Iraqi students settling in at UA

6 Fulbright Scholars from Iraq learning English, politics in U.S.

By Walter E. Staton

It used to be only a dream for Iraqi scholars to study abroad in the United States. But now, 10 months after the end of the war that toppled Saddam Hussein’s regime, six Iraqi Fulbright Scholars have arrived to study at the UA.

There are 25 Iraqi Fulbright Scholars in the United States this year.

Ali Mohammed and Hamdy Singary are two of the six Iraqi students learning English at UA’s Center for English as a Second Language. They will be here until August.

Both students said they have come to learn more about America’s political system.

Singary, who spoke with the help of an interpreter, has worked in Iraq as a lawyer, a security investigator and a security adviser to the secretary of the interior in Baghdad. He said he is interested in applying federalism back home.

Singary is from Asch in northern Iraq’s Kurdish region. He said federalism is a system he believes will unify Iraq. He said the Kurdish people, who have remained relatively autonomous since the first Gulf War, want to be a part of Iraq now that the old regime is gone.

“(The Kurds) have asked for unity,” Singary said, “but according to a federalist system.”

Mohammed, a recent graduate of an Iraqi law school, said he wants to attend law school here and is aiming for the top — Yale or Harvard.

After returning to Iraq, he hopes to work in the government and teach students about the U.S. system, he said.

“It is necessary for students to improve their knowledge,” he said.

Both Mohammed and Singary spoke openly about the war in Iraq.

Mohammed said he lives on a highway that leads into his town and that he saw the American troops come in. He said there was a cannon in front of his house that was shot with.

Iraq/11

Student shot with pellet gun at La Paz

By Holly Molla

Police are on the lookout for the person who has been shooting at students and a residence hall with a pellet gun.

While walking in a parking lot on Feb. 26 by La Paz Residence Hall, a female student was shot in the thigh by what police believe to be a pellet gun.

Police are now looking for the suspect and asking for anyone who knows anything about the incident to come forward.

“We are very interested in locating the suspect,” said Sgt. Eugene Mejia, UAPD spokesperson.

The pellet gun penetrated the student’s skin, and she suffered a minor injury. Mejia said a pellet gun can be very dangerous.

“It could be lethal if it hit someone in a vital area, such as an eye,” he said.

Mejia said police believe the suspect is a resident of La Paz and was shooting from one of the windows.

Within a day of the shooting, police received reports that several residence hall windows had been shot at. Mejia said police believe the incidents are connected.

Courtney Brazil, a pre-business freshman and a La Paz resident, said one of the reports was from her friend, whose window now has several holes in it.

“When he first told me, I thought it was a joke, but then I saw the bullet holes in his window,” she said.

Brazil said the pellet gun incident doesn’t really worry her.

But Demia Molla, a chemistry sophomore and a resident of La Paz, said the incident worries her.

See ASSAULT/12

Fat Tuesday closes abruptly

By Jessica Lee

Fat Tuesday on East University Boulevard unexpectedly closed down last week.

Signs taped to windows around the building indicated some details about the closure.

Part of the sign read that Geronomatz Inc. had “exercised legal rights to re-enter and take possession of those premises.”

The sign stated that Geronomatz retook possession because Fat Tuesday had defaulted on its sublease.

Geronomatz leased the bar to Fat Tuesday, and the Marshall Foundation owns the property.

The exact time of the closure is unknown, but members of the Hillel Foundation who had just returned from a Thursday night party at Fat Tuesday for the Purim holiday received a call Wednesday night from manager Ryan Gaines, who said the bar was shut down.

Hillel had less than 24 hours to relocate the party.

“After calling various locations, the management at Belushi’s were very willing to accommodate us at the last minute,” Hillel executive director Erin Bland said.

TUESDAY/12