



ASP



ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

Two Great
Dane wins
in one day
PAGE 10

The Jokers take
the stage, and
things get
wild
PAGE 7



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CAMPUS CONVERSATIONS

AMERICAN MEDIA AND POLITICS

What reporters get wrong, and what money has to do with it

By LINDSEY RIBACK

Money, media and politics were on the minds of the students and faculty members who attended Professor Rosemary Armao's discussion Wednesday in the Standish Room. This was the second of the University at Albany Libraries' "Campus Conversations in Standish" series, which began last spring.

The purpose of the series is to "showcase faculty research and expertise" and to foster conversations on different topics among members of the UAlbany community, according to the UAlbany Library website.

Armao, who is the director of the UAlbany journalism program and a panelist for WAMC Public Radio, began her presentation titled "The 2016 Election: What Happens When New Money Converges With New Media" by explicitly stating her biases and the flaws she sees in media coverage.

She acknowledged her feminist bias to the 20 or so individuals gathered at the table with her, saying that she is likely to vote for Hillary Clinton because "I would like to see a woman president."

Armao also believes that the best presidents are

professional politicians and the average citizen does not do a good job of reporting in general, especially when it comes to politics.

The problem with the current media, Armao explained, is that political coverage focuses on quirks and personalities.

When media does cover political issues "it is so freaking boring that no one reads it, and if they do struggle through it, they don't remember it," she said. "We still don't have the talent for writing about boring topics in an interesting way."

Another problem is that presidential candidates have the ability to command the coverage they are receiving. Armao mentioned the role of money in Republican candidate Donald Trump's campaign. Up until this point all of his interviews have been on the balcony of Trump Tower, almost as an advertisement of himself and what he has attained over the years.

The media needs to step back and focus on the actual politics rather than on the sensationalism, Armao said.

"I think media has the responsibility to say, these are the serious candidates - let us concentrate our coverage on that," she said.

When it comes to coverage the media does get a lot right, Armao said. She cited an article by The New York Times last

month which revealed that more than half the money donated to the 2016 presidential campaigns comes from only 158 families. This allows the wealthy, who are putting exorbitant amounts of money into individual campaigns, to potentially have a large influence on politics.

The journalism director also said that reporters are doing a good job of holding candidates accountable. For example, many Republican nominees claim to not believe in the theory of evolution and so reporters have brought other professional voices to debates this.

This brings up the question of balance.

"Does the media have a duty to be balanced in coverage if one side is clearly correct?" asked attendee Martha Rozett, a professor in the English department. Rozett explained that in class if a student presents an answer to a question that is clearly incorrect, she tells the student that the answer is wrong and doesn't sugarcoat it.

Armao explained to her audience that even if reputable news sources are not providing the other side, it can be found on the internet, although it may be inaccurate.

According to her, "balanced journalism is a form of unfairness." In well-established sources of media the other side should be noted, but not necessarily given equal space.

ON CAMPUS



Connor Murphy / Albany Student Press

The Superhero Sprint

There were capes galore at the 5K race this past Sunday at UAlbany. The sprint raises money for the Starlight Children's Foundation, which helps support sick children and their families.

RESEARCH

Professor provides HEARTS to those suffering from trauma

By RUSSELL OLIVER

The University at Albany's School of Social Welfare is collaborating with the newly formed HEARTS (Healthy Environments And Relationships That Support) Initiative to increase research and create programs to aid people who have experienced early childhood trauma, frequently referred to as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).

"We want to turn this into a social movement, engaging all community members and reaching policy-makers statewide," Heather Larkin, an associate professor at UAlbany, said.

Studies show a strong link between ACEs and developing financial and social problems later in life. Traumatic childhood experiences can put stress on a developing brain, thus causing behavioral troubles, learning disabilities, and poor health. ACE and its after effects have become a huge concern in New York state.

HEARTS agencies researched and collected data on ACE from

schools in the Capital Region. LaSalle School discovered that 40.7 percent of its students are suffering from ACE. St. Anne Institute had many students suffering from ACE in a study among 125 girls in their residential treatment facility. They found that 65 percent have experienced physical abuse, 70 percent have experienced sexual abuse and 96 percent reported a family member who abused drugs or alcohol.

An outpatient substance abuse service named Senior Hope scored those 50 and older on their ACE. Fifty-four percent of them were suffering from ACE-related problems in their lives, with higher percentages for females. Findings have also uncovered the impact of ACE on the homeless adult community in Albany, with over half of those surveyed suffering from their ACE. These statistics show that the number of people suffering from ACE has increased in Albany and New York state.

Larkin has been a pioneer in research on ACE in this area. She has been broadening ACE research into programs, practices,

and policies. The ACE Study, conducted by Larkin, was one of the largest investigations ever performed to notice connections between childhood mistreatment and later life problems. She plans to expand her research into disadvantaged groups and to emphasize social workers' ACE response within these groups to advocate community resilience.

According to Larkin, agencies around the Capital Region are improving their services for those who are in need the most: people with high ACE scores and numerous associated health and social issues. These agencies ask "what's happened to you" instead of "what's wrong with you." They focus on being compassionate and addressing people's strengths to influence improvement.

"We now see how pervasive ACEs are in society and how we can work together to create a culture of health that reduces the high human, social, and economic costs associated with ACEs," she said.

Larkin said the HEARTS Initiative was created based on

public interest on the matter. The original ACE study authors held presentations at the university starting in 2007, which were widely attended. Many attendees noted that the ACE characteristics mentioned in the presentations were noticeable in the community. For this reason Larkin started holding ACE Think Tank and Action team meetings.

"These quarterly events brought together community members and providers interested in translating the ACE research into policies, programs, practices, and community supports," Larkin said.

The Think Tank and Action meetings soon developed into the HEARTS Initiative. Many organizations and schools from the Capital Region are part of the HEARTS Initiative, including the Center for Disability Services, the Community Hospice, Prevent Child Abuse NY, and St. Catherine's Center for "Backbone" of this alliance, according to Larkin.

UAlbany has recently been gifted a \$300,000 grant to expand research and services at the

HEARTS Initiative, according to a press release. Larkin believes that this grant will help raise social awareness on this problem.

"This award significantly recognizes the great work being done by Dr. Larkin and her team," Darrell P. Wheeler, the dean of the School of Social Welfare, said in the press release.

The HEARTS Initiative plans to utilize this grant by focusing on the Capital Region's highest scoring ACE population, including people with disabilities, children in minority groups, and the homeless.

"We also want to do more outreach to schools and healthcare," Larkin said. "We want a comprehensive approach where we are all working together to create a culture of health."



LARKIN

STUDENT ACTIVISM

Hispanic or Latino? Why it matters

By **FRANCESCA MCGUIRE**

Beny Poy, a junior from the Bronx, N.Y., is used to making an impact on the University at Albany campus. He's a Resident Assistant and Senator for Dutch Quad, a member of the campus club MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) and was the Assistant Residential Director for this year's EOP Summer Program.

However, last month he made an impact at UAlbany that will live on for years after he graduates. Poy helped draft and present a bill to the Student Association that changed the UAlbany recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, to the more inclusive Latino Heritage Month.

Last February, Poy and Christopher Ortega, the co-sponsor

of the bill, studied abroad in Cuba where they connected to their Latin roots. They came back to the United States with a renewed sense of pride. They began to recognize the cultural barrier that Hispanic Heritage Month creates.

"In Cuba I learned what it means to define yourself and the empowerment of certain terminology," Poy said.

Upon his return, Poy began to take various classes in the Caribbean and Latin American Studies Department at UAlbany. The classes offered insight regarding what it means to be of Hispanic descent versus Latin descent.

He described the use of the term Hispanic as an identity for those who have heritage coming from the Iberian Peninsula, speak Spanish, and have Spaniard heritage.

"It generally means those who are Puerto Rican, Mexican or Dominican," Poy explained.

According to Poy, the American government uses this identity to easily group people together for the census.

The term Latino refers to those within the Latin American region. "Using Latino is almost like an umbrella," Poy said. "It's a regional reference that even includes Brazilians, for example, who are typically excluded from the term Hispanic."

Poy, who is Dominican and Puerto Rican, also maintained that Hispanic is considered a "top-down terminology," whereas Latino is considered "bottom-up."

"Identifying as Latino is a form of self-empowerment," Poy said, citing this as something he learned in his Latinization of U.S. Cities course.

To change the UAlbany recognition of the month, Poy first went to the department of Latin American and Caribbean studies. He quickly received support from professors and a letter from the department chair, Pedro Cabán.

He also gained support from the director of the Educational Opportunities Program, Maritza Martinez, and from Fuerza, the largest organization on campus that celebrates Latino culture.

After drafting the bill, the Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, which for the last decade has celebrated Latino Heritage Month instead of Hispanic Heritage Month, backed Poy.

To Poy's relief, the bill passed unanimously. However, there was one amendment.

"The bill was slightly changed to be inclusive to Latinas as well,"

Poy said. "Simply because the word Latino is more specific to males."

Hispanic Heritage Month will now be celebrated as Latino and Latina Heritage Month, to include both women and men of Latin descent.

Although Poy celebrated the bill being passed on the UAlbany campus, he sees it as simply the first step in changing federal recognition of an important month. He and Ortega hope to spread the change to the entire SUNY system, New York state, and maybe one day the federal government.

Next year will be Poy's senior year at UAlbany, and he has a lot to look forward to in the month celebrating his heritage.

"I hope to see a lot more diversity in the Latin culture that is celebrated," he said.

CRIME BLOTTER

MEDICAL INCIDENT

11/5/2015
State Quad - Fulton Hall
Report of a male student complaining of severe rectal pain. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.

PETIT LARCENY

11/5/2015
Colonial Quad - CQ Cafeteria
Report of money stolen from cafeteria safe.

ASSIST A PERSON

11/4/2015
Roadways - LT Lot
Assisted a person retrieving lost license plate.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

11/4/2015
PE Complex - SEFCU Arena
Report of unknown subject rifling through drawers and cabinets in SEFCU gift shop.

PERSONS ANNOYING

11/2/2015
PE Complex - Tennis Courts
Advised subjects they were not allowed to skateboard in tennis court.

ASSIST RES LIFE

11/1/2015
Alumni Quad - Alden Hall
Assisted in removal of female student from male students room.

ASSIST RES LIFE

11/1/2015
Alumni Quad - Alden Hall
Assisted in removal of female student from male students room.

CRIMINAL SEXUAL ACT 1ST

11/1/2015
Indian Quad - Mahican Hall
A male student was arrested for a criminal sexual act.

HARASSMENT 2ND-PHYSICAL CONTACT

11/1/2015
Alumni Quad - Pierce Hall
Report of an argument and physical altercation between two female students. One of the students was referred.

CRIMINAL CONTEMPT-1ST: VIOLATE ORDER OF PROTECTION

10/31/2015
PE Complex - SEFCU Arena
A female student and male subject were arrested for violating an order of protection.

PETIT LARCENY

10/31/2015
Empire Commons - EC Grounds
Report of a stolen unicycle.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED- 1ST OFFENSE

10/31/2015
Roadways - University Drive West
A male student was found to be driving while intoxicated and arrested for same. Referral also made.

HARASSMENT

10/30/2015
State Quad - Cooper Hall
Report of physical altercation between female and male student.

TAKE INCAPACITATED PERSON FOR EMERGENCY TREATMENT

10/30/2015
Podium - Campus Center
Report of a female student highly intoxicated. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.

DISPLAY FORGED CERTIFICATE WITHOUT INSPECTION

10/30/2015
Roadways - Washington Avenue
A male subject was found to be operating a motor vehicle with a forged inspection. An arrest was made.

MEDICAL INCIDENT

10/30/2015
Alumni Quad - AQ Grounds
Report of a female student with head injury. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.



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Source: Wikimedia.org

Deputy Ben Fields aggressively forced a female student out of her chair after she refused to get off of her phone at Spring Valley High School in South Carolina. The incident caused major controversy across the nation.

IN THE NEWS

‘DO YOU HAVE EYES?’ Addressing the Spring Valley incident

By RUSSELL OLIVER

What is now known as the “Spring Valley Incident” happened on Monday, Oct. 26. A 16-year-old student was refusing to give her phone away to her teacher, thus disrupting the class. Deputy Ben Fields, the school’s resource officer, was called into the classroom to remove the girl from the class and he overreacted to the extreme. At least three videos were taken of the event and became viral globally after they were posted online. Fields’ attorney, Scott J. Hayes, has spoken out about the officer’s actions in the Spring Valley incident, defending Fields in a press release statement he posted last Wednesday. “We believed that Mr. Fields’ actions were justified and lawful throughout the circumstances of which he was confronted during this incident,” he said in the release. I have one question for Mr. Hayes: Do you have eyes? Because the videos that went viral show Fields flipping the girl’s chair to the ground with her in it, before

pulling her out of her chair and across the room.

Hayes then continues to say, “To that extent, we believe that Mr. Fields’ actions were carried out professionally and that he was performing his job duties within the legal threshold.”

Again, are you sure you can see Mr. Hayes? I don’t think anyone who saw these videos would deem Fields’ actions as “professional.” Also, I wouldn’t consider dragging a student-aged girl across the ground within the “legal threshold.”

Leon Lott, the Richard County Sheriff, suspended Fields immediately after the incident. Fields was fired two days after that. However, the sheriff wasn’t completely on the student’s side.

Lott believes that the student has some accountability in the situation because her disruptive behavior is what caused Fields to enter the classroom and remove her.

“When a classroom is disrupted by a student, that disrupts the education process and the students can’t learn and the teachers can’t teach,” Lott said in a recent CNN article.

Hey Sheriff Lott, do you know what also disrupts classrooms? A violent police officer dragging a student across the room. It amazes me that so many people are trying to focus a portion of the blame on the student, when Fields overreacted to the situation tremendously.

Don’t even get me started on Raven-Symoné. Haven’t you already said enough controversial things for a relatively new host on “The View?”

“The girl was told multiple times to get off the phone,” Raven said during the roundtable discussion. “There’s no right or reason for him to be doing this type of harm, that’s ridiculous. But at the same time, you gotta follow the rules in school. First of all, why are there cell phones in school? This shouldn’t even be a problem to begin with.”

You know, you’re right Raven. The real lesson from this incident is that cell phones shouldn’t be in school. That’s so not right, Raven.

The girl from the incident was arrested afterwards for “disturbing schools.” Niya Kenny, 18, was also arrested in class that day for the same charges. She

spoke out to CNN about the incident. Kenny said that she told her classmates to get their phones out because they knew of the officer’s reputation. Kenny’s attorney, Simone Martin, said that a number of students refer to him as “Officer Slam as opposed to Officer Fields.”

Kenny later described Fields as a “dangerous man to get involved with” in the interview. It seems like this guy has a history of violence. The fact that he is the resource officer for this school is scary.

Let me just be the one to say it: Ben Fields, you’re an asshole.

The fact is that communities aren’t taking police brutality seriously enough. There have been way too many reports of police officers taking it way too far and using brutal force or even gunfire in situations where it’s unnecessary. We need to address this issue because I think that the more stories we hear, the more fear we feel about the police force as a whole. They are the ones that are supposed to be protecting us, not the ones we need protecting from.

ACADEMICS

‘Unbundling’ higher education at UAlbany

By PATRICK GAREAU

The ground is shifting beneath institutions of higher education, and not just because of tractors moving dirt around the podium at the University at Albany. Innovative organizations are increasingly putting pressure on traditional colleges and universities to change the way they deliver education to students.

I had the opportunity to attend the annual SUNY Critical Issues in Higher Education Conference on Oct. 29 and Oct. 30. The event felt like a reckoning or an identity crisis for schools in the SUNY system. As I listened to a number of experts in higher education discuss the disruptive forces at play and the trends in the sector, I found myself wondering where UAlbany will fit in this changing landscape.

One of the developments changing education is the availability of free online courses from top global universities through online platforms like EdX. Anant Agarwal, CEO of EdX, participated in a panel at the event.

“Higher ed. needs to reinvent itself,” he

said.

Agarwal suggested that each college and university focus on what they do well, and allow students to receive credit for subjects outside of a given institution’s specialty through free online platforms. At a comprehensive university like UAlbany, this suggestion may not be as relevant as a specialized liberal arts school or tech school. However, it does call attention to the power of improving online learning platforms and the lack of online course offerings at UAlbany.

As a new student this semester with a busy schedule who could really benefit from being able to take a couple of classes online, I was absolutely baffled by the void of offerings when signing up for courses. I had assumed when coming here that, since this is a large university and it’s the 21st century, it must be making an effort to offer a lot of online courses. Then when trying to cross register an online course through Empire State College, my department said it would not apply to my major even though the course had the same title as the one offered here.

UAlbany has to focus on developing its online course offerings or risk being

outcompeted by others that have gotten off to a head start. At the very least, if the university does not want to develop their own online course material, they need to make it easier for students to take courses elsewhere.

Another topic that was much discussed during the conference was a concept called “unbundling.” This is where parts of what are included in a traditional degree are offered separately instead of keeping everything bundled in an one-degree program. This often takes the form of offering certificates for certain skills. SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher said the system needs to start thinking about unbundling. She announced the creation of a task force on micro-credentialing during the conference to address this.

Like with online offerings, UAlbany could do better to keep pace with this trend in higher education. While a number of graduate certificates are offered, the university should start moving quicker on offering certificates that can be earned in the process of obtaining a bachelor’s degree.

While our university is lagging behind in the areas mentioned above, UAlbany is

doing better than most in some areas that were often discussed at the conference, such as forming partnerships with other local colleges (like the recent partnership announcement with Albany Law), working closely with businesses (such as Start-Up NY) and expanding applied learning opportunities.

However, as a lifetime resident of the Capital Region, I would like to see UAlbany be an aggressive innovator in higher education so that it can continue to be a positive driving force in the community. It is probably too late to see it happen while I am a student, but UAlbany can certainly become a leader in cutting edge practices if that is made a priority in the next five years.

At the conference, Facebook co-founder and publisher of “The Atlantic,” Chris Hughes, said he believes higher education is heading toward a crisis point. Many experts in attendance shared that sentiment. UAlbany has to start reevaluating how they operate in many areas in order to make sure that the university not only survives these disruptions, but also thrives in a new higher education environment.

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FASHION

TRANSFORMING GENDER STANDARDS

By DANIEL PINZON

Everyone has a different sense of style. But are all these possibilities acknowledged by the public? No, they're not. There are established styles, but there are some that we tend to disregard and treat as abnormal and inferior.

Clothing is a norm that society has warped into gender-specific attire which we are expected to follow. The styles we disregard are those that don't follow gender expectations.

Men and women are expected to dress in certain ways, but that doesn't have to be the case. In fact, as the continuum of sexuality and gender begins to unravel, we see that people can wear whatever they want, and they do so flawlessly. We wear the clothes - the clothes don't wear us.

These pieces of fabric have so much power to define people, but they shouldn't. Clothes are made as a form of expression—they aren't the absolute definition of a person. There is more to that person than his or her shirt or shoes.

Fashion Week is a time when what is considered to be the epitome of style goes on display. But the well-known, glamorous fashion undermines alternative apparel. There is nothing wrong with the celebration of upcoming trends, but it's troubling that it's seen as the role model of human attire. While Fashion Week isn't blatantly forcing its fashion onto its audience or the world, it's claiming to portray what the highest form of fashion is.

There's nothing wrong with Fashion Week, but there are styles outside of what walks the catwalks during those weeks. And I'm glad that fashion week is slowly introducing other styles, and gender fluidity, to the runway show.

Fashion Week is in the process of stepping into a better direction, as it's beginning to mesh masculinity and femininity onto either sex. Yet they aren't taking it to the extent they could be in this modern day and age.

Thus, I bring attention to The MarcoMarco show. Although it's just a not-so-popular underwear brand, the creator hosts runway shows that exploit gender fluidity and sexuality in a complementary spotlight. The MarcoMarco show's significance lies behind the models wearing the clothes.

The models are transgender, drag queens, and people



Source: Bernardo Vazquez via Tumblr.com

MarcoMarco (middle) with two drag queens featured as models in the show. MarcoMarco designs gender fluid clothing, breaking the stereotypes of gender specific fashion.

who fall on the spectrum of homosexuality. I love this. I love the fact that this runway show went outside of the box, and didn't focus on what people were wearing (although the clothes were stunning, too). It focuses more on the model and the impact they have on the attire.

MarcoMarco really takes this style of "genderfuckness" and shows how it can be beautiful. After all, gender is something we have control over. And

just to make it clear, "genderfuckness" shouldn't have a negative connotation: it's a statement that clarifies that there is no certain way one gender should look. And unlike other runway presentations, MarcoMarco doesn't ignore that people come in all different shapes and sizes.

His progressive step toward diversity is sending out a message that society needs to act on. This show eliminates the standard of beauty and allows people to define beauty as they please.

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Source: The University at Albany

Actor, director, and screenwriter Edward Burns talks about his college experience at UAlbany during the 1980s.

ALUMNI

FROM UALBANY TO HOLLYWOOD

Talking with filmmaker and alumni Edward Burns

By DIEGO CAGARA

Award-winning Hollywood actor, director and screenwriter Edward Burns got low grades and almost couldn't graduate when he went to the University at Albany back in the late 1980s.

"I was spending too much time downtown and not enough time on campus and my grades reflected on that," he said. "I was called in...to have a talk with [my adviser] because my GPA was like a 1.8."

Burns, 47, returned to UAlbany for a seminar on Nov. 6 to reminisce about his days here, speak about his journey to the Hollywood scene, and also promote his new memoir "Independent Ed," which is like a how-to guide for aspiring film students that details his experiences as a filmmaker. The Writers Institute coordinated his stay, and his appearance was free and open to the public.

As the seminar began, Burns recalled how his academic adviser recommended he minor in film

studies to complement his English major and boost his failing grades. Burns also struggled financially, as his father could not afford to help him transfer to New York University, where he'd dreamed of going, after taking all the relevant courses at UAlbany. This led Burns to eventually transfer to Hunter College instead, where he was able to take more film-related courses.

An assignment Burns had while at Hunter College pushed him to try his hand at acting as well. "My professor asked the class if [anyone wanted] to be directors and all of us raised our hands," Burns recalled. "He then said, 'How many of you have any acting experience?' and nobody raised their hands. He then said 'How would you know how to work with actors if you've never spent one second in their shoes?'"

The professor assigned Burns to act out a scene with several classmates. Burns said he was initially "terrified" but then "fell in love with" acting. This laid

the foundation for his career as an actor later on, in addition to his passion for screenwriting and directing. Burns would eventually get cast in successful films like "She's the One" (1996) and "The Holiday" (2006).

During college, Burns looked up to veteran directors like Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese and Woody Allen for inspiration. After collaborating with Spielberg, who directed "Saving Private Ryan" (1998), Burns learned something from him about being a great director.

Burns recalled how Spielberg did not give much direction to him and his co-stars during the first two weeks of shooting. This convinced them that "[Spielberg] hated our performances and was eventually going to fire us." But on the 11th day of shooting, Spielberg began actively directing them by filming more takes. Burns then approached him to ask why he had not done so from the beginning.

"Spielberg explained that his approach when handling actors

was to hire actors who he knew could already do the job, and he liked their past work but he didn't want to step on their toes which would have created creative differences," Burns said. "Only when [Spielberg] sees that the actors go way off in a crazy direction, then he has to step in. But other than that, he knows how professional actors are and they don't need his help."

Burns would use this approach as a director. He collaborated with Spielberg again, who is a co-producer of the TNT police drama series "Public Morals" (2015), which Burns created, wrote, directed and starred in.

Inspired by his father and uncle who are retired New York City policemen, Burns told Spielberg about his fascination with "what it was like to be a cop in New York in the '50s, '60s and '70s" while filming "Saving Private Ryan." Spielberg then encouraged him to create a film about it.

Over a decade later, TNT would approach Burns in 2015 about creating a new TV series for its

network about either "gangsters, cops or zombies." Realizing that this could be his chance to create the period cop drama like he'd envisioned, Burns pitched his concept to TNT, which then ordered 10 episodes to air. Its pilot broadcast on Aug. 25.

In addition to his free seminar, Burns travelled to UAlbany's Downtown Campus to screen two episodes of "Public Morals" for free.

Despite his successes and failures over the years, as well as how many times he and his pitches were initially rejected by distribution companies, agencies and film festivals, Burns attributed his climb to Hollywood fame to both his constantly supportive father and his UAlbany academic adviser who inadvertently pushed him to minor in film studies as he was about to flunk out of college due to low grades.

Perhaps what every struggling student needs is a simple wake up call.

For a full interview with Burns, visit albanystudentpress.net.

UALBANY THEATER

'Good Kids' starts the discussion on rape culture

By KEVIN MERCADO

The University at Albany Theater program is tackling the controversial issue of rape and rape culture with the play "Good Kids," in a current way: how social media and new technology play a key role.

Written by Naomi Iizuka, the play is based on the real life events of the 2012 Steubenville High School rape case in Ohio. A high school girl went to a party that a classmate was hosting. After a few alcoholic drinks, she woke up in a different house completely naked with no memory of the night before, only to find out she had been sexually assaulted. The events were then posted online via Twitter and YouTube.

"Many people, whether they talk about it or not, have gone through this or knows someone who has," said Kim Stauffer, a professor at UAlbany and the director of the play. "[It's] an issue that I'm also pretty fierce about."

Years ago, Stauffer worked as a volunteer at a sexual assault crisis intervention hotline and said that the stories she heard really stayed with her.

"I'm new at UAlbany, but this was something that the theater program was

talking about doing... I didn't pick it to make it divisive," Stauffer said. "[It's a] huge factor in the lives of students on campus."

The play was originally written in a high school setting, but for the purposes of the production is geared toward for a college-aged audience and cast.

Stauffer explained that auditions began in the first week of September and rehearsals began about a week or two later. She said that there are no "key" characters but that it is an ensemble cast, with each character getting about as much stage time as everyone else.

"I picked the people who I thought were best for those roles... Like Sarah Vargas, she's a firecracker and so is her character," Stauffer said. "I don't just want actors, I want people who are ready to be student leaders." They will be seen on campus, Stauffer pointed out, and they will be the ones who continue the conversation.

"[It's an] important play to talk about," said Kay Broughton, 21, who plays mean girl Briana, "Some people will come with preconceived ideas of what to expect."

"To me, I don't think it's about rape, it's about people's reaction and how they respond," said Lisa Warner, 21, who plays

Skylar, the girl who blows the whistle on the case.

The play takes a very 21st century approach to rape. The Steubenville rape case was thrust into the national spotlight because the assault was recorded, live-tweeted, and posted on several other social media platforms.

Warner said that she thinks this is a play about "how much power media has in society."

Having the case displayed all over the Internet was humiliating, but also brought sympathy to her case as well.

Tyiesha DeJesus, 20, plays Chloe, the rape victim, says "One thing I learned is that the accused have their own story and they do have a background, but that regardless of their background, they are still responsible for their actions."

The victim of the assault was demonized, according to Stauffer, especially by parents, coaches, and reporters.

"The play does do a good job of having scenes that break up the tense moments," said DeJesus.

The play incorporates rewinds, pauses and an omniscient character who controls the cast, according to Cameron Rivers, 25, who plays star football player Connor.

These scenes are referred to as the "Good Kids" chorus scenes, where the cast assumes different roles in brief scenes to explain the public opinion on the matter and then resume their given roles.

Straker hopes that audiences understand what is and what is not rape. Straker tried not to relate to it too much and simply said that "it's just acting."

Rivers added that the cast tries to keep a positive attitude afterward and be "sensitive to [their] fellow actors."

What should audiences expect when they see this play?

"Great acting, great lighting, great sound," some of the cast said. But most importantly audiences should "come in with an open mind."

"Good Kids" began running Thursday, Nov. 5 and will continue to run this upcoming weekend. There is also a "Talkback" after every show where audience members can discuss what they've seen, heard, and felt with Stauffer, some cast members and Carol Stenger, director of the Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence.

"Hopefully, [audiences] walk away feeling like they're a part of it," said Stauffer.

LOCAL LAUGHS

Filling Albany with laughter: Make Me Laugh finds talent

By RUSSELL OLIVER

Are you an under-the-radar comedian who's looking for a chance to get up on stage and get some laughs? Make Me Laugh Albany is perfect for aspiring comedians in the Capital Region.

Make Me Laugh is a nationwide program established by comedian Dan Frigolette, known for creating the Hoboken Comedy Festival. The program is a friendly competition between local comics to laugh-battle it out to see who is the funniest. Make Me Laugh has traveled nationwide to find undiscovered comics, visiting cities like Binghamton, N.Y., St. Louis, Mo., Denver, Colo., and Anchorage, Alaska.

"Make Me Laugh is basically an amateur talent hunt looking for the funniest comedian in whatever city we go," Frigolette said.

Auditions for Make Me Laugh Albany were held last Tuesday, Nov. 3 on the University at Albany campus, where eight students showed off their comedy skills. Laughter was bouncing off of the lecture center walls as the performers all brought their A-game.

The Make Me Laugh Albany semifinals followed on Thursday, Nov. 5. The event took place at The Albany Comedy Works, one of the small number of local comedy clubs besides the newly-opened Funny Bone Comedy Club at Crossgates Mall. The lack of comedy venues in Albany was a major reason



Russell Oliver / Albany Student Press
Make Me Laugh semifinals were held at Albany Comedy Works.

why Make Me Laugh came to Albany to give a chance for unknown comics.

"What happens is [that] in a small market, the amount of opportunities for young comics is very tiny," said Frigolette.

Small market cities like Albany and Binghamton lack the needed opportunities and establishments that large metropolitan areas have, such as New York City. Make Me Laugh gives comics living in these small market cities a chance to hone their comedic skills as well as get some much needed publicity. The program also attracts the attention of local media so the comics participating get some coverage.

"When you start it's a hard thing to try to figure out how to get your ideas out in the funniest way possible, the cleanest way possible, the fastest way possible," Frigolette said.

Unfortunately, the only UAlbany semifinalist who attended the semifinals show was Joe Foti, a member of The Sketchy Characters, an improvisational group on campus. Nonetheless, Foti was ready to show off his comedic chops.

"If I can make some people laugh, that's the best part," Foti said on the night of the semifinals.

Comedians Jaye McBride and James Myers opened and closed the show, respectively. Various other comedians and reporters rounded out the judging panel, including Amy Nolte of Proctors' Mopco Improv group and Robert O'Leary, publisher of the Saratogian, along with Frigolette himself.

Frigolette believes that to become a successful comedian, you have to keep performing.

"Every time you get on stage you will get funnier," he said. "It's going to suck for a while. Eventually, the pieces are going to fall into place."

The Make Me Laugh Albany finals will be held this Saturday on Nov. 14 at the Glen Falls Civic Center.

COMEDY SHOW



Amanda Case / Albany Student Press

Murr, Sal, Q, and Joe on stage for their "Where's Larry?" tour.

A full moon at Proctors

By AMANDA CASE

The stars of the hit comedy television show "Impractical Jokers" hit the main stage at Proctors Theatre on Thursday, Nov. 5 for a night packed with uncensored humor, embarrassment and contagious laughter.

The jokers, also known as the New York-based comedy troupe "The Tenderloins," are made up of four lifelong friends: Brian "Q" Quinn, Joe Gatto, James "Murr" Murray and Sal Vulcano. The guys visited Schenectady for the second show on their hilarious "Where's Larry?" Tour.

These four have taken their TruTV hidden-camera series, which they created and produced, to new heights and turned it into a live performance full of improv, never-before-seen video clips and whimsical personal stories.

"I love performing live even more than making the show," said Murray. "It's a really great feeling being able to interact with an audience."

"Impractical Jokers," shot mainly in New York City and New Jersey, follows the jokers as they compete to embarrass each other through ridiculous public pranks. If they refuse to do what they're told, they lose. The person with the most losses at the end of each episode is punished and, most of the time, in an outrageous fashion.

During the live show, the jokers shared some of their favorite memories from the last three seasons, which included bonus footage from their challenge "A-Whole on Wheels," a clip of Murray eating dog poop for \$250, and pictures of their embarrassing tattoos that came from one of the more recent punishments.

Last season, Gatto punished the other guys during an episode by making them get

permanent tattoos that he picked out. None of them knew what their tattoos were until they stepped outside to reveal them to the cameras.

Quinn's tattoo was a picture of a cat on his inner bicep that read, "38, lives alone, has 3 cats," and Vulcano had Jaden Smith's face permanently inked on his thigh.

However, the packed audience was able to really feel up-close and personal with Murray when he pulled down his pants to reveal his tattoo of a ferret skydiving on his thigh.

That wasn't the only time someone pulled down their pants on stage.

As part of the show, the guys took an audience member's phone to demonstrate a game they like to play when they go out. But they took things to the extreme when Gatto pulled down his pants to take a picture of his butt and send it to someone in the fan's phone.

It was one of the more outrageous moments of the show and the crowd was almost crying from laughter.

These playful guys from Staten Island have proven they're not afraid to cause a scene, even in front of 2,500 people.

After the show, the jokers stopped by their bus to meet and hangout with some fans before they hit the road again.

It turns out they are the same quirky guys in person as they are on-screen. They were able to connect with their fans in a charming way that made everyone feel like they were a part of the group.

"Impractical Jokers" is currently in its fourth season and is rumored to have a fifth season on the way, proving the guys might have even more ingenious pranks up their sleeves.

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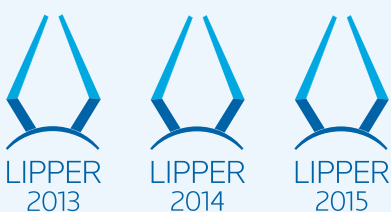
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HOCKEY

Continued from Page 10

Paige, I thought played excellent the whole game under some pretty big pressure at times," Sykes said. Bottino was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player for her strong performances in UAlbany's three victories. The championship is the second straight one for UAlbany, and the first one since the America East conference realignment prior to this season.

"Winning this back to back and showing that last season wasn't lucky, it's great," Heuser said. "It feels very good."

"Frederike Helmke, Jaclyn Hibbs, and Laura

As time expired, the Great Danes piled on top of Primus before hugging and dumping a cooler of water on Coach Sykes.

"When I started here, we were one of the bottom five worst teams in division one. To get out of that scene and move up to finally winning, that is pretty satisfying," Sykes said.

Next, the Great Danes will begin the NCAA Tournament against Boston College on Saturday, Nov. 14 at 2 p.m. at the University of Connecticut.

"Our motto all year has been one game at a time. As with anything, we're going into the game trying to do our best that day, and hopefully good things come our way," Sykes said.

SOCCER

Continued from Page 10

right post to make it 1-0 Hartford.

UAlbany picked up the pace as the minutes went on, putting some pressure on the Hartford back line. Mariah Williams and Krista Fitzpatrick each tried to connect on crosses, but the Great Danes could not get shots on either.

Paltsios took a corner kick in the 21st minute and placed the feed just outside the goal box. Williams put a header on the ball, just missing above the crossbar. Williams almost had another chance on a later feed from Belak, but the ball was picked up by Hartford before a shot came off.

Hartford had another counter attack in the 35th minute as a blocked shot eventually turned into a corner. After UAlbany defended against the corner, Elise Galipo tried a ground ball shot from outside the box, missing left. The two teams went into halftime with Hartford leading 1-0.

Early in the second half, UAlbany pressed and got four corner kicks in less than eight minutes. On the fourth, Hartford cleared outside the penalty box. Kopp blasted the ball back in towards the left post, missing just left in the 54th minute.

On a fifth attempt, Fitzpatrick's feed bounced in the box to Paltsios. Paltsios kicked off the second touch as Jurg made the stop.

UAlbany kept getting possession but was unable to penetrate the Hartford back

high-arching shot over the jumping Olivieri inside the

line on crosses. Kiana Rugar got a look in the 70th minute and had a long curling shot towards the right corner of the goal, missing high. Minutes later, Williams shot a line drive to the left post with a falling Jurg saving the ball.

The chances kept coming for UAlbany as on a free kick, Kopp got the feed alone in the penalty box. She got tangled with a defender and lost the ball as the chance ended.

Hartford got a look the other way as the Hawks went for a quick strike. Sidney Spemullo fired hard at the net from long range, sailing the ball high.

In the 82nd minute, Paltsios sent a free kick into the box. The ball got loose as the keeper went forward. Carhart got a tap on the ball, turned around and put it into the net for the score, tying the game at 1-1.

The home team looked to attack in the coming minutes. UAlbany's defense held and did not allow a shot in that time period.

Back the other way, UAlbany went quickly to the offensive end. As the ball approached, the goalie moved up as the ball came out to a scrum. As a Hartford defender tried to clear out the ball, Kempf emerged and kicked towards the goal with her left foot, scoring on the open net with 2:17 left to give UAlbany the lead 2-1.

Hartford had a final gasp with a corner kick in the Julia Carr's curl went out of bounds on the near post to end the threat. UAlbany took home the 2-1 comeback victory over Hartford.

-From Wire Reports

ALUMNI

Great Dane-turned-K.C. Chief living NFL dream



Source: UAlbany Football Facebook

Brian Parker is the third former Great Dane to play in an NFL regular season game. He is the first offensive player to do so.

By AARON CHERIS

On Saturday, Nov. 1, 2014, tight end Brian Parker and the University of Albany football team played at Cowell Stadium in New Hampshire and lost 49-24 in front of 3,536 fans.

Exactly one year later on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015, Parker made his NFL debut for the Kansas City Chiefs at London's Wembley Stadium in front of 83,624 fans as the Chiefs defeated the Detroit Lions 45-10.

The year in between has been full of ups and downs for the former Great Dane, and now he is getting the opportunity to live the dream of many Americans.

"I've always pictured myself playing in the NFL," Parker said. "That's obviously always what I wanted to do."

During the Chiefs bye week following their game in London, Parker and his agent Kevin Gold, also a UAlbany graduate, returned to campus to speak at an Albany Sports Business Organization meeting on Thursday night.

The duo spoke of how they met a few years ago while Parker was a student. Their relationship has carried over to the NFL, where Parker was the third Great Dane to play in a regular season game.

"I had the opportunity to come back to campus last year and give a speech about sports business and getting a job that you're passionate about," Gold, a member of the class of 1989, said. "While I was doing that speech, Brian Parker was in the audience. I knew a little bit about him, talked to him afterwards, and I was fortunate enough to have

him agree to help him on his journey to the NFL."

During his final year at UAlbany, Parker impressed NFL scouts with his size and skill. After he wasn't selected in the NFL draft, he signed a free agent contract with the San Diego Chargers in May.

"I chose San Diego because it was the best spot for me roster wise, being undrafted," Parker said. "I really liked what they had planned for me. I did a workout here with San Diego, so I knew they liked my talent first hand."

Parker said he thought he was impressive with the Chargers during the preseason. But being impressive couldn't help him beat the NFL numbers game. When the Chargers cut their roster from 90 to an NFL mandated 53 for the regular season, Parker was one of the casualties.

Before he could sign with the Chargers practice squad, he had to pass through waivers, where all 31 other teams in the NFL would be able to claim him. The Chiefs claimed Parker, and he had to drop everything and move his life to Kansas City.

"I got a call from Kevin and he told me that I'm a Kansas City Chief," Parker recalled. "I had to get up and go, this is 10 o'clock in the morning. I was planning on being in San Diego, not expecting to move my life away."

Once he got to the Chiefs, he had to wipe out everything he learned in San Diego and start all over again.

"It was a tough adjustment. Just kind of starting all over. I'm behind everyone," Parker said of the transition. "But I think I've been doing well and

learned as much as I can."

With the Chiefs, Parker made the 53-man roster but wasn't one of the 45 players who dresses for the game for the first seven weeks of the season. Although he wanted to play, Parker thinks the time on the sideline prepared him for game action.

"I started getting into a rhythm. I'm trying to do everything I can and help the team," Parker said. "I was a little stressed during the week not having to expect to play on Sunday."

After a long wait off the field, Parker's opportunity came calling in London. Once Parker found out he would play in the game, it was a moment of joy for both himself and his agent.

"It was the greatest feeling," Gold said. "To wake up, to watch a game at 9:30, and see a guy you saw a year ago, just an Albany student, now he's playing at the highest level, it's an incredible journey and an incredible story."

During his first game, Parker didn't make a catch, but made several key blocks that led to Chiefs touchdowns in the victory over Detroit. Now that he's had his taste of NFL action, Parker is going to do everything he can to stay in the lineup.

"You could never take a play off. You're not going to keep your job very long if you're not giving it your all every chance you get," Parker said. "In the NFL, they always want guys to keep improving because as soon as you stop, they'll go to the next guy."

Parker hopes to be in the lineup for the Chiefs next game when they go to Denver to play the Broncos on Sunday, Nov. 15.

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DOUBLE DANES DANCE

Women's Soccer and Field Hockey win America East Championship

FIELD HOCKEY



Aaron Cheris / Albany Student Press

UAlbany defeated Maine 2-0 at Alumni Turf on Sunday afternoon to win its second straight America East Conference Championship.

By AARON CHERIS

After a thrilling run to the Final Four last season, the University at Albany field hockey team took the first step toward a repeat run by clinching the America East conference championship with a 2-0 win over the University of Maine on Sunday afternoon at Alumni Turf.

"We thought Maine would be a little fatigued from two overtime games coming in, but they were not, they played awesome," UAlbany Head Coach Phil Sykes said. "We were very thankful to hang on."

In the first half, UAlbany (19-2, 8-1 America East) opened the scoring about 10 minutes in after earning a

penalty stroke. Leading scorer Paula Heuser stepped up and converted into the bottom left corner from the spot to give the Great Danes a 1-0 lead. Maine (19-4, 7-2 America East) goalie Emma Cochran dove the right way, but couldn't make the save.

"I was a little bit nervous but at the last second I decided to switch to the other corner," Heuser said. Maine came close to an equalizer after a couple penalty corners.

However, UAlbany's defense, led by goalkeeper Maxi Primus, denied all opportunities to the Black Bears. Three of her four saves came in the first half. As the first half drew to an end, the Great Danes capitalized on another good chance. Anna Bottino made a good pass from the

endline to Kelsey Briddell in front of the Maine net. Briddell went one on one against Cochran, and scored after faking a shot to give the Great Danes a 2-0 lead at halftime.

In the second half, the Great Danes defense tightened as Maine desperately tried to get back into the game. A pair of penalty corners for the Black Bears weren't converted, and the Great Danes held on for the 2-0 victory.

Sykes was pleased with how his team's defense stood tall in the tournament, as UAlbany allowed just one total goal in three tournament victories.

"Our whole defensive back four from Fiori Van Rijswijk,

Please see **HOCKEY** page 9

WOMEN'S SOCCER



Steve McLaughlin / America East

For the first time in program history, the UAlbany Women's Soccer team won the America East Conference Championship at Hartford on Sunday afternoon.

The University at Albany women's soccer team earned its first-ever league title in dramatic fashion on Sunday afternoon, rallying with two goals in the final nine minutes to notch the 2-1 victory at Hartford to win the 2015 America East Championship.

UAlbany (11-8-1), which has earned its winningest season in its Division I history and tying the most-ever in 1981 with 11 victories, has earned a berth into the 2015 NCAA Tournament.

The Great Danes were down 1-0 with nine minutes remaining against Hartford (11-4-4) at Al-Marzook Field at Alumni Stadium. Allison Carhart netted a goal in the 82nd minute off a Caitlyn Paltsios free kick, then Kelly Kempf scored the eventual game-winner off a scrum from long range in the 88th minute. Carhart and Kempf, each seniors, came off the bench during the game and earned their goals.

"Winning the America East title feels incredible, and it

was a collective effort," said UAlbany head coach Caitlin Cucchiella, who takes the Great Danes to a league title in her third season at the helm. "The team decided, no matter what the situation, that they would stay focused and get the win."

Kempf, the tournament MVP, Paltsios, Caroline Kopp and Savannah Courtney were named to the 2015 America East All-Tournament Team.

"I know a ball went up into the air, and I just took my chance and went for it," said Kempf of her game-winning goal. "We knew we had to stay positive to come back, and it is the best feeling in the world to win."

"It feels absolutely amazing, and it is one of the happiest moments of my life," said Carhart. "We have worked so hard this year and put a lot past us, and it feels great."

UAlbany will enter the 2015 NCAA Tournament having won its last five games, including two comeback wins in

the America East Tournament.

In the game, UAlbany outshot Hartford 13-6, including 10-1 in the second half. Alana Olivieri earned her fifth straight victory in goal, playing all 90 minutes.

Aaliyah Ingram scored Hartford's goal in the 6th minute off an arc shot off a feed from Kylie Hoang. Jessica Jung got the loss in goal, saving four shots in 90 minutes.

In the first half, UAlbany primarily played with possession while Hartford went for quick strike counter attacks.

UAlbany got the first look on a slow counter as Shelby Belak got a pass to Vivian Vega just outside the goal box in the fourth minute. Vega tried a quick turnaround shot, missing wide of the post.

In the sixth minute, Ingram got the feed outside the box near the right corner from Hoang. Ingram kicked a

Please see **SOCCER** page 9