the US immediately froze $30 billion in Iraqi and Kuwaiti assets, and the USSR instantly cut off all military aid to Iraq. The United Nations Security Council unanimously condemned the invasion, and gas stations all over the country took the opportunity to raise gas prices.

President Bush is in heaven. He no longer has to worry about domestic problems now that he has a potential world leader to worry about. Bush’s priorities mixed up — and they’re mixed up — with Saddam Hussein to keep Kuwait. In the Middle East, Kuwait, which means “Little Fortress,” has long been resisted by its neighbors for its fabulous wealth. In the days before the invasion, Kuwaitis paid no income tax but went great $7100 by the government upon marriage and a $140 per month allowance per child thereafter. They were, according to a Newsweek article, “browsing among French fashion day by day and sampling Norwegian salmon by night.”

If the Arab world believes that Iraq’s control over Kuwait will result in more financial equality between the nations, then let Hussein keep Kuwait. Traditionally, America has always wanted to make the world safe for democracy; now it seems that we want to make it safe for feudalism.

Bush’s reasons for fighting Iraq seem threefold: oil, preventing Hussein from becoming a world threat, and more oil.

Hussein has been often compared to Adolf Hitler. It is true that they are both ruthless dictators; Hussein, for example, when he took power in 1979, immediately executed 22 of his rivals. But Iraq doesn’t have nearly the world power that Nazi Germany had before World War II. He may be a problem to some Arabs — although studies show that his support is increasing in the Middle East — but it is unlikely that he will ever be successful in taking over the world.

And then there is the problem of oil. Oh yes, oil. The world would come to an end if we didn’t have our oil. But whether Hussein takes control of Kuwait or not, we will still have our oil. Kuwait is not the only place from which we import oil, and Iraq does not control oil prices.

We should not let our fear or being frozen on Christmas Eve let us send hundreds of thousands of troops into the Middle East to be killed.

These troops, don’t forget, could be people our age. College students — young, unmarried and without a steady job — will be the first ones to go.

A newspaper article a couple of weeks ago suggested that Americans have a “fixation on tearful farewells, a rooting for the home team, and passive acceptance of questionable assumptions.”

Last Monday another article in Newsweek said that “historically, war leaders are driven more by testosterone and vain—glory than wisdom and common sense.” It makes no sense to go to war with Iraq; let us solve our own problems first before we try to solve someone else’s.

Letters to the editor

Dear Students:

Last spring we asked you to assist us with several questionnaires and to participate in focus groups. We appreciate the time everyone took to provide suggestions to improve our University. Three petitions have been sent out by the Director and Dean for discussion and, where appropriate, action. We hope that thousands of students will sign and provide a more responsive University.

Based upon your requests, we will provide laser printer services in all major PC laboratories and add two more mailboxes to the Computer Center. The hours for most offices are extended to include the lunch hour and the Business Office will be open until 4:00 p.m.

A Fitness Center will be opened at the

McLane Center in January and Dining Services will provide a number of new offerings including a stir-fry bar. We also are working with Dining Services to provide a wider range of meal plans for 1991-92.

More changes will continue as we all strive to build our University using your suggestions.

A second form of input to the University has come from flagged signatures by students and faculty. Three petitions were received this spring. The first petition noted the need for more minority faculty and staff. We are working to diversify our faculty and did add two new minority faculty.

The second petition noted that while the Bookstore had improved in the sales of textbooks, it did not have a good selection of general books or magazines (trade books). Barnes and Noble has spent over $100,000 in renovating the facility and has expanded the book trade book section. We expect that we will see continued improvements in the bookstore over this next year.

The last petition requested expanded vegetarian offerings by Dining Services. As was noted in the last issue of the Fiat Lux, Mr. McCluskie has expanded the line and will continue to work to keep our offerings current.

Through your comments and feedback, we can continue to build our University. Please send any comments or suggestions to me through regular mail or E-mail (Out).

W. Richard O'U, Provost
United States should stop Iraqi aggression

December 1989: the United States invades Panama to depose Manuel Noriega as the leader of that country.

August 1990: Iraq invades Kuwait to heighten their control over oil production in the Middle East. What is the difference between the two? Is the United States right about being there after its past military assaults?

Noriega was not the rightful leader of Panama. He had not won the presidential election when he took over the country by force, sending the legal government, led by President-elect Endara, into exile. The United States tried everything diplomatically to have Noriega step down, but nothing worked.

With American lives in danger, as some soldiers had already been shot, the United States launched a small military operation into Panama, deposing Noriega, bringing him back to the United States on drug charges, and reinstating the rightful government.

After promising not to invade Kuwait, Iraq launched its own military operation. This operation was not to place Saddam Hussein in his rightful spot; it was to gain control over a sovereign nation and its resources. As the United States left Panama, Iraq has told the world they have annexed Kuwait and will not leave. In Kuwait today, people breaking curfew will be shot. Americans who were able to get out have told stories of dead bodies on the streets of Kuwait City.

Time magazine says, "What distinguishes Saddam from the rulers of other lands is that he is not content merely to be President. He has a vision—some would say a delusion of grandeur—for himself and for Iraq, but the only ways he knows to pursue the dream are to be and bully and take." This statement is what fears most every leader in the world. Some call him the new Hitler, which might be true, but what should we do about him? Pulling our troops out of Saudi Arabia is not the answer. How can the world community trust a man who drops poison gas on the Iraqi town of Halabja, killing 75,000-150,000 women and children? How can the world community trust a man who has no regard for international law, or uses hostages as a personal defense against any attack on him? If the United States, backed by the U.N., does not stop him now, when will we stop him? Should we try after he has taken over another sovereign state in a few years?

Could it be that World War III be fought not in Germany, but in the Middle East? This war will not be fought between today's super-powers, but between a super-power and an Arab force led by Saddam Hussein. We need to stop him now.

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Faculty members discuss Iraq crisis

by Melissa Hirshson

There is no easy solution to the conflict in the Middle East, a panel concluded at a special edition of the Bergen Forum on Wednesday, Aug. 29.

The panel consisted of Dr. Gary Ostrower, professor of history; Dr. David Kowalewski, associate professor of social science; Dr. Thomas Rasmussen, professor of political science; and Dr. Abderrahman Robana, professor of business and administration.

The panel members discussed the role of the United States in the conflict and the possibility of going to war with Iraq. Each member had a different answer to the problem.

Ostrower said that the United States should go to war with Iraq and continue our current policy of economic sanctions and embargoes.

"Wars are ironic, victory is ironic, but some wars are worth fighting," he said.

Rasmussen compared Saddam Hussein to Adolf Hitler, a man who is egotistical, dishonest, and ethnocentric. Iraq's power, he stressed, should not be underestimated.

Iraq currently has the fourth largest army in the world, and it should have nuclear power in the next few years. Since the United States is so dependent on Middle Eastern oil, we cannot let the entire region fall into the hands of a dictator.

The other hand, Kowalewski said that the United States should stay out of the conflict.

"It is not in our interest to see both sides of the situation," it is a worry for everyone," he said. "We are worried as consumers, and they are worried as producers."

Kowalewski also stressed the importance of recognizing Hussein's potential power, referring to it as the "Noegea Syndrome." After all of the atrocities Hussein has committed to the people in his country, "his own people will take care of him sooner or later."

Hussein is a problem in the Arab world, but the Arabs have needs that the United States may not understand. On the other hand, the Middle East is also part of the rest of the world, and in order to maintain global harmony we should try to work with them.

Kowalewski, using material from a recent study, suggested that based on world military actions in the past, it is very likely that the U.S. and Iraq will go to war. Iraq, he said, is "the little kid in the school yard." It is small, and therefore it does not have to be pushed around. The fact that the U.S. is still considered a "superpower," that Hussein has been condemned worldwide as a dictator, and many other aspects of U.S. and Iraq history suggest that we may indeed have another war on our hands in the near future.

The Middle East... (Map)

College students no longer exempt from draft

by Brian Folker

In the event that war breaks out and the draft is reinstated, college students no longer have deferments as they did during the Viet Nam era, according to a Selective Service official.

Lew Brodsky, assistant director for public affairs at the Selective Service national headquarters in Washington, D.C., said that if students were initially qualified, they would only be permitted to complete their current semester. The exception would be seniors who would be able to complete the whole year and receive their degree.

But Brodsky is doubtful there will be a draft as a result of the crisis in the Middle East.

"Our agency has had no indication from Congress or the State Department that there will be a draft," Brodsky said. "That would require an act of Congress and presidential approval.

If there was a draft for the Middle East crisis or any other conflict, Brodsky said it would work on the basis of a lottery system with men turning 20 during this calendar year being called first. The lottery system establishes a "uniform order of call." Men who were born in 1970 and held a low lottery number would be called to fight first.

If the draft was reinstated Selective Service would receive numbers from the military and State Department on how many men would be needed.

We are required to have men at training bases within 13 days of approval of the draft and, in a worst-case scenario, 100,000 men within 30 days," Brodsky said.

Brodsky said the 13 days allows three days for the mailing of notification papers and ten days for the draftee to decide if he wants to file a claim for exemption. If the draftee files a claim such as hardship or conscientious objection, the process is stopped until the claim is settled with the local draft board.

Brodsky said many men believe that if they are the only son in a family, they will not be called. He said the "sole surviving son" clause, which was passed in 1948, applies only to men who lost a member of the immediate family in combat. But even this clause does not apply when war is actually declared. The clause was valid during the Viet Nam era because war was never declared.

Ironically, the crisis in the Middle East comes at a time when the United States is considering cutting defense spending in reflection of dramatic changes in Eastern Europe.

Last May Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Sen. Mark Hatfield (R-OR) introduced the Selective Service Stand-By Act of 1990 which, if enacted by Congress, would end the draft registration requirements for men.

"There is no indication from Congress that there will be a draft," DeFazio said, "That would require an act of Congress and presidential approval."

But Brodsky is doubtful there will be a draft as a result of the crisis in the Middle East.
Smoking wings created in dorms

by Dennis Zybczynsky

Because of several state mandates passed last year and complaints from non-smokers, certain residence halls have been designated as smoke-free.

Last year a questionnaire was distributed by the administration to determine how students felt about smoking on campus. The conclusion was reached that smokers should be segregated from non-smokers.

According to Susan Smith, assistant dean of residence life, some students have complained about smoking in common areas and having to walk through smoke-filled hallways. Smith also said in the past some students have kept their doors closed because smoke from hallways enters their rooms.

With this information in mind the office of student affairs has set aside certain groups of rooms for smokers. Both Bartlett and the Brick have designated smoking wings and Kruon Hall has two smoking sections on different floors, one for men and one for women. In the Pine Hill Suites and Ford Street Apartments, residents can make up their own smoking policy in individual units. However, smoking is prohibited in common areas.

Smith said students can state in their housing contract if they want a smoking or non-smoking room in the residence halls. Very few freshmen are professed smokers according to Smith and consequently there are relatively small smoking sections in the residence halls.

Currently, all university offices are non-smoking. The Rogers Campus Center is also non-smoking except for the back room of the Lil' Alf Cafe. Also, in response to the state laws that went into effect at the beginning of this year, local businesses have also created smoking sections or banned it all together.

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Free legal advice no longer available to students

by Daniel Weeks

Alfred University students no longer have a source of free legal advice. After 10 years of contracting with AU’s Student Senate, Dr. Robert G. Hutter, professor of law, is no longer available to counsel students with legal problems.

A sign in Hutter’s office reads: “AU students: By agreement with AU Student Senate, I will not be doing legal advising this year. A suggestion may be to call Southern Tier Legal Aid Society at (716) 372-0310 or 3322. No exceptions please! Robert G. Hutter.”

At the end of the spring ’90 semester, communication problems between Hutter and the Senate regarding Hutter’s availability to students caused some disagreement between the two parties. The conflict was resolved, but they decided to discontinue the service.

The original idea was to provide “some students could come to the office of screening device,” said Hutter. Students accused of illegal acts could go to him to get an idea of how serious their charges were.

Before such service, students charged with misdemeanors such as disorderly conduct or open alcoholic containers faced enormous fees from outside attorneys. Hutter said lawyers in the Alfred area charge about $75 per hour, and in the Rochester area the fee doubles to $150.

Hutter’s annual revolver from the Senate was $5,000 for the past several years. Last year, according to Hutter, he spent 147 hours on student legal advising, for what works to an hourly rate of under $14.

The service was well-used, said Hutter. “Every night there were two or three messages [from students] waiting for me at home. The time involved became overwhelming. I do feel sorry that students don’t have somewhere to go for a screen,” he added.

For students who have criminal problems in the future, they recommend making an appearance in court and if they cannot afford an attorney, they should ask the judge to appoint one. Hutter said it is unlikely students claimed as dependents on their parents’ income tax could qualify, but some independent students may qualify for a public defender or assigned counsel.

For other legal matters some may qualify for assistance from Southern Tier Legal Services, which is located in Olean but occasionally meets in Wellsville. They can be reached at (607) 478-8476.

There are currently no known plans to retain another attorney to provide legal advice to students.

First Senate meeting held

Student Senate President Darryl Moch began the first meeting of the year last Wednesday by saying “we are not the senate of old.”

The meeting mostly centered around the nomination process of the executive board members that were appointed over the summer. After a lengthy debate centering around the rules of order, several motions were passed to keep the interim officers in their positions until senators could consult their constituencies about the available positions and the election process.

Finance Chairman Chris Wolfe reported that organizations that miss three Senate meetings will have their funds frozen, leaving members solely responsible for their costs. If, however, the group is able to justify their absence in the eyes of the Senate Executive Board, their funds will be reallotted.

The Senate also has additional $1,503 for returning groups due to the demise of the Oz Helpline. According to Moch Oz was closed for “legal as well as practical reasons.” Presently, all calls to Oz will be referred to Career and Counseling, Student Affairs or various local hotlines.

New projects of the Senate include an Alcohol Awareness Week to be held this semester as well as a Minority Awareness Week in February. The Senate is also pushing a Voter Registration Drive on September 22.

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DO’AH opens PA&SS series

by Kate Loomis

The music of DO’AH opens the 1990-91 Alfred University Performing Artists & Speakers Series on Sept. 15 at 8 p.m. in Hackett Hall.

With an eclectic blend of music from over 70 different musical instruments, the group’s original compositions draw from an exciting mosaic of diverse musical cultures ranging from jazz and classical to Japanese and African styles.

DO’AH, whose name is taken from the Arabic-Persian word signifying a call to prayer, was founded in 1974 by members of the music department at Alfred State College. Their latest album release is entitled “World Dance.” They are dedicated to inspiring mutual trust among the world’s peoples and breaking down the barriers of prejudice that prevent peace.

Tickets for the show are available at Rogers Campus Center and Sound Track of Alfred.

DO’AH kicks off Performing Arts & Speakers Series on Sept. 15.

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...statue created using lost wax process

TRANSLATION

Transcribed from page 1

Underhill has worked for the last eighteen months to build the statue. He enlisted the aid of an assistant, Dave Poulton, a graduate of AU with a master's degree in fine arts, but Underhill still taught full time throughout the project. He was paid a fee which covered the cost of materials, but in his words, "it was nominal compared to the time invested.

The statue was constructed using the "lost wax" process. A full scale wax figure is made and cut into pieces, each of which is encased in plaster. The wax is then melted away - hence, "lost wax". Lastly, liquid metal, in this case a bronze-silicon alloy, is poured into the plaster shell, which later is chipped away. This process allows for much greater detail than other casting methods. If one looks carefully enough, traces as subtle as Underhill's fingerprints can be spotted on the statue.

Underhill recalls: "The experience of inventing the whole idea and having it accepted so wholeheartedly by the community and the University was wonderful. It is unusual for anyone's lifetime to create with such unified support and be given the opportunity to carry through such an idea."

He admitted, though, that the experience was quite daunting. "The creative process was ten years ago. For the last two years, I felt like a contractor. I can't wait to get back in my own studio and do nothing, just sit for a week and wait for something new to come."

HISTORY AND DESIGN

Born in 849 as the youngest son of King Aethwulf of Wessex, Alfred inherited the throne at an early age. Uniting the Saxon tribes against Danish aggressors, he established stability during his reign from 871 to 899. The relative peace he was able to produce allowed him to focus his attention on reviving the education of his people, for which he earned the title "Alfred the Great."

A powerful scholar as well as warrior, King Alfred maintained that only through wisdom could one lead successfully. He encouraged literacy, ordered the Bible translated into Anglo-Saxon, translated many classical texts himself, and even recorded a code of law - one of the earliest to exclude the death penalty. He stands as an enlightened character in a dark and violent age.

The sole artifacts extant from that period are a few articles found in a Saxon burial ground, dated 150 years prior to King Alfred's reign.

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