

'I LOVE SUNY' THROW-BACK PG. 2



MEN'S LAX SURVIVES THRILLER PG. 10



OPINION: Your smoking hurts my right to health PG. 5

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT: James Baldwin relived PG. 7

LIFESTYLE: Green treats for St. Patrick's Day PG. 8

CITY

University Neutral in Housing Hubbub

By MICHAEL APOLLO

Tensions surfaced at the Pine Hill Neighborhood Association meeting last Tuesday over a potential development to be built on Western Ave.

Construction of a six story, 327 bed apartment building with indoor parking and street level retail space would replace an existing office building currently at the site.

GSX Ventures, a Maryland based firm, is the project's developer. Other local GSX projects include the Aspen, now Block 75, and the soon to be completed Auden apartments, both located on Washington Avenue.

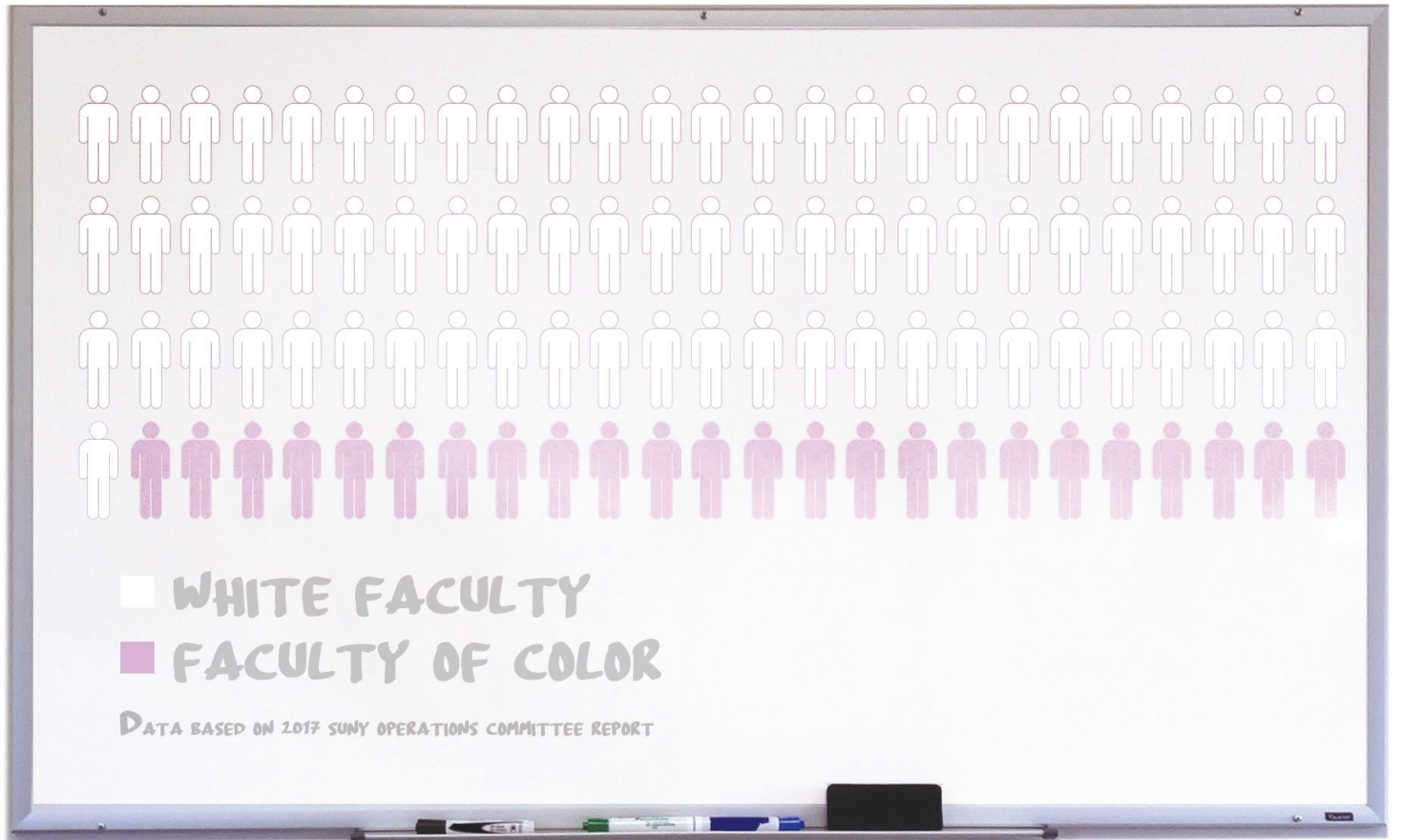
The firm's website describes GSX as specializing in discovery and reposition-
Please see **HOUSING** page 3



MICHAEL APOLLO / ASP

Mayor Kathy Sheehan spoke out against the project at the Pine Hill Neighborhood Association meeting last Tuesday.

DIVERSITY



Graphic by TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

HIRING RACIALLY DIVERSE FACULTY A 'PIPELINE ISSUE'

By JOE HOFFMAN

The university's 2018 draft strategic plan identified increasing faculty and staff diversity as one of its core goals, a concern voiced for years by student and faculty groups.

Seventy-four percent of the University at Albany professors are white, according to a 2017 SUNY operations committee report. Meanwhile, National Center for Education Statistics data indicate around half of all UAlbany undergraduates are non-white.

Two weeks ago, co-chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee James Stellar and Michael Christakis gave a strategic plan draft presentation at a Student Association

meeting.

Christakis said the university would work towards hiring more diverse faculty, despite a "national problem" of a lack of minority candidates.

"There's a pipeline issue in regards to hiring diverse faculty," said Christakis at the Feb. 21 meeting. "Only so many doctorates are being awarded to African Americans."

Debernee Privott, president of the UAlbany Black Faculty and Staff Association, disagreed.

"I don't believe that. That is something that I take issue with as a member of an underrepresented group," said Privott on Thursday. "I've seen enough of qualified applicants to know that these individuals exist and sometimes they just need to be encour-

I don't believe that. That is something I take issue with as an underrepresented group."

aged to apply." Privott, who has served on

dozens of search committees for faculty and staff, said that BFSA should play a larger role in the hiring process.

See **DIVERSITY** page 2



NOR'EASTER SLAMS CAMPUS

Photos by TYLER A. MCNEIL

Around 10 inches of snow fell on campus during the storm last Friday. Areas just west of Albany reported snow totals of up to 40 inches.

Report by Luke Lebel

Follow Lebel for weather updates: @Weather_ASP

SA ELECTION

Gonzalez Drops Out, Supports Lajara

By CHAD ARNOLD

The race to be the next Student Association president is down to three.

Alejandro Gonzalez and MikaElla Rectin-Hernandez formally ended their campaign to be the 2018-19 SA president and vice president respectively on Tuesday, Feb. 27, less than five days into the month-long campaign season.

"It was a decision based on an assessment of priorities," said Gonzalez, who is currently the secretary of Middle Earth, an intern at the State Assembly and is trying to secure SA funding for the Christian group Cru. "It wouldn't be fair to the students if I was divided and I couldn't give them my full attention."



GONZALEZ

See **GONZALEZ** page 3

SA ELECTION

SA Spent \$500 for Ubers on Mardi Gras Trip

CHAD ARNOLD & TYLER A. MCNEIL

Documents show Student Association leadership spent \$500 on Uber rides while attending a weekend conference in New Orleans during Mardi Gras.

The documents show a total of 12 Uber receipts submitted to SA's comptroller seeking reimbursement for expenses paid ranging from \$11 to \$97.

It is not known who on the trip submitted the documents.

The Uber rides took place between Feb. 8 and 10, the same weekend as SA leadership attended the National Student Leadership Diversity Convention in New Orleans.

Executive branch members Jerlisa Fontaine, SA president; Madeeha Khan, vice president; Langie Cadesca, chief of staff; Nicholas Hackshaw, SA comptroller; and Ryan Maestre, director of public relations all attended the conference. Also in attendance was Vice Chair, Subha Tasnim.

Four of the receipts show riders moving be-

tween the Doubletree by Hilton, where those attending the trip stayed, to the Hilton New Orleans Airport where the conference was held. Both hotels are located in Kenner, LA.

The remainder of the receipts show rides from the group's hotel into the New Orleans French Quarter or vice-versa.

These expenses were at the center of a debate when SA's senate passed a bill that would put a check on conference line spending.

See **UBER** page 2

DIVERSITY

Continued from Page 1

"I will be honest and say I don't think we play that role," she said. "It's happenstance, it's not like someone saying 'Okay, you're part of BFSA, that's why we want you [on the search committee],' that's not how it's happening right now."

Black professors currently make up 5.3 percent of all faculty at UAlbany. Hispanic professors make up 3.7 percent of the total, and Asian professors 15.5 percent.

The numbers are different than the undergraduate diversity percentages, with black students making up 17 percent of the study body. Fifteen percent of students are Hispanic, and 8.5 percent are Asian.

"I think that what's needed is for the university to actually hear the students and to listen to what they have to say," said Celine Diagne, president of the Albany State University Black Alliance.

Holding a town hall or conducting a survey on students' desires were ideas Diagne said could help.

Diagne said that as a black woman, she always learned best from black women professors because of shared experiences and common ground.

In a statement Friday, Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, director

of Media and Community Relations, pointed to several ways the university currently tries to encourage faculty diversity.

This included participation in the SUNY Faculty Diversity Program, where SUNY provides schools with monetary rewards for hiring minority-group faculty.

Carleo-Evangelist also pointed to a SUNY fellowship program that provides research opportunities for minority faculty, and noted that the UAlbany Office of Diversity and Inclusion oversees faculty search processes.

Across all SUNY colleges, a 2017 operations committee report found that the percentage of black academic rank faculty had risen 0.1 percent in twenty years.

CRIME BLOTTER

Harassment 2nd - Physical Contact

3/1/2018
Podium - Campus Center
Report of non-compliant male temp service worker refusing to leave when asked, harassment to fellow employee was also reported, male subject was served a PNG letter and escorted out of Campus Center.

Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

3/1/2018
State Quad - SQ Grounds
Odor of marijuana detected and five male students were found to be actively smoking marijuana. All were referred for same.

Criminal Mischief Intent Damage Property

3/1/2018
State Quad - Eastman Tower
Report of damage to a vending machine by unknown male subjects. Open/active.

Fire

2/28/2018
Indian Quad - Adirondack Hall
Report of a fire in waste basket. A referral was made.

Accident-Property Damage

2/28/2018
Roadways - SQ Lot
Assisted person in motor vehicle accident property damage.

Stalking 4th Degree

2/27/2018
Podium - Campus Center
Report of a female student being stalked. Open/active.

Execute Bench Warrant

2/27/2018
Off-campus
A male subject was arrested for an outstanding Bench Warrant out of Albany City Court.

Criminal Nuisance 2 - Create Conditions Which Endanger Others

2/26/2018
Dutch Quad - Ten Eyck Hall
Report of odor of marijuana. An arrest was made.

Fire Alarm

2/26/2018
Alumni Quad - Waterbury Hall
Caused by vape smoke.

Sexual Misconduct: Oral/Anal Sexual Conduct Without Consent

2/25/2018
Off-Campus
Report of a possible sexual assault. Investigation ongoing.

Criminal Trespass 2nd - Enter/Remain Unlawfully in Dwelling

2/25/2018
Dutch Quad - Stuyvesant Tower
Report of a male student trespassing on campus. An arrest was made.

Unlawful Imprisonment. 2nd

2/24/2018
Podium - Campus Center
Unlawful imprisonment. Open/active.

Driving While Intoxicated - 1st Offense

Roadways - Capital Hill Drive
Report of a male student driving while intoxicated. A referral was made.

Possess Forged instrument - 3rd

2/23/2018
Colonial Quad - Herkimer Hall
Report of two male students with forged IDs.

Drug Complaint

2/23/2018
State Quad - Eastman Tower
Report of fire alarm activated by marijuana smoke. Referrals were made.

UBER

Continued from Page 1

"Five-hundred dollars was spent on Ubers to go from bar-to-bar-to-bar in the middle of the night," said Senate Chair Jarrett Altilio who called the bill a "direct response" to an ongoing issue involving SA's conference line spending.

Langie Cadesca, chief of staff, explained that SA only used Ubers to dine out, not drink. Meal expenses were made out-of-pocket.

"Whenever we utilized Uber it was either to go have lunch or dinner," said Cadesca who noted there were no restaurant locations within proximity to the group's hotel.

Several senators echoed Altilio's response including Gov-

ernment Operations chair Anna Agnes, who sponsored the bill.

"It doesn't look too great on social media if we're posting pictures at Mardi Gras and we're supposed to be at a conference," she said, noting several of the images circulating showed attendees holding alcoholic beverages.

In a subsequent interview following the debate, Cadesca did admit such images were circulating on social media but noted no SA funds were used to purchase the beverages.

"Granted we were in New Orleans," said Cadesca. "Obviously if you check social media, people had fish bowls or whatever the case may be."

"Obviously people were concerned that it was a coincidence, in quotes, that Mardi Gras was happening," said Rules Committee chair Brandon Holdridge, of

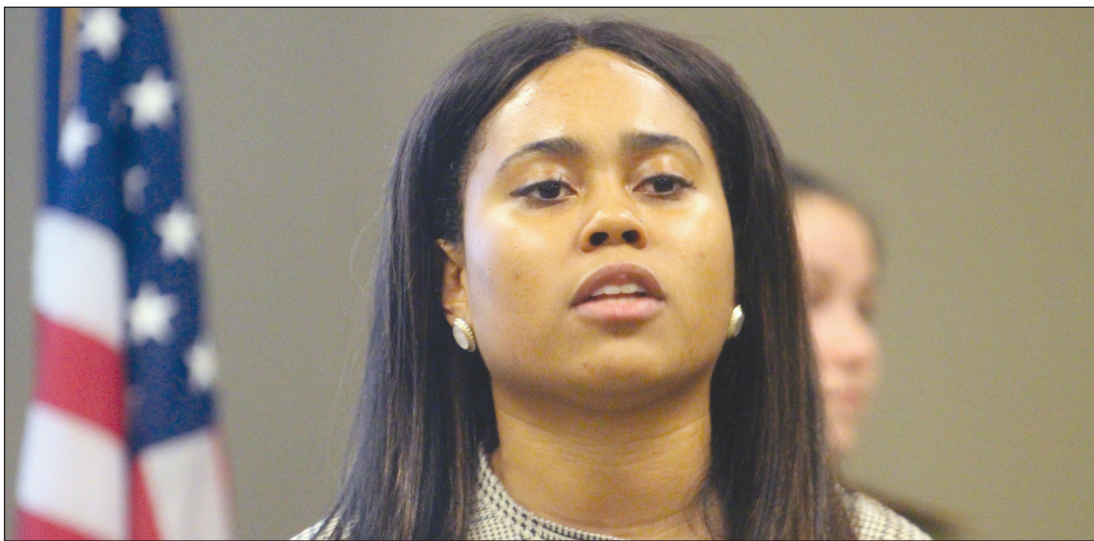
the debate. "It was just ridiculous, you can connect the dots yourself"

Fontaine defended the conference, saying the annual festivities had nothing to do with attending. She said that the discussion with the senate became too personal at times, but didn't specify who she alleged made personal attacks.

SA's current budget -- which is made up of student activity fee money -- allocates \$12,000 for executive conferences and \$4,000 for legislative conference spending.

According to Hackshaw, the New Orleans trip did not exceed budget.

When pressed if students should have to pay for the Uber rides, Altilio responded, "No, simply, no."



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Jerlisa Fontaine speaks at a Student Association meeting last month against the senate's conference oversight bylaw amendment,

THROWBACK

'I Love SUNY' Song 'Follows' 2010 Alumnus

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

May 14, 2010, two days after University at Albany graduation: The last number Neil Roche performed in a packed Ontario St. apartment referenced food service-induced diarrhea, smoking marijuana at Collins Circle, and sitting around drunk women on public transit.

Partygoers held up alcohol, swayed their arms, and sung along in the tight, beer-bottle shelved apartment as Roche delivered a UAlbany-centered parody of Asher Roth's "I Love College." It was his sixth song that night.

"Everyone knew the words which I thought was hilarious cause it still had been a tight-knit thing up to that point," he recalled.

His friend, George Rippe filmed and borrowed some cell phone footage to patch Roche's performance into a music video. Posted a month later, it was the song's second Youtube appearance.

For about a year, Roche only shared the song privately. Worried the parody could limit job opportunities ahead or redefine his image, he didn't initially want to release it.

A spoken word artist and sociology major, most of Roche's work at the time dealt with heavier matters such as institutional oppression.

"I was definitely a little conflicted with it gaining popularity over all the other stuff that I put so much thought into and was actually important to the world," he said.

Around the time he was putting together an E.P., Roche, who graduated UAlbany two days prior to the party, wrote "I Love SUNY" during the spring of 2009 and recorded the following summer. Hearing Roth's hit on the radio at the time, Roche believed anecdotes of university life could make for a better version.

As senior year passed by, the song gained popularity outside his friend group. It was played among mutual friends, often from burned CDs. By the end of his last semester, Erik Daly, a stranger at the time, asked Roche over Facebook for permission to post the song online.

Encouraged by his friends to release it, Roche obliged. Uploaded on May 12, he grew fascinated by the song's following. Eight years later, Daly's video "Ualbanysong" has over 90,000 views; Rippe's music video has 24,000.

With its online presence and profanity-laced lyrics, Roche assumed the parody rap might put off some em-

ployers after graduation. Because of that, he hasn't since hunted for employment with heavy candidate screenings.

And at the time of song's release, Roche grew weary of employment that could stifle his creative freedom, anyways.

"I didn't think that I was cutting anything off because I knew that any job that would actually care about this, like a government job or something like that, was something I'd never do," said Roche.

Leaving Albany, Roche took a social work position around Ithaca for about a year. When his then-girlfriend accepted a post with Teach for America in New Orleans,

interested in the city's arts scene and tired of social work, he followed along.

He later moved to Oakland, Calif. where he currently works as a full-time contract videographer and photographer.

Having worked in two states over the last seven years, Roche's co-workers have often become familiar with "I Love SUNY" either through online searches or UAlbany connections.

"Since its release, every time I work at a new bar or restaurant or have a new group of people I work with, it always kind of follows me," he said.



Source: YOUTUBE, GEORGE RIPPE

Neil Roche raps "I Love SUNY" at 206 Ontario St., his residence, at a house party on May 14, 2010

HOUSING

Continued from Page 1

ing of properties. Nine of twelve projects featured on the GSX's site are student housing complexes.

The proposed site is just steps away from University Plaza shopping center on the Western Avenue side of the University at Albany campus. If built, the apartments would likely be marketed to UAlbany students.

"We as a University do not have a public position in favor of/against the project," said director of Community and Relations Jordan Carleo-Evangelist in a statement. "Because the neighbors are upset, we've tried very hard to stay out of it."

"We have a situation here on Western Avenue that I think is very unfair," said local resident Nancy Harrigan. "We believe that building is a tremendous blow against sustainability of that neighborhood."

Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan also shared her concerns at the neighborhood association meeting. "This project is not one that I support," Sheehan said.

In January, Sheehan wrote a letter to the City of Albany Planning Board urging it to not allow the project to move forward.

"Given the significant and valid concerns



MICHAEL APOLLO / ASP

A look at what the project could look at displayed on the left. Mayor Kathy Sheehan spoke out against the project at the Pine Hill Neighborhood Association meeting last Tuesday.

raised by residents and business owners, I respectfully request that any application of a conditional use permit for this project be denied until concerns regarding potential impacts to traffic, sound, light, and water infrastructure are adequately addressed," the letter read.

"I believe the impacts here are really extreme," community member Steve Burke

said.

Burke measured the site and found that the development's footprint would take up the entire site, potentially affecting fire department access to the building.

"It's an urban building in a relatively suburban, single residential area. It's incompatible, it's inconceivable and it's irresponsible."

"The project is still in its infancy," said Vincent Rigosu, president of the Eagle Hill Neighborhood Association. "We don't know what is going to happen to this project."

Jon Grant, the principal of GSX Ventures, is expected to return to Albany soon to further discuss the project with city officials.

GONZALEZ

Continued from Page 1

According to Rectin-Hernandez, Gonzalez was the one who ultimately decided to end the campaign, a decision she fully supported as his running mate.

"He brought up the idea and I said I'll support him in whatever decision he makes because we are a team," said Rectin-Hernandez who noted the pair had two conversations leading up to the final decision to withdraw their candidacy.

Upon exiting the race, Gonzalez announced he would be supporting the ticket of Jouly Lajara and Alexander O'Leary going forward.

Rectin-Hernandez is currently not sup-

porting any candidate.

Gonzalez noted his endorsement of Lajara and O'Leary was not a knock on the other two tickets – Langie Cadesca and Nicholas Pepe; and Mark Anthony Quinn and Patrick Carroll – who he called "extremely qualified," but had to do more with a shared vision of SA going forward.

"We were unified in our platforms in that we wanted to make SA more transparent and we wanted to make the student body more aware of what SA is doing," he said of his decision to support the Lajara and O'Leary ticket.

Gonzalez is unaware of what role he will play in helping the campaign going forward as of writing. A meeting between both parties is expected to take place in the coming days.

"I was surprised," said O'Leary who learned of Gonzalez's intentions Wednes-

day afternoon. "It also excited me...our message and our vision that we've been explaining it resonates with people. It resonates with a person who was once an opponent and is now an ally."

Lajara did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

News of Gonzalez's decision to drop out of the race came as a surprise to the other candidates who noted they would have liked to have seen his ticket remain in the race.

"I always think it's good when there is a multiplicity of candidates," said vice presidential candidate Carroll. "I think it adds more to the discussion."

When asked if Gonzalez's decision to endorse the Lajara and O'Leary ticket changed their campaign strategy, Quinn and Carroll replied simply, "No."

"It's disappointing," said Pepe, a candi-

date for vice president. "Granted, he was one of our competitors, but we still want to see everyone get involved whether it's going up against us or whatever."

"I don't think it necessarily has changed anything for us," said Cadesca who said she's happy Gonzalez has found a candidate to rally around. "We have a mission and we're going to get it done by any means necessary."

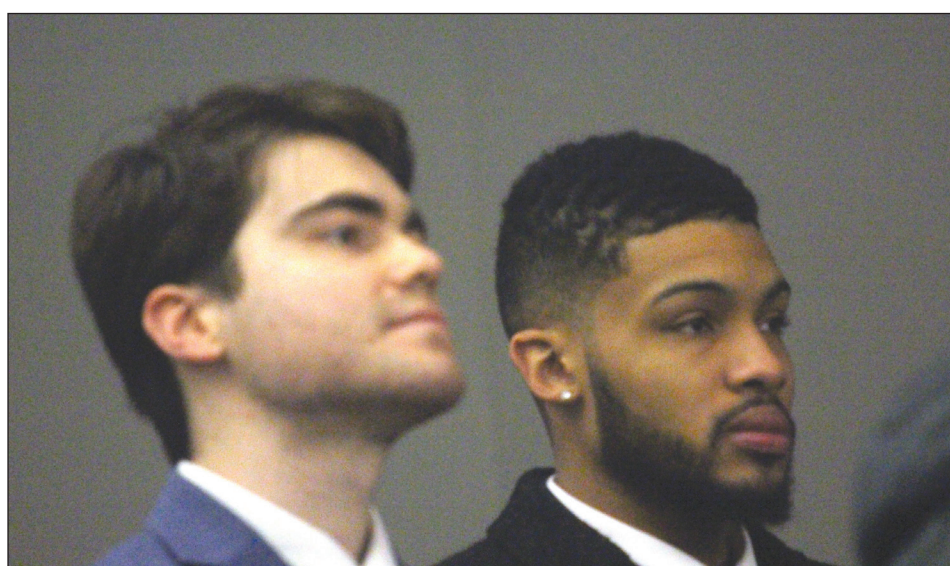
Both Gonzalez and Rectin-Hernandez said they have aspirations to run for SA senate in the future, but have no official plans yet.

"No matter what we're doing as students here on campus, it's not going to change the relationships we want to make with people," said Rectin-Hernandez. "It's not going to change the fact that we want more transparency within SA."



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Alejandro Gonzalez dropped out of the race on Wednesday. He told the Albany Student Press two weeks ago that his campaign would push forward to represent Christian students.



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Presidential ticket Alexander O'Leary and Jouly Lajara at the candidates' meeting two weeks ago. Former candidate Alejandro Gonzalez dropped out of the race and now supports the pair.



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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Chinese Proposal to Remove Presidential Term Limits Paves Way for Despotism

By M. FRANCIS MIRRO

His name is Xi Jinping. Officially, he is the General Secretary of the Communist Party in China, the President of China about to start his second term. Unofficially, he has earned a new nickname around the world: the New Chinese Emperor.

Last week, the People's Republic of China made a move that will only lead them to sink ever further into the dark shadow of despotism. By almost officially removing presidential term limits from the nation's constitution, China is paving the way for Xi to assert his will over the powerful state until he dies. Essentially, Xi Jinping has taken a play out of Julius Caesar's book; he is about to become Dictator for Life.

Following the new constitutional change, Beijing's National People's Conference, a legislature that seems constructed simply to serve the General Secretary, announced additions to the state's censored or banned list. Among these new illegalities are George Orwell's "1984" and his other famous anti-dictatorship work "Animal Farm." China has

also banned phrases such as "proclaiming oneself emperor," "constitutional rules," and "election term." But perhaps the most terrifying new addition to the censored list is the phrase "I don't agree," which has been officially barred from public use.

China has been a global powerhouse since the end of the Cold War, and the strength of such a brutally authoritarian state has caused worries in the West. Xi is set to amass power not seen in his country since the days of Chairman Mao. In an already volatile East Asia, the condition of that imprisoned populace is indeed a troublesome prospect worth our time and attention. Still worse is what it could mean for the whole of the region.

As U.S.-Russian relations erode rapidly, Russian President Vladimir Putin has continued to live up to his own nickname, the New Tsar, as his expansionist designs keep an already bleeding European Union on

its toes. China is a close ally to Russia, both in proximity and in a common strongman ideology. Both have their sights set on



MIRRO

expansion. A new Chinese Emperor in league with a new Russian Tsar can mean a lot of things for the democratic West, and none of them are good. Essentially, the United States and its Western allies are in danger of being locked out of Continental East Asia en masse, leaving South Korea and Japan — a major regional player though not actually on the continent — as their main ideological footholds. If President Trump continues to agitate our enemies and allies alike, America's influence could potentially wither to the point where China and Russia feel free

to pursue their doctrine of conquest.

As of now, America is a nation without leadership, leaving a Western power vacuum unfilled. Ultra-nationalism has distracted leaders such as France's Emmanuel Macron and Germany's Angela Merkel while isolating others like Britain's Theresa May. Events in Spain have neutralized their alleged democracy as well while other Mediterranean nations face economic and political turmoil.

While the West remains paralyzed, buffer states like the Baltics and the already crippled Ukraine are in grave danger from the Russian Federation, which may be able to exert its will without check before too long. At this pace, we'll have to start checking to see if Poland is still there in the coming months. At the same time, all nations east of democratic India are soon to feel the heat from a powerful China with a newly emboldened leader, one who will assert his authority through force if given the chance.

There is no sugar coating it at this point. What we are seeing is simply scary. The world needs action and, right now, it has nowhere to look for it.

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The Albany Student Press is published Tuesdays from September through May by the Albany Student Press Corporation, an independent, not-for-profit organization. Advertisements, as well as letter and column content, do not necessarily reflect the opinion of ASP staff. All unsigned editorials are written with the approval of the editorial board. The ASP is a registered trademark of the Albany Student Press Corporation which has exclusive rights to any materials herein.

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NOISE FROM NOYES

Abolish Gun-Free Zone on Campus

By MATTHEW NOYES

SUNY campuses are gun-free zones for everyone but police and criminals. If, God forbid, someone wanted to commit violence against our student body or faculty there would be little that could stop them. The policy, enacted by the SUNY Board of Trustees, prohibits anyone who is not a police officer from carrying a concealed firearm on campus even if you have a concealed carry permit.

The police can't be everywhere all the time. Gun-free zones provide a false sense of security and infringes on human rights: the right for an innocent person to protect their life and property from harm. This policy should be overturned, and responsible firearm owners allowed to discreetly and safely carry concealed handguns on public campuses.

To get an idea of what other students think about this I interviewed two students, Brynn Labounty a junior, and Eric Papas, a sophomore. When asked if they think people with a permit should be able to conceal carry on campus, Labounty said no, because she thought that would "allow anyone to carry and could lead to violence and accidents." Papas said yes. He thought, "If someone wanted to attack the school, it would be good to have people who could take them out."

Both Labounty and Papas said they don't think gun-free zones work because someone could break the rules and bring a gun anyways. They are right; gun-free zones don't stop criminals from bringing guns on campus. What it does do is prevent those who respect the law and are well versed in firearm safety from carrying concealed on campus.

When asked if they trust the government to protect them, both answered no. They think there is a lot of corruption in law enforcement. I don't think most law enforcement is corrupt or incompetent. However, that was the case in the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. According to CNN, there were several sheriff deputies outside the school during the shooting. They failed to do their job and so did Sheriff Israel.

The Florida school shooting is an example of government failing to do its job: the FBI failed to act on the numerous red flags, the police stood by and did nothing during the shooting, and the background check system in place wasn't enforced. None of the gun control measures being proposed would have prevented this tragedy. A failure of Sheriff Israel, his deputies, the FBI, and of the state and federal government to implement the background check laws on the books allowed this horror to occur.

I do not believe in schools arming teachers. Those who personally own firearms and know and respect firearm safety shouldn't lose their civil right of self-defense when they walk onto public school grounds. Allowing students to safely and lawfully carry concealed on SUNY campuses will not make us unsafe. Why should we disarm responsible firearm owners? Why shouldn't a trained female student be able to have a way to prevent a rapist from overpowering her? Why should we make it easier for a potential shooter to murder our fellow Great Danes?

The reason I believe in getting rid of the gun-free policy on campus isn't because I don't care about the victims of violence. On the contrary, it's because I care about the safety of my peers that I support eliminating the contradictory idea of gun-free zones.



NOYES

SMOKING ZONES

University Should Ban Smoking or Impose Fines

By RAYMOND E. STRAWN III

Every time I walk past the main library on campus I notice the no-smoking signs, and yet, students still smoke. I see the cigarette butts on the ground near the main library's entrance and the small clouds from smokers that I must walk past to enter the library. This is a health risk. Why have these signs if it is not enforced? The university needs to start fining students who smoke in front of the main library, or completely ban smoking on campus altogether.

As someone who is allergic to cigarette smoke and has difficulty breathing around people who smoke, I support fining students smoking in the designated no-smoking zones at the university. I am shocked and disappointed smoking is even allowed on campus. Is this common among other colleges in New York? According to Tobacco Free U: 2015 New York State Dean's List, 60 colleges

(30 percent) have a tobacco-free campus policy, which results in an A grade. Twenty-five colleges (12 percent) have a smoke-free campus policy, which results in a B grade.

Forty-two percent of campuses in New York do not allow smoking on campus, period. We are not one of them. In fact, the University at Albany received a D grade. Sixty-three colleges (31 percent) also received D grades. The report did mention that 15 colleges are in the process of establishing either a smoke-free or tobacco-free campus policy. The trend is shifting towards smoke-free campuses. Shouldn't

we start trending in that direction too?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United

States. More than 16 million Americans are living with a disease caused by smoking. About one in every five deaths in America are caused by smoking each year. More than 480,000 annual deaths are linked to smoking or second-hand smoking. An estimated 41,000 deaths (7,333 from lung cancer and 33,951 from heart disease) happen each year among adults who have been exposed to secondhand smoke, and it can cause health risks that may lead to deaths. We

can no longer ignore these risks on campus.

Students who are upset with fines or banning smoking altogether may protest that it is their "right" to smoke. But what about my right to breathe clean air and not be exposed to cancer-causing chemicals? A smoker chooses to put himself or herself at risk by smoking; I do not consent to that risk. Your "right" to smoke is impacting my public health, a right that is protected under the New York State Constitution Article XVII Public Health. How come my rights are ignored? Shouldn't I be able to get a higher education without putting myself at risk for lung cancer or heart disease?

The best solution to this problem is moving towards a smoke-free campus. In the meantime, the university needs to start enforcing the no-smoking zones and fine students who disobey them. This is a health risk. It is as simple as that.



STRAWN

DRUGS

Students Who Use Adderall for School Should be Punished

By NICHOLAS SHERMAN

As the midterm season rolls around, students from all walks of life reach out for the only thing that can help them through this difficult and harrowing time: Adderall. Students who do not need Adderall but use it to help them study and do their school work should be punished in the same way as students who plagiarize and cheat during exams.

For those that do not know, Adderall is an amphetamine, which is a stimulant that impacts the central nervous system. It is often prescribed to children and adults with ADHD, as well as people with narcolepsy. However, a lot of college students take Adderall to help them study or do school work. In people with ADHD, Adderall allows them to achieve normal levels of concentration.

For people who do not have ADHD, Adderall allows them to study and concentrate for longer periods of time than people who

are not on it. Not only is this drug an amphetamine — which is classified as a schedule II drug by the Controlled Substances Act and has a comparable type of addiction to cocaine — it is a form of cheating which allows for students to achieve results and grades that they wouldn't be able to get otherwise.

According to the University at Albany guidelines regarding plagiarism and cheating, academic dishonesty can result in the faculty member present forcing the student to redo the work that was disrupted by the academic dishonesty, a lower grade, probation, suspension, or expulsion. These rules should also apply to those using Adderall to boost their performance

without a prescription.

These kinds of rules are already in place elsewhere: in the world of sports. In 2013, when it was made clear that Lance Armstrong had in fact used performance-enhancing drugs throughout his career, it was decided that he would forfeit

all prizes won and gave back his Tour de France medals. If prizes, medals, and careers are taken away due to unfair substances, then why not the same for students and their

are. Grades mean something. There's a difference between A students who pull themselves up by the bootstraps, go to the library and study every waking hour, who barely sleep or don't sleep at all to achieve an A, and those C students who don't have the discipline to put in the work and achieve an A without Adderall. The former student shows hard work, perseverance, and initiative; so, why should the latter student — who did not put in the same type of effort — receive the same status as the former?

"But, what about other substances that students use to help them concentrate or do their school work, like coffee, energy drinks, and Scotch?" Again, I use the sports metaphor. It is not illegal for baseball players to drink energy drinks, drink protein shakes, or anything like that. It is, however, still illegal for them to be taking steroids, and so should be the same for students — who don't need Adderall — who use it to improve their grades.



SHERMAN

STUDY TIME

Library Hours Should be 24/7

By RACHEL VAN NESS

Libraries are by far the most common places for students to get their work done. Here at the University at Albany, there are three of them: the University Library, the Science Library, and the Dewey Graduate Library downtown. Of these three, only the University Library is open 24 hours during finals week.

As helpful as the 24-hour schedule is during finals week, there are many students who opt not to use the University Library because it tends to get overcrowded and distractingly loud during finals week. For many others, though, the 24/7 finals week library hours are a godsend when slamming back

energy drinks while trying to write a 10-page paper or studying for a rapidly-approaching exam.

However, finals week is just one week a semester. The truth is, students aren't just pulling all-nighters or staying up until the wee hours of the morning only during finals week. Midterms exist. Professors assign lengthy papers and rigorous tests throughout the semester, often at inconvenient

times. Group projects are a thing. There's also students who work better at night or get up

super early to get stuff done, and those who prefer not to study in their dorms so as not to distract their roommate. International Students may use the library to contact family or friends in another time zone, etc.

Thursday and until 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. The hours for the Science Library and Dewey Library are even more abbreviated; both are open until 11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and close between 5-7 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.

The fact that the University at Albany is a large public research university and doesn't have a 24/7 library is unusual. UAlbany should seriously think about the demands of their students and make the University Library be open 24 hours Sunday-Thursday with extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Extending the hours for both the Science and Dewey Libraries would prove to be equally as beneficial.



VAN NESS

The University Library is open until 3 a.m. Sunday-

THEATER

Ending Black History Month with a Thought-Provoking Play at the PAC

By DIEGO CAGARA

Harlem. 1973. Two black lovers caught in a dysfunctional romance at a time of heightened racism. What could possibly go wrong?

A one-woman show adaptation of the novel, "If Beale Street Could Talk," was performed at the University at Albany's Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. It was originally written by James Baldwin in 1974 who was known for his social critiques as well as publicizing the African-American experience, even including those of gay and bisexual men.

This was a "Literature to Life" stage presentation, being a verbatim adaptation, and featured actress and artist Channie Waites as the lone performer that night.

Literally accompanied by only a chair onstage, she had to alternate between the various characters in the book, clearly an impressive feat since she'd memorized lines for a one-hour-and-fifteen-minutes performance.

The story follows Tish (real name is Clementine) who is 19 and in love with Fonny, a 22-year-old sculptor (real name is Alonzo). Their romance gets interrupted when Fonny is wrongfully accused of raping a Puerto Rican woman whose whereabouts are unknown, and he is jailed. It's later revealed a racist cop was behind his accusation. More drama ensues when Tish reveals she is pregnant and she becomes determined to free Fonny before their child arrives.

The audience must pay close attention to whatever Waites said because as she started to switch from character to character, it would become confusing.

Waites did an impeccable job at embodying each character. Her shifts in voice, body posture, facial expressions and walking style helped to try to distinguish which character she was playing in the moment. Through her characterizations, she used Tish (the main character she embodied) to give many clues to what her relationships were like with Fonny and her family. This was an intriguing way to have one character illustrate other characters who never technically showed up onstage.

Except for perhaps three brief times, there was no music at all, the stage filled with Waites' own words. Her outfit for the night was simple—a multicolored mini-poncho, a dark long sleeve shirt, dark blue jeans and sneakers.

While this was probably unintentional, having just one actor (Waites) onstage throughout the performance

spoke to how lonely Tish's battle to get Fonny free sometimes felt.

Tish struggled to get enough money to pay for a lawyer to help, trying to convince her close loved ones to chip in although this was quite the lost cause as her family did not make much. The lawyer was also said to be white, something her family disliked as they felt they did not want a metaphorical white shining knight to rescue Fonny.

One particularly moving scene was when Waites acted as both Tish and Fonny, jumping from one character to another, when Tish visited him in jail and spoke on the phone with him, even holding up a hand as if planting it against the glass window between her and Fonny.

"I hope no one ever sees any loved one through glass," she poignantly said, as if to the audience.

Thirty-five minutes in, the performance paused and the audience were engaged in pretending to be associates as if in like a law firm. They were encouraged to ask Waites (still onstage in character as Tish) questions like where the so-called raped Puerto Rican woman is now and how exactly her family can afford a lawyer.

This spoke truly to how this was a "Literature to Life" performance and I've never witnessed such a performance where the audience got to directly interact with a character onstage.

The performance's thought-provoking commentary on racism (particularly institutional racism), poverty and a romance frowned upon by the general society at the time, all helped make this performance and the novel itself relatable to audiences.

The show was both preceded by and followed with an open discussion with members of the audience who gave their opinions about racism, the current political climate, white privilege and poverty. These segments were moderated by actress, writer, singer and educator Lisa Strum who wanted the audience to remain engaged.

An African-American woman in the crowd said that she lived during segregation back when she was much younger, visibly moving numerous fellow audience members.

"It's one thing to learn about [segregation]," she said. "It's another experience to it."

She went on to say that it's important to fight for truth



Source: Wikimedia Commons

James Baldwin, above, was the original author back in 1974.

and continue to teach American history to kids so they know what previous generations had to go through.

The performance was mostly a success, save for a rude elderly audience member literally snoring a few times throughout (which visibly annoyed some nearby onlookers), and Waites' acting helped give a sense of the struggle low-income African-Americans in the 1970s had to experience.

As it happened on Feb. 28, it was an apt conclusion to Black History Month on campus.

POP CULTURE

Bebe Rexha was 'Meant to Be' Topping the Charts

By DANIELLE MARTINEZ

"Meant to Be," by Bebe Rexha and Florida Georgia Line, is the current number one song in Billboard Country Charts.

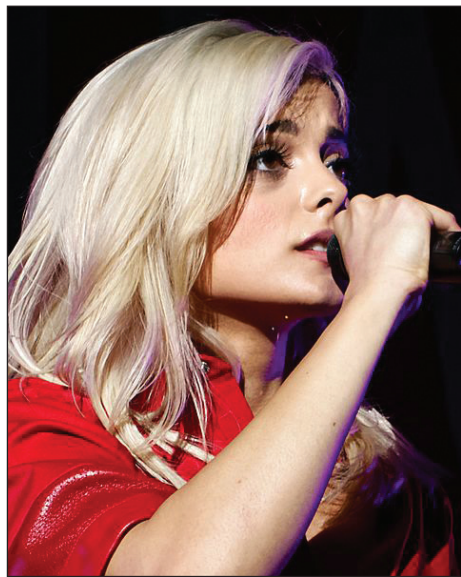
Billboard charts reports that the song has been on the charts for 12 weeks and these songs on the charts are selected by "radio airplay, sales data and streaming data."

According to Rolling Stone, "the song was co-written by Tyler Hubbard and Bebe Rexha." In an interview with radio personality Zach Sang, Rexha said that she was "freaked out" as it was her first ever country song. She said that "the lyrics are deeper and when she was so over guys, she listened to it."

The song is intense and it's about the uncertainty of a relationship.

Rexha plays the female voice in the song, explaining that she's been hurt a couple of times, but would like to see where this relationship goes.

Florida Georgia Line plays the male



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Bebe Rexha, above, has sung since 2010.

voices, saying that she's beautiful, but whatever the nature of the relationship is let it be.

In the song, they mention a road. This road has a double meaning because when you are traveling down a road, you often aren't sure where you are going until you get to a destination. A lot of people can relate to the song because if a relationship is meant to happen, it will happen. So, the song serves as advice to people who are trying to define a relationship.

According to Rolling Stone again, "the song appears on Rexha's album and was not originally intended for release as a country single."

The song has also been performed at numerous venues such as "The Tonight Show starring Jimmy Fallon," "The Late Late Show with James Corden" and Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve.

Florida Georgia Line has collaborated with a lot of artists such as Nelly, Luke Bryan, Backstreet Boys and Hailee

Steinfeld, to name a few. Also, Florida Georgia Line did a commercial for the NFL with Jason Derulo and Hank Williams Jr.

Bebe Rexha has collaborated with one of the former stars of One Direction, Louis Tomlinson.

A celebrity news website, thefamouspeople.com, writes that "Bebe Rexha got her start after forming an experimental band with Pete Wentz, the bass guitarist for Fall Out Boys. However she left the band in order to pursue a solo career. Also, Rexha has written several songs for Pitbull, Nick Jonas, Eminem and Rihanna, just to name a few."

The song is trending on the country stations.

It has been viewed over 221 million times on YouTube. This song is different from Rexha's previous songs because it follows the path of traditional country origins. The video was released on October 23, 2017 and the song can be found on iTunes.

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CAMPUS CULTURE

How WACRIA Turned Art into Action



PHOTOS BY KATIE GIBSON / ASP

By KATIE GIBSON

It may seem impossible to fight the boundless oppression in this world but UAlbany students don't give up hope without a fight.

In 2015, Jennifer Abu and Olivia Roberts founded WACRIA, Women and Children's Rights in Africa, to fight for better health care and education in Africa. It started as a blog to draw attention to voices that were being silenced. Abu and Roberts turned words into actions by founding a club around WACRIA.

Now that they have graduated they have developed WACRIA into non-for-profit in New York City. Abu represented WACRIA on a panel with the United Nations Women to discuss gender rights in an African context.

UAlbany students have rallied around the cause. Last week, WACRIA, led by its current president Aline Dipoumbi, organized an art gala at the UAlbany Performing Arts Center. It showcased black artists on campus and celebrated black culture. All of the proceeds went towards building a school in Tanzania.

Each artist had their own inspiration for creating such beautiful art.

The artist known as Kindr found

inspiration in the dynamics of masculinity.

He experimented with the idea of "what makes a man" by photographing black men in traditionally feminine situations such as knitting, wearing makeup, and dressed in light pink. It showed that strength is not inhibited by emotion and vulnerability, but enhanced by it.

The artist known as Taiitan also focused on masculinity.

He wanted to convey his experience growing up in the inner city without a clear masculine figure in his life. He felt that many black men struggle with defining their own masculinity in a positive way in the face of oppression.

Taiitan reported that his masculinity came from many different places such as his mother, the men he looked up to in his community, and comic book characters. His art represents this multitude of inspiration. It centers around the clash chaos and joy, confusion and triumph.

Mercedes Soriano centers her art work on the experience of black women.

She is especially interested in hair and the identity and power it symbolizes. She also uses multiple models for each woman shown in her art. She starts with herself as a base adds individual features from the women around her and on the Internet. She



does this to show that her art is not just about one person but the black community as a whole.

The art show was followed by singing, poetry, and dance. This event showed the

wide range of talents on our campus.

It was a stunning cultural event that showed the strength of the black community at UAlbany and benefited women and children in Africa.

WCDB REUNION



PHOTOS BY KATIE GIBSON / ASP

WCDB held its 55 year reunion on Friday. Right photo: Genevieve Roberts and Clara Meyer attend the event.

RECIPES

Tasty Treats to Go Green on St. Patrick's Day



Source: Wikimedia Commons

By KATIE GIBSON

No party is complete without food. Saint Patrick's Day is a great opportunity to craft some colorful snacks. Here are some easy recipes to impress your family and friends.

Leprechaun Rice Krispies

Take three cups of Lucky Charms and divide the cereal from the colorful marshmallows. Take two cups of regular marshmallows and 2 tablespoons of butter and melt them together in a pot. Remove from heat and add the cereal. Mix thoroughly and add green food coloring. When the mixture is almost entirely cool, add the colorful marshmallows. Move the mixture into a pan and let it set.

Pot of Gold

Blow up 5 small balloons. Melt chocolate in the microwave. Dip half of each balloon into chocolate and let it set on wax paper. Once the chocolate has set, pop and remove the balloons.

Take a bag of candy corn and chop off the yellow tops. Place the yellow tops, along with yellow skittles and M&Ms, into the chocolate bowls.

Shamrock Jello Shot (21+)

Put water in a bowl and add green jello powder (or clear jello and add green food coloring). Stir until the powder dissolves. Add 1 cup of cold water and 1 cup of water and half a cup of Irish whiskey into the pot. Mix and pour jello into cups to set in a refrigerator. In a bowl mix 1.5 cups of heavy cream, 2 tablespoons of sugar, and 1/4 cup of Bailey's. Whip until it forms a cream. Pour whipped cream over the jello shots.

Healthy Shamrock Shake

Add 1 cup of Greek yogurt, 2 tablespoons of matcha powder, 1 teaspoon of mint extract, 2 frozen bananas, and 1 teaspoon of honey in a blender. Chill before serving.

Matcha Frozen Yogurt

Take the healthy shamrock shake

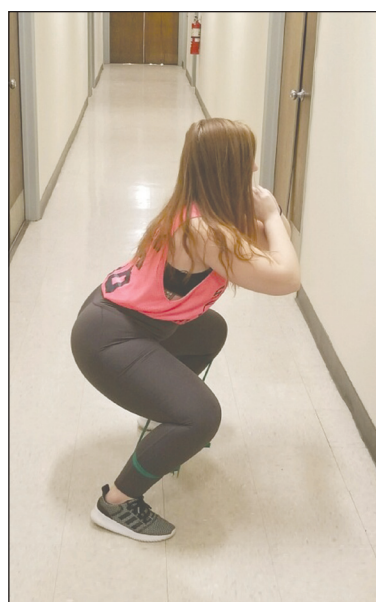


Source: Pexel

recipe and pour it into a small baking pan. Freeze overnight.

And now you have enough food to entertain all of the leprechauns in the land!

HEALTHY LIVING



EGYPT SANTIAGO / ASP

Diamond Melendez (left), Collin White (top right), and Arin Saunders (bottom right) engage in different exercises to promote body positivity.

BODY POSITIVITY

Health Includes Self-Love

By EGYPT SANTIAGO

College campuses, along with other academic institutions, are a breeding ground for bullying, insecurity, isolation, and competition. Body positivity is challenging to obtain and maintain in the face of such negativity. But striving to love your body is an opportunity for growth.

Our campus is a place of diversity with a wide range of wellness programs and sports opportunities to ensure the inclusiveness of each individual on campus. Of course, there are students that fall through the cracks in this seemingly fail-proof system.

"I love my body. It's not exactly where I want it to be yet but I love my arms and my abs," reported Danny Jaser. Jaser is a junior and participates in the weekly zumba classes offered by the fitness and wellness programs.

"The campus attempts to accommodate and promote all body types by promoting diversity," Jaser shared.

One of the evident challenges among our students in a place full of different body types, shapes, colors and sizes, is that many students find themselves comparing their own bodies and individual looks to everyone else around.

"My definition of body positivity is being in love with the way your body looks and overall feels," said Diamond Melendez, who visits the gym on campus regularly.

"The campus makes me feel that my body fits in with the thousands of students that attend UAlbany," she shared.

"Seventy percent of college students admit to being dissatisfied with their bodies," said Dr. John Forsyth, who is currently teaching abnormal psychology here on campus.

Do you like all your attributes and features? Are you taking good care of yourself? These are just some of the questions that play into having a positive body image.

"Celebrate Every Body" Zumba is a class catered to all bodies and is a safe and comfortable space for anyone to join. This is one of the many ways the campus aims to support a healthy student body while including anyone who cares to join.

"The campus is definitely inclusive because it affects our bodies positively and negatively," said Melendez. "We as humans note other people's features unconsciously and we begin to compare ourselves and we never know how it can truly affect one's self-love and self-image."

Another common thread among the students was simply expressing that to them, body positivity is about well-being and overall health.

"It's about knowing and rocking your own image," said Jennifer Cabrera, vice president of one of the women's club basketball teams. "It's about knowing and loving yourself and making sure that you know you are beautiful in your own skin. I love my body, tattoos, stretch marks – all of it."

With open recreational basketball, yoga, cardio, and group exercises available to all students, the campus strives to include any and everyone on the quest for students to have that positive image.

"Some of the areas that the campus could be more inclusive would be the sports section," Cabrera said. "There's a lot of the same people and body types in our mainstream and club sports and that's not always inviting. It makes people feel uncomfortable when they don't see anybody that looks like themselves and that directly affects how we feel about our bodies."

"We can be more inclusive by having and hosting as many 'come as you are' exercising and sporting events," Jaser said. "When people know that they are welcome to these sorts of events without necessarily having any experience or even the attire, it creates an atmosphere where we are promoting our own body positivity and encouraging those around us to do the same without the judgement."

What's most important is that a healthy body is both a work of art and a daring fashion statement. Having a positive body image and a healthy mind to match is not only beneficial to ourselves, but also it spreads and promotes a healthy image for all of us.

LACROSSE

Men Survive Last-Minute Thriller

By ROB LEP

The University at Albany men's lacrosse team stormed back from a 9-7 deficit with four straight goals in the final 3:18 to knock off the Cornell Big Red at Casey Stadium 11-9 Sunday afternoon.

UAlbany, playing their first game since earning the No. 1 ranking in the most recent polls released Monday, saw their first real test of the season after two blowout wins over Syracuse and Drexel to start the 2018 campaign. They won those first two contests by a combined 33-8 margin.

"First time really all year that we've hit a little adversity," UAlbany head coach Scott Marr said. "Thought we handled it great. Give Cornell a ton of credit for being prepared. We had no preconception this was going to be a blowout. We knew this was going to be a tough game."

With the game tied in the final moments, after a series of passes from behind the net around the Cornell defenders, junior midfielder Sean Eccles gave a pass to teammate Justin Reh, who ripped a shot straight on past Big Red goalkeeper Christian Knight to give UAlbany a 10-9 lead with 1:17 remaining. For Reh, it was his fifth goal of the season.

With the Great Danes up 10-9 and under a minute remaining, the Nanticoke-Fields connection sealed the deal for Albany. Nanticoke held the ball towards the near sideline while toying with a Cornell defender, cut inside and ripped a pass to Fields who scored the deciding goal to give UAlbany a two-goal advantage with 00:38 seconds remaining.

"When we were down by two, we get in the huddle there with the offense and coach Thompson drew something up there," Marr said. "Just listen, we need two good shots to tie the game up and we'll go from there. Knowing we had TD and how well he was doing at the X [faceoff], we felt really confident if we put one in, we would get the ball back and take it from there. He was unbelievable."

Casey Stadium erupted and the Danes had their third straight victory to open up the 2018 season. Their No. 1 ranking still intact.

Senior attack Connor Fields led the way with three goals and two assists in the win. Junior midfielder Sean Eccles and Senior midfielder Kyle McClancy also had two goals a piece on the day.

Sophomore faceoff specialist TD Ierlan pulled his own version of Don Larsen's 1956 World Series Game 5 performance, finishing the day a perfect 24-of-24 on faceoffs.

Ierlan was originally awarded 23-of-24 but a video review after the game showed the Second Team All-American one season ago had possession of the ball, followed by a turnover which was then recovered by the Big Red.

On the season, Ierlan has now won 91 percent of his faceoffs taken, which ranks first in the country.

Cornell gave the Great Danes everything they could handle, going into the locker room with a 6-4 advantage at halftime and scored the first two goals of the fourth quarter to give them a 9-7 lead.

"You know as the No. 1 team you're going to get every team's best shot," Fields said. "Every-



NICHOLAS WOOD / ASP

Connor Fields sets up the offense.

one loves to be up a lot and feel comfortable, but at the same time, if you want to go deep in the tournament, you're going to have close games."

Cornell goalkeeper Christian Knight, who came into the game averaging 14.5 saves per game, the third best per game average in the country, finished the afternoon with nineteen saves in the loss.

"I'm a big fan of Christian Knight," Cornell head coach Peter Milliman said. "He's been our guy for a while. I thought it was a pretty good day for him. He bailed us out in some situations and thought our defense did a great job

of giving him what he was looking for. When you have a consistent goalie, you can build a defense around that. We're making strides towards doing that."

Senior midfielder Jordan Dowiak scored four goals for the Big Red. Sophomore Jeff Teat, who came into Sunday's game tied with Nanticoke for first in the nation averaging four goals per game, finished with a goal and an assist.

In the victory, Fields moves into second place in points in UAlbany program history and 12th in NCAA Division I history, with 296 in his career. He is also

tied for 20th in NCAA DI history in goals with 172.

Tehoka Nanticoke, the No. 1 recruit in the nation coming into the season as well as the top goal scorer averaging 4 goals per game coming in, found the back of the net once to go along with two assists in the victory.

A busy week lies ahead for UAlbany as they've played the first of three straight games in a seven-day span. They'll travel to Massachusetts to take on UMass Amherst before heading to Maryland to take on the No. 2 ranked Terrapins Saturday, March 10 at 12 p.m.

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Controversial Ruling Strips Danes of 13th Consecutive Title

By JUSTIN BERGLUND

The University at Albany Men's Track and Field team finished second in the America East Indoor Championship, losing to UMass Lowell. However, UAlbany's loss, which broke the team's streak of 12 straight indoor championships, did not come without controversy.

UAlbany led UMass Lowell 168.5-167 going into 4x400 meter relay, the final event of the two day tournament.

The Dane's team of Jordan Lawrence, Harmodio Cruz III, Sidney Gibbons, and Walter Briggs crossed the finish line first, seemingly securing their 13th straight Indoor Championship and entrance to the NCAA Tournament.

However, after a UAlbany team member celebrated on the track and interfered with a runner from the University of New Hampshire team while he was still running, the referees decided to disqualify the Danes from the race.

This eliminated their victory, giving them zero points for the race and allowing UMass Lowell, who originally finished fourth in the race, to overtake UAlbany and secure the championship victory with 173 points to UAlbany's 168.5.

Article 1, Section Five, Rule Five of the NCAA Track and Field Rulebook states "When a competitor



Source: Bill Ziskin / UAlbany Sports

Referees ruled the Danes disqualified, leaving them with no points for their race and allowing UMass Lowell to move on.

commits a flagrant foul in a race to aid a teammate, all persons from the offending team in that event shall be disqualified. Interference by a coach or a teammate not in the event shall also apply."

The foul was committed after UAlbany had already won the race and did not impact the placing of any schools, so it was not flagrant and did not aid a teammate.

Despite the rule saying UAlbany should not have been disqualified, the referees sent the decision to an appeals jury of three coaches from the participating schools. The coaches involved in the jury were not disclosed by America

East officials when reached for contact.

The jury upheld the disqualification, sending UMass Lowell to the National Championship.

UAlbany, missing out on the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2005, has since finished seventh in the IC4A & ECAC Indoor Championships this past weekend, the last event of the indoor season.

Track and Field will now switch to outdoor season, where the team will travel to events in South Carolina, Puerto Rico, Florida, California, Jamaica and Connecticut before the Spring Classic takes place at UAlbany between April 19-21.

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QUARTER FINAL

Danes' Season Ends Amid High Hopes



ELIJAH CASPER / ASP

Joe Cremo drives to the hoop through a Stony Brook blockade.

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

ALBANY, N.Y. — Last year the University at Albany men's basketball team held an eight-point lead with five minutes to play in the America East Conference Championship game. We all know how they lost to Vermont in dramatic fashion. It hurt. It was something to grow from. Losing only one key player and reloading the front court, the Danes set their sights on redemption in the 2017-18 season.

This year they started fast right out of the gate. They won their first ten straight and were even ranked in the top-5 in the nation for mid-majors by the collegeinsider.com poll (that was a good 10 spots ahead of Vermont, a team that won 30 plus conference game in-a-row). This was supposed to be the year when Joe Cremo and David Nichols take over the league and go dancing for the first time in their collegiate careers. Nothing was going to stop them.

The UAlbany men's basketball team fell to Stony Brook 59-54 in the opening round of the America East Conference Tournament in front of a rambunctious crowd at SEFCU Arena Saturday night.

It shortened a season and stunned the players, coaches and onlookers who saw those same Danes beat the same Seawolves

twice already in the 2017-18 campaign by an average of 10 points.

"I thought they [Stony Brook] played really well and they did a nice job playing physical and aggressive," said UAlbany Head Coach Will Brown.

Joe Cremo was the only UAlbany player to finish with double figures in any category with 24 points. He only shot a pedestrian 35-percent from the floor, but had to take more shots than he's ever taken to compensate the Seawolves' new look defense.

"You've got to take it as everything happens for a reason," said an emotional Cremo after his team was eliminated. "I've just got to come back as a better player next year."

For Stony Brook, their game plan was simple. They put an extra man in the paint and merely chose not to guard Devonte Campbell, who only totaled five points. Campbell shot barely over 30-percent from the floor and missed a couple wide open threes, but you can't shoulder the burden just on him alone.

"The way they guarded us caused us problems," said Brown. "For me I respect Devonte Campbell too much to just say sorry son sit on the sideline no one is guarding you."

Campbell was named to the America East All-Defense team

this past week and taking him off the court because of his offensive inefficiencies would have created holes on the other end of the floor. It also didn't help that the Danes shot 32-percent as a team.

"You have to make shots and with that being said I really thought that we struggled shooting the ball tonight," said Brown. "That makes every defensive possession and every rebound more important."

David Nichols was a mere afterthought. With an extra man to float around, the Seawolves defense swarmed the junior guard and limited him to only seven points while shooting 2-for-15 from the floor. This was one of the worst performances of Nichols' college career and it came at a time when his team needed him the most. In the two prior games against the Seawolves, Nichols combined to score 33 points and shot over 50 percent from the floor.

Literally adding insult to injury, star forward Travis Charles played with limited minutes because of an MCL sprain he suffered last week. Early in the first half forwards senior Alex Foster and Greig Stire picked up two early fouls a piece, which made Brown dip further into his bench than he originally planned to. Matt Conway and Ahmad Clark were called upon to try

to lessen the burden, but they collectively couldn't score a basket as the Danes tried to figure out the Seawolve attack on the fly.

UAlbany did not lead the game at any point in the contest and trailed Stony Brook by as many as 14 points. They closed the gap to within a basket or two several times, but every time the Danes came charging the Seawolves would meet with a counter of their own.

At one point in the game the Danes went on a 10-0 run, anchored by Cremo's two back-to-back threes and two free-throws. This snapped the Stony Brook lead to just a point as the Danes trailed 49-48 with just under nine minutes to play.

Stony Brook called a time out and went on a 6-2 run to push their lead back up to 55-50 with about seven minutes to play.

"I think the biggest thing is when Cremo had that stretch when he hit back-to-back threes we bent, but we didn't break," said Stony Brook Head Coach Jeff Boals, who was an assistant to Thad Matta at Ohio State. "It's a sign of a team that's grown throughout the year."

There was one point in the game late in the second half when a backcourt violation clearly was not called on the Seawolves that lead to an easy layup and pushed

their lead up to seven. That could have been a five-point swing in the Danes' favor if it was called and could have changed the trajectory of the game.

"The way we were playing we needed all the help we could get," said Brown. "Listen, his whole foot was in the back court and he [the ref] didn't see it."

The ball didn't bounce the Danes' way and the calls certainly did not go their way as well. Now the Danes are left thinking what the season could have been. There was a lot of hype and expectations surrounding this team that they frankly could not live up to.

After this season the Danes are going to lose three players in the front court that played hefty minutes this year. Greig Stire, Travis Charles and Alex Foster will be exiting the team upon graduation.

There might be one last opportunity for them to play as a unit this year as the school decides whether or not they want to play in a conciliation tournament like the CBI or something of that caliber.

"Coaches always want to continue to play. I want my seniors to be able to continue to play," said Brown. "A lot goes into it...we'll do what's best for our program and athletic department."

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Danes Squander Late Lead, Snap Fairytale Run

By ALEC AMBRUSO

The road to a seventh consecutive America East Conference title has ended. The Lady Danes fell to Hartford 58-56 on Sunday, allowing Hartford to face No. 1 seed Maine on March 9 for the America East Conference Championship.

The No. 2 seed Lady Danes opened conference tournament play on Saturday against the No. 7 Vermont Catamounts in the quarterfinal round.

The Danes never trailed, outscoring Vermont in the first, third, and fourth quarters by a combined 18 points on their way to a 62-40 victory.

Three Danes recorded double figures — Chyanna Canada totaled 14, Tiana-Jo Carter 13 and Jessica Féquière scored 11 points.

Canada also added two steals and six rebounds to lead the team to a decisive win to enter yet another semifinal round in the team's recent successful run.

The Danes were in for a battle from the get-go against a Hartford that knocked off No. 3 seed Binghamton a day prior.

The game had experienced eight lead changes and was a back-and-forth battle right down to the very last seconds of the

game.

Sophomore guard Mackenzie Trpcic led the team with 16 points and seven assists, including two 3-pointers.

Joining her in double-figures were Féquière 10 points and Carter adding 12 more. Carter notched nine rebounds to contribute to the Danes' 34 rebounds, which edged the Hawks in the category by one.

Despite these performances, Hartford never backed down. They had four players score at least 12 points, and shot from beyond the arc at a 33-percent clip, better than Albany's 22-percent.

With one minute to go, Albany's 56-53 lead was cut to one with a basket by Hartford forward Darby Lee.

Albany tried to answer back, but Féquière turned the ball over on a pass at half court intended for Trpcic. This led to a Hartford fast-break layup giving them the one-point advantage with 51 seconds left in regulation.

Hartford would score again with a free throw by Lindsey Abed, who has been 90 percent at the charity stripe this season. She missed her second attempt which gave Albany a chance with 4.5 seconds left and two timeouts to boot.

Two inbound lobs from Trpcic to Carter

Source: Steve McLaughlin / UAlbany Sports
Féquière shoots the ball.

failed to amount to points for the Danes, the latter of which came with a second to go and was taken away by Hartford's Abed to seal the upset.

The Danes didn't advance to the America East Conference Tournament Championship game for the first time since 2011. Their nation-leading six conference championships in-a-row was snapped at the hands of a Hawks team that they had lost to

for the second time this season.

The Danes will lose three key players this offseason due to graduation. Jessica Féquière, a player who scored her 1,000th collegiate point, Tiana-Jo Carter and Bose Aiyalogbe are all leaving the team. These players have averaged a combined 34 points per game and will leave a void in the Great Dane lineup next year.