

March 1, 2022

News Section

Who're You Gonna Call?



Public Safety is who Alfred University students call when they have a problem. They tend to have a strained relationship with the campus, as some students associate them heavily with the Alfred Police Department, or otherwise dislike officers and their parking tickets or unwanted attention.

However, there is no doubting the impact that Public Safety has on campus. Whether the call is for a

domestic dispute or a drunk friend, they're one of the first people to respond—and they often do their best to calm down the situation.

The problem is that Public Safety is woefully understaffed, and undertrained. According to a few students on campus, there have been—and will continue to be—workshops to help train some of the volunteer officers on how to handle altercations on campus.

Chief of Public Safety, Jessica Middaugh, said, “Public Safety is creatively managing with the understaffing. I am always looking to hire more part-time officers to help with coverage. Ideally, we would prefer to have a full-time department for 24/7 coverage along with a decent sized part-time officer staff.”

President Zupan shares Middaugh's preference, in saying that he plans to go 24/7 as soon as possible. What they're waiting for, though, is the financial logistics. The board involved in this decision are confident it will go over well, but there is always uncertainty when it comes to approving funds for a drastic change.

College campuses are notorious for being in need of quick response times, and although the reported crime statistics for Alfred University are significantly lower than other colleges in the area, there will always be a time where a student calling wished that there was someone to respond.

As Middaugh said, they're creatively managing. In the meantime, Public Safety is looking to hire more volunteers and part-time officers. Students can apply, as well as non-students, that qualify.

If you need to contact Public Safety, call [607-871-2108](tel:607-871-2108). They also adopt an open-door policy where community members can go to the Physical Plant and ask questions or share concerns they have.

By Sam Sage

Follow the Blue Light, Part 2



In recent days, President Mark Zupan had invited a security expert onto campus to prepare a report. The report, according to Zupan, was to figure out the logistics and funding of re-instating the blue light system on campus.

The system had been non-functional for an unknown period of time, as in 2016, Zupan recalls speaking with the Vice President at the time about an app they were developing, saying a handheld version of the blue lights would be more convenient for students in the long run.

“Alfred University offers ‘Guardian,’ which is powered by RAVE, to the AU community. This app is looked at as a mobile blue light,” said Chief Public Safety Officer Jessica Middaugh.

When the app is downloaded onto your smart phone, you gain access to push notifications from Public Safety, direct contact to both Public Safety and 911—which shares your location during the call, a safety

timer to connect with friends and share your trip, as well as a map of the area and anonymous tips.

It should be noted that some smartphones aren’t compatible with Guardian, as older generations of iPhones or Androids are unable to download it. However, newer generations have access to the app on the App or Play Stores.

“We’ve got to raise our game and get the word out. These are things you need to remind pretty regularly,” said Zupan, expressing that it shouldn’t just be something briefly covered during Orientation Week.

Now, they’re working on spreading awareness of Guardian, with promotional posters and emails. All this alongside Middaugh stressing to students that the physical blue lights are currently not an option, and so that they should be aware of any other types of safety measures AU offers.

“I strongly support the re-institution of the blue lights and have been pushing for them to be brought back for a few years. I believe that they are important to the safety and security of campus. Even though Guardian is a great tool, there is always a chance that something may malfunction, so there should always be a backup plan. You also must consider that on occasions,

people forget, lose, or break their phone. We owe it to our community to not exclude them from a safety option.”

Some students and faculty have another perspective, where they feel like investing in blue lights do more harm than good.

“I’m speaking from the perspective of a social psychologist, in an academic way. I think that the presence of permanent infrastructure meant to signal ‘safety precautions’ are to a certain extent ‘security theater,’ said Dr. Beth Johnson, unsure of whether the system would be an effective deterrent for most deviant actors. “From the perspective of schematic processing, things like blue lights all over campus actually communicate ‘you are in danger here’ more than ‘you are safe here.’”

While this idea surrounding the blue lights doing more harm than good is less common, there are still many that subscribe to the idea. The argument against the physical blue lights, however, should not be misconstrued as an argument against any type of blue light—or even any type of security or precautionary system for a college campus.

Strictly speaking from a social psychologist point of view, Johnson continued, saying, “If it was up to me, I would not invest more money in security theater. I’d hire to fill the vacant Wellness Coordinator position, a person who did a lot of programming around consent, promoting campus safety, personal wellness, and stress management. I would invest in community building activities and spaces, or friendship-building and bridge-building programming to make students feel less isolated, less lonely, less vulnerable, and less out-of-place. I don’t think blue lights will do any of that. I think we’re seeing fear, anger, division, and isolation increase on campus and we’re missing out on some incredibly rich experiences that college is supposed to provide.”

It’s uncommon for professors to be outside of the gossip that fills their classrooms, with Dr. Michele Lowry saying that she’s heard multiple students complain about the campus being poorly lit, and of students feeling unsafe, over the years.

On that subject, Dr. Johnson continued, “I know that students really like to share scary stories about ‘rape alley,’ and it genuinely freaks people out. However, to my knowledge of the actual facts of incidents on campus, a student’s risk of attack in that area of campus is both no greater than any other sidewalk on campus, and far less than at the parties or bars they go to for fun. But these rumors, innuendos, and legends do actually promote students feeling afraid, into seeing their fellow students as possible assailants, and subtly encourage them to stay in their rooms or stay isolated socially or not try to make friends with people dissimilar to them.”

President Zupan views Alfred University as a caring community, and Dr. Johnson agrees, with both expressing that, “the experience is everything.”

In a pandemic that has made it that much harder to connect, both understand that fears of repugnant behavior spread through the campus at incredible rates and want nothing more than for students to stay safe and happy.

“I would tell new students that even though the blue lights are currently down, that does not mean that the campus is unsafe. We are lucky to have a campus that looks out for each other which helps keep campus safe,” said Middaugh.

When asked about safety precautions and advice, surrounding the possibility of unsafe situations, Middaugh advised, “Try to walk with friends and be aware of [your] surroundings. Stay within ear and eye shot of buildings so that if you need to be heard, you will be.”

While Tamara Kenney, the Dean of Student Wellbeing, is who should be contacted with broad questions and concerns, using Guardian and/or calling Public Safety warrants a quicker response time. Zupan said that they’re planning on installing more security cameras on campus, as well.

In the meantime, Zupan encourages students that, “if you see something untoward, report it.”

By Sam Sage

Do You See AU Pagans in Your Future?

A new club has just begun within the few remaining days of February. This club, created by Ray Chatto and Levi Samperi, is meant to be a safe space for people to learn and socialize with each other. Chatto had noticed that there were several clubs for Abrahamic religions and wanted to make something for Paganism.

Chatto defines Paganism as, “a practice of belief system that includes the worship of multiple deities, or none at all, depending on what you believe in.”

One of the most associated traditions or religions of Paganism is Wicca, which is, according to Chatto, known for worshipping nature and the self. However, there are many different traditions and religions, and all discussions relating them to the core of Paganism are highly encouraged by the club.

Regarding their goal for the club, Chatto said, “My goal here is to educate people who wish to learn about the lesser-known religions and belief systems of the world, or to feel free to teach others what they know.”

As president, they want to encourage club members to come together over similar interests. Members are encouraged to join whether they know everything, nothing, or something about Paganism—even those uncomfortable with the idea of Paganism. Chatto believes that if everyone is kind and open-minded, anyone is welcome. There may be controversial topics brought up at meetings, but he emphasizes that the club is a safe space meant for education and camaraderie.

When asked about planned club activities, Chatto and Samperi want to, not only learn about different belief systems but, include activities such as learning to read tarot cards and making spell jars. They also encourage members to bring in ideas for activities that might be from other religions, as long as they are respectful and willing to teach and learn. Chatto hopes that, in the next few years, they can plan a trip where members can use their knowledge and experience. However, he hasn’t settled on somewhere yet and is open to ideas.

While there has, as of yet, been no meeting for the club, Chatto will be sending out emails to interested members to make sure that the timing for meetings works for the majority of the club.

“Please email me at rec11@alfred.edu and I will add you to the email list. You will get all of the updates I will provide,” said Chatto.

They also encourage students to check out their page and constitution on AU Connect. They also have an Instagram account at @aupagans.

“I hope to see all sorts of new faces at our upcoming meetings where we can teach each other and learn a little!”

By Sam Sage

Ukraine: What's Going On? Part 2

Russia invaded Ukraine overnight shortly after explosions were heard near large Ukrainian cities. Over 100 Ukrainian civilians have died this Friday, the 24th, due to the Russian invasion. Many countries like the US and the UK are planning to put “massive” sanctions on Russia in an effort to put a stop to the fighting. None of these countries are planning on sending troops to Ukraine. Reports of explosions were heard in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv. A Russian jet was shot down over Kyiv during the explosions. Ukrainian President Zelensky said that he is Russia’s “target number one and that his family is number two. He also said that the Russians “...want to destroy Ukraine politically by liquidating the head of state.”

By Piper Lilley

Florence Maquillage: Made with Love



I am a small business owner here at Alfred University.

Florence Maquillage is a lip-gloss business in honor of my grandmother who passed away in June 2020. We originally launched February 26th, 2021, which is my grandmother’s birthday. I love and truly adore my grandmother so much, so everything literally connects right back to her. So, in a way to forever honor her I started a small business specifically named after her. “Florence” Maquillage: Florence is her first name and *maquillage* means “cosmetics” in French.

However, Florence Maquillage is not just any ordinary lip-gloss business. It is unique for many reasons in terms of being vegan-based, gluten-free, cruelty-free and the different flavors that you can only find by shopping with us. All lip-glosses are made by me directly, with vitamin E oil, coconut oil, love, and care, leaving your lips feeling well-moisturized and rejuvenated just after one application.

I chose to do an ice cream theme because, before my grandmother passed, her favorite dessert was ice cream. I decided to choose four flavors from a variety of ice cream which are Strawberry Shortcake, Cookies n Cream, Cookie Dough, and Vanilla—which is her all-time favorite. Then, Summer 2021, I added on a summer collection named “Tropical Breeze” which includes a bunch of tropical flavors such as Passionfruit, Dragon fruit, Coconut Cream, Blue Hawaiian, and Mango to give off tropical vibes in the nice summer weather!

Our website Florencemaquillage.com is currently under construction, so to shop please follow us on Instagram at @FlorenceMaquillage and directly send us a message!

By Nivaye Reid



Welcome to Alfred Speech and Debate

When it comes to the word “forensics,” there are two kinds of people in the world: those who think of dead bodies, and those who think of speech and debate tournaments. I leave it to you to discern what each says about your personality. Stemming from the Latin root word *forensis*, meaning “in open court” or “public,” forensic societies have been around at Alfred University for much longer than you might think—since our founding in 1836, in fact.

According to the sixth university president, John Nelson Norwood, in his work “Fiat Lux: The Story of Alfred University,” debating societies were immensely popular among men’s groups in the early days of Alfred. “The Alfred Debating Society,” which soon changed its name to the far more complicated title of “The Franklin Academic Lyceum of Alfred,” strived to improve the mind “by mutual interchange of ideas in debates, lectures, the reading of homemade manuscript periodicals, and other means.” This “boom” of oration and debate continued until about 1908; after suffering a crushing defeat at a Cornell University competition, Alfred’s forensic team dissipated. The history gets a little foggy through the following years. In the early 1930’s, a new Forensic Society emerged and briefly, there once again seemed to be a strong interest in speech and debate. However, former President Norwood’s particular narrative ends in 1957, and there are no other well- documented histories of a speech and debate club until the 21st century.

Dale Mott Slater, a senior now at AU, founded the Alfred Speech and Debate Society in 2020. Since then, with the guidance of our advisor Professor James Hansen, the club has practiced forensic skills in events such as dramatic interpretation, prose interpretation, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Parliamentary Debate, and many others. As of Spring 2022, ASDS competes in forensic tournaments, such as the Gorlok Gala hosted by Webster University.

The Society extends an invitation to all students, experienced in forensics or not, to join us in improving our critical thinking and originality. The art of speech is not just about being able to

Speak in front of an audience; it's about being able to stand up for what you believe in and defend your point, speaking clearly with integrity and thoughtfulness. We believe that *everyone* can benefit from practicing forensics.

ASDS meets in the Powell Board Room at 6pm on Thursday nights. Email Monica Nowik asds@alfred.edu or find our organization on AU Connect for more information.

By Monica Nowik

Improving Alfred University (Part 1)

Spring Semester 2022 marks the two-year COVID crisis for Alfred University. Starting in March of 2020, where the university decided to send students home for safety, and then developing into the protocol-heavy semester of Fall 2020. Not only did the challenges make it hard for students to call Alfred their home, some decided to never come back at all. A lot of needs were not met, social life was falling short, and newer students were struggling to enjoy the choice they made.

Fast forwarding to Spring of 2022, the school has found ways to push through all the protocols and revive the atmosphere of Alfred University. Despite COVID, the amenities presented by the school have started to become accessible for all students to enjoy. From the Students Activity Center (SAB) to the Art Workshops available on Main Street, (located next to Terra Cotta Coffee House), the student body has started to awaken again. Events are being held weekly, spanning from paint and sip, to game nights hosted by the students themselves.

Although COVID is still a pressing issue for us, trying to work and play around it can be just as important as avoiding COVID itself. Mark Zupan has made it clear his intentions are to revive the campus.

With his course taught by both him and Professor Gaustad, 'Improving Alfred University', the president asks the students a question: **What can we do to improve Alfred University?** Guest speakers, like Nadine Shardlow, present their pitches; More outdoor space for gatherings, and other projects like a garden to replace the recently destructed South Hall.

Currently, with spring break closing in, the students are told to pick their projects and gather their teams. By the end of the Spring 2022 semester these projects can lead to the next step to improving Alfred University!

By Isa Hamilton

Opinion Section

COVID and Questioning

COVID has proved to make everything very stressful for everyone, except those who do not believe that Covid-19 is a real disease or is serious. At the beginning of all of this, I had recently been in a fight with my former suitemates and had just moved into a room all to myself. I was a bisexual witch with major questions about everything. But those questions always sat hidden from me in my mind. These questions all made one thing clear: I had no idea who I was.

My boyfriend always seemed to know more about me than I knew about myself. Of course, he didn't know everything. No one did. It took me being alone in a room by myself doing research on sexualities and gender identities that I don't feel fully female. That I fall in love slowly. That I develop crushes after learning who someone was. I concluded demigirl, demisexual and demiromantic. Time passed and I realized more. I'm not female or male. I am just me. I came to genderfluid and nonbinary as me. Then I thought more about my sexuality. I don't always feel horny. It comes and goes at random moments. Greysexual, a part of asexual like demisexual, seemed to fit that category well.

Each time, I came out to my boyfriend first. Every time, he was incredibly supportive. I came out to my family, and they were also supportive. I wanted to go by Raven but decided to do it in small measures. First pronouns and then names. Ben, my boyfriend, was very supportive when I told him that I wanted to go by Raven. However, I haven't come out to everyone yet and some still call me London. I know how much love went into that name but I hope more love went into me as a person rather than just my name. London no longer fits me. The river by the city, the moon, no longer fits me as a person.

Raven means wise and chatty. It means sky warrior or sky princess. Raven comes from a fanfiction I read named Echo. The main character's name was Rae. Rae was everything I wanted to be. She was a badass, sarcastic and witty. She was amazing. I still strive to be like her but in my own way. That's why I want to be Raven. That's why I am Raven.

It took me years and I am still figuring it out. I am me. I know who I am and who I want to become.

By Raven Scarupa

A Struggle No One Shares

Our society believes that a college education is the lynch pin into efficiency, productivity, and overall success. However, in the process of persuading high schoolers to follow their dreams and move into dorm halls, they begin to destroy their very prodigies.

Those who make it out of the college system, with a degree to hang on their wall, lament about their debts and warn, for posterity, that it's a rough road to paying them off. What is never shared, however, is what it's like during your time in the system.

Thousands of dollars in Cashnet statements threaten to upturn the very hope that many students, and college recruiters, come into higher education with. Holds, which automatically go to refraining you from registering for the next semester, cause many students to debate dropping out or transferring. This is a great thing for Alfred University's retention rates.

The advent of bright-colored notices left in student mailboxes, telling them about an ASAP meeting with Student Aid, Student Accounts, color the mood of the students. Learning about having to spend thousands that they don't have, in a short window, so that they can continue their studies, make enemies out of the staff and idiots out of the students. It's rare to come out of those meetings optimistic.

It's a struggle no one shares, or that no one shares with faculty and staff. Students in lounges, dining halls, or work study, complain about how much they have to scrape up in order to scrape by. Lamenting about their parents, how they're exasperated with everyone and everything.

"No one has that kind of money."

As comfortable as students may get with their advisors, or other professors they have an affinity for, there are some things that seem taboo to speak about.

The question of, "What will my professor even do, if I mentioned it to them? What will they even say?"

At the end of the day, there's nothing to be done, so there's nothing to share.

By Sam Sage

A Hard Road to Hope

I have been fighting an unspoken battle for almost a year now.

It's not impossible, it's just another hill. I hold out all hope that the gravity will decrease as I get closer to the top of this mountain and things won't be so heavy.

This is a call to action to begin to make this process better for all involved. This is not something I can do on my own.

I changed my name this past year.

This name is me; the other is not. And being addressed with it hurts me and chips me down. As I came out to my friends and family, the ones that left took pieces of myself with them. But the ones that stayed helped me collect new pieces, and now I am stronger than I ever thought I would be.

Even with all that strength, the systems at Alfred University are built in a way that makes it nearly impossible to change your name without facing roadblocks. When I first needed to change my name in the system, I contacted someone in the administrative staff for help. They responded with support and gave me a link to Alfred's 'Chosen Name Process.' This states that once requested on a single Microsoft Form, your name will be changed on your Student ID, Canvas, MyAU, online directory, email, and Banner.

Not only does this list exclude other places your deadname appears, but it also does not actually fix your name in the places listed. I put this form in over summer break and the only places it changed my name was my university email (in the email directory) and MyAU. However, these changes did not happen until about three months after I had originally put in my form.

In the meantime, my mental health was strongly impacted. Before the three months had ended, I decided I couldn't continue to be addressed incorrectly every time I needed to get food on the Get App. Also, since Powell at the time was set up so that whenever you ordered something they would yell the name on the receipt, it made it mentally difficult for me to get food.

I contacted someone in charge of food and they told me the only way to change my name on the app was to change my name on my ID. Luckily, they got me in touch with those in charge of the IDs and they were able to help me get a new one. Once that was handled it was a lot easier to use the Get App and eat. However, that was still not the end of the problem.

I next encountered it in the form of the library; their system only had the other name and was not registered with my name on my ID. As a result, the act of checking out a book required me to deadname myself in order to find my account in their system. Meanwhile, the only way for you to change your name on Canvas is to go into the settings on the account and change it manually. My name on the rosters for classes only changed after I figured out a way to correct it on my account.

My name in the residence life rosters is incorrect with no way to fix it until they can change their software.

My name in the almost bi-weekly bookstore advertisement emails is still incorrect with no way to fix it.

My name in Banner is incorrect with no way to fix it.

My name in the emails from the mailroom I am not sure can be changed in all honesty.

There are some things I know will not be changed unless I change my name legally. And I am understanding of the situations in which my deadname still must be used. But in Alfred, where so many people have accepted me for who I am and continue to, it makes no sense why I should receive automated emails under the wrong name and feel belittled and drained because of something so easy to get right.

If you are in my shoes, it gets better. And I know Alfred can do better. It just isn't there yet.

For now, here is what I wish I knew when I started this process.


1. The Microsoft form only changes your name on MyAU and the email directory. It might take a ridiculous amount of time, but it gets there eventually. Here is the link: <https://my.alfred.edu/student-policies/chosen-name-process.cfm>
2. To change your name on Canvas, go into Settings, to Profile Settings, to Edit Username
3. Your Get App is connected to your ID, which can be changed by talking to and/or emailing dining staff. (New IDs might cost \$15)
4. When at the library, opt to give your ID number to the librarian when you check out your books--it is an option even if they ask for your name with the intention to look it up.
5. If people are addressing you incorrectly, speak up if you can. It is very hard to find your voice in many situations so even if you let them know after the fact, they will most likely be appreciative.
6. Email! The only way I have been able to fix anything is by contacting people and letting them know of the mistake or searching for resources to fix problems (Also, who knows, maybe someone will see the email you wrote to the robot that keeps sending your name wrong every time.)
7. Give yourself breaks; this takes so much out of a person. It's all right to rest and perfectly fine not to try to fix it all at once.
8. It's ok to be scared. You are loved. It will all be all right. The future is brighter than you know, even if it feels so far away.

None of the above are permanent solutions. There should be an easier way to change a name. Please, Alfred University, fix your systems and provide better resources.

Sincerely,

Someone Hopeful

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