

HEALTH

STUDENT STRICKEN WITH MUMPS

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

One University at Albany student has picked up mumps, an infection known for causing severe swelling.

The case was confirmed on Wednesday by the Albany County Health Department. Since then, the student has been isolated from the campus population and is no longer infectious.

In rare cases, those with the infection can become deaf or infertile from swelling.

Mumps is spread through close contact, often through saliva. For this case, it's uncertain how the student was exposed.

Under state public health law, students taking six or more credits are required to provide proof of immunization for measles, mumps, and rubella before entering college unless provided with a religious exemption.

Without a faith-based appeal, students are required to take at least one dose of live mumps under state law.

Two MMR shots are about 88 percent effective in deterring mumps. Those who take one dose of the vaccine are ten percent more susceptible to the infection. The Center for Disease Control advises that children get two MMR shots (the first dose: 12 to 15 months old; the second dose: four to six years old).



ALEKSANDRA NEFEDOVA / ASP

Incoming students taking six credits or most are required to submit immunization forms to Student Health Services located in the Patroon Creek Corporate Center.

"There are some people who contract mumps who actually have had not only one, but two doses of the vaccine," said Ed Engelbride, associate vice president of Student Affairs in July.

This is the first confirmed case since last

spring, in which eight students within two weeks were stricken with the infection. Students were required to become vaccinated or face temporary ban from campus in April.

See **MUMPS** page 2

WHAT ARE MUMPS?

Mumps is an infection caused by a virus of the same name. Those affected with mumps experience severe gland swelling.

HOW DO YOU AVOID CATCHING IT?

- Routinely wash your hands.
- Disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Cough into your elbow, not your hand. If you use a tissue, throw it out in a trash can.
- Avoid sharing items that come in contact with saliva.
- Get two doses of an MMR vaccine.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Fever, fatigue, difficulty swallowing, swelling, decrease in appetite, malaise, headaches, muscle aches.

SGA AFFAIRS

Senate Calls for Quicker Blue-light Repairs

By CHAD ARNOLD

Concerns over campus safety led the Student Association senate to call on University at Albany officials to repair and better maintain emergency blue-light telephones across campus in an unanimously passed resolution this past Wednesday.

The resolution has roots dating back to Oct. 12, when Senator Logan Losito, who sponsored the bill alongside rules committee chairman Brandon Holdridge, noticed a blue-light with an "out of order" sign

See **BLUE-LIGHT** page 2



SAM RUI / ASP

'WE ARE UUP'

Faculty rallied outside the Campus Center in conjunction with United University Professions for a "fair contract" at noon on Thursday. Speakers called for salary increases, affordable health insurance, and improved family leave policies in its contract negotiations.

See **UUP RALLY** page 8

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Demonstrators Take a Knee for Controversial Ex-NFL Superstar

By JASMINE MILLNER

About 20 students gathered around the small fountain at the University at Albany on Monday for an event held by the Student Association in solidarity with the recent actions of former NFL star Colin Kaepernick.

Kaepernick has been in the spotlight for kneeling during the National Anthem during football games. Though supported by many other NFL players, his behavior has received both strong negative and positive opinions from the general public.

Fontaine said that the response to the event on campus was mostly positive.

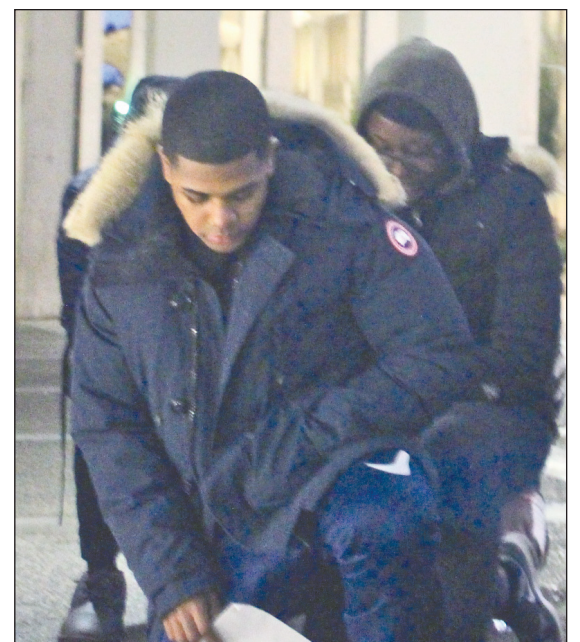
"We are trying to create a platform for student who are very passionate about social-

movements," said Fontaine. Frank Wiley, University Police Department Chief of Police, also spoke at the event.

"I'm always interested in issues of fundamental fairness and social justice," said Wiley. "I have a responsibility to this community and every community that I'm a part of to contribute to it in the most positive ways that I can."

Wiley said that he feels Kaepernick is fighting for unity and pushing for Americans to have uncomfortable conversations to avoid having uncomfortable confrontations.

See **KAEPERNICK** page 2



Photos by JASMINE MILLNER / ASP

Chief Frank Wiley and Student Association President Jerlisa Fontaine (left photo), a student kneels near the fountain (right photo).



JASMINE MILLNER / ASP

Students kneel around the Campus Center fountain in support of Colin Kaepernick. Since President Donald Trump criticized NFL players for kneeling for the flag earlier this fall, more and more social justice activists have taken a knee for the National Anthem.

KAEPERNICK

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“Athletes have been involved in social issues for a very long time and while he absolutely is today’s news, there are other people that have taken very serious stands,” Wiley said.

Wiley cited athletes like Muhammed Ali, who in 1967 refused to be drafted into the military while the U.S. was at war with Vietnam. In 1968, John Carlos and Tommie Smith raised a close fist as a symbol of Black Power instead of saluting on the award podium at the Olympics. Now retired NBA player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar refused to play for the men’s basketball team in the 1968 Olympic Games.

In a poll conducted by CNN, 49 percent of respondents said they think that players kneeling for the anthem are ‘doing the wrong thing.’ 82 percent of African Americans said it was the right thing to do.

Wiley said he admires what Kaepernick is doing because Kaepernick is willing to suffer a tremendous deficit as a result of the positions that he’s taken.

Wiley also said that he feels there has been undue attention on whether or not this is disrespectful to the military or the flag. Wiley said that the intention of the protest was always on fundamental fairness and the idea of liberty and justice for all, not disrespect.

“Use your platforms to really make a change because if we don’t do it for our own

generation, it’s going to continue being a problem and we’re never going to see change,” said Fontaine.

The majority of students in attendance knelt at Fontaine’s encouragement at the end of the event.

BLUE-LIGHT

Continued from Page 1

near the Campus Center.

Losito said that the same light has yet to be repaired as of Nov. 15, more than a month after his initial discovery.

“There can be blue-lights like this all over campus that are out of service and continue to be out of service for months at a time,” said Losito before explaining he discovered a second blue-light out of service on the downtown campus.

According to University Police Department’s daily crime logs, there have been 26 reports pertaining to equipment maintenance between Aug. 22 and Nov. 17, a decrease from 39 reports during the same period last year. The reports include broken blue-lights as well as other pieces of equipment.

It is unknown how many of these reports concern blue-light outages. It is also unknown if the other reports of equipment maintenance have been repaired.

There are more than 330 emergency blue-light phones spread throughout UAlbany’s three campuses, according to the university’s 2016 Annual Security & Fire Safety Report.

Both Losito and Holdridge said that university officials are aware of the broken blue-light phones because of the presence of “out of order” signs.

“If they didn’t know about it, those signs wouldn’t be there,” said Losito. “The fact that we propagate the idea that we have a blue-light no matter where you’re standing on campus, and then we don’t fix the blue-lights that we have is a serious concern.”

“The health and safety of our community as well as the blue-light phone system is a priority and the University has spent considerable effort to expand and maintain the system,” said the university in a joint statement with UPD.

According to the statement, which came in response to questions by the ASP, the university is aware of “several” broken blue-lights across campus and is in the process of making repairs.

The statement did not make clear how many blue-lights need repair or when these repairs will be complete, but it did say that emergency blue-light phones, like all electronic equipment, occasionally go out of service.

Blue-lights on campus are manually inspected to ensure they are functioning. However, the university is looking into an automated software system that will expedite this process.

“This new software would be huge benefit to the community in that it will provide for a much quicker identification of issues, which will help ensure repairs can be made more quickly,” said the university in a statement.

The university did not make clear when this new software is expected to be installed.

Tiffany Thomason, a journalism major, expressed con-

cerns over blue-lights.

“What if you needed it [a blue-light] really bad and it didn’t work?” she said. “That’s terrifying.”

Both Cali and Thomason said they feel safe on campus, but believe the university should do a better job in maintain the emergency blue-light system.

“These lights can save lives,” said Holdridge, who called the resolution a “good first step” in addressing a serious issue.

UPD encourages anyone noticing an out-of-service phone to call them at 518-442-3131.



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

MUMPS

Continued from Page 1

Three cases were confirmed during the first week of the outbreak. An outbreak is defined as two or more linked cases of an infectious disease.

Because only one case has been confirmed, the university not will set up a vaccination

clinic.

Like last semester, Student Health Services sent out a university-wide email notice alerting students about the case.

The notification was sent out on Friday. Prior to a Sunday interview, Ryan O’Keefe, a freshman business student, wasn’t aware know of the case.

“I guess I should check my email more often,” said O’Keefe.

CRIME BLOTTER

CRIM NUISANCE 2- CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH ENDANGER OTHERS

11/15/17
Dutch Quad- Stuyvesant Tower
Report of four underage male students in possession of marihuana, marihuana paraphernalia and alcohol. Referrals were made for all.

GR LAR 4 GET PROPTY BY EXTORTN

11/15/17
State Quad- Eastman Tower
Report of a male student be [sic] harassed by a female subject.

AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE- 3RD

11/15/17
Roadways- Washington Avenue
Report of a male subject driving with a suspended license.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

11/14/17
Indian Quad- Cayuga Hall
Report of a male student in possession of

marijuana, and marijuana paraphernalia. A referral was made.

CRIM POSS CONTRL SUBST

11/14/17
State Quad- Eastman Tower
Report of two underage female students in possession of marijuana, alcohol and a controlled substance. Referrals were made for both.

FIRE ALARM

11/14/17
Indian Quad- Oneida Hall
Caused by burnt popcorn.

DISPLAY FORGED CERTIFICATE WITHOUT INSPECTION

11/13/17
Roadways- DQ Lot
Report of a female student driving with a forged inspection sticker. An arrest and a referral were made.

MAIN UNLAWFULLY IN DWELLING

11/13/17
Liberty Terrace- LT North
Report of a female subject trespassing on campus.

GRAND LARCENY 4 CREDIT CARD

11/12/17
PE Complex- SEFCU Arena
Report of a lost SUNY Card used by an unknown subject.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED- 1ST OFFENSE

11/12/17
Roadways- Univ Dr West
Report of a male student driving while intoxicated. An arrest was made and vehicle was towed.

ACCIDENT- UNKNOWN

11/12/17
Roadways- DQ Lot
Property damage auto accident by an unknown subject

ROBBERY 2ND/AIDED BY ANOTHER

11/11/17
Dutch Quad- Ten Eyck Hall
Report of a male student in an altercation.

VEHICLE ANNOYING

11/11/17
Alumni Quad- AQ Loading Dock
Vehicle annoying.

PETIT LARCENY

11/10/17
Dutch Quad- DQ Office
Report of stolen laundry by an unknown subject.

CRIMINAL NUISANCE 2ND

11/10/17
Indian Quad- Mohawk Tower
Report of a female student in possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. A referral was made.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Logan Losito, Indian Quad senator (right) discussing a blue-light resolution last week before the Student Association senate. Due to an upcoming internship in Washington D.C., Losito will not be returning next legislative session. His seat is one of four up for grabs in the February special election.

4 Seats Up for Grabs in '18 Special Election

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

Eight percent of voting power in the Student Association senate will change early next semester.

Nearly a handful of seats are expected to be up for grabs in a February special election following resignations and pending exits. So far, vacancies will include two slots won earlier this semester and two grabbed last semester.

Dejourae Williams, transferring to Florida International University, and Patrick Carroll, taking an executive board seat, both resigned; Amanda Goldfine, graduating in December, and Logan Losito, taking an internship in Washington D.C., will not enter the next legislative session come spring.

Losito, a junior, will be the second Indian Quad representative in less than a year to not end a senate term. Josh Sadigh, one of two Indian Quad representatives last fall, left senate after falling under the cloud of an ethics probe. His seat was filled by Alexander O'Leary in a February special election.

"I don't want to put a word in for past senators because I don't know what happened, but at least for Logan, he's trying to be making a change around here, be making an impact," said Kenny Barrera, an Indian Quad senator who advocated for Losito in the September elections. "But I think consistency definitely is important."

Losito, who had three consecutive failed senate runs before winning a living area seat in September, plans to run for senate again next academic year.

Like Losito, Williams failed to gain a senate seat last fall.

Leaving UAlbany, Williams in a message called her exit to FIU a "leap of faith." Transferring to FIU, Williams had the shortest experience in the senate of any representative elected before September.

Of the four, Goldfine is the longest consistently seated SA member. She won an Empire Commons seat alongside Andalib Anwar in fall of 2016. Goldfine ran again in the spring senator-at-large race on a largely Phi Alpha Delta member-heavy ticket.

With vacancies for both Williams and

Goldfine come February, only Raymond Strawn, a former president of the Columbia Greene Community College Student Senate, has declared interest in running for a senator-at-large or off-campus seat.

In the Indian Quad race, Andrew Clabo and Petra Holness are the only September candidates to confirm interest in Losito's seat so far.

Gabe Flaten, who ran for senator-at-large in April and Indian Quad earlier this semester, said he would weigh the possibility of another run as the special election draws nearer.

Meanwhile, Cristal Marrero, a former senator-at-large, has ruled out another run to reclaim office. She and Jacinda Mayfield-Perez are the only former SA office holders that have dismissed a special election run to the Albany Student Press.

As an EMT, Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program trainee, and full time student, Marrero believes another term would be difficult to manage.

"I definitely considered running, but have since then decided it is not in my best

interest," said Marrero in an email.

Marrero captured senator-at-large in the broadest race of the special election last January, defeating now-University Council representative Alondra Berroa. In April, she failed to secure re-election by 85 votes.

Unlike Marrero, Mayfield-Perez, and O'Leary, Carroll remained in senate after the spring. About a month after taking back a senate seat in the September off-campus race, Carroll was confirmed as deputy comptroller.

Prior to Carroll assuming the role, SA was over a month without a deputy comptroller. After Michael Spellane resigned as comptroller on Sept. 15, Nick Hackshaw, a former deputy comptroller, took interim (and later permanent) reigns over the SA finance office.

With Carroll as ranking member of the appropriations committee, Jarrett Altilio, senate chair, considered his resignation most prominent.

"There's a loss for the senate, maybe, but not a loss for the executive board," he said.

UAS

Positions Open to Combat Textbook Costs

By JOE HOFFMAN

The University at Albany is now enlisting faculty to three new openings for 'Open Educational Resource Fellows,' according to an all-faculty email.

OER is a term for free or low-cost educational materials such as textbooks, software, or full courses. According to Peter Shea, associate provost for Online Learning, the new fellows will research textbook cost issues on campus and try to find ways to implement open-resource solutions in their classes.

The email announcement was made five days after Maritza Martinez, director of the Educational Opportunities Program, raised the issue of high textbook costs at a faculty town hall at the beginning of the month.

"I want professors to not assign textbooks blindly without considering the fiscal impact this will have on students," said Martinez in an interview last week.

EOP is a grant and support program for students with great financial need. Martinez said that some EOP students she works with have costs of \$800 per semester for textbooks and online homework programs.

Matthew Brandon, a junior computer science student in the Educational Opportunities Program, said that requiring students to buy access to expensive educational programs isn't always useful.

"One of my intro to computer science textbooks came with an access code to a required program," said Brandon. "In total

it cost me \$200, and I don't really think the program was entirely necessary."

"We think textbooks are expensive too," said Chun-Yu Ho, assistant professor of economics at UAlbany. "When publishers make new editions, often a large fraction of the content remains unchanged."

Ho said the solution to high prices was students and faculty working together. If his students have financial concerns, he says he encourages them to discuss with him if they can use an older, less expensive edition of the textbook.

"Professors do not set the price," said

Ho. "We want to choose the book that will provide the best knowledge for students."

Alyssa Morey, assistant professor in the Communications Department, said she doesn't tend to think about price when choosing what textbooks to assign.

"I actually never considered price -- I don't think through that," said Morey. "I have no idea how much textbooks cost for my students. When I order from the bookstore, no one tells me how much the books cost for students."

Morey said that when she talks to her fellow professors, they don't tend to discuss textbooks and pricing. She stressed that her experience may not be representative of all professors.

"We all want students to do well, but we should be cognizant of whatever considerations students have."

Barnes & Noble College, which runs the campus bookstore, maintains a contract with University Auxiliary Services. Profits from bookstore merchandise go to maintaining the bookstore and the company, but a commission goes to UAS. UAS in turn provides some funds to the University.

UAS Executive Director Stephen Pearse did not disclose Barnes & Noble's exact commission percentage, citing proprietary contract privileges.

UAS leadership also declined to disclose the amount of revenue gained from the campus bookstore, but said that it was dwarfed in comparison to the money they pull in from dining services.



BRITTANY GREGORY / ASP

The UAlbany bookstore, located in the basement of the Campus Center near the Fountain Grill.

DINING

Dining Closures Over Thanksgiving Break Leave Students Hungry

By DANIEL RUSSELL

Thanksgiving break is practically here, and for most of us students, that means making the long trek home to spend the holiday with our families. But that doesn't apply to every student that goes to school here. Some students, for a variety of different reasons, have to spend the Thanksgiving break here on campus. And from Wednesday to Saturday, all of the dining halls on campus are closed. Because of this, University at Albany is showcasing a system that is more concerned about its employees working rather than its students being fed.

The one population most impacted by this closure is international students, and for most of them, going back home isn't a feasible option due to the short length of the break. So as a result, they're stuck here. For these students that live on campus (especially the five quads), the dining hall may be their number one source for food. And with the dining hall's closure during

Thanksgiving, what are their options?

As far as eating on campus goes, there's basically no options for Thanksgiving break. In addition to the dining halls being closed, almost everything in the campus center is closed from Wednesday to Saturday. The only thing that's open during this time is the 518 Market, which is open from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. on Wednesday. So for these students, the only option for food is off campus, where they have to spend even more money.

And for these students who can't drive, they're forced to either order delivery, costing additional money, or take the bus in the cold to get food from grocery stores. But once you actually get food and bring it back to the quads, how are you supposed to make it? Trick question: there's no kitchens in the quads. Unless you enjoy making soup or macaroni and cheese in a microfridge for four days in a row, you're likely going to wind up going elsewhere for your meals.

But even in the first place, students here

are paying for a meal plan, so shouldn't we have access to it? Meal plans can cost upwards of \$2,750, and for this period of time, they're unusable. The only thing you can use them for during the break is vending machines on campus, which isn't enough to constitute a full meal. Instead, you're forced to buy food to bring back to your dorm, which costs more money in addition to what you're already paying for a meal plan.

Meanwhile, among the problems that these students face during this time, dining hall workers don't have a thing to worry about. For them, the break is nothing more than that, not working while students don't have a food source on campus.

The university chooses to close down all the food sources, and then basically says to its students "Oh well, you're on your own for this time." The solution to this problem is a difficult one, and I imagine the school wouldn't be in support of keeping the regular hours up during the break. Instead, maybe the school could open up the



RUSSELL

dining hall for a few hours each day, or perhaps give out meal vouchers to students staying over break. It would be much more accommodating than what they have set up now.



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THANKSGIVING

New Traditions are Necessary to Show Respect for Native Americans

By **RAYMOND STRAWN III**

Besides turkey, loved ones, and a big dinner, one of the first things that comes to mind about Thanksgiving is Pilgrims and Indians. As a kid, I remember making turkeys, Indian head gear, Pilgrim outfits, and reenacting Thanksgiving as a peaceful gathering where we all got along. There was no mention of the genocide. No mention of the terrible actions the Pilgrims did to the Native Americans afterwards.

It was like a cover up: hiding the truth. It wasn't until I was much older when I learned those same Pilgrims slaughtered those Native Americans. Why would we celebrate the beginning of the end of Native Americans?

Depending on who you ask, you may get different definitions about Thanksgiving. Some may say it is a time where family and loved ones get together for a big dinner and share what they are thankful for that year. I don't have an issue with this, and it's the only aspect of Thanksgiving I agree with.

Another definition of Thanksgiving is the time when the Pilgrims and Native Americans came together and shared a feast, ignoring the genocide of the Native

Americans. This is the part of Thanksgiving that I have an issue with, and I strongly believe we need to change.

We should honor the Native Americans and remember the devastating destruction their people faced. Celebrating Thanksgiving from this perspective is a disrespectful gesture towards Native Americans.

One argument that can be made for celebrating Thanksgiving is that it is an American tradition. I don't care about traditions. I'm willing to be open minded and critically think about traditions we practice and modify them. To those who argue for tradition, my counterargument is that there was a time where it was a tradition to have slaves, and a tradition where women couldn't vote.

Another argument that could be made to celebrate Thanksgiving is that the majority of

Americans celebrate it. I counter that with the idea that the majority of people once thought that the world was flat. Sometimes traditions and the majority are outdated, and we need to evolve and better ourselves. This is another example of such a time.

I don't have a problem with wanting to celebrate with our families and loved ones and express what we're thankful for; that's a great idea. If that's the part of Thanksgiving you want to hold on to instead of abandoning it completely, making some changes is a great start.

The two issues with Thanksgiving are ignoring the genocide of the Native Americans and the horrors they faced, and deceiving kids to push an alternative history that makes Americans look better. Because of the lies and deception, ever since

I lived on my own, I modified the meaning of Thanksgiving. I only focus on the family aspect and don't deny the genocide that occurred.

When I celebrate, most years I don't eat turkey; we either have chicken or steak. I make sure to remind my family about the truth of our history. Lastly, we express what we're thankful for.

I've also decided to add a new tradition after thinking about this topic and writing on it. Every Thanksgiving from now on, I will ask my family to give a moment of silence to all the Native Americans for what happened to them. It may be a small gesture, but I believe it's important to do. I'm willing to change, to ensure I pay respect to the Native Americans.

You may not feel comfortable completing abandoning Thanksgiving or you may want to hold onto the positive attributes of Thanksgiving, which is acceptable. If you want to continue celebrating, I suggest paying homage and remembrance towards the Native Americans. But the more respectful thing to do is no longer celebrate Thanksgiving.



STRAWN

HYGIENE

Campus Lacks Feminine Products

By **KATY DARA**

It has become evident that, of all the resources the University at Albany has to offer, feminine hygiene products aren't included.

While this may not be obvious to everyone, there is a severe lack of pads and tampons available to women in the UAlbany community. Typically, public restrooms have dispensers with feminine products available for free or a small fee. There has been a push recently to make them free universally. However, at UAlbany, they are not available at all.

It does not matter which on-campus bathroom you go to. From the lecture center to the Campus Center to dorm buildings, the bathrooms do not have any kind of pads or tampons available. This can make a woman's life difficult and uncomfortable in the case of an emergency.

"If they can afford condoms, why can't they afford pads? It's actually a necessity," says Amy Wang, a freshman studying journalism.

Even male students agree that the campus is lacking.

"If guys can get condoms, why can't

girls get tampons?" asked Fred Wieneke, a freshman studying cybersecurity.

The next place to check, if they aren't in the bathrooms, is to find a place to buy supplies on campus. After all, the vending machines have condoms among the snacks. It would make sense to have feminine products in the vending machines too, but there are not.

The Campus Center bookstore is a convenient place to get supplies in a rush. It carries essentially everything a student may need in a pinch, including school supplies, snacks, drinks, tissues, toilet paper, electronics, and everything in between. The only things that seem impossible to find on the shelves are pads and tampons. They are not even available for purchase on campus. If a student needs to replenish her supply, she needs to go off campus. In an emergency or in inclement weather, a trip to Walmart for a box of tampons is more than an inconvenience. Why is this?

States can only tax citizens on items that are considered "nonessential." Things like groceries, medical supplies and clothing are often exempt from sales tax. But in the vast majority of states, feminine hygiene products are not considered essential, even

though the Food and Drug Administration has labeled them as "medical devices." The reason the tax still exists is that these products are not used to treat an illness or injury per say.

Currently, six states, including Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Maryland and recently New York, do not tax menstrual products like tampons and pads. Most states tax them as a luxury item. This makes them costly. It can cost women an average of \$800 over a lifetime just in taxes on these products.

Essentially, if a woman finds herself in a sticky situation, it seems that her only option is to use toilet paper and hope it will hold out until she can go somewhere else to get proper protection. It is uncomfortable, inconvenient, and embarrassing at times. If a woman does not live on the campus, she cannot get a pad or tampon until she leaves for the day, which could be hours away. Even those who do live on campus may run out of supplies may not have the time to leave and buy more.

Some students, while annoyed, try to joke about the situation.

"If they're not going to give us pads and tampons, they could at least give use



DARA

double-ply toilet paper," says freshman journalism major Olivia Kimball.

Essentially, there is an obvious issue with feminine products on campus. Women's periods exist, and they need the proper supplies to deal with it each month. If restaurants, high schools, airports, and essentially every other public institution can provide feminine hygiene products, why can't a college campus?

ELECTION

LGBTQ Victories Show Hope for Future

By **ZACH PERRY**

You don't have to be queer to be inspired by the results of Nov. 7 elections and what they mean for LGBTQ people. In an era of malice and discrimination towards the community, moments like these are unique in changing the images of queer people in the minds of our culture.

This year's election season boasted at least 20 openly transgender candidates, according to the LGBTQ organization Victory Fund, which far outnumbers the amount of currently known openly transgender officeholders.

In an irony worthy of immense historical gravity, Republican Bob Marshall, who was personally responsible for steering four anti-LGBTQ bills into the Virginia House of Delegates that later died, was spectacularly felled by Danica Roem, a transgender Democrat whom Marshall had persistently referred to as a man. She will be the first openly transgender person to serve in a U.S. statehouse.

During her campaign, Roem raised three times the funds Marshall did despite running for a seat Marshall held 13 times since 1991. She spared no syllables in illustrating the weight of this moment.

"Let me make this really clear for you," Roem said in May. "When the people of the 13th District elect a transgender woman to replace the most anti-LGBT legislator in the South, it will be an act of certainty, and it will be a defining moment that will resonate across the country."

The United States has been home to LGBTQ politicians since the 1970s, like UAlbany alumnus Harvey Milk who galvanized a national movement at a time of widespread efforts to delegitimize the personhood of queer individuals.

But while one major figure such as Milk can make a stark impact at a critical time, the prominence of just one person only provides a reminder of the abysmal statistics for LGBTQ representation in U.S. government.

Seeing one LGBTQ person in office can be empowering, but when Congress and

every other governing body in the world is filled with straight white men, everyone internalizes this as the image of those who can be a politician.

When we as a country normalize trends and attitudes that take hold in our politics and media, we sometimes create a darker, more cynical image of what our nation is like. For the generations that follow ours, even people born just four or five years after us, it can be difficult to understand exactly how the social and political climate used to be.

There are kids born in the past few years who won't remember a time when gay



PERRY

marriage wasn't a right guaranteed by the Supreme Court.

Social progress isn't always forward-moving and to imply that would be disrespectful to the people who have had to struggle and fight every day of their lives to achieve human rights.

If there is any justice in the world, every few years another small but significant group of LGBTQ politicians will enter office and chip away at the dismal statistics of queer representation in government. And every few years, the youth of this country will build a worldview where more and more of these historically subjugated peoples stand side-by-side with the old Christian white men who have regularly sought to demonize and dehumanize them.

The politicians of the future will never get away with bathroom bills or purposefully mis-gendering their opponent as a political tactic. They will have to talk about slain transgender people in the same breath as every other victim of violence in this country. LGBTQ people will not just be another group of "people" we add to a conversation we already have about cis-straight people. Hopefully, we will just become people as well.

MUSIC

Taylor Swift's 'Reputation:' Love, Lust, Shade, Revenge



Source: Wikipedia

Pop star Taylor Swift, above, has adopted a much darker and sensual image this year to coincide with the raw themes in "Reputation," which sold over 1.05 million copies in just four days.

By KATY DARA

Taylor Swift has come back bigger and better than ever with the release of her sixth and riskiest studio album yet, "Reputation."

Swift has made it clear how little she cares about what people think of her now. She did very little press and did not appear in any media that she did not create. She released some singles and music videos, letting the album drop on its intended Nov. 10 release date.

She controlled everything involved with the release of the album, and it paid off.

With over one million copies sold in its first weekend, "Reputation" has become the best-selling album of the year. This has made it clear that Swift does not need or want the mainstream media to be successful.

"Reputation" begins with "...Ready For It?", one of the singles released before the full album.

It starts off with a heavy, booming bass beat and Swift clearing her throat before beginning the song.

It serves as a way for Swift to reintroduce herself after three years of essential

radio-silence. She asks listeners the titular question, implying that they should be ready to embrace a new version of Taylor Swift.

Her lead single and sixth track, "Look What You Made Me Do," says quite a bit about her new direction as an artist. Swift makes it clear that she alone has the power to resurrect her career.

She sings, "The old Taylor can't come to the phone right now / Why? / Oh, 'cause she's dead."

It's true. The teenager with the sparkly guitars, soft curls, and cowboy boots is gone. The songstress in her place is unafraid to open up about her lovers, enemies, and everything in between.

She's taken more risks than ever before. She is less cryptic and more open about love, sex, alcohol, and other mature elements. Innocence has been replaced with passion.

The album's twelfth track, "Dress" is one of these more explicit songs.

The chorus is "Carve your name into my bedpost / I don't want you like a best friend / I only bought this dress so you could take it off." Instead of an upbeat pop tune or a

heartfelt love song, "Dress" is sensual and slow.

The album also features some responses to Swift's famous feuds, the most notable being "This is Why We Can't Have Nice Things."

It is speculated to be about rapper Kanye West.

In her 2010 album "Speak Now," she forgave West for infamously stealing her thunder when she won a VMA in 2009.

Now, it is obvious that she is beyond that. She sings "It was so nice being friends again / There I was, giving you a second chance / But then you stabbed in the back while shaking my hand... And so I took an axe to a mended fence."

She even cackles at the idea of forgiveness.

The most notable moment in the song that reflects Swift's new attitude is when she sings "And here's to you / 'Cause forgiveness is a nice thing to do / Hahaha, I can't even say it with a straight face."

She's direct and clear about what she thinks, serving as yet another example of her brutal honesty on "Reputation."

The final song, "New Year's Day," is

different from the rest of the album. It is a bare acoustic ballad, stripping Swift down to her bare emotions.

It is heartfelt, and being the end of the album, it perhaps signifies Swift's shift towards a new future post-"Reputation." Its softness acts as a rebirth of sorts as the singer-songwriter moves on with her life, regardless of her reputation.

Swift has utilized the pop genre to its fullest extent.

Although she began as a country artist, she has progressively moved further away from the genre with each album.

Now, her music is built with heavy beats, synthesizers, layered vocals, and hooks that you cannot get out of your head.

Any individual track could be a hit with enough content to carry the Billboard Top 40 through the next 18 months.

When looking at "Reputation" as a whole, one thing is clear.

Swift feels more free and happy with herself than she has in a long time. Her work may be darker and more mature, but her fan base remains devoted.

It is honest, open, and taking Swift in a brand new direction.

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Nothing is more acceptable than what we are born into."

— HISHAM MATAR, Pulitzer Prize
Winner

CINEMA

‘Justice League:’ A Return to Superhero Standards Despite Awkward Editing



Source: Vimeo

The Justice League, above, from left to right: The Flash (Ezra Miller), Superman (Henry Cavill), Cyborg (Ray Fisher), Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot), Batman (Ben Affleck) and Aquaman (Jason Momoa).

By ANDREW GALLA

Screenwriter Joss Whedon’s style is noticeable, and at a certain point you realize that you are watching a remake of “Avengers.” It is using some slight tweaks on the Marvel film formula, however, that “Justice League” somehow finds a way to be slightly better.

Still, if you are not a comic book movie fan, don’t get your hopes up.

This film is a complete mess. It is within this mess, however, that we find something to hold onto: a fun, clumsy, and for a moment or two, even a tolerable, albeit dramatic, adventure.

In other words, a true comic book movie.

The villain in this film, Steppenwolf (voiced by Ciarán Hinds), is not too layered as a character. He has been lying dormant on Earth waiting to attack it again after being defeated upon arrival.

Steppenwolf leads an army of parademons, like the same flying aliens from “Avengers” that were in Loki’s army, except they sense fear.

The idea is that Steppenwolf chose to attack Earth now because Superman’s death

had caused the world to be fearful.

You cannot help but wish they got more into Superman’s effect on society, but that is more a “Batman v Superman” problem.

Anyway, Batman goes around the world, recruiting the film’s heroes one by one as time runs out to prevent Steppenwolf from gathering the three “mother boxes” to “form unity,” which we must assume means he will be super strong.

A huge horned creature with a mighty axe, he is powerful with god-like abilities similar to Superman. He is not an interesting character, but he does kick some ass.

The choice of Danny Elfman to compose over a more dramatic standard like Hans Zimmer perfectly symbolizes the dramatic shift in tone “Justice League” has brought to the DC universe.

Clearly, they have left behind any of the Nolan-esque dark drama elements, which is oddly satisfying after the gloomy, overdramatic “Batman v Superman.”

Still, it shows that the serious superhero film is dead and the Marvel formula is the new standard.

For the sake of film as an art, this is

probably a bad thing in the long run, but for DC fans it will most likely be a long-awaited return to the fun simplicity you normally only find in the actual comics.

Like its sister film “Avengers,” there are many flaws. As per usual in this new DC universe, the editing is notably bad, with many awkward transitions. One scene is so completely incomprehensible that it’s difficult to know how to refer to it.

There was also the standard horribly cheesy dialogue, but at least it felt fitting.

Perhaps the most noticeable flaw is the abuse of CGI, which was so great that I almost see this as an animated film, which once again is at least coherent with that comic book feeling.

Still, the photography was unimpressive and the graphics should have been way better, though both Superman and The Flash looked cool.

The acting could have been worse, though none truly shine, except maybe Jeremy Irons’ Alfred and Amy Adams’ Lois Lane. Adams is unbelievably talented and had been an unexceptional Lane until now.

So, what makes Justice League better than “Avengers?” If “Avengers” is Dr.

Pepper, “Justice League” is Mr. Pibb; essentially the same thing, but better.

Some may call it a rip-off, and they would be correct, but that does not make it worse, especially since Marvel has been using the same simple movie formula for over a decade.

Here, the characters were also mostly likable, including the surprisingly charming young and awkward Barry Allen (Ezra Miller) as The Flash. Jason Momoa (Khal Drogo in “Game of Thrones”) also had some funny moments as Aquaman.

“Justice League” has characters with some actual dimension, and it led to sustainable jargon among a believable team of superhumans.

The film is bittersweet. The overdramatic tones of “Man of Steel” and “Batman v Superman” has turned into an easier, occasional dramatic moment, which is much more believable.

DC has finally stopped trying too hard and just gave the real fans what they want: a comic book movie.

Still, it seems this entire cinematic universe will be remembered as an obscure hiccup in movie history.

MUSIC

Sam Smith’s Emotional Vocals are Thrilling in New Album

By KITTY MORDELL-ROSEN

2014’s breakout singer-songwriter Sam Smith released his long-awaited sophomore album “The Thrill of It All” on Nov. 3.

Smith has certainly outdone himself, stripping much of this release’s songs down to just his powerful vocals, a simple piano and when necessary, a gospel choir to add layers of strength and spirituality to his already angelic

voice.

The album’s first track, “Too Good At Goodbyes” served as the album’s lead single and ushered in this new era of music for Smith and his patient fan base.

The first half of the song finds Smith accompanied by just a subtle piano playing the simplest chords, joined by finger-snapping. As emotions build and tensions rise, a beat kicks in and eventually Smith is flanked by a gospel choir, echoing his verses to the heavens.

On “HIM,” Smith tells the beautiful story of a young boy coming out to the most important men in his life – his father, and God, the “Holy Father.”

Outlined within the song’s lyrics is a boy standing up for the love he holds for another boy, as well as the love he insists he deserves from God and his father.

This is in spite of this supposed religious transgression in the form of engaging in a homosexual relationship.

The track is empowering, and brings chills to the spine when the gospel choir joins Smith, which adds another layer to the religious battle the boy is fighting.

“Midnight Train” takes a somber note and flips the perspective to Smith making the painful decision to break a lover’s heart this time, as opposed to allowing his heart to be broken as he usually does.

The track takes on a Doo-Wop-esque feeling and sound in the chorus,

as Smith contemplates whether he is a “monster” for making the selfish decision to put himself before his now ex-boyfriend, what his lover’s family will think of him for leaving, and how to put into words why he must depart for good.

The Timbaland-produced “Pray” served as an additional promotional release for the album, and was inspired by the time Smith spent in Iraq with the charity War Child.

The song’s opening fools the listener into thinking the song will be upbeat.

In reality, it openly and emotionally details Smith’s naiveté regarding the state of the world – citing a lack of completed education, his young age, his ignoring of the news and his turning away from religion.

By the end of the track, Smith concludes that despite all of this, we all end up praying, at some point, for a “glimmer of hope” in the darkness of our current world.

A notable entry is “Scars,” exclusively available as one of the album’s special edition bonus tracks.

Serving as a kind of dual letter to his mother and father in response to their divorce, “Scars” is poetic, heartwarming and heartbreaking — all in the span of three minutes.

Smith sings that his parents’ newfound happiness without each other as husband and wife, as well as their assistance and guidance over their children through that tough time, has healed his metaphorical scars.

Smith’s debut release “In the Lonely Hour” seems like nothing when in the shadow of this powerful and emotional sophomore release.

As a whole, “The Thrill of It All” is hauntingly raw and real, as Smith reveals to his listeners layer by layer, track by track how heartbreak of all kinds has affected him and culminated in this painfully honest collection of ballads.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Musician Sam Smith, above, performing at Lollapalooza in 2015.

DONATIONS

Ways to Give Back Locally



KATIE GIBSON / ASP

Holiday Heroes is a toy drive held by ResLife.

By KATIE GIBSON

It's imperative to give back to your community. There are many places on and around University at Albany to donate. Thanksgiving is a time of reflection and gratefulness. As college students we don't usually have money to spare, but we have time, clothes, and the like. Here you'll find some easy places to help those around you.

The Center for Leadership and Service is hosting a Change for Change competition through Dec. 15. Student groups compete to see who can collect the most spare change. The money raised will be donated to disaster relief efforts. You can easily gather a group of friends, register, and start collecting change. Something as little as quarters and dimes can go a long way.

You can attend Safe Space Training Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2017 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Business Building living room. This class will further your communication skills. You

will become a key part of making this school a respectful and productive environment.

ResLife is holding a toy drive, Holiday Heroes, through Dec. 7. You can drop off new toys near each quad's office. These toys will go to children in need in Albany.

St. Mary's soup kitchen in Albany is looking for volunteers Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. To volunteer call 926-1449 ext. 317. The Regional Food Bank of Albany is also looking for volunteers to sort donations. To arrange a shift call (518) 786-3691 ext. 263 or email at volunteers@regional-foodbank.net.

If you're a runner you may want to consider participating in the Troy Turkey Trot, Nov. 23. You can run one mile, 5k, or 10k. Proceeds from the event go to charity. This fun event involves a costume contest and food vendors.

Consider volunteering for these charities with friends. This will be a benefit to each organization and more fun for you!



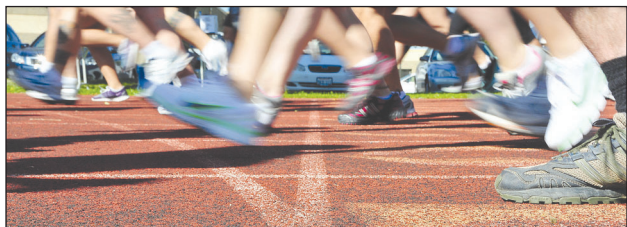
Source: Wikimedia Commons

St. Mary's soup kitchen is a place to volunteer on weekdays.



Source: Eglin Air Force Base

Toy drive donations can be dropped off at the quad offices.



Source: Flickr

Proceeds from the Troy Turkey Trot will go to charity.

HOLIDAY



Source: Pixabay

How to Jazz Up Friendsgiving

By KATIE GIBSON

Follow these steps and you will have a fantastic holiday dinner with your friends. Thanksgiving with your family is great and all, but wouldn't it be great to enjoy stuffing without every single relative asking you about your dating life? You can trade your great aunt's ramblings for a relaxing night watching Netflix with your friends.

This great Generation X/Millennial tradition is known as friendsgiving. It's a time to enjoy friends and food in a respectful, pressure-free environment. But, while the event itself may seem fun and carefree, pulling it off takes some organizing.

First you will need a location. Ideally you have a friend with an apartment and a stove, but the common room of a dorm and a microwave will do. In lieu of a dining room table, push some desks together and cover them with a cheap table cloth. You may want to trace your hand and create some cutout turkeys to string around the room. Buy red and orange plates to set the table.



Source: Flickr

Ask your friends to bring a dish of food. These dishes can be storebought or homemade. Try to get a general idea of what everyone is bringing so that you don't end up with five desserts and no dinner.



Source: Public Domain Pictures

The most difficult aspect of a dorm friendsgiving will be the turkey. If you don't have an oven at your disposal, consider buying a precooked turkey from the supermarket — you should place this order ahead of time, as they will definitely sell out — or a rotisserie chicken. You can cook instant mashed potatoes in the microwave as a side and buy some pumpkin pie.



Source: Pixabay



Source: Wikimedia Commons

If possible, set up a TV or computer in the common room so you can watch holiday classics after the meal. I suggest "Over the Garden Wall," a creepy and cute fall mini-series. It follows two brothers on a quest to get out of the woods as death looms around the corner. "Stranger Things" would be an equally good fall choice. Watch the Charlie Brown special or get a head start on winter movies.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

If TV isn't your style, break open Cards Against Humanity or Monopoly. Whatever way you choose to have fun, enjoy spending time with your friends.

UUP RALLY



“ We don't want bare bones. Stay strong, be brave, be patient.”

— AARON MAJOR
UUP Albany President



PHOTOS BY SAM RUI / ASP

FOOTBALL

Great Danes End Losing Season on High Note

By ELIJAH CASPER

Albany, N.Y. — The one constant this season for the University at Albany football team, that ended the year 4-7, was their defense.

The defense made one final statement on Saturday, shutting out number 14/16 ranked University of New Hampshire 15-0.

After starting the season 3-1, including a win against number 8 ranked Villanova, and being ranked nationally, the Great Danes lost six straight games, dropping them to 3-7. All that was put behind in the rear view mirror on Saturday.

“It’s an incredible win against a really good football team that was fighting for a playoff berth,” Coach Greg Gattuso said. “I can’t say enough about these group of seniors.”

This was the Great Danes second win of the year against a ranked opponent, going 2-3 against other ranked opponents, the three losses consisted of two overtime losses against Richmond and Stony Brook and a 6-0 defeat to Elon.

“You can question our wins and losses and how our seasons going, but you can’t question our brotherhood,” senior Nate Hatalsky said, who lead the Colonial Athletic Association in tackles this year with 122.

In a first half that saw both teams punt the ball four times, the Great Danes were the only team to get on the board. Will Brunson had 87 passing yards in the first half, 31 of them coming on a deep pass down the middle to Brad Harris, that eventually set up Ethan Stark’s 27-yard field goal that gave the Great Danes a 3-0 lead — one they would take into halftime.

The Great Danes opened up the second half with yet another three and out. But after two sacks by the Great Danes’ defense, the Wildcats had fourth and long deep in their own territory. The Wildcats lined up for the punt, but the snap sailed over the punter’s head and out of the back of the end zone for a safety.

The Great Danes went up 5-0 on the safety, but would gladly take the free points in a game where nothing was coming easy to either team. After the ensuing UNH punt,

UAlbany started their second drive of the half with good field position.

Three plays later, Brunson then connected with a wide open Austin Ellis on a 54-yard pass down the middle of the field for a walk-in touchdown. It was the redshirt sophomore’s first career touchdown.

The Great Dane defense then went back to work, forcing the Wildcats to punt on their next drive. The Great Danes offense appeared to have it all clicking again as they started to run the ball effectively on the Wildcats otherwise stingy defense.

As Will Brunson and Kendall Rodgers combined for over 35 rushing yards on the drive. The drive came to a screeching halt when the Wildcats defense dug in and forced a field goal attempt. Ethan Stark’s 38-yard attempt went wide right and the score remained 12-0.

The defense did their job yet again on the next Wildcats drive forcing a turnover on downs. After a penalty on the Wildcats on a fourth down punt, the Great Danes drive was kept alive, eventually leading to another 38-yard field goal attempt by Ethan Stark. This time he connected, and increased the UAlbany lead to 15-0, which would prove to be the final score.

The Great Danes defense then forced two fumbles on the next two Wildcats possessions, not getting any points off the two turnovers, but taking enough time off the clock to put the game out of reach.

At the end of the day the Great Danes defense had eight sacks in total, four forced fumbles, two recovered, and limited the Wildcats to just 122 total yards on the day.

“It’s really hard to do anything when the defensive line is as dominant as our guys were today,” Coach Gattuso said. “They have really played that way all year, it’s been an incredible year for them, even with the offense being challenged at times.”

Before the game the Great Danes honored 14 seniors including defensive stars Malachi and Nate Hatalsky, and wide receivers Brad Harris and Jerod Diggs.



ALEKSANDRA NEFEDOVA / ASP

After six consecutive losses, the football team won its last game of the season.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Almost Let one Slip

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

ALBANY, N.Y. — Jessica Féquière’s 27 points proved to be the difference as the Great Danes narrowly escape a Fordham comeback knocking off the Rams 59-52 in overtime in their home opener at SEFCU Arena on Sunday.

“Thank goodness Jess [Féquière] was in there,” said UAlbany head coach Joanna Bernabei-McNamee. “She was our offensive spark that we desperately needed.”

Féquière hit both a three to start game and another to start overtime and she was all over the court in between. Féquière had 9 of the Danes’ first 13 points and UAlbany got out to a 13-4 lead. It seemed as if the Danes were going to make quick work of the Rams and avenge their double overtime loss they suffered at Fordham a season ago.

Heading into the break it looked as if that were the case. The Danes took a 29-17 lead into the locker room, 17 of which were points that belonged to Féquière.

Coming out of the break the Danes and the Rams traded buckets for most of the third period and UAlbany took an 11-point lead into the final frame.

In the fourth the Danes seemed uninspired and played a little lackadaisical. The Rams charged back into the game outscoring the Danes 17-6. The Danes pushed their lead all the way to 13 points, but Fordham didn’t go down without a fight going on 7-0 run to narrow the gap.



JOHN C. LONGTON III / ASP

Fordham senior forward G’nrice Davis led the Rams with 17 points and her 11 points in the fourth quarter catapulted her team back into the game. Davis seemed unstoppable as she pounded the ball in the paint and used her 6’2” frame to her advantage. She made back to back layups to give her team their first lead in the game with 20 seconds left in regulation.

“She’s [Davis] a great player for them,” said Féquière. “She’s their go to and we wanted her out of the game so we had to do whatever we had to do.”

From there the Danes had to dig deep and it was them who had to play from behind. Junior forward Heather Forester tried to seal the deal for UAlbany and went up for a layup, but was fouled in the process and went to the line with her team down by a point and 2.7 seconds left on the clock.

Forester missed the front end of her first two free throws and found herself in

a make a break simulation.

“We try to simulate pressure free throw situations,” said coach McNamee. When asked what they do to accomplish this, she replied, “Well if they miss them they have to run and me and the other coaches will try to yell at them while they’re shooting.”

Whatever they’ve been doing must have worked because Forester hit the second to force an extra period.

In overtime the Danes came out with fire and put the game away. Féquière scored the first five points in the period and the Danes outscored the Rams 13-6 giving them the 59-52 win.

This UAlbany team has already gotten blown out, blew a team out and won in overtime in its first three games. That’s almost a whole season’s worth of ups and down.

Next up the Danes host Wagner on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

WOMEN’S VOLLEYBALL

Seawolves Shock Danes in the Semis

By ELVIS GADTAULA

Some losses are harder than others and such was the case on Friday when the women’s volleyball conference run ended shortly after the regular season concluded.

The University at Albany’s volleyball team lost in the semifinal round of the America East conference tournament after being swept by Stony Brook 3-0 (20-25, 21-25, 20-25) in an upset on Friday night.

The number 1-seed and regular season conference champion Great Danes could not find a rhythm to get back into the final set as 4-seed Stony Brook took the final four points of the match, advancing to the conference championship versus 2-seed Binghamton at 5 p.m. in the PE Gym.

“I thought Stony Brook did a fantastic job. They took away shots that we

were hitting the other two times we played them,” associate head coach Josh Pickard said. “They made us hit some things that we weren’t necessarily comfortable with doing. First year [Stony Brook] head coach [Kristin Belzung] came in, prepared them really well and they were the better team tonight.”

The Great Danes were led by Akuabata Okenwa and Chloe Evering who had 11 and 8 kills respectively on offense while teammate Nicole Otero led the defense with 15 digs.

On the other side of the net, McKyla Brooks led the Seawolves with 16 kills while Emily Costello had 12.

Although UAlbany is knocked out of the conference tournament, its season is not over yet as the team was invited to play in the National Invitational Volleyball Championship, which is

set to begin in two weeks.

“Most of the year you have to focus on the other team; you have to figure out what you’re going to do Friday night and Saturday night. Now we have some time to turn back on ourselves,” Pickard remarked. “It’s a couple more weeks of practice we wouldn’t normally get so we can get out there and get better. We have a lot of young kids so they can come out and work on those things that would not only make them better not only for this year, but for the next two, three or however many years they have left. We’re excited about the opportunity to keep playing and we want to do the best we can towards the end of the year.”

UAlbany’s opponent for the NIVC will be announced on Sunday, Nov. 26 with first-round play scheduled for Nov. 28-30.



Source: Bill Ziskin / UAlbany Sports

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Danes Outsmart Ivy League Foe

By OMAR NOUJOUR

In basketball, some wins come easy, and some wins are a dogfight. The Danes' victory over the Yale Bulldogs on Friday night was the latter.

In front of 2,217 rowdy SEFCU Arena fans, the University at Albany Great Danes served the Yale Bulldogs a cold dish of revenge, dominating in the second half to earn an 80-72 win. The victory comes less than one year after Yale snatched victory from the jaws of the Danes in New Haven last season.

The Danes leaned heavily on junior guard Joe Cremo all game, and he delivered. Cremo, who had struggled with his shot in Albany's first two games, returned to his familiar form, pouring in 20 points on 8-14 shooting, while adding three rebounds and three assists. After averaging 15.8 points per game a season ago and earning national recognition in the preseason, Cremo knew that expectations would be sky high for him in 2017.

"My teammates keep giving me good looks. My confidence is high, just have to knock them down, and tonight I did," Cremo said after his bounce-back performance.

Head coach Will Brown reiterated after the game that he shares that same confidence in his star guard.

"Joe can score at every level. He can score from three, he can score from mid-range, and he can score at the basket," said Brown. "The Joe Cremo we saw tonight is the Joe Cremo I think we're all accustomed to seeing."

Cremo's efforts weren't unmatched, as fellow Dane Travis Charles set his new career-high with 19 points, and was a model of efficiency, sinking eight of his nine shots. Charles, who provided coach Brown with a jolt of energy off the bench last season, has carried that same effort and intensity into the starting lineup.

"I'm just trying to be the same guy. It's just focus man. Being a good teammate, energizing the guys. If you think positive, you get positive results," Charles said about his increased role on and off the court this season.

His story is an incredible one, battling through a heart condition to get back on the court. He's taken on the role of captain along with his increased playing time, and has thrived through the first three games.

Despite a starting five in which the tallest player is 6'7", the Danes continue to dominate on the glass. After outrebounding Yale

40-30 on Friday, the Danes have now grabbed 125 boards this season to their opponent's 84.

"For us, what we have to do is defend and rebound. I thought our guys did a good job against a team that's well coached, and is going to win a lot of games," said Brown after the win.

Beating the Bulldogs is no easy task this year. Before the season began, NBC Sports, along with others, picked Yale to win the Ivy League and make the NCAA Tournament. The Bulldogs were led by sophomore forward Miye Oni on Friday, which is business as usual. Oni, who is considered an NBA prospect, wowed with his athleticism and versatility, totaling 15 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists, and two steals. Oni did struggle from beyond the arc, which was a common theme for the Bulldogs, who were just 7-28 from downtown.

"I thought we had a lot of good, clean looks behind the arc that just missed," said Yale head coach James Jones, who played his college basketball at UAlbany.

As far as returning to Albany, Jones said, "It's a little weird. I had a lot of family and friends in the stands."

Before the Danes took the court Friday night, it was announced that they would be without assistant coach Jon Iati for Friday's game, and would be missing coach Brown for Monday's contest against Oneonta. The self-imposed penalty was a result of a small slip-up in recruiting, one made by Jon Iati while recruiting his cousin.

Coach Brown did speak briefly about the issue, saying, "There's nothing more important than being NCAA compliant."

FOLLOW OMAR:

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DALIA YAN / ASP

David Nichols goes in for a layup.

MEN'S SOCCER

Improbable Season Comes to a Close

By ROBERT LEPELSTAT

Last year was a season of firsts for the University at Albany men's soccer team. On top of knocking off the #3 ranked Syracuse Orange, the Danes defeated Hartford 1-0 for their first conference championship in program history.

The Great Danes also played in and won their first ever NCAA tournament game with a 3-0 win over Boston College.

With their all-time program leader in Division I points and goals, Afonso Pinheiro, along with four other seniors including veteran defenders Jeff Medina and Moosah Khanat in their final season with UAlbany, the purple and gold looked to once again make 2017 a season of firsts by looking to take the program to a place they've never been before: the Elite Eight.

Unfortunately for the Danes, they'll have to wait at least one more year to reach their ultimate goal.

On a cold, windy and rainy afternoon in Kalamazoo, MI, the UAlbany men's soccer team fell to No. 10 Western Michigan 2-0 in the second round of the NCAA Tournament, officially ending their 2017 season.

"Today was a very difficult November NCAA tournament game," head coach Trevor Gorman. "It was a hard-fought battle between two teams in a difficult environment to play."

Dominating the game, the Broncos forced pressure on the Great Danes' backline from the very beginning, and took a 1-0 lead with a goal from Kosti Moni in the 39th minute and never looked back.

After a long throw in from Cameron Siple into the box, Moni scored off a double header assist from teammates Brandon Bye and Ben Thornton, burying a shot into the back left corner of the net. Moni, the junior



Source: Bill Ziskin / UAlbany Sports

midfielder from Grand Rapids, MI, had come into the match just seconds earlier.

It was just the third goal the Danes conceded in the first half all season long. UAlbany hadn't allowed a goal since the America East quarterfinals versus UMBC.

The Danes tied the match at one goal a piece in the 55th minute but the equalizing goal was disallowed after a foul from Pinheiro on the breakaway. Pinheiro broke behind the Western Michigan defense and wrestled with a defender as he headed towards the goal, resulting in the officials calling back the score.

"We were disappointed to concede two set-piece goals, but the game has such fine margins and the goal that we had disallowed looked like it was a good goal. That

would have evened the game at one and changed things a bit," Gorman said.

Pinheiro tweeted a video of the incident with the caption: "I'm just going to leave this here... You can make the call."

Defender Ben Thornton sealed the win for the Broncos in the 62nd minute, scoring off a brilliant pass crossed from Bye perfectly into the middle of the box for Thornton behind the diving goalkeeper Danny Vitiello, ripping a shot into the net to give Western Michigan a 2-0 lead.

During the sequence, Adam Malekos slid into the leg of Thornton in an attempt to stop the wide open shot attempt and the two fell into the net after the shot.

Thornton gave a little shove to Malekos as he got up from the ground and blank

shoved Malekos from behind, sparking a shoving match between Malekos and four Broncos players. Teammate Riccardo Iafate came to defend his teammate and players from both teams got involved. Iafate had to be held back by seniors Pinheiro and Khanat when the incident was over.

Iafate and Western Michigan's Connor McNulty were both assessed red cards and immediately ejected from the match.

The Broncos outshot UAlbany 13-2 in the first half and 22-8 in the match as a whole.

"At the end of the day, full credit to Western Michigan. Congratulations to them," said Gorman. "They're a good team that advance on, and we're very proud of our guys for what we've accomplished throughout the entirety of the season."

The Great Danes played with more intensity in the second half but ultimately couldn't find a way to score against the Broncos defense.

UAlbany's 14 victories this season set a program high for single-season victories, breaking the previous best of 13 set from last season.

On top of the program record for D-1 points and goals, Pinheiro leaves his career with the Danes also tied for the program lead in assists with junior forward Nico Solabarrieta.

As the Danes look ahead to 2018 and trying to repeat as conference champions for the third consecutive season, plenty of questions need to be answered including the loss of five graduating seniors.

Overall, Gorman has to be happy with the resilience of his group, ending the 2017 season as back to back conference champions and a lot to be excited about as they look towards 2018 and beyond.