**PURPLE THREADS: OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

Students take home professional clothing through University donation program

By FATIMA SYED

An exciting and impactful opportunity for students through the University at Albany was inaugurated on February 1st as the new “clothing closet” Purple Threads opened in the Campus Center, generating support and service from students, faculty, alumni, and the entire campus community.

Purple Threads, a clothing closet of professional and business apparel, is a new program offered through the Division of Student Affairs, allows all enrolled students at UAlbany to select articles of professional clothing for no cost to assist them in the workplace, internships, and at interviews, according to Director of Career and Professional Development Noah Simon. “We understood there was a need for many of our students to provide them with professional clothing,” said Simon shortly before the grand opening. “Professional clothing can be expensive and we saw an opportunity where we could provide this clothing to students for no cost.”

The closet consists of donated professional clothing, ranging anywhere from ties to blouses to full suits and even shoes. After speaking to many faculty members and volunteers, it was very clear that people wanted to support this program and its value to the campus.

“We’ve really had a great response from our campus community, especially our alumni and staff, to help get this program going,” Simon said. “Purple Threads has represented the best of our UAlbany community.”

After Vice President of Student Affairs Michael Christakis spoke to the crowd gathered in the hallways of the third floor of the Campus Center and thanked the many people involved with the program, students gathered into the office space-turned-walk in closet to browse through the expansive collection of clothing and accessories, while faculty and volunteers assisted them with style, fitting, and fashion tips.

By PHILLIP DOWNES

The money has gone to the University at Albany for 5 years. In 2016, the $10 million dollars was split up into an addition $10 million for other grants from them in the past, including a $2 million dollars investment revenue. This year, that’s only $120,000 in usable funds. With that said, Purple Threads has definitely helped me out.

“I wanted to schedule an interview for an internship but I didn’t have anything to wear, so this definitely helped me out.”

— LAUREN ROTHBURD

Another student, sophomore business major Lauren Rothbell, was checking out some shirts and tops with her friend after hearing about the event in her Career and Life Planning class. “It was good because I wanted to schedule an interview for an internship and didn’t have anything to wear, so this definitely helped me out.”

Throughout the afternoon until 4 p.m., students were able to check out the closet, try on some of the clothing in fitting rooms.

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By RESEARCH

Minority Research Center Hopeful Through Struggle

A research group dedicated to the health of minorities is gradually running out of funds, but remains hopeful that they can continue their work.

The Center for Eliminating Health Disparities was born in 2016, after UAlbany received a federal grant of $10 million dollars from the National Institutes of Health.

The money has gone into graduate students, hiring faculty throughout the university, and to bridge gaps between student clubs, faculty, and health programs in the capital region area. The Center also created two minority health task forces that are oriented and dedicated to research health disparities. Popular events such as the President’s Forum on Health Disparities, Black History Month, and the Epigenetics Workshop have also benefited from the federal grant.

Dr. Lawrence M. Schell has been teaching in the Anthropology department for more than 20 years and serves as the director for the Center for Elimination of Minority Health Disparities.

Schell has found health disparity in varied places around the Capital Region. He conducted research about the effects of pollution on the Akwesasne-Mohawk community, as well as the effects of polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs, on the overall health and growth of adolescent and grown women. Schell is not a stranger to the National Institutes of Health, as he has received other grants from them in the past, including a building grant in 2004 and funding for three research projects in 2009.

The $10 million dollars that UAlbany received in 2016 is split up into a planned $7 million dollars per year for 5 years. However, the grant money goes to the University to be invested, and the Center operates out of investment revenue. This year, that’s only $110,000 in usable funds. With that money, Schell said they could support five graduate fellows.

As of 2019, the National Institutes of Health has not offered the opportunity to renew the grant. Dr. Schell still remains hopeful that one year, UAlbany will come back into the limelight and receive an addition $10 million dollars to benefit minorities on campus, in surrounding communities, and worldwide.

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By JOE HOFFMAN

The Center has researched minority health disparities since 2016.
Puerto Rico Panel, President Rodriguez Host Reflection on Hurricane Maria

By JACKIE ORCHARD

Roughly 3,000 Puerto Ricans, American citizens, died due to the category four terror of Hurricane Maria on September 20, 2017. Since that day, the event has spurred much speculation, economic analysis, and heated debates on the social and economic state of Puerto Rico.

On January 28, in an old auditorium in downtown Albany, President of the University at Albany, President of the University at Albany, Dr. Havidán Rodríguez took to the stage to introduce a discussion on the aftermath of Maria.

“As you know, the impact and outcomes of Hurricane Maria are devastating for the population of 3.3 million American citizens,” Rodriguez said. “Disasters are socially constructed events. A number of factors... exacerbated the disaster situation in Puerto Rico.”

With Dr. Havidán Rodríguez’ opening remarks in mind, the panel took some questions. I asked the panel how they felt about President Trump’s remarks concerning Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico.

George Washington University’s Milken Institute School of Public Health has cited the total death toll around 2,975 deaths, and yet the President of the United States has insisted repeatedly that the deaths were between 8 and 16 people. My question was: Why do you think the President has insisted on such low numbers?”

Robert Redlener, dean of the Mailman School of Public Health. The media, must also take some blame, said Irvin Redlener, who established the National Center for Disaster Preparedness at Mailman School of Public Health. “Journalists do not know how to cover recovery. Once the cameras go away, you’re left to an occasional feature about families not doing well,” said Redlener. “I asked the panel: “I have family on the island. I want to ask you... When did the word liberation leave our vocabulary when talking about this discussion?” That final question was met with applause from the audience gathered in the auditorium.

With so much dissent among the United States government and so much speculation about where the relief funds are actually going, with photos of abandoned pallets of water in nurseries and tweets from the U.S. President that are often coloured with disdain, how can we truly know what the real situation is in Puerto Rico? The panel on Monday was titled, “Lessons Learned from Hurricane Maria.” That night, the audience learned that the relationship with and the situation in Puerto Rico is incredibly complex.
By PHILLIP DOMNES

The University at Albany is kicking off a new rebranding initiative this spring, focusing on the new slogan, “Unleash Greatness,” which the administration says aims to promote the prominence that exists within the university and its community.

The plan for the new brand, which initiated about two to three years ago, has gone through rounds of professional consulting and advertising research, while also incorporating student, faculty, and alumni input.

The initiative, led by UAlbany’s Director of Marketing and Content Strategy Paul Miller, was strategically planned to enhance the university’s internal identity and increase satisfaction and recommendation levels among students and faculty.

These goals were based off the results and findings of McGuire Consulting LLC, which incorporated surveys and focus groups of about 250 campus community members.

These results indicated that the university had significant issues regarding student experience satisfaction, an inferiority complex within the school and the region, and overall campus pride.

“We wanted to find out what resonated with the students, because they are a primary audience for the campaign,” said Miller, addressing how students’ input was factored into refining choices. “It was invaluable to get their feedback.”

Miller continued, saying, “Our number one goal was to build pride on this campus, because we have a lot to be proud of at this university. Our message is that we have been great from the start.”

Zak Constantine, freshman Student Association senator from State Quad, recognized the university’s efforts to boost campus pride and satisfaction, but also expressed clear concerns with the University’s recent decisions.

“But I find it ironic how encouraging students to unleash their greatness, they are suppressing a long standing student group’s ability to work in the way they have for decades,” referring to the University’s recent decision to evict the University Photo Services from their Campus Center office by the end of the semester.

The unraveling of the new brand was timetabled carefully, and the university felt that it was time to put the plan into action this spring after months of planning, according to Miller. “It’s been ten years since the university embarked on any sort of brand advertising.”

Miller also added that this initiative goes hand-in-hand with University President Havidan Rodriguez’s strategic plans for the university, which developed around the same time as the rebranding campaigns.

“We’ve had a number of Presidents in the last five years, so we wanted to make sure that we understood the priorities of the President.”

The university utilized two contracts to fund these campaigns, including one contract with McGuire Consulting LLC, that provided $650,230.79 in funds through the University at Albany Foundation, and another with the Rochester-based marketing agency Dixon Schwabl that provided $47,800 in state funds for the campaign, as per UAlbany Senior Communications Mike Nolan.

According to Nolan, the University’s Office of Communications and Marketing handled other creative elements, including graphics and messaging, outside of the work done by these two agencies, although all parties work was integrated in the final reveal.

The re-branding campaign was launched publicly on January 22nd in the Campus Center, where students and faculty gathered for free t-shirts and hats, along with the reveal of the Great Dane bust that now sits in the center of the Campus Center lobby. UAlbany President Havidan Rodriguez, along with the University’s communications director and student government leaders Michael Christakis, spoke to the crowd to connect the celebration of the university’s 175th anniversary with the new brand.

While also welcoming students to the start of the Spring 2019 semester, “We’re not suggesting that you come here and that we made you great,” said Constantine. “We are acknowledging that you are already coming to the university great, and we are just helping you to unleash that overall campus pride.

UNSAFE POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA
Student-McIntyre Hall
1/28/2019
Report of odor marijuana. Referrals were made.

CRIM POSS CONTROL SUBST
Death Quad- Grounds
1/30/2019
Report of a male subject in possession of controlled substance. An arrest was made.

Fire Alarm
State Quad-Eastman Tower
1/31/2019
Caused by burnt popcorn.

Crime Intervention
Indian Quad- IQ Other
1/30/2019
Mobile Crisis assisted a female student.

AGGRAV HARRAS-S/COMMUNICATE IN MANNER LIKELY TO CAUSE ALARM
State Quad- Tappon Hall
1/29/2019
Report of a male subject being harassing.

Drug Complaint
Indian Quad- Melrose Tower
1/29/2019
UPD took a third party complaint about possible drug usage. UPD to follow up with involved parties.

TAKE INTO CUSTODY MENTALLY ILL PERSON LIKELY TO HARM SOMEONE
Podium- SAC
1/28/2019
Podium transported a female student to hospital for evaluation.

Petit Larceny
Indian Quad- IQ Grounds
1/28/2019
Report of a verbal alteration in the library. Officers confirmed non-physical in nature. Parties separated prior to arrival.

Possess forged instrument
Indian Quad- Onesta Hall
1/12/2019
Report of a male student in possession of a forged ID.

Possess forged instrument
Dutch Quad- DQ Grounds
1/23/2019
Report of a male student in possession of a forged ID.

Driving while intoxicated-1ST OFFENSE
Roadways-Washington Avenue
1/25/2019
Report of a male student driving while intoxicated. An arrest was made and vehicle was towed.

Driving while intoxicated-1ST OFFENSE
Roadways-DQ Lot
1/25/2019
Report of a male student driving while intoxicated. An arrest was made and vehicle was towed.

GRAND LARCENY- CREDIT CARD
Alumni-Quad-Waterbury Hall
1/25/2019
Report of stolen SUNY Card.

PETI LARCENY
State Quad-DQ Office
1/26/2019
Report of stolen laundry.

Animal Report
Roadways-DQ Lot
1/22/2019
Report of a dog in a car.
35 Days of Shutdown: Frustrating the Nation for No Purpose

By FRANIE MIRRO

Thirty-five days, 880 hours; 54,000 minutes. These numbers all represent the duration of the longest government shutdown in American history. On Dec. 24, 2018, the US government effectively became closed for business as a result of President Donald Trump refusing to sign a short-term spending bill, which would have funded the government until Feb 8, 2019. It had impacted some 800 thousand federal workers. This number, while vast, doesn’t account for the countless family members (children, spouses, grandparents, etc.) that count on these federal salaries for support, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck, according to CNBC is a reality for “seventy-eight percent of full-time workers.”

He refused down to one reason and one reason only: the border wall. At the start of Trump’s campaign he made a pledge to a pluge of his supporters that he would build a “big, beautiful border wall between Mexico and the United States. Of course, in the early days of its conception, by Trump, he stated, “the wall will be paid for, directly or indirectly, by other long time rear entertainment, by the belief that one can then force another government to spend up money for an adored villain or is solving themselves. Trump must realize this. Otherwise, why would he have taken this situation so far?

He would have facilitated, under his administration, one of the most significant and impactful determinations of duty towards those who depend on our government? Regardless of your politics there is no way of denying that the shutdown has accomplished nothing positive or anything of significance, to move our government forward.

It has only enabled backdoors in all forms possible. It has caused negative impacts at the federal and local levels, as well as economically. According to the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) … the shutdown dampened economic activity mainly because of the loss of fast-food/foolish federal workers’ contribution to GDP (Gross Domestic Product), the delay in federal spending on goods and services, and the reduction in aggregate demand (which thereby decreased private-sector activity). The CBO also estimates that economic activity was reduced by $3 billion and will decrease the real GDP by 0.12 percent for the full year. On January 25, Trump signed a bill to reopen the government, but only for three weeks. This will allow for normal operations of federal agencies to continue until February 15. The computer of the government has allowed for federal workers to receive back pay they have missed throughout this period.

The purpose of the government is to provide them with jobs and food and aid to the people. This is not a bill that “the wall will be paid for,” this is a folly and an admission that he will not be able to get through the Democrat-controlled House. According to Politics, the “Senate Republicans can’t stomach another shutdown” and nor can our federal workers or the American people. At all cost another shutdown must be avoided, but in the end we are the ones on the outside looking in and must hope that those we have elected to serve can do what is right both domestically and internationally. For us, as a nation, we must only sit and watch the timer tick down to uncertainty. And like a mood to a flame, Golden Bach has been profiting off of the misery of the Venezuelan people by buying and selling oil. The US government allows, capitalizing on, raping, exploiting a failed state and its people for the personal gain of those who have already too much. We cannot pretend to have democracy here.

We jump into action in the name of freedom and democracy, but only when it benefits us on the end. Why not help the brutalitized Rohingya as they face genocide in Myanmar? Is the support for the Uyghurs being held in concentration camps with!”

By Francis Mirro

Venezuela is a country with the world’s largest oil reserves and has been a key player in global oil politics, particularly during the rise of OPEC in the 1960s. The US has intervened in Venezuela’s affairs since the 1911 Rondon-Orejuela Treaty, which established US oil concessions in the country. The US has also imposed economic sanctions on Venezuela since 2017, as part of its efforts to destabilize the government of President Nicolás Maduro.

The United States has been involved in Venezuela for the wrong reasons. But for evidence of how rarely our leaders over again and expecting a different outcome. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different outcome. She has been successful in her mission of ousting Chavez’s undemocratically chosen successor, Juan Guaido, and her challenge to Maduro, it is Chavez’s undemocratically chosen successor, has continued this hostile American policy. That brings us to the main reason for the US to impose sanctions on the country. Why would he have facilitated, under his administration, one of the most significant and impactful determinations of duty towards those who depend on our government? Regardless of your politics there is no way of denying that the shutdown has accomplished nothing positive or anything of significance, to move our government forward.

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We jump into action in the name of freedom and democracy, but only when it benefits us on the end. Why not help the brutalitized Rohingya as they face genocide in Myanmar? Is the support for the Uyghurs being held in concentration camps with!?
For decades, New York had an archaic and unnecessarily burdensome voting system. It’s voting laws were some of the oldest and most restrictive in the United States. Options to vote were limited. If you wanted to vote in person, if you didn’t send an application by a certain date, you would have been locked out of the process. New York being a state that didn’t allow same-day voter registration. In addition, while 37 states and Washington D.C. would’ve allowed you to cast your ballot early, as a New York resident, you lived in one of just 13 states not to allow early voting, meaning brutally long lines and polling places as all eligible voters in the state who went out to vote tried to navigate within the same day.

If you wanted to vote with an absentee ballot, you would have still faced issues. I am personally (and on this, being one of the dozen of students caught up in the great University at Albany Absentee Ballot Fiasco of 2018, when a number of absentee ballots failed to show up before election day (and in my case arrived the day AFTER the election was over), despite being applied for months before the election. This was the first instance of an absentee midyear issue, with another being recently made public in New York City’s 2017 mayoral elections resulting in 533 absentee votes not being counted due to a mail processing error.

With discrepant options and incidents like these, it shouldn’t be a surprise that New York, the fourth largest state in the U.S. by population, and arguably one the country’s most liberal, had some of the worst voter turnout numbers in the nation. During the 2016 elections, just 57% of New York voters went to the polls, a number that, while depressing, was actually an improvement over 2012, when just 54% of voters participated. In comparison, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, neighboring states where voting information is available, all broke the 65% mark in 2016.

Because of these numbers, voting law reform had long been a priority for both activists and Democratic politicians alike, with various versions of voting law reform routinely passing through the Democratic State Assembly, but failing to advance past the Republican State Senate. This all changed with last year’s legislative elections. The Democratic blue wave that hit Washington and countless state houses also hit Albany, creating, for the first time in many years, a unified government at Albany, long the controller of the Assembly and the Governor’s Mansion, took control of the Senate. With this unified government, a package of voting reform bills quickly made its way to Andrew Cuomo’s desk, and on January 24th, Cuomo signed the bills into law.

It cannot be overstated how much of a seismic shift the passage of these bills represents. Almost overnight, New York’s voting laws were transformed from being some of the worst in the country to some of the best. Sixteen and 17-year-olds can now pre-register so that they can vote immediately once they turn 18.

New York’s system of separate primary dates for state and federal races, long a source of confusion for voters and commonly seen as a vote suppression tactic, was overturned by New York’s system of separate primary dates for state and federal races. Legislators and voters are now able to vote in the primary for either race on the same day.

The same-day voter registration, long a reality in many states, is now present in New York as well. And perhaps most excellently of all, early voting and vote-by-mail in New York is now a reality, making situations like the absentee ballot incidents maintained less likely to occur as voters take advantage of these new options.

If you’ve ever had a bad experience at a New York polling place, then, these changes are welcome news. For the first time in modern memory, it won’t be a chore to vote in New York elections, state or federal, and, with more voting reform like automatic registration and an Election Day holiday potentially on the horizon, there’s a good chance that our voting numbers will no longer be a source of embarrassment, but a source of pride.

All in all, it’s a sort of a blow to our ego to be behind New Jersey in anything.
UNLEASH GREATNESS
The book itself is written with a journalistic style that allows the reader to immerse themselves into the environment and culture that is represented in these two young men’s stories. Moreover, this being a true story, the experiences and James are strikingly different, which can dispel some of the generalizations that all fraternities and brothers are adaptive of the same lifestyle and the same attitudes, but also show a level of connectiveness and understanding. Oxford’s path is especially thought-provoking, and given a level of honesty and poignancy to the struggles of leadership, friendship and growth that so many young men experience. It is through their experiences with fraternity, from initiation and pledging all the way through to graduation and beyond. Oxford’s writing delivers a powerful impression of what it’s like to grow up through a fraternity, from the young pledge to the chapter president, and how that process develops young men across the nation.

As an investigative reporter who has focused on the under or misrepresented groups of young adults in our society before in her book Plagued: The Secret Life of Sororities from 2004, Robbins showed clear interest and understanding of the dynamics and experiences of fraternities, while also maintaining the objectivity and fairness that is necessary to cover a topic like this. Referencing Plagued, Robbins distinguished what her latest work might reveal to audiences. “While I think the realization to people with Plagued back then was that not all sororities are good, I think the realization to people now is that not all fraternities are bad.”

“More than that, this book isn’t just about fraternities. I think it’s more of a book about college and what students are thinking about. But really what stands out about it is that fraternities don’t just provide the same types of two students and what students are thinking about. But the book also sets the bar for what it is to be a student and a leader, what fraternities are about. Not only can people from different races and walks of life come together to share in the experience of the movie, but also the film has given us a breath of fresh air in cinematic history, with its portrayal of the African-American police officer infiltrating the Ku Klux Klan. The true story of an African-American police officer, similar to the portrayal of a Mexican man in the movies, is the perfect way to celebrate their accomplishments.

An individual can go to these films and find the things that they understand, their struggles, and are seeing the medium of film as a way to escape reality. The ultimate goal of making good movies that represent a third of the population, the reason for a film to be coming around to the evident truth of diversity, or comic relief, but as focal points. And the reason that the movie management is so important is that it has the power to shape our society, and how we see ourselves. It can be the exclamation point to a certain way to be a hero. Through these movies, people can see themselves, where they’ve come from, and who they aspire to be. And it all starts with making good movies that represent a third of the population.

When making films about male college students, they’ll often think of a huge part that exists in the world of campus. With over 4-year colleges across the United States: fraternities. What most people aren’t aware of is what goes on inside this world that we think of as the party, the culture, the parties, the service, the brotherhood, and what happens behind the scenes. Fortunately, five-time New York Times best-seller author Alexandra Robbins was able to follow the lives of a group of young men journeying into their own fraternity, and out of that, comes her new book Fraternity: An Inside Look at Yale University’s Scroll and Key, elaborated on the theme of Yale’s oldest societies Scroll and Key, a member of one of the three fraternities at Yale University, and a member of one of Yale’s oldest societies Scroll and Key. Alexandra Robbins’ book Fraternity is a fascinating perspective that follows the stories of young college boys: Jake, a freshman lineman for a college football team, and Jordan, a new social identity away from the awkwardness of high school, and Oliver, the current president of his fraternity chapter, who is conquering the challenges of keeping the good intentions of his young and lively frat brothers reflected in their actions at the young age of nineteen. The book was constructed in an intriguing style that allows the reader to understand themselves in the environment and culture that is representative of these two young men’s lives. Moreover, this being a true story, the experiences and James are strikingly different, which can dispel some of the generalizations that all fraternities and brothers are adaptive of the same lifestyle and the same attitudes, but also show a level of connectiveness and understanding. Oxford’s path is especially thought-provoking, and given a level of honesty and poignancy to the struggles of leadership, friendship and growth that so many young men experience. It is through their experiences with fraternity, from initiation and pledging all the way through to graduation and beyond. Oxford’s writing delivers a powerful impression of what it’s like to grow up through a fraternity, from the young pledge to the chapter president, and how that process develops young men across the nation.

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“Simpson’s” Writer to Speak at UAlbany

By CHRISTOPHER PAYNE

“D’oh” not miss this opportunity to hear “The Simpsons” writer Mike Reiss speak at UAlbany!

Reiss, the longest-serving writer and producer of “The Simpsons,” the longest running primetime series in TV history, will be a guest speaker at the NYS Writers Institute event at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, at Page Hall on the downtown campus.

Reiss will discuss his new book, Springfield Confidential: Jokes, Secrets, and Outright Lies from a Lifetime Writing for the Simpsons, an inside look at the show and the creative process. Fans will learn where Springfield, U.S.A. is located; how events like the election of Donald Trump was predicted; what Reiss and the creators of the show feel about “Family Guy;” and why the characters are yellow.

The book also features interviews with fellow writers, as well as animators, actors and celebrity guests. Entertainment Weekly described Springfield Confidential as a “funny and factoid-filled glimpse behind the curtain — or, brown couch — of the beloved sitcom...a surprising view of Springfield you’ve never heard before.”

“I invited Mike Reiss because I love ‘The Simpsons,’” said Mark Koplik, Assistant Director at the New York State Writers Institute. “I’ve been watching it since the 1980s and my children are watching it three decades later.”

At the Friday Feb. 8 event, Koplik will interview Reiss and also take questions from the audience.

“The fact that ‘The Simpsons’ continues to be relevant and funny to multiple generations makes it a creative project of enormous significance,” said Koplik. Throughout the show’s history, “The Simpsons” have parodied many TV shows, movies, politics, current events, celebrities, musicians, and bands. Guest stars who have been Simpson-ized include three of four Beatles, as well as a wide array of celebrities including Stephen Hawking, Lady Gaga, Alec Baldwin, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Mary J. Blige, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.


“The Simpsons” also included a famous reference to the Writer’s Institute founder, William Kennedy, when Moe the Bartender makes a comment about Kennedy’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, Ironweed.

Reiss began working on the longest running animated show in 1989, starting with the first episode, “Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire.” The episode’s title is a play on words of the famous Nat King Cole Christmas song, “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire).”

As a writer for “The Simpsons,” Reiss produced 560 episodes, according to IMDb. Also, he produced shows like “The Critic,” which is about a New York City movie critic voiced by Jon Lovitz; “The PJs,” a stop-motion animated sitcom featuring the voice talent of Eddie Murphy; and “Queer Duck,” which is about a duck who is homosexual. Aside from animated shows targeted towards adults and teenagers, he produced the Christmas special, “How Murray Saved Christmas.”

The Christmas special was based on the book written by Reiss about a diner owner who takes the role of Santa after the part time regular working on toys in his workshop. “Mike loves speaking to student audiences and readily agreed to come to Albany,” said Koplik.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Students bundled up for their walks across campus last week during the “polar vortex.”

Dalia Yan / Albany Student Press

LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

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Reiss, the longest-serving writer and producer of “The Simpsons,” the longest running primetime series in TV history, will be a guest speaker at the NYS Writers Institute event at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, at Page Hall on the downtown campus.

Reiss will discuss his new book, Springfield Confidential: Jokes, Secrets, and Outright Lies from a Lifetime Writing for the Simpsons, an inside look at the show and the creative process. Fans will learn where Springfield, U.S.A. is located; how events like the election of Donald Trump was predicted; what Reiss and the creators of the show feel about “Family Guy;” and why the characters are yellow.

The book also features interviews with fellow writers, as well as animators, actors and celebrity guests. Entertainment Weekly described Springfield Confidential as a “funny and factoid-filled glimpse behind the curtain — or, brown couch — of the beloved sitcom...a surprising view of Springfield you’ve never heard before.”

“I invited Mike Reiss because I love ‘The Simpsons,’” said Mark Koplik, Assistant Director at the New York State Writers Institute. “I’ve been watching it since the 1980s and my children are watching it three decades later.”

At the Friday Feb. 8 event, Koplik will interview Reiss and also take questions from the audience.

“The fact that ‘The Simpsons’ continues to be relevant and funny to multiple generations makes it a creative project of enormous significance,” said Koplik. Throughout the show’s history, “The Simpsons” have parodied many TV shows, movies, politics, current events, celebrities, musicians, and bands. Guest stars who have been Simpson-ized include three of four Beatles, as well as a wide array of celebrities including Stephen Hawking, Lady Gaga, Alec Baldwin, Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Mary J. Blige, and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.


“The Simpsons” also included a famous reference to the Writer’s Institute founder, William Kennedy, when Moe the Bartender makes a comment about Kennedy’s Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, Ironweed.

Reiss began working on the longest running animated show in 1989, starting with the first episode, “Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire.” The episode’s title is a play on words of the famous Nat King Cole Christmas song, “The Christmas Song (Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire).”

As a writer for “The Simpsons,” Reiss produced 560 episodes, according to IMDb. Also, he produced shows like “The Critic,” which is about a New York City movie critic voiced by Jon Lovitz; “The PJs,” a stop-motion animated sitcom featuring the voice talent of Eddie Murphy; and “Queer Duck,” which is about a duck who is homosexual. Aside from animated shows targeted towards adults and teenagers, he produced the Christmas special, “How Murray Saved Christmas.”

The Christmas special was based on the book written by Reiss about a diner owner who takes the role of Santa after the part time regular working on toys in his workshop. “Mike loves speaking to student audiences and readily agreed to come to Albany,” said Koplik.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Students bundled up for their walks across campus last week during the “polar vortex.”

Dalia Yan / Albany Student Press
By CAMERON CUPP

The University at Albany men’s basketball team (8-15, 3-5 AE) pulled out their 3rd straight win, knocking off the Binghamton Bearcats (6-17, 2-6 AE) Saturday in the annual Big Purple Growl.

Redshirt freshman Cameron Healy lead the team with a career high 31 points. He knocked down nine 3-pointers, tying the school’s record and also brought in 10 rebounds.

“I haven’t felt like I had been shooting the ball well recently and it all really comes down to preparation,” Healy said.

“People are starting to shoot the ball well and that’s a good sign,” Coach Will Brown said. “I think we’re starting to find ourselves a little bit.”

The Danes started to pull ahead for good with the first Healy three of the second half. The Bearcats went on an offensive dry spell following the 3, failing to score for almost 5 minutes, and closing the game shooting 1-8.

Binghamton graduate student J.C. Show finished with 10 points and Senior Caleb Stewart recorded 10 rebounds. Great Danes redshirt freshman, Adam Lulka added 8 points and 12 rebounds in the victory. Junior guard Ahmad Clark tacked on 14 points, seven rebounds and five assists.

“We’re winning these games by what we’re doing in practice, and it’s carrying over,” Brown said.

The Danes will rest all of this week, before they take on the University of Vermont. UVM is the number one team in the conference. In their prior meeting, Vermont trounced the Great Danes 80-51. With the loss fresh on their minds, the Danes will go to Vermont riding high, well rested, and playing arguably their best basketball of the season.
Great Danes Win Second Straight Game
UAlbany Moves into Third Place in Win against Binghamton

By WILL GAITINGS

Binghamton, N.Y. – The University at Albany Women’s Basketball (6-3 in conference play) has struggled on the road this season, but not against its rival Saturday.

Sophomore Kyara Frames led the scoring attack for the Great Danes, tallying 15 points and hitting two three-pointers as UAlbany defeated Binghamton 71-62, moving into sole possession of third place in the America East Conference.

Seniors Chyanna Canada and Heather Forster added 12 points each and combined for 13 rebounds, while junior Alexi Schecter and Khepera Stokes both scored 10 points to round out an even scoring distribution for the Great Danes. It was a season-high points total for UAlbany and the most its scored since December.

Kai Moon scored 20 points and grabbed five rebounds for the Bearcats (4-5 in conference play), as Binghamton dropped its fifth game at home this season.

Rebecca Cammady, the fifth leading scorer in the conference, scored 17 points. Binghamton took an early 16-11 lead after the first quarter, holding the Great Danes to 31 percent from the field.

The UAlbany offensive attack found its groove in the second, outscoring the Bearcats 18-10 in the frame to take a three-point lead into halftime.

Their momentum carried into the third as the Great Danes stretched the lead to 40-30 with 5:42 remaining in the quarter.

Later in the fourth, Binghamton cut the deficit to as little as two until UAlbany ripped off a 10-0 run to take a commanding 12-point lead with just 3:23 remaining.

The Great Danes shot an impressive 64 percent in the second half, propelling them to victory.

UAlbany has dominated Binghamton in conference play over the years, sweeping the season matchups eight of the last nine seasons.

Next up is a rematch at home versus fifth place Vermont on National Girls and Women in Sport Day Feb. 9.

UAlbany Moves into Third Place in Win against Binghamton

Source: UAlbany Communications and Marketing

Super Bowl

Check out the ASP’s Super Bowl Picks

By ROB LEP

The morning of the big game, I asked the other editors and sports staff their picks for the Super Bowl. By the time the print edition comes out on Tuesday, we’ll know the actual results. Feel free to let us know how we did on Twitter @ASP_Sports, Instagram @albanystudentpress and Facebook: “Albany Student Press. Send me your complaints @RobLep23 on Twitter as well.

Lep’s Take: I learned a long time ago that you never bet against Tom Brady, Bill Belichick and the New England Patriots. It is amazing to me how somehow the “Brady Bunch” has changed the narrative to make us all believe that the PATRIOTS, the team that came Super Sunday will have played in four of the last five Super Bowls and eight straight AFC Championships, is somehow the underdog in this game. Yes Tom, at 41 years old you’re “NOT DONE!” and neither are your Patriots, arguably the greatest dynasty in sports history. The all-time GOAT Brady captures ring No. 6. He invites me over to his house for avocado ice cream. Gronk goes out into the sunset on top. Belichick might actually smile in the post-game press conference.

The Staff

- EIC Joe Hoffman:
  - Rams: 46
  - L+E Editor Jackie Orchard:
    - Patriots: 31
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- Opinions Editor Matt Miro:
  - Patriots: 46

Sports Staff:
- Alec Ambrose: Patriots 29-24
- Skylar Blankenship: Patriots 34-27
- Cameron Cupp: Rams 35-30
- Gabe Flaten: Patriots 34-24
- Will Gaitings: Patriots 34-27
- Roman Hall: Rams 24-20
- Omar Nonjumi: Patriots 27-24
- Jeremy Rabbani: Patriots 27-27

Super Bowl Pick Results

Source: Flickr