



ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016 ISSUE 7 ALBANYSTUDENTPRESS.NET

“Cult-like” Atmosphere at University Summer Program

By **STEFAN LEMBO-STOLBA**

Quietly governed by strict rules and draconian punishment, the mandatory summer orientation for the coveted Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) stands out as a jarringly repressive feature of one of the University at Albany’s most acclaimed programs.

Before being admitted to the university, academically and financially disadvantaged students applying through the EOP program must first graduate from a five-week orientation, structured by a system of strict rules, which if violated result in punishments referred to by EOP officials as “lockdown,” “bed rest,” and “isolation.”

Some of these rules and punishments intersect with national definitions of non-criminal hazing and raise questions about how much personal freedom disadvantaged students must relinquish in exchange for an opportunity to attend a public university. In the words of one EOP student who wished to remain anonymous the summer program was like, “dangling meat in front of a hungry dog.”

In addition, much of this code of conduct — which governs almost every aspect of student life down to the undergarments they must wear —is not made known to students until after they’ve left home, arrived on campus, and signed a contract with the university.

UAlbany officials defend the strict program as necessary to prepare incoming EOP students for a college environment and attribute much of their success to the program and its strict code of discipline.

RULES

As students arrive in Albany, EOP director, Maritza Martinez, distributes a “participation contract” outlining basic rules for attendance and behavior.

But not until their first night on campus, after signing the contract, are students sat down for an intensive informational in which they learn the true demands of the summer program.

All nine of the EOP students the Albany Student Press interviewed for this story said that during their first night, officials split the orientation group by gender to explain additional rules and punishments not covered in initial meetings.

The ASP obtained a copy of the document given to students at this first-night meeting through a Freedom of Information Law request. The document



Stefan Lembo-Stolba / Albany Student Press

Many students opt to wear these shirts at the end of the summer program. The shirts highlight the fact that the summer program is considered a hardship that must be endured.

defines “lockdown” and a punishment called “room confinement,” and it spells out other core policies that the students must follow to remain in the program.

The document instructs women to keep their shoulders covered at all times, as well as to make sure they wear a bra. For men, “wife beaters,” sagging pants, and du-rags are not allowed outside of dorm rooms.

The more than 500-word cellphone policy among other things, warns students that if a cellphone is taken out of a dorm room and the outline of it is seen in someone’s pocket or backpack, the device will be confiscated for the remainder of the five weeks.

“Your college education is never worth less than your cellphone,” the document warns, indicating that students found in violation of program rules face the possibility of dismissal.

The orientation’s most onerous policy

Please see **EOP** page 2

ON CAMPUS

Pre-Law Fraternity Hosts Free Speech Forum

By **ELISE COOMBS**

University at Albany students came together Thursday night to discuss the role of technology in the limitation of First Amendment rights.

The discussion was hosted by pre-law fraternity Phi Alpha Delta and the Student Association, with Michael Grygiel, a national media lawyer as the lead speaker. Grygiel discussed four Supreme Court cases dealing with First Amendment rights in public high schools and used the principles established in these cases to analyze more recent cases involving Internet speech.

The lawyer said that recent cases such as *Doninger v. Niehoff* indicate a “collision between technology and change in the First Amendment.”

With this conflict, Grygiel made clear that recent court decisions have laid a path depriving public high school students of the ability to exercise free speech. The surge of Internet usage also contributes to the decline in student rights; courts have been harsher on Internet speech than they have on other speech.

“Speech on the web or in cyberspace has no fixed, finite geographical location; it’s everywhere,” Grygiel said.

As a result, it is hard to apply the material disruption test established in *Tinker v. Des Moines*, one of the four Supreme Court cases Grygiel analyzed in the discussion. The test holds that within the “schoolhouse gate,” the

Please see **FREE** page 8



DEPARTURE

SA Comptroller Resigns

By **TYLER MCNEIL**

The University at Albany’s Student Association is on the hunt for its next head of finance after senior comptroller, Robert Warshauer, made a sudden exit from office.

As Nikash Nanavaty, the deputy director, takes temporary command of the comptroller’s office, the SA board of finance remains determined to appoint a permanent officer by next month. The nominee, expected at the Nov. 2 senate meeting, must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote.

“We need to make sure that we don’t have any hiccups that will influence how fast we progress,” SA President Felix Abreu said. “Not having a [permanent] comptroller is really detrimental.”

Please see **RESIGN** page 8

University at Albany
EOP Summer Orientation Program
Rules and Guidelines

If you are confined to your room, you are only allowed to leave your room for meals and mandatory activities.

A selection of the strict EOP summer policies taken from documents obtained by the ASP under the Freedom of Information Law.

Hedberg said he was unaware of this review; at which point Martinez explained she had not revealed her internal audit of the policy's language until that moment.

Continued on next page...

Summer program students are not permitted to interact with any students outside of the EOP Summer Program.

A representative from the EOP at SUNY



Stefan Lembo-Stolba / Albany Student Press

An Instagram meme posted on @EOPUALBANY making light of the strict summer program. This photo was taken off of the EOP Instagram page during the course of the ASP's investigation.

One EOP director who received the ASP's numerous requests for comment, forwarded a copy of the ASPs questionnaire to Martinez, who then went to UAlbany's

"It gives them [EOP students] an opportunity to be introduced to the campus, to build social cohesion together in a cohort group..." Hedberg said.

falling asleep.”

With only one exception, the EOP students who spoke with the ASP found the summer program to have been beneficial, citing how prepared and comfortable they were upon arriving in the fall.

“I never saw it as a punishment,” said Aniel Luna, a UAlbany junior from the Bronx. “I saw it more like they were trying to build us as a family.”

Luna explained that the summer orientation, including the “lockdown” policy, brought him closer to his peers and prepared him for his freshmen year.

Matias expanded on this sentiment by explaining that in the beginning of her orientation EOP officials told them: ““Once we [EOP students] went back home for two weeks, we would actually miss the school.”” She went on to explain that officials told her group by the end of the five-weeks they would be a “family.”

The “notion of ‘family,’” however, has been described by nationally recognized hazing expert, Hank Nuwer, as being commonly emphasized by members of hazing fraternities and sororities, as well as what he called “cult-like” groups.

HAZING

Often thought to only occur in Greek-letter organizations, a recent study conducted by the National Study for Student Hazing, found that hazing is a prevalent practice far beyond Greek groups.

UAlbany’s hazing policy — which closely resembles New York’s anti-hazing statute — prohibits criminal hazing, or any act that endangers the physical or mental wellbeing of a person, regardless of the individual’s willingness to participate in the given activity.

Of the 11,000 students surveyed, 12 percent reported being forced to associate with specific people and not others as the most common hazing practice.

The core policy of restricting EOP students’ communication to within their group explicitly requires that the summer cohort associate with some and not with others.

Stophazing.org, the website that facilitated the hazing study, is cited on UAlbany’s Office of Student Involvement website as a resource for information on the topic.

Nuwer, who is one of the nation’s most respected authorities on hazing and has authored three books and numerous articles on the topic, described UAlbany’s EOP practices as “cult-like.”

“One common behavior in hazing would be to separate the newcomers from the rest of the campus population,” Nuwer said.

Of the two forms of hazing Nuwer described, the EOP’s association policy rises to the level of non-criminal hazing.

Whether criminal or not, it is shocking to some that hazing of any kind would occur in a university sanctioned program.

Nuwer agreed with this sentiment.

“I wouldn’t want to be sending my child there,” he said.

EDUCATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Not only do the EOP’s restrictive policies mirror some common hazing behaviors, but the themes of exclusion and isolation oppose national trends in mainstream education.

“I’m actually surprised to hear that they [EOP] emphasize separation over integration,” said Alan Oliveira, associate professor in UAlbany’s Department of Educational Theory and Practice.

Oliveira, who studies methods of integrating English language learners in foreign communities, explained that mainstream pedagogy is wavering from using separation tactics in schools.

“The [national] trend right now in education, I would describe as nourishment and integration,” he said. “Not separation or a disciplinarian kind of approach.”

Much of Oliveira’s research experience is with grades K-12, but he was confident of the notion that the broader theories of inclusion and integration apply also to budding college freshman.

Although no one standard for educational practices exists in the U.S., basic theories such as the ones proposed by Oliveira guide policy in schools across the country.

By employing these harsh punishments, the EOP is attempting to ready students for a college environment, said Martinez.

Although the intent of the program is to propel their students to success, there is

There will be no arguing over it. Your college education is never worth less than your cellphone.

You cannot socialize with your peers, do laundry, order food or step outside your room as you are there to sleep because you have been seen falling asleep.

Cellular Phones

-The use of cellular phones is **NOT** permitted outside of the residence hall that you will live in these 5 weeks. Leave your cell phone in your room before you head out to breakfast in the mornings so that you do not risk having it confiscated. Once our phone is taken, you will not get it back until August 7th. If you love your phone and want to keep it all five weeks, leave it in your room in a secure location. When you get back to your room, you can use it during the permitted times. If you live in Mahican Hall, you can use it in Mahican Hall only. If you live in Montauk Hall, you can use it in Montauk Hall only. If you live in Cayuga Hall, you can use it in Cayuga Hall only. If you live in Adirondack Hall, you can use it in Adirondack Hall only. Nowhere else. If you order take –out, put your phone away before leaving the Hall to get your food. Students’ phones have been taken because they forgot they had their phone in their hand and ran outside to pay for their food. Once you step outside your hall with it, it’s ours. If you take your phone with you to class, to a lecture or anytime you’re outside of your room/hall and it goes off in your bag or vibrates, we will ask you to open your bag and to give us your phone. There will be no arguing over it. Your college education is never worth less than your cell phone. If we ask you for it, just give it up. We will allow you to use our office phone to make and receive calls until you get it back August 5th and may even allow you to use our cell phones if need be. Your phone will not be given to your family if they travel to Albany to attempt to get it for you and if you are going home on an allowed weekend, your phone will be given to you Friday for safe travel reasons when you leave but you will have to return it to the RD upon your return to campus. We keep excellent records of all phones confiscated so if you love your phone and will **NEED** it these 5 weeks – which we know you will - **do not** put yourself in a situation where we will have to take it from you – because we will take it from you – no questions asked. On average, we have confiscated 15-20 cell phones every summer so far – we do not waiver on this rule so please do not put yourself in this predicament. If you use your phone to listen to music, you will not be allowed to use it for that purpose unless you are in your Hall/room. Please wear headphones when listening to music. If we see the imprint of your cell phone either in your pockets or your backpack, we will ask you for it. Bottom line - leave your phone in a secure location (locked up, your desk drawer, etc.) in your room when you leave in the morning and use it in your room/hall **only** during your free time. Do not leave your cell phone unattended or not secured – not even for a moment.

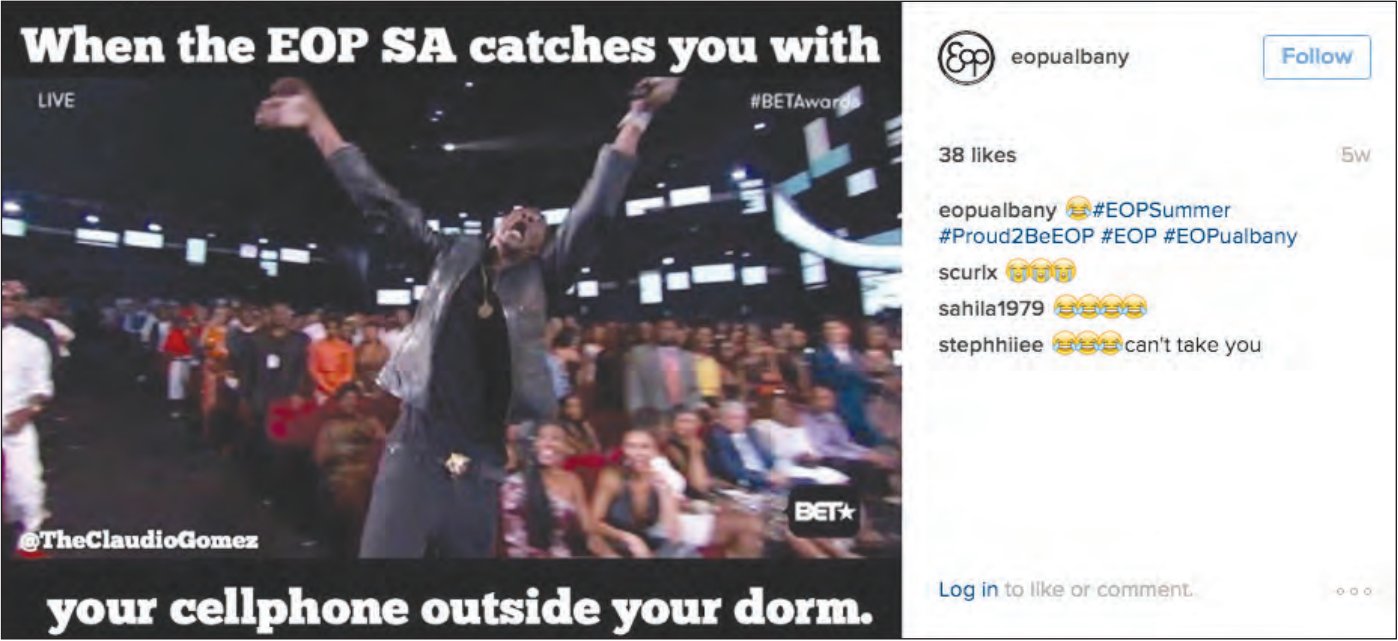
Automatic Dismissals

Possession of alcohol; illegal drugs; bullying/harassment, outright disrespectful behavior, fighting, stealing, leaving the campus period unescorted and/or without notice or approval, being found at an unassigned location socializing with non-program students, or assault/harassment of any kind will be grounds for your automatic dismissal from this program and forfeiture of your admission to the University at Albany.

Bed rest

-If a student is found to be sleeping in class, seminar, or group session, he or she will get bed rest. If you get bedrest, you are to sign-in after study hour. The suite door must remain closed and no one in the section will be allowed to have visitors. You cannot socialize with your peers, do laundry, order food or step outside of your room as you are there to sleep because you have been seen falling asleep. Bed rest is in effect until the RD tells you you are off of it and you are to get some sleep.

A selection of the strict EOP summer polices taken from documents obtained by the ASP under the Freedom of Information Law.



This meme was posted on @EOPUALBANY, the official Instagram page of UAlbany’s EOP. The meme makes light of the onerous cellphone policy. This photo was taken off the EOP’s Instagram during the course of the ASP’s investigation.

little evidence that suggests imposing these unorthodox punishments actually helps the students.

“It doesn’t sound like it could possibly prepare them for the freedom and independence of college,” said Heidi Andrade, professor of educational psychology at UAlbany.

This sentiment was reflected by a student, who requested to remain anonymous in fear of retribution from EOP officials. She explained that the SAs were required to accompany the orientation group at all times, whether in class or to the doctor’s office.

“The SA would sit in the classes to make sure everything was fine,” the student said. “At college, no one is going to sit there making sure you do all the things you need to do.”

Andrade, who specializes in self-regulated learning, said, “Unless you have people who are really, really out of control, the best thing to do is teach them how to regulate themselves instead of trying to regulate them.”

Andrade said also that discipline is not something that can be taught in five weeks or even a semester.

“It takes longer than that,” she said.

A JOKING MATTER?

Until several weeks ago, the EOP Instagram featured photo collages created by an EOP counselor, Claudio Gomez, which make light of the secretive first night practice. These photos have since been removed.

The caption written by the EOP Instagram account holder read, “We feel your pain EOP scholars,” attempting to humorously acknowledge the demands of the summer program.

Marking their completion of the program, students are seen wearing EOP branded shirts around campus including ones that read: “EOP Proud.”

After completing the five-week orientation, the most recent batch of summer graduates, who wrapped up in early August, were given black t-shirts with white lettering that read: “I survived EOP summer.”

After “surviving” her summer program, an EOP student the ASP interviewed who requested to remain anonymous, said she was happy to have survived the five weeks. Unlike the rest of her classmates, she opts not to wear EOP garb, a symbol of her freedom and desire to no longer be segregated from the rest of the undergraduate population.

Editor’s Note:

Credit to Sam Cutro for page design.

Additional reporting from Patrick Day Tine.

Courage.”

— DAN RATHER

FB: ALBANY SPJ

STUDENT SUCCESS

Type A+: How Madeeha Khan Does It All

By TYLER MCNEIL

Last fall when Madeeha Khan applied to become a University at Albany Purple & Gold ambassador, she did not know what the position entailed. Within a month she got the job. “Now when people ask me, I tell them that the best thing I do on campus is being a Purple & Gold ambassador,” she said. “Back then, I didn’t know what it was.” Like her pursuit of becoming a student ambassador, much of Khan’s involvement has been prompted by efforts to seek as many opportunities as possible, regardless of credentials. “The way I see it is that I apply for everything,” she said. “And I mean, everything.” While applying “for everything,” Khan’s opportunities have grown over the last three years. This August, Khan was selected to speak in front of over 4,000 students at the University at Albany’s Opening Convocation in the SEFCU arena. Being selected out of thousands of students by the university was not new to Khan. In the past Khan has secured four university awards for her work in campus life and academics. Throughout a typical week, along with being Purple & Gold ambassador, Khan balances leadership roles in Residential Life, the Student Association, UAlbany’s ISACA chapter, and most recently, the pledge class of Alpha Phi Omega. Outside of working with students across campus, she manages interns as a web developer and works on a faculty research project for the computer science department.

And with less than two years left on campus as an undergraduate student, she wants to do more. “Any opportunity that comes to me I say yes, and sometimes more than I should,” she said. Managing her time with a loaded schedule, Khan has given up much of her leisure time, dropping previous indulgences such as reading. Growing up in New Delhi, Khan spent her childhood reading books frequently. Unlike now, Khan’s perception of the world outside of New Delhi mostly came from literature prior to living abroad. “I just always had my head in the books and never thought I would actually be good at interacting with the outside world,” Khan said. Looking to study away from home, Khan went through several choices across the globe before picking UAlbany. Despite the \$15,000 grant she received from Drexel University in Philadelphia, Khan declined the offer due to the school’s overall tuition cost. After discovering UAlbany at a college fair, Khan’s plans to start over moved towards the Capital Region. Being handed a bulkier scholarship than Drexel and greater responsiveness than any of the other colleges she applied to, she ultimately settled with UAlbany. Having seldom traveled outside of city limits while living in New Delhi, Khan took advantage of living outside her comfort zone upon entering the Capital Region. While looking to break away from her lack of involvement back in high school, Khan discovered the Emerging Student Leaders Program tabled at Danetopia. On the same



Christopher Pounds / Albany Student Press
Madeeha Khan, pictured in a rare moment of rest.

day of Danetopia, applications for the program were due. “They told me, ‘Unfortunately, the deadline is tonight and there’s a lot of essay questions’ and I told them, ‘No problem, I work well under pressure,’” she said. After being accepted into the program, Khan quickly became involved with clubs and organizations across campus. By the end of her first semester, she eventually became one of the founding executive board members of the Cultural Connections Club. Gaining confidence from her work as a student leader, Khan started applying for more leadership positions. She not only aimed to become more involved on campus, but as a computer science major and business minor, she also hoped to learn how to learn professional skills for the future. “I want to be the type person who can go to any interview and do well regardless of whether I knew about the job or the topic well or not,” she said. “It’s all about building your personality.”

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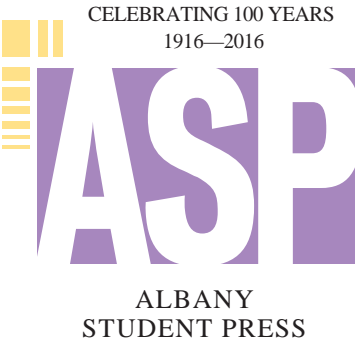


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STUDENT LIFE

Places to de-stress, not distress during midterms

By **LAUREN NAVRATIL**

During the fall semester at college, it’s sometimes a challenge to let go of that lingering, laid-back summer vibe and really start to focus on schoolwork. But there’s nothing like midterm week to hit us college kids like a cold splash of water to the face, making us alert and conscious of everything we need to accomplish.

No matter what you’re working on, whether you’re studying for exams, writing essays, working on hands-on projects, or anything else, the best thing to do is to find a reliable and valuable spot to get your work done. My biggest suggestion would be to find a work space suited to your needs and make it your own for the rest of the semester. Make it the place you go to whenever you need to channel your mind into completing academic tasks. The more you go there, and walk away having successfully completed schoolwork, the more you will associate that place with learning and achievement.

If you enjoy studying and doing homework in your dorm room or wherever you live, and that works for you, then all the power to you. Personally, when I used to try doing work in my bedroom, I would end up telling myself I could do it the next day, then ordering food and watching Netflix – not good!

I’ve discovered many places on and off the UAlbany campus and it worked well for me, so I’ll share my insights:

Main Library

This is the obvious location and, nonetheless, probably the best environment to be in when trying to get work done. The library is quite extensive, however, so navigating

where you settle down is up to you and your personal preferences.

If the constant chatter of other students helps you feel engaged and doesn’t dim your focus, then perhaps any work areas on the first floor would suffice, as they are more social spots. If you’re like me and you need a quiet space to get anything done, check out the work desks on the second or third floors by the windows. It’s nice to be able to look outside, but the nature of these desks are to allow students privacy and silence to focus on their work.

Nature Spots

If you love to be outdoors, and the weather permits you to do so, why not try and do some schoolwork outside, surrounded by greenery? The fresh air may do you some good and help clear your mind of thoughts that may be blocking your focus.

The two rectangular grass areas on the UAlbany campus, lined with trees and places to sit, would be perfect. These areas usually aren’t too populated or noisy, and the surroundings are certainly more appealing to the eye, compared to bookshelves in the library.

If you’re looking for a place off campus, Washington Park in downtown Albany is a wonderful spot. I’ve spent many days there, posted up underneath a nice tree near the big field where the dogs play, doing some writing or studying notecards for an exam. It’s really quite a peaceful area.

Coffee Shops

In a city filled with college students and heavy artistic/musical interests among its inhabitants, coffee shops



Source: Ualbanyphotos.com

A perfect example of finding a tranquil spot where one can lose themselves in thought.

become hubs for young people to bring their laptops and work, while maybe socializing and engaging in activities outside of school.

If you think this sounds like an ideal spot for you, then I highly recommend The Hudson River Coffee House, located on the corner of Quail and Hudson Streets. They offer free Wi-Fi, plenty of places to sit and work, and a wonderful selection of coffee, tea, sandwiches, and other goodies. On Thursdays the shop holds an open-mic night, open to anyone to perform songs, poetry, comedy acts and more. Maybe doing schoolwork in this kind of lively environment appeals to some people!

The key is to figure out what your needs are during this stressful time, and to pinpoint a plan of how you’re going to get everything done. Think about what inspires you to get your work done the most, claim your workspace, take a deep breath, and get going.

WEEKLY
EVENTS

Around UAlbany
and the Capital Region

TUE October 25	JRL Open House 5:00 PM Journalism open house in HU354, hosted by the Journalism Program	FRI October 28	Troy Night Out 5:00 p.m. Arts and culture in downtown Troy.
WED October 26	Tunes & Tacos 7:00 p.m. \$2 tacos and vinyl DJ at the City Beer Hall	SAT October 29	Albany Devils 5:00 p.m. Albany Devils face off against the Toronto Marlies at the Times Union Center.
THRS October 27	Captiol Hauntings 5:30 p.m. Special haunted tour of the Captiol building in downtown Albany.	SUN October 30	Green Market 10:00 a.m. Schenectady Greenmarket on the steps of City Hall.



Milo Votava / ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

The enthusiasm of the participants and the quality of the produce were self evident at last week’s farmers market outside of the Capus Center.



THEATRE REVIEW

AN INTIMATE PERFORMANCE
OF A SHAKESPEARE CLASSIC

By FRANCESCA CAPUTO

Romeo and Juliet came to the Performing Arts Center Tuesday night from the American Shakespeare Center. Before the play began, performers played pop covers by artists such as Muse and My Chemical Romance consisting of acapella-like harmonization accompanied by instruments such as the bass, violin, flute, cello, drums, and banjo. As their final pre-show performance, the group competed in a rap battle reminiscent of the 80s, with a theme central to the plots Montague and Capulet rivalry. It's safe to say the Montague's conquered. Realistically, with a hook like "I thought I told ya, we run Verona" how could they do anything less than slay?

The cast's process for preparing for the show is extensive, as each cast member has to come into the first day of rehearsal "off book, so we know all of our lines" Aleca Piper, tripling as Lady Montague, Balthasar, and Juliet's nurse, said. "Then we spend three weeks working on them and do the play in its entirety without a director, then with a director, making adjustments according to what they say."

In the opening act the two feuding families are seen brawling with swords, leaping and running through the streets of Verona. The entirety of the show was fueled by a vibrant energy as each character moved at a rapid pace, and acted on haste and impulse. Action and intimacy intertwine when Romeo, played by Josh Clark, refuses to speak to anyone due to his undying love to the never-seen-or-heard-from-after this-point Rosaline, but suddenly after a suggestion by Benvolio (Constance Swain), becomes utterly devoted to meeting, and then soon marrying Juliet (Zoe Speas.) This impulsiveness occurs again when Juliet's father, Capulet, (J.C. Long) acts violently, screaming and striking Juliet after she professes her love for Romeo and not the Prince's Kingsman, Paris (Kyle Powell.) And of course, let's not forget about the

unfortunate timing paired with impulse that ultimately led to Romeo and Juliet's demise.

Perhaps the most fascinating aspect of the performance was how the stage set up was incorporated into the performance. Surrounding the actors sat audience members on each side on the stage. Throughout the performance, actors would interact with the stage audience while staying versed in Shakespeare. From handing off wine glasses to asking for a peck on the cheek, all the way to Benvolio suggesting a fairer lady such as so-and-so to Romeo. To see the actors and audience perform on an improv level was remarkable. The staging conditions mimic what Shakespeare would have done in his day. This includes universal lighting so the audience can see the performers and the performers can see the audience, doubling, or one actor playing multiple roles, and the set design, where the backdrop remains constant, only bringing in minimal props allowing the audience to use their imagination to interpret each prop's function.

The American Shakespeare Center performance captures the timeless tragedy of Romeo and Juliet through impulse, excitement and ultimately intimacy. With each performer able to see the audience, and therefore interact with them, there is an electrifying connection that surges throughout each and every scene.

"It reiterates how important love is," Piper paused briefly, speaking about her personal connection to the play, and continued, only this time choking back tears. "It just reiterates how important love is, and how love can always win, if we just believe in it, if we just stop and listen. It's rewarding to be reminded of that every day because Trump is Trump and Hilary is Hilary and we're all tired of hearing things that bigots are bigots and racists are racists, but if you just open your heart and your ears to loving, then maybe we can find a middle ground."

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FILM REVIEW

‘The Accountant’ entertains but falls short of greatness

By **ANDY GALLA**

Armed with a cast of highly respected actors, director Gavin O’Connor delivers possibly his most tense, thrilling, character-driven film to date. However, there are far too many ideas thrown in the air to keep track of and truly love any of the characters, and the plot cannot keep up with all their specific motives.

The film follows the story of a boy not only born with autism, but born into an army family. This boy, however, was clearly a savant, with a brother about the same age with no mental handicaps. After his father refuses standard treatment and is left by his wife, he decides to train his sons so nobody could take advantage of the condition. Fast forward into adulthood, and the young autistic boy is now a money-laundering accountant, essentially a specialist who is called upon by both gangsters and large corporations to “find” and handle money. Soon, the director of crime enforcement at the department of treasury, Ray King (J.K Simmons), becomes obsessed with finding this man, for more reasons than he claims. Meanwhile, the accountant himself, Christian Wolff (Affleck) is hired to look for missing money in a robotics company after junior accountant Dana Cummings (Anna Kendrick) discovers money missing. This sets off a chain reaction of murder, man-hunting, and “good old-fashioned investigation” that ends with a serious body-count.

The acting in this film was great. Affleck was very believable as a troubled but genius functioning-autist. J.K Simmons also made the most of his limited time, commandeering the most emotional moments in the film. John Lithgow, Jeffrey Tambor, and Jon Bernthal were all exceptional, as usual.

The only true blemish was Anna Kendrick, who likely suffered more from a poorly written character than bad acting itself. She’s essentially the damsel in distress who would sometimes flirt awkwardly with Affleck (small spoiler alert: no sex), making the film seem formulaic. However, not pursuing the actual romance itself was excellent continuity for the main character, whom could kill just about anybody using his hands or a sniper rifle, as well as doctor anybody’s books perfectly, but could barely begin to socialize.

The film also has quite respectful cinematography, using shadows and symmetry effectively. The action, while rarer than the trailer made it seem, is done flawlessly. The hand-to-hand fighting not only looks, but sounds believable, with many snapped wrists and hard, swift punches. The use of guns is much the same. In this way, the sound-editing crew deserves substantial credit, but the choreography is also spot-on. This made the film more approachable to crowds. Still, it’s nothing that hasn’t already been done.

Despite all of that, there are noticeable flaws in the plot. Almost the entire second half is a rage tour for Wolff against the robotics company that had previously hired him, though it seems his only motivation is because they tried to kill Dana Cummings, and it’s never clear why he cares so much for her anyways. We’re also left to wonder how Braxton (Jon Bernthal) became a part of the plot in the first place. There’re many other plot holes aside from this one as well. Some relate to the fact that the motives of the company’s boss, Lamar Black (John Lithgow), and Francis Silverberg (Jeffrey Tambor) are almost completely unknown, all we know for sure is that it has something to do with embezzlement. The film throws



Source: film.dziennik.pl

far too many characters in the air to keep track of, and it soon becomes a wash of thinly described motives and ruthless, calculated killing by Wolff, who seems to meet his fate in an oddly coincidental way. By the end, the story feels incredibly manufactured. Though this was a decent script, it fell flat on its own unnecessary characters and overused troupes. The climax was also overdramatic and not nearly as engaging as was meant to be. The same can be said of Mark Isham’s soundtrack.

So, this film earns a modest 3/5. It was admittedly impressive to see such dedication to character building in what seemed like a

child of the James Bond movies combined with a well-made drama. However, by the end of the film, the plot doesn’t feel all that important, and in some ways it even seems too surreal to believe. It was a classic Hollywood ending to a classic Hollywood movie, but a decent one at that. If you are an action fan with patience, this may be your film. If you are looking for sentimentality and engaging dialogue, you will find a bit here, but it will often be under the asterisk of many circumstances not making perfect sense. If you are just looking for the next Oscar favorite, keep waiting, this film is an admirable but ultimately cute attempt at greatness.

THEATRE REVIEW

The Strains of Being ‘Exonerated’

By **ELENA POLLACK**

This past week, the UAlbany Theatre performed The Exonerated, a collection of stories from six individuals who were wrongfully convicted and sentenced to death row, eventually being exonerated of their crimes. The donations collected at the performances will be donated to the Culture Project, which will distribute the funds to those exonerated in the United States. The performance was inspiring and left me near to tears.

Maddy Rolon, a freshman Theatre major, gave a heartfelt performance as Sunny, who was convicted for the murders of a state officer and a Canadian officer in 1976. Sunny was released in 1992 when the real criminal stepped forward. Rolon brought to life the struggle of a woman who was wronged by the system, desperate to be reunited with her boyfriend, children and family, and somehow able to maintain a positive outlook on life.

Bryce Pole-Merchant, also a freshman, played David Keaton, a black 18-year-old who spent two years on death row after being wrongfully convicted by an all-white jury in 1971, and became the first man to be exonerated in the United States. Pole-Merchant captured a poetic, faithful character who dedicated the rest of his life to helping those wrongfully convicted by helping found Witness to Innocence, a foundation aiming to end the death penalty in the United States.

Spencer Dunn, a junior majoring in Sociology, played Delbert Tibbs, who was convicted of murder and rape by an all-white jury in 1974, but was exonerated in 1977 when an informant revealed he had lied during the trial, hoping for leniency in his own case. Dunn’s philosophical and wondering portrayal of this emcee-like character tied each of the individual stories together, making the play whole, and forcing the audience to question the morality of the death penalty.

Gary Gauger was convicted of killing his own parents in 1993, when the police held him in questioning for close to 12 hours before tricking him into confessing to the murder. He was set free in 1996, when the courts ruled that his confession was coerced and therefore inadmissible as evidence. He was eventually exonerated in 2002, when the courts convicted two motorcycle gang members for the crime. Max Conaway, a freshman, gave a wonderful performance, detailing the vulnerability of a recent orphan taken advantage of and of the struggles faced every day from judgement and persecution after his release from prison.

Robert Hayes was a horse trainer who was wrongfully convicted of rape and murder, and was denied his horse-trainer license post-released, but was laughably able to walk into a store and buy a gun. Ezekiel Miller, a junior, gave an excellent performance as a young man struggling to readjust into society, even with support.

Johan Buchan, a junior double major in Theatre and Communications, gave a powerful performance as Kerry Cook, a youth convicted of rape and murder by a cop with a grudge, who spent 20 years trying to prove his innocence from behind bars. Buchan’s portrayal demonstrated the devastating effects a sentencing, whether right or wrong, can have on an inmate’s family.

Gauger wrote In Spite of the System, recounting his exoneration, available at garygauger.com. Jacobs wrote Stolen Time: One Woman’s Inspiring Story as an Innocent Condemned to Death, telling the tale of her experiences on death row and her endless positive perspective, available at sunnyandpeter.com. Cook wrote Chasing Justice, detailing his conviction, experiences, and battle for freedom. Delbert Tibbs’ writings can be found at witness-to-innocence.org, amongst many other works by those exonerated.

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FREE

Continued from Page 1

confines of public school, speech is protected if it does not disrupt the learning process.

However, the ubiquitous Internet complicates this by making the “schoolhouse gate” harder to define. What happens when students speak freely on the Internet within their home?

In *Doningerv v. Niehoff* a 2008 court case, Grygiel explained how Avery Doninger was a high school junior who called school officials “douchebags” in a *LiveJournal* post. In retaliation, the officials had cancelled an event she was planning for student council. Despite encouraging other students to complain to an administrator, Doninger was later punished by not being allowed to run for student office her senior year.

A second-circuit panel in the United States Court of Appeals ruled in this case that the school reasonably forecasted a threat to material disruption even though the only disruption was the complaining phone calls the administrator received.

As a lawyer defending the First Amendment, Grygiel holds, “The courts are getting this exactly wrong.” Grygiel explained that the courts are treating speech through digital technology differently than normal speech.

This reach of the courts into the public high school students’ rights of free speech yields a “disturbing trajectory of law,” according to Grygiel. The more courts toy with the First Amendment, the harder it becomes to draw the line between what is protected speech and what is punishable speech.

Examining the issue of restricted speech in public schools, Vice President of UAlbany’s Student Association Colin Manchester asked, “At 18 I can vote. At 21 I can grab a beer. But why at 17 can I not speak my mind?”

Manchester is a senior majoring in both the financial analyst honors program and financial marketing and regulation.

Compared to public high schools, public universities tend to offer more freedom of speech. Courts are more lenient in protecting free speech at universities because institutions of higher learning encourage the full exploration of ideas, according to Grygiel. At universities, students must be able to exercise their rights by effectively disseminating and distributing speech.

As a public university, UAlbany is a place for students to vocalize informed ideas. Last April, newspapers containing the article “Sexual Assault Reports up 200 Percent at UAlbany” by Lindsey Riback, were removed from the Lecture Center during the Accepted Student Open House.

Grygiel said that he could see a First Amendment issue here if the administration directed, supported, or endorsed the removal of the newspapers. If an individual did this independently, the issue would be different.

Nonetheless, the lawyer noted, “It’s the type of episode that clearly implies the desire to protect the reputation of the university.”

Grygiel is a co-chair for Greenberg’s media and entertainment litigation practice. The vast majority of his cases involve defending news organizations, media companies, and content producers from claims based on what they have published. Some of the lawyer’s cases involve representing personal counsel to professional athletes; namely, he represents tennis players and a few NBA basketball players.

ACTIVISM

Junior Wins Feminist Prize

By ILENE ROTHMAN

A University at Albany senator has been named one of 10 up-and-coming college feminist change makers in the nation, and has been chosen to serve on the American Association of University Women (AAUW) National Student Advisory Council.

Named the “Optimistic Advocate” on Oct. 17, Julia Alford became involved with the UAlbany Student Association in the spring of her freshman year after attending Elect Her, a program that trains college women to run for student government. Although the junior political science major is now the highest ranking female senator on campus, during her freshman year she was not happy at UAlbany and was considering transferring to another school.

“I went through the Elect Her program and it was a really great motivator for me to learn that there was a need for woman to be represented on campus. So I said to myself that night, I am going to nominate myself and I am going to run in this election and if I don’t win I will transfer out,” the junior who is also double minoring in informatics and philosophy said.

Three terms later and Alford is still at UAlbany, and since then has held many positions in SA. She sat on the Committee of Constituent Relations as a second semester freshman, sophomore year she served as chair for the Committee of Rules and Administration, and this year as a junior she was appointed to be on the Board of Finance and also serves on the Committee of Appropriations.

The SA at times has had a controversial reputation on campus. Last year during the Parkfest Ticketing catastrophe, students began to question why SA is not more transparent about how they choose to operate and what their true role is in governing the university.

Alford herself is working to help SA be more forthcoming about how they handle procedures and how they distribute information. Recently the comptroller of the SA has resigned and the SA is trying to heavily publicize this new position on campus.

“It’s important that everyone



Source: Julia Alford

knows that this is happening because at the end of the day we want to make sure that the best person is in this position. But also to spread the word about what the comptroller does and how it could benefit you or me,” the Melville, NY native said.

Alford is extremely involved on campus; she is the political liaison for Great Danes for Israel, the secretary for Pi Sigma Alpha, she is a brother of Phi Alpha Delta, and a member of College Democrats. However, she cautions students who want to be involved on campus to remember that their number one priority is that they are a student and that they are here to succeed academically and to learn.

“You cannot major in extra-curriculars . . . you need to make sure that you are staying within your major,” Alford said. “You’re fulfilling the requirements that you need to have, but you’re also achieving.”

With a padded resume, Alford recognizes that she is sometimes missing out on spending time with her friends.

“I understand that you can’t have it all and so there are things that you have to give and take and that’s okay. You find time,” she said.

Alford’s interest in the women’s empowerment

movement really took off once she attended AAUW’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders. This past summer she took the skills she learned from AAUW and decided to work as a legislative intern at the National Council of Jewish Women in Washington, D.C.

“It was empowering just to be around people that were trying to take steps forward and talking about issues that I care about. And I ended up actually being apart of issues that I never thought I would care about.”

She spent the rest of her summer working on sex trafficking initiatives, an area of gender equality she had never explored in depth prior to this internship.

As far as gender equality on campus, she knows even on a campus as progressive as UAlbany’s, that there is still room to grow; the SA’s Senate is 44 percent female.

“That’s not good enough, but I know that moving forward we’re making progress and we’re taking steps so when I come back in ten years to talk in front of the senate, I want to make sure that half the room is women or more. That would be cool too,” the junior said.

CAMPUS CHANGES

New Meal Plan Based on Celebrated Virginia Tech Model to be Considered in December

By TYLER MCNEIL

A new meal plan could bring more students to dine in the Campus Center if it is approved in December.

Under the plan, up for review at the Dec. 5 UAS services subcommittee meeting, students will pay for dining overhead costs in advance which will allow them to buy meals at the Campus Center and residence halls at a reduced price, according to UAS Director Stephen Pearse.

Steve O’ Riley, Sodexo regional district manager, believes this is a step in the right direction for the university.

“I think this is just going to give everyone so much more flexibility,” O’ Riley said.

This desire to create a meal plan available for resident and retail locations on campus arose during the planning process to close Dutch Quad dining hall that was announced last year. Without a dining hall, UAS sought to a new option to provide Dutch Quad

residents access to the Campus Center venues.

Searching for a new meal plan option last summer, UAS landed on Virginia Tech’s model for inspiration.

“They’re always ranked in the top five for college dining and I think part of it is because of the flexibility students have,” Pearse said. “By paying that overhead then, you’re free to go anywhere.”

All plans provided under the college’s in-house dining service follow the overhead system with costs at \$1,067. With operational costs paid for in advance at VT, the college’s plans allow discounts as high as 67 percent.

Since UAlbany has less students dining than VT, discounts for in-house brands are expected to be around 40 percent. Pearse also predicted that outside brands will have a 30 percent discount.

While discounts under the overhead system, if approved, will be new to recent university dining history; the option to choose between

retail and residence dining without using Munch Money previously existed until last year.

As a result of Campus Center renovation last fall, meal trades, a system allowing students to eat on the podium with meal swipes, had been eliminated.

“I kind of have to budget [Munch Money] out to make sure it lasts the whole semester, so it would be a lot more convenient to just count swipes rather than money,” Maureen Mecca, a sophomore social sciences student, said.

With increased flexibility under the proposed plan, Pearse believes that the overhead model could quickly attract students after the start of the next fall semester. He has previously explored extending the deadline to switch meal plans beyond two weeks.

Along with deadlines, some measures included in the plan such as rates, are still up in the air. UAS expects that the new plan would have

RESIGN

Continued from Page 1

Succeeding Mackenzie Rinefierd in May 2015, Warshauer was the longest standing member of the SA executive board prior to his resignation. Including his most recent position, Warshauer worked in the comptroller’s office for three years.

Being part of the organization since his freshman year, his decision to leave the SA was partially prompted by a desire to seek other opportunities on campus. The rest of his decision to depart student government was based around “personal reasons” which he declined to comment on.

“I think it happened at the right time for Rob and when it comes down to it, it was Rob’s decision and it was a personal decision,” said Raymond Webb, former senate chair, who sponsored the resolution to appoint Warshauer two years ago. “SA will be fine.”

While managing SA finances, comptroller responsibilities include having more interaction with student groups than any other position on the executive board, said Austin Ostro, senate vice chair. He also mentioned that the position entails frequent contact with university departments.

As a result of the position’s workload, the comptroller is tied with the president for having the highest pay in the SA at \$6,950 per year (\$4,250 during the academic year, \$2,700 over the summer). In comparison, deputy comptrollers make \$2,150 during the academic year and are not required to work during the summer.

Out of the two deputy comptrollers, Nanavaty and Alex Schindler, Nanavaty was the only member of the department willing to fill the position.

Despite being content as interim comptroller, Nanavaty did not confirm interest in applying to keep the position.

“As for now, I’m just really focused on doing my job right now and maybe we’ll see,” he said.

Following Nanavaty’s interim appointment, an application for the position was immediately listed on MyInvolvement.



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	W 10/26	2:45 - 4:05 pm	CC 375
	Th 10/27	5:45 - 7:05 pm	CC 375
Financial Aid & Lending	M 10/31	10:25 - 11:20 am	CC 375
	W 11/2	2:45 - 4:05 pm	CC 375
	Th 11/3	5:45 - 7:05 pm	CC 375
Credit & Identity Theft	M 11/7	10:25 - 11:20 am	CC 375
	W 11/9	2:45 - 4:05 pm	CC 375
	Th 11/10	5:45 - 7:05 pm	CC 375

THE WORLD WITHIN REACH

Contest Rules: To enter, attend a Fall 2016 Danes, Dollars and \$ense Financial Literacy workshop. Attendance throughout the entire duration of the session is required, along with completion and submission of the pre-test and post-test. Students may attend each workshop topic. Limit one entry per workshop attended. "Bring a Friend" entries are unlimited. "Bring a Friend" entries require attendee to list names of friends on their post-test which will be cross-referenced against that friend's post-test. The names must correspond. The Office of Student Financial Services is not responsible for illegible listings. The winner will be selected through a lottery drawing after the workshop series has concluded. Winners must agree to have their name announced and grant the use of a photograph for future promotions. Employees (including students) of the Office of Student Financial Services (FAO, SAO & Bursar, and SFC) are not eligible. Previous winners may attend workshops but are not eligible for scholarship drawing.

Acknowledging: Rene Pelletier of Stony Brook University, SUNY

FALL SPORTS

UALBANY SCOREBOARD

Football		
10/22	VILLANOVA	23
	UALBANY	13
Men's Soccer		
10/22	SBU	2
	UAlbany	1
Women's soccer		
10/23	UALBANY	2
	UMBC	0

Field hockey		
10/23	UALBANY	3
	VERMONT	0



Brittany Gregory / Albany Student Press

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS:

10/29: Football - Elon

11/2: M. Soccer - Binghamton

11/4: Volleyball - SBU

VOLLEYBALL



Noah Beadle / Albany Student Press

Laini Laindecker and Taylor Robinson jump to defend the Binghamton offense.

Danes Lose, Remain in First Place

By DIANA HYMOWITZ

The UAlbany Volleyball took to the court on Friday, October 21, to play Binghamton in their annual Pink Dig match. However, the Great Danes saw their 10-game winning streak snapped as they lost three games to the Binghamton Bearcats (23-25, 20-25, 16-25).

Although UAlbany (12-7, 6-1 AE) led Binghamton (10-11, 4-3 AE) 18-14 in the first set, the Bearcats were able to orchestrate a comeback and win the match 23-25. The Bearcats never looked back, not allowing UAlbany to gain a lead in either of the next two matches. Despite the loss the Great Danes remain in first place atop the America East, one game ahead of UMBC.

WOMENS SOCCER

DANES NAB REGULAR SEASON TITLE

ALBANY, N.Y. – The UAlbany women's soccer team continues to make program history under coach Caitlin Cucchiella, earning a share of the America East regular season title for the first time with a 2-0 victory over UMBC on Senior Day.

UAlbany (9-7-1, 6-1-1 AE) will be the 1-seed in the America East Tournament for the first time ever, owning the tiebreaker over Hartford. UAlbany and Hartford, each finishing 6-1-1 in league play, share the 2016 America East regular season title.

As the 1-seed, UAlbany has earned a bye and will host its semifinal game on Sunday, October 30th at 4 p.m. against the winner of 4-seed UNH and 5-seed Maine.

The Great Danes scored two goals early in the second half to earn the shutout victory over UMBC (6-10-1, 2-5-1 AE). UAlbany outshot UMBC 22-9 in the game plus picked up 12 corner kicks to UMBC's zero. UAlbany is now unbeaten in its last seven games, including six victories.

"What a great senior day today, not just for our seniors, but for this program," said Cucchiella. "We are thrilled beyond words, and we are very thankful that we got it done today, but it is a

testament to what they have done all season."

Kiana Rugar netted the eventual game-winner off a



Source: Bill Ziskin / Ualbanysports.com

Some of the standout players who made the historic victory possible.

header from a Caroline Kopp free kick in the 55th minute. Alexa Schneider added an insurance goal seven minutes later from Mariah Williams. Chloe Borasky earned the win with five saves in 79 minutes, with Alana Olivieri finishing the shutout with the final 11 minutes in goal.

"We knew in the second half, we had to find the back of the net early," said Rugar. "Caroline's [Kopp] service was perfect and I managed to score."

For UMBC, Rayven Conner had a team-high four shots, putting three on goal. Leah Roth got the loss in goal with seven saves.

Before the game, UAlbany held its Senior Day ceremony for Schneider, Rugar, Olivieri,

Angela Luizzi, Caitlyn Paltsios and Bianca Webb on the field. UAlbany's first chance came in the 10th minute as Paltsios sent a corner to Meghan Malone for a header, just missing high. A subsequent corner was sent away by UMBC. UMBC, using the wind, kept firing away from long range on free kicks. One such kick from 35 yards out by Conner was saved by a jumping Borasky in minute 13.

UAlbany closes in in the 30th minute and a couple of close shots. Paltsios had a couple attempts, each missing wide of the cage. Another attempt by Schneider was saved by Roth. Jamie Shiflett had a look on cage in the 35th minute, firing

a line drive towards the cage. Borasky made a dive and grab to stop the attempt.

Borasky protected against another long range shot by Conner to finish the first half as the sides went into the half at 0-0.

Immediately into the second period, Rugar got through the back line with the ball. Her first shot was saved by a diving Roth, her second went wide of the post.

In minute 55, Kopp sent a free kick into the box from the near side. Rugar charged forward and headed the ball into the left post from eight yards away for a 1-0 UAlbany lead.

Mariah Williams got free for a shot in the 61st minute, with a diving Roth denying the goal. The next minute, she took a pass from Meghan Cavanaugh and sent it back to Schneider for an arc shot and goal inside the right post for a 2-0 lead for UAlbany.

UAlbany continued to push against UMBC, getting a couple chances in the 75th minute. Roth knocked away a Webb shot from close range, and on a second chance, Kopp sent a shot high above the crossbar.

Olivieri entered the game and kept the shutout intact. UAlbany took the 2-0 victory.

FROM: WIRE REPORTS