

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

'NO COMMENT'

Grand Larceny 2 Years Ago in SA Office Reported Jan. 27.

By CHAD ARNOLD

A reported grand larceny involving several thousand dollars missing from Student Association has raised more questions than answers this week as leaders within the organization say they know nothing of the active investigation.

On Friday Jan. 26, a grand larceny in the third degree was reported to UPD at 10:05 a.m. The larceny was reported to have occurred on July 7, 2016.

The incident first came to light after a review of UPD's daily crime and incident report for the weekend of Jan. 26 to Jan. 28. UPD denied the Albany Student

Press' request for a copy of the full incident report, saying its release would interfere with the ongoing investigation.

When questioned about the reported larceny on Jan. 29 at approximately 1:30 p.m., Senate Chair Jarrett Altilio said he knew nothing of the reported incident and was unaware such a report had been filed.

During the public comment period of the SA's weekly meeting

See SA page 3

FROM THE INCIDENT LOG

TYPE OF INCIDENT: Grand Larceny 3rd Degree: Property Value Exceeds \$3,000

DATE/TIME RECEIVED: 1/26/2018 10:05 AM

DATE/TIME OCCURRED: 7/7/2016 12:00 AM

INCIDENT NUMBER: 02271-18

LOCATION: Podium, Campus Center

NATURE OF COMPLAINT: Report of missing money from Student Association.

UAS

Report: Middle Earth Lobbied for Dry Lounge

By JOE HOFFMAN

Middle Earth peer assistance student group played a role in the decision for a Campus Center lounge, Damien's, to not to serve alcohol.

"There were a lot of concerns about how it would be distributed, how they would be checking IDs, thing[s] really simple like that," said Nicole Bulanchuk, president of Middle Earth. "Administration like [vice president for Student Affairs] Michael Christakis didn't really have the answers for us."

Bulanchuk said Middle Earth raised concerns at President's Council meetings last year, but also has had individual meetings with Christakis and others to talk about how serving alcohol would further bolster the

See BULANCHUK page 3



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

ICONIC WRITERS INSTITUTE FOUNDER CELEBRATES 90

William Kennedy, best-selling novelist of Albany-centered historic fiction and founder of the New York State Writers Institute, drapes a coat over his wife, Dana, during a birthday celebration at City Hall. Also in attendance: James Stellar, vice president of Academic Affairs and former UAlbany President Karen Hitchcock.

See KENNEDY page 7

INTERFAITH CENTER

Interfaith Chaplains Unaware of License Agreement



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

A regular in line at Cornerstone Campus Ministry's annual Food and Faith event in the Interfaith Center on Tuesday pours soup.

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

Campus chaplains wanted to ask the University at Albany Foundation to scrap Interfaith Center plans.

But they learned Friday when informed by the Albany Student Press, that's not up to the Foundation.

The deadline to move interfaith programming into the Campus Center falls under university discretion despite the property being under Foundation ownership. Under an agreement following the land's sale in 2016 — a deal unbeknownst to chaplains until late last week — UAlbany was licensed to keep the property operating.

Damhof of Cornerstone Campus Ministries claimed to have heard differently in a conversation last month with Ed Engelbride, associate vice president for Student Affairs. She asked him if chaplains could ask the university to stay until

State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman made a final verdict on the property's transfer.

"He said that was obviously not up to the university because obviously if the transfer doesn't take place, the Foundation still owns it," she claimed.

The deadline to move interfaith programming into the Campus Center falls under university discretion despite the property being under Foundation ownership.

Engelbride, who tossed an original email request for comment to media relations, did not immediately respond to inquiry regarding Damhof's portrayal of the conversation.

He is one of several members of UAlbany administration to work with chaplains on making IFC accommodations. Student Affairs held several listening groups last semester to assess the needs of interfaith student groups and chaplains moving forward.

See IFC page 6

DINING

Stocks and Stems Put on Chopping Block

By ELISE COOMBS

After its first semester in the Campus Center, soup and salad venue Stocks and Stems is no longer open for dinner or on the weekends.

A University Auxiliary Services interest review determined that the venue's business was insufficient to continue using resources for hours other than weekday lunch times.

UAS Executive Director Steve Pearse said this decision was "driven by numbers." The review included a look at customer counts and sales volume at each venue.

Stocks and Stems was near the bottom of the list in terms of money and was above only a few venues like Jazzmans, Zime, and the Patroon Room.

The soup and salad place this semester has drawn in what Pearse noted to be a longer line at lunchtime.

"We noticed there was a longer line," Pearse said. "The line seems to not move as quickly as it could."

If Stocks and Stems were to draw in more business, Pearse said it would be possible to expand hours again.

"It's not that we want to close it down, it's just allocation of resources," the UAS director said.

Employees are included in the resources. Since some venues have shortened hours, that opens the opportunity for employees to shift to venues with extended hours or new venues.

But should venues like Stocks and Stems maintain extended hours despite lack of business, overhead costs for meal plans could increase.

The overhead meal plan model includes a base cost for operating expenses other than food.

"We don't really want to increase that dramatically," Pearse said.

The myFlex meal plans, typically used by non-freshman campus residents, have an overhead cost of \$1,429 with options for different amounts of discount dollars.

Ph.D. student Jayanta Talukder is not on this meal plan. Though he lives off campus, Talukder frequently buys lunch on campus since he stays until around 5 p.m.



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Students line up at Stocks and Stems on Wednesday. Stocks and Stems is located near Hissho Sushi and Nikos Cafe.

Noting that he usually eats salad once a week, Talukder added, "I understand that a lot of people might not be buying salads a lot."

Numbers show that Fountain Grill—with burgers, fries, and milkshakes among its offerings—ranked in about four times as much money as Stocks and Stems, coming in first for fall semester sales.

Hours of operation factor into how much money a venue makes. For instance, Fountain Grill had the most hours, with 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. during the week and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on weekends.

Although Fountain Grill is open for more hours than Stocks and Stems, there are

other options for students craving a salad at night or on the weekends.

SubConnection offers a build-your-own salad and the dining halls have salad options.

Sophomore and human biology major Sarylly de Jesus has tried the salad at Sub-connection, but prefers Stocks and Stems. "I don't like the salad from the sandwich place. I feel like it's not as good," she said.

Another option is the dining hall. At \$12 without discounts or \$4.80 with discount dollars, it is more expensive than only buying a salad from Stocks and Stems.

A salad at Stocks and Stems is \$3.44

with discount dollars or \$6.89 without a meal plan and before tax.

But adding a drink and other items could make a Stocks and Stems order more expensive than the dining hall.

Though Stocks and Stems has reduced hours, other venues are opening or have extended hours.

In a couple weeks, smoothies will come to the 518 Market once the blenders are ready, Pearse said.

WOW, originally known as World of Wings Cafe, is slated to open on Monday, Feb. 12 in the space now called Damien's.

CRIME BLOTTER

PETIT LARCENY

2/1/18
Roadways- DQ Lot
Report of a stolen purse.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIHUANA

2/1/18
Roadways- Univ Dr West
Report of two male students and a female student in possession of marijuana. Referrals were made.

WELFARE CHECK

2/1/18
Podium- Pod Other
Welfare Check on a male student. Student found safe.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - 4

1/31/18
Colonial Quad- Clinton Hall
Report of a damaged laptop on a refrigerator in the SEFCU Arena by an unknown subject.

GRAND LARCENY 4 CREDIT CARD

1/31/2018
Other- UPD
Report of a stolen wallet.

MEDICAL INCIDENT

1/31/18
Other- Health Svcs. Ctr.
5 Quad made a transport to hospital.

GRAND LARCENY 4 CREDIT CARD

1/30/18
Alumni Quad- Brubacher Hall
Report of a stolen Apple iwatch and used credit card.

GR LAR 4-VALUE PROPERTY GREATER THAN \$1000

1/30/18
Podium- Lecture Centers
Report of a stolen laptop.

HARASSMENT 2ND- PHYSICAL CONTACT

1/29/18
Podium- Social Science
Report of a male student harassing a female student.

AGGRAVATED UNLICENSED OPERATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE- 3RD

1/29/18
Roadways- Washington Avenue
Report of a female student driving with a suspended license.

CRIM NUISANCE 2- CREATE CONDITIONS WHICH ENDANGER OTHERS

1/28/18
State Quad- Eastman Tower
Report of fire alarm going off because of smoke from a hookah. Referrals were made.

IDENTITY THEFT 3RD:ASSUME THE IDENTITY OF ANOTHER TO DEFRAUD

Other- UPD
Report of a stolen and unauthorized use of a credit card.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED- 1ST OFFENSE

1/27/18
Roadways- IQ Lot
Report of a male subject driving while intoxicated. An arrest was made.

CRISIS INTERVENTION

1/27/18
Colonial Quad- Herkimer Hall
Report of a male student making statements of harming himself. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.

HARASSMENT 2ND

1/26/18
Indian Quad- Mohawk Tower
Report of a male student harassing a female student.

SA SENATE

Agnes: SA New Orleans Trip a 'Waste of Money'

By CHAD ARNOLD

A student government training convention that Student Association leaders will attend later this month in New Orleans has some within the organization questioning the trip's intentions.

Slated to take place between Feb. 9 and 10, the National Student Leadership Diversity Convention, which will be attended by at least five SA members, takes place during the annual Mardi Gras festival in New Orleans.

At SA's weekly meeting on Wednesday, Sen. Anna Agnes called into question the validity of the convention.

"That's a waste of money," said Agnes, who painted the trip as nothing more than a vacation for SA leadership paid for by students.

Those expected to attend next week's convention include: Jerlisa Fontaine, SA president; Madeeha Khan, SA vice president; Langie Cadescia, chief of staff; Nicholas Hacksaw, comptroller; and Aniel Luna, director of Inter-cultural Affairs.

According to Fontaine the trip is still in its planning phases, making the overall cost unknown as of writing.

Senate Chair Jarrett Altilio and Co-Chair Subha Tasnim are expected to attend the convention as well but have yet to fully confirm their intentions.

Expenses for attendees will be paid for using the executive branch's conference line, a \$5,000 provision in SA's budget -- which is made up of student activity fees -- designated for trips of this nature.

Should Altilio and Tasnim decide to attend, their expenses would be paid for using a similar \$4,000 provision in SA's budget split between attending student government conferences and SUNY Student Assembly conferences.

Agnes, chair of the Committee of Government Operations and member of SA's Board of Finance, said regardless of price she would rather see the money be used for student groups and programs on campus.

"I'd like to see the [conference] line be much less," said Agnes, who plans to make reducing the line a priority this upcoming budget season.

According to the 2017-2018 SA budget, the executive conference line was reduced by 50 percent from last year's \$10,000, while the legislative line remained steady at \$4,000.

Fontaine defended the trip on Wednesday saying such conventions benefit the campus community and will help her administration better understand diversity issues -- an issue she committed to while running for SA president during last year's election.

"Although I feel like the university is doing a great job with bringing all types of diverse students to campus, I feel like we're struggling to have conversations about very controversial things," said Fontaine. "I need to put myself and my peers in a position to learn how we can have those conversations because I'm not trained for that."

When pressed whether Mardi Gras played any decision to attend the February convention, Fontaine said the timing was a coincidence.

"It's wherever the conference is being held," said Fontaine. "We can't control where these are held or what our test and academic schedules are as well."

Altilio said he understands how students may see the New Orleans trip as a vacation for SA leadership but insists the conference will be beneficial to students in the long run.

"We do learn a lot from other student governments across the country," said Altilio. "We do figure out how, in different political and cultural landscapes, other student governments navigate those environments... I think there's a lot to be learned moving forward for our SA and how we approach those questions [of diversity]."

"Conferences are important because of the connections you make and the resource you gain from them," said Fontaine. "We're able to be a resource to our community. We're learning things, we're meeting new people."

As for the overall price of the conference, "It's a budget," said Fontaine, "and a budget gets approved."



AGNES

**HAVE AN ANONYMOUS TIP?
TELL US ABOUT IT.
CONTACT THEASPNEWS@GMAIL.COM**

STATE

Changes Unclear for Parish Partnership After Governor Throws Food Pantry Push to Lawmakers

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

The University at Albany remains uncertain how its partnership with a Pines Hills food pantry would work under Gov. Andrew Cuomo's ask to combat hunger on state campuses.

All SUNY and CUNY schools under legislation in the governor's budget proposal are required to have an on-campus food pantry or provide delivery and distribution services from an outside food bank.

UAlbany, which partners with St. Vincent de Paul's food pantry, currently doesn't have such services. The university is assessing how, if at all, the governor's proposal would impact the program.

Details outlining which entity would pay for the food insecurity initiative weren't mentioned in the governor's proposal. Cuomo requested \$1 million from the legislature to fund the program.

This has sprung some higher education activists to question if public colleges and universities would fund it.

"That places additional pressure on SUNY and CUNY who are already having to cover the difference between the maximum TAP award and tuition costs for people who qualify for full TAP awards," said Megan Ahearn, program director for the New York State Public Interest Research Group.

The SUNY Student Assembly expressed similar concerns over the initiative as an unfunded mandate during an executive committee meeting at Onondaga Community College.

For UAlbany administration, it's too early to judge how the program could impact campus operations until the final budget rolls out. The state's 2018-19 spending plan is due April 1.

"The University is supportive of the governor's focus on food insecurity among students at all levels, and we're still assessing how the partnership we currently have with St. Vincent de Paul fits in with what Gov. Cuomo has proposed," said Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, director of Media & Community Relations, in an email.

"But until we see the final budget language, which is likely a couple of months off, we would just be speculating."

Any potential changes would occur within the university's third year in partnership with St. Vincent. The program developed in 2016 between the parish and UAlbany's United University Professions chapter.

Since then, the university provides information about the Pine Hills food pantry during orientation programs and through marketing material.

Additionally, UAlbany has organized various fundraisers and donations for St. Vincent. Currently, university groups seek raise \$10,000 by April. It would be divided between the food pantry and the Regional Food Bank of Northeast-

ern New York.

For Angela Warner, director of the pantry, it's likely UAlbany students still struggle with food insecurity on and off campus despite the partnership. While the number of those served at St. Vincent has increased in recent years, she believes stigma may retract some food-insecure community members from stopping by.

"From time to time, we do have people who come in and they're like, 'Well, I never had to do this before, what do I need to do?'" she said. "You could tell that they're embarrassed."

Amanda Demma in a failed University Council run last fall campaigned on ending food insecurity, a struggle she's faced living off campus.

Long hours working and living expenses in Aspen Heights pushed her to eat infrequently.

"Sometimes when you need to save up, a box of pasta can get you a long way rather than anything else," she said.

Demma believes St. Vincent's location, less than three miles from the uptown campus, hinders student accessibility. There should be an on-campus food pantry, she said.

University officials mulled over opening an on-campus food pantry in years past. Using St. Vincent's resources and infrastructure made more sense, said Mike Nolan, UAlbany communications specialist.

"Rather than duplicate the work of St. Vincent de Paul, the University opted to try to enhance it by partnering with an organization already doing the work on the ground," said Nolan in a statement.



CUOMO



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Sodexo workers prepare for the opening of Damien's Cafe, organizing referee t-shirts.

BULANCHUK

Continued from Page 1

school's reputation for being a "party school."

After the decision in November to not serve beer and wine, university officials told them they had listened to their concerns, Bulanchuk said.

Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, university spokesman, confirmed on Thursday that Middle Earth played a role in the decision.

"I think that there's no one contributing factor, generally what we'd say is executive leadership at the university had conversations," said Carleo-Evangelist, "and they came to a decision that they want to set a tone that's appropriate for this campus, and right now that doesn't include serving

alcohol."

Students' opinions on the university's decision vary.

"If they [served alcohol] more money would come in for them," said Dennis Aboagye, a freshman biology major. "But it's gonna be crazy because a lot of people at this school like to drink."

Justice Callis, a junior, disagrees.

"Why not? You'd have a good time, the Super Bowl's coming up - might as well," said Callis.

"I just think kids should know how to handle their liquor."

After facing inspection setbacks, switching vendors, and reversing plans to serve alcohol last fall, Damien's is expected to serve its first customers on Monday, Feb. 12.

Restaurant chain WOW Cafe, which partners with Sodexo at other colleges, will

run the sports-themed restaurant. Because WOW is not a Sodexo-owned restaurant like Fountain Grill, meal plan discounts at Damien's will be 30 percent off instead of 50 percent.

UAS had said in November that the restaurant would be open by the end of January, but problems with construction and inspection held them back. Health inspectors initially raised viral suppression concerns over a door not releasing properly, and last week a fire suppression component did not work properly when tested.

Michelle Bowen, senior director of marketing and communications for UAS, described the motivation to create a sports-themed restaurant with a name like 'Damien's.'

"It's all about school spirit and making sure we're featuring comprehensive athletics across the board," said Bowen.

Pearse said that he expects Damien's to bring in revenue comparable to UAS' biggest earner, Fountain Grill. Damien's will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

On the menu for Damien's: burgers, chicken tenders, sweet potato waffle fries, and desserts like brownies ala mode.

Bowen also said that currently UAS is unsure whether UAlbany sports will be able to be streamed on the TVs at Damien's -- ESPN3, the carrier for many UAlbany games, has regulations limiting streaming in a commercial venue.

"We're working through that with ESPN," said Bowen. "I'm not promising that we're going to have every game here."

SA

Continued from Page 1

last Wednesday, the Albany Student Press asked members of SA whether they were aware of the reported larceny.

Nearly all of the 40 senators and 16

members of the executive cabinet in attendance said they were hearing about the incident for the first time.

SA President Jerlisa Fontaine said she was aware of an active investigation by UPD but knew nothing regarding the nature of the investigation.

"Anything that's under investigation is responsible by UPD," said Fontaine, who later said she was notified of the ongoing

investigation on Friday, Jan. 26, the same day the initial report was filed.

When pressed if any discrepancies have been found in the organization's latest audit, SA Comptroller Nicholas Hacksaw replied, "no comment."

UPD Chief Wiley declined comment for this story saying in a statement, "The investigation is ongoing and information in the report could compromise the criminal

investigation."

According to section 155.35 of New York State penal code, a charge of grand larceny in the third degree is a class-D felony punishable by up to seven years in prison. Such a charge is leveled when the property value stolen exceeds \$3,000.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Abortion Debate Includes Elements of Race, Seen with Selective Reduction

By **RAYMOND E. STRAWN III**

Abortion is a much-publicized issue with heavy regulations because those who are against abortions want to protect the life of the fetus. However, selective-reduction, a medical procedure that targets and kills a fetus to help increase the chance of a successful pregnancy during a multiple pregnancy, doesn't face the same regulations, stigma, or public outcry as typical abortions. Why is that? Comparing the two procedures, one factor stands out. Race.

Selective-reduction is most commonly used after a woman goes through in vitro fertilization (IVF). During the process of IVF, sometimes the woman will have a multiple pregnancy and to ensure a higher success rate of delivery or to decrease health risks to the mother and the other fetus, selective-reduction is advised. The procedure targets a fetus to kill to reduce the number of fetuses during the pregnancy, but the medical procedure

is done to "save lives" and continue the pregnancy. A typical abortion, on the other hand, is done to end the pregnancy altogether.

African American women are five times more likely to have an abortion compared to white women, according to a 2014 Atlantic article. A Guttmacher Institute article in 2017 looked at abortion rates for every 1,000 women between the age of 15-44 years old by race for 2014. African-Americans abortion rate was the highest at 27.1 percent.

Hispanics were at 18.1 percent and other Non-Hispanics was at 16.3 percent. The lowest abortion rate was white, non-Hispanics at 10 percent. The selective



STRAWN

reduction essay in the law journal also noted that non-white women in their 20s with little or no college education and

incomes at or below the national average are the majority of women who have abortions.

IVFs are expensive. According to an article by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, the average cost in the U.S. for a cycle of IVF is about \$12,513 and the cost per live birth is about \$41,132. The article noted that these high

costs make IVF treatments "impractical, if not impossible, for many couples, especially low-income families." The article also noted that minority women are

less likely to access assisted reproductive treatment—like IVF—because of the cost, education, and cultural beliefs.

A 2014 New York Times article found that 15 percent of white women between the age of 25 to 44 seek fertility services compared to 7.6 percent of Hispanics and 8 percent of African American women. In the article, Heather Lawson, a lawyer who received fertility services shared her experience of being the only black woman in the fertility clinics. "Nine times out of ten, I am the only person that looks like me," she said. "And these offices are packed."

Is there a connection between those who receive highly stigmatized abortions and those who receive selective reduction abortions, which are unregulated with no stigma? There is evidence that may suggest a racial connection. Therefore, there is evidence to suggest the debate on abortion may be motivated by race.

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NOISE FROM NOYES

Legislation Protecting Unborn Children is Justified

By **MATTHEW NOYES**

Last week, the Senate rejected the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act after having passed the House. The bill would make it illegal for someone to perform an abortion on a fetus that is 20 weeks old or older. It would effectively outlaw abortion past 20 weeks as a form of birth control- aka: ending the child's life because it is convenient for the parent or unwanted. What the bill doesn't do is restrict abortion under dire circumstances. A summary of the bill reads:

"The bill provides exceptions for an abortion: (1) that is necessary to save the life of the pregnant woman, or (2) when the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. A physician who performs or attempts to perform an abortion under an exception must comply with specified requirements."

Women would be allowed to terminate the life of the child if their health is on the line and if the child was conceived by a crime being committed against them. The individual that performs the abortion on a 20-week-old fetus outside these circumstances would be held to criminal charges. This bill comes across as common sense to some, while others consider it as an assault on their freedom to end the life of their children at will.

According to a Marist poll, 63 percent of Americans agree with restricting abortion past 20 weeks of pregnancy. The 20-week-old mark was chosen because of the extent to which fetuses tend to develop by that time. Around 20 weeks the fetus can feel pain, hence the name of the bill. They can also sometimes survive outside the womb by 20 weeks.

Restricting abortion past a certain point is not uncommon. According to the BBC, there are time limits on the gestation of the fetus in most European countries. For example, France, Germany, and Greece don't allow abortions past



NOYES

12 weeks unless there are extreme risks to the woman's health. Most European Union countries have a cutoff period for abortions past a certain week of pregnancy.

This specific issue shouldn't be taken as a battle between those who are pro-life and pro-choice. Many pro-choice individuals choose the 20-week period as the cutoff point. Despite that and a majority of public support, two Senate Republicans opposed the bill as well as all but three Senate Democrats. The bill allows a fetus to be put to death despite its development and ability to feel pain and suffer. It's even possible for babies to survive being born premature as early as 21 weeks into gestation.

Should you be able to painfully end another person's life for the sake of personal convenience? Of course not, but fetuses who develop the ability to feel pain can be aborted under current law. The bill the Senate rejected is not so black and white as to limit abortion earlier than 20 weeks or late term abortion under dire circumstances. It would allow late term abortion if the pregnancy poses a serious health risk to the mother and if they were the victim of rape. This bill is not extreme: it's common sense. Regardless of your position on the legality and morality of abortion in general, you should concede that there must be a cutoff period. If the child can feel the pain of its body being ripped apart by 20 weeks old, how can a cutoff past then be justified?

AWARDS

Academy Award Decisions Leave Out Common People

By **M. FRANCIS MIRRO**

I've never been a fan of the Academy Awards, and I've always felt that they're strange and snobbish. A bunch of millionaires gathered together, in clothes worth more than my parents' house, to celebrate one thing: themselves. With more excessive self-promotion than Lavar Ball and more unnecessary opulence than Versace, the Oscars, as they are famously known, represent nothing more than a televised display of "the Haves and Have Nots."

I'll never quite understand why people care, and maybe that's just on me. But I see more and more people wondering, as I always have, why we allow a strange collection of people, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, to tell us which movies are praiseworthy and which aren't. Cinema is first and foremost meant to entertain, and people are more than capable of determining something's value as entertainment without the oversight of a committee.

Even I'll admit to preferring an artsy movie, something that leaves you thinking in a little different way than you were before you first turned on Netflix. But an Angelina Jolie project about the genocide in Cambodia, or the seemingly endless bore of watching a screaming Sandra Bullock hurtle through space isn't what the average person is typically looking for.

Who wants to watch a boy grow up during a movie ("Boyhood") that took twelve years to make, also the length of time it takes it watch, when we have our own lives to live?

If I have free time, I'm more far

more likely to watch "Iron Man" than "The Judge," and I don't think I'm alone on that one. When you want to watch Leonardo DiCaprio, you'll probably turn on "The Wolf of Wall Street" before even considering "The Revenant," the meme-ending movie that finally won him an Oscar in 2016.

What omnipotent force ordained the Academy to tell Americans what we should like and not like? The American movie machine is so illustrious that it's a permanent link in our interconnecting national fabric. Yet, we allow a snobby aristocracy to tell us that a movie's relationship with a fish person ("The Shape of Water") is so obviously better than the gut-wrenching and surprisingly artistic end to the Wolverine saga, which not only did well in the box office but with fans and critics alike.

This is the same Academy which snubbed "Citizen Kane," Orson Welles' opus which, as anyone who's ever taken a film class can tell you, has since joined the stuffy ranks of high class films despite the picture's message against such nonsense.

This same Academy refused to award Francis Ford Coppola with best director for "The Godfather" in 1972 and failed to award Samuel L. Jackson for "Pulp Fiction" in 1995. No love for Jack Nicholson as Jack Torrance in "The Shining" or much of anything for the immortal Alfred Hitchcock? Martin Scorsese is considered one of the greatest directors of all time and was denied any awards until 2006's "The Departed," despite brilliant works including "Taxi Driver," "Goodfellas," and "Raging Bull."

These are not only movies, but important pieces within our collective



MIRRO

American zeitgeist. Iconic lines of timeless relevance have seeped into our language as though they were written by Shakespeare and performed at the Globe Theater instead of the Chinese Theater.

Fifty years from now, will we be quoting "Call Me by Your Name," a film I just heard about while writing this and yet is somehow nominated for Best Picture? I think not.

The Academy Awards not only shows off to the common man, with its unrequested and unwanted parade up the crystal staircase to the ivory tower, but mocks his interests and tastes. Surely the common rabble is not capable of deciding what they like, right? Even if they could, it's certain they'd chose wrong and we can't have that, can we?

The Oscars are a masquerade, with someone else's perception of culture and talent being forced onto the nation. I will thank the Academy once it promptly yields its pompous perch above the people.

POLITICS

Democratic Party Seen as Anti-Trump

By **LUCAS BOYNTON**

Coming off the heels of President Trump's State of the Union address and the Democratic Party's reaction, we must ask a question. Is the Democratic Party just the Anti-Trump Party? Is this a party representing a group of Americans with a vision, or an antagonist waiting for the demise of the president?

President Trump's address polled very well, coming in at 75 percent approval according to a CBS poll.

This is quite an achievement since the 45th President has struggled to get an approval rating above 30 percent.

In the same poll, 65 percent stated the address made them "feel safer," 54 percent stated they believed the policy would "help them," 81 percent expressed they believed the address "united" Americans, and 64 percent viewers participating were "optimistic" about the next three years while 36 percent were "pessimistic."

This points out that while the president is polling low among Americans, they were able to look past this and judge the address with an open mind. The Democrats in attendance did not seem to be able to do the same.

The president spent a good 20 minutes of the rather long address discussing the state of the economy, to which he stated, "African American unemployment stands at the lowest rate ever recorded."

The camera then panned to

the Congressional Black Caucus, a political organization almost exclusively composed of African American Democrats to which the Daily Caller stated "only one member of the [CBC] applauded low black unemployment" and none of whom got up from their seats.

The New York Times investigated this claim and concluded, "It's true that the black unemployment rate in December, 6.8 percent was the lowest recorded."

Therefore, only two conclusions can be made here. Either the Congressional Black Caucus doesn't care that African Americans are employed, or more likely that they cannot support Trump simply because of their disdain for everything he does.

If the attending Democratic CBC members are so opposed to the president that they cannot acknowledge progression by the community they most closely represent, then it would seem as if they are prioritizing their contempt towards Trump over recognizing the betterment of the American people.

Ignoring acknowledgments in an attempt to dishonor the president not only creates a divide among the country, but makes policy benefiting African Americans in this scenario less likely.

Ultimately, all Americans will pay the price for the CBC's resentment and dislike for our commander-in-chief.

Another key point made by President Trump was the unveiling of

a \$1.5 trillion infrastructure bill in the State of the Union.

Interestingly enough, according to the Washington Post, Democrats in Congress had been pushing for a \$500 billion infrastructure bill earlier this year, yet the New York Times writes, "Democrats who pressed for infrastructure spending since Barack Obama was president, were not satisfied," referring to the response at the State of the Union.

Although this is surprising, it gets even more hypocritical. Former secretary Hillary Clinton's The Office of Hillary Rodman Clinton posted a page of campaign promises relating to infrastructure. One of the promises listed was a "\$275 billion, five year [infrastructure] plan."

Therefore, the Democratic Party is supportive of a policy, yet when Trump proposes a policy with more spending for infrastructure, Democrats in Congress will not get behind it because Trump proposed it. Once again the American people pay the price (outdated infrastructure pay the price).

Overall, there was very little positive reaction from the Democratic side of the aisle, even when stories were told of true patriotism and escapees of the brutal North Korean regime.

Moving forward, this kind of activity is only going to add to the polarization of politics. Time has also picked up on this negative change in the party, writing "the party desperately needs to develop a positive, uplifting message that doesn't hinge on Trump bashing."

Americans are also picking up on this. According to a Time poll, just 32 percent of participants believed that the Democratic Party "stood for something," while 52 percent majority believed the party just "stands against Trump."



BOYNTON

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TELEVISION

In its Final Season, it Doesn't Feel Much Like a 'Scandal' Anymore



Source: Flickr

Main character Olivia Pope played by Kerry Washington, has lost her metaphorical "white hat" in recent seasons and upcoming episodes will confront any idea of redemption.

By DIEGO CAGARA

"Scandal," one of showrunner giant Shonda Rhimes' most popular television shows, is entering its last batch of episodes and while the series will conclude before the summer, the journey has been rather rough recently.

Returning from its winter break, the seventh season continues to be fizzling out quietly, neither making major headlines nor killing the ratings game.

With viewership figures under six million now, that is a pale comparison to its series-high record of 11.96 million for the season four premiere, "Randy, Red, Superfreak and Julia" which aired back on Sept. 25, 2014.

The current season's main winter break's storyline revolves, however, around crisis management firm director Quinn Perkins' (played by Katie Lowes) kidnapping, further exaggerated by how she is heavily pregnant.

The first episode since the winter break, named "Robin," was bleak, as the other core characters believe their friend and her unborn baby have died, even having a farewell memorial.

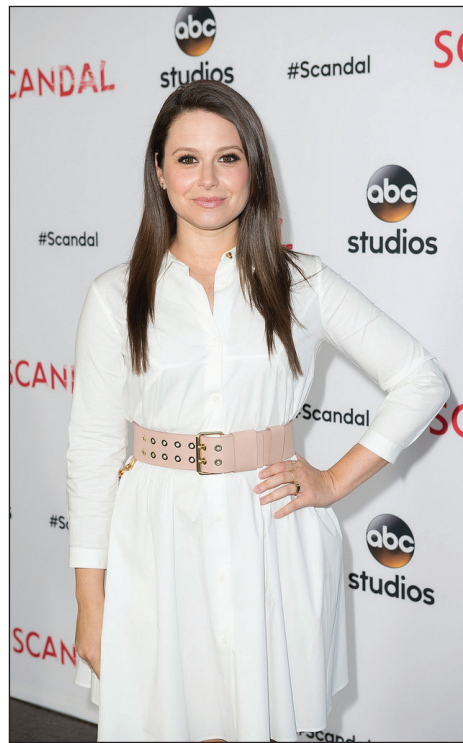
Ironically, the most poignant moment was when her close friend and colleague, Abby Whelan (played by Darby Stanchfield) sits dejected with Perkins' ashes in an urn on her lap, hysterical as she realizes just how fragile life can be.

This goes back to how "Scandal" can be both emotionally powerful while also cringe-worthy, as viewers and the media speculate that Perkins is still somehow alive somewhere and this dreary episode was just filler and crafted to add unnecessary drama.

However, the next episode, "Good People," revealed that Perkins is still alive, having been kidnapped by Rowan Pope (Joe Morton), the disturbed former so-called "Command" of B613, a black ops

organization.

The show's declining quality in writing and direction really were displayed during a scene, where an angry Rowan throws a temper tantrum and yells down at his toy dinosaur (which he knows has a secret camera that is spying on his house). This once-powerful and sinister man has been reduced to having childish fits who's been checkmated by his daughter.



Source: Flickr

The mystery around Quinn Perkins' (played by Katie Lowes, above), kidnapping continues.

"Tell [my daughter] that I am the darker brother, I am at the table," Rowan almost borders on insanity as he taunts the camera-

equipped toy dinosaur. "I too am America, and she had better recognize and respect! Command ain't nothing but a title. Father is who I am!"

Speaking of whom, main character Olivia Pope (played by Kerry Washington) is now a bitter, isolated and dark figure, having replaced her father, Rowan, as Command.

It's clear this final season will see her redemption.

This is key as viewers have seen her condone murder, among other unethical things. She also endlessly falls in and out of love with former U.S. President Fitzgerald "Fitz" Grant III (Tony Goldwyn) and NSA Director Jake Ballard (Scott Foley), and other random lovers-o'-the-night, which overall has gotten tiresome.

It would be intriguing to see whether she would end up with either man by the series' end.

One way the show could rejuvenate itself is focus more on Perkins' crisis management firm, which yielded many of the series' best episodes.

The firm, formerly headed by Olivia Pope, would handle crises that concerned real-life issues like police brutality, sexual harassment allegations in the workplace, homophobia, racism and murder.

Such episodes that revolved around the firm's crisis management also had memorable speeches and gave the firm's employees time to shine.

An example was "The Lawn Chair" episode, which aired on Mar. 5, 2015 to 9.57 million viewers, where Pope and her associates had to deal with an African-American teenager being gunned down by a police officer.

Having had serious sociopolitical commentary, this was a time where "Scandal" fans truly rooted for the characters to help do the right thing and get justice.

That sadly does not apply as much for

season seven now.

Ratings had been tumbling, especially since the season five winter finale, "Baby, It's Cold Outside," which scored just 8.13 million viewers and the following episode, "It's Hard Out Here for a General" fell to 6.96 million suddenly.

Except for one episode since then, the series never saw any future episode reach at least seven million viewers ever again, to this day.

"Baby, It's Cold Outside," being a Christmas episode, garnered controversy for its plot surrounding the potential defunding of Planned Parenthood, and Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington) secretly getting an abortion while "Silent Night," a Christmas musical classic about Jesus Christ's birth, played in the background.

The heavy political and religious undertones greatly affected audiences, explaining the show's ratings plunge since then.

With a few episodes left, there are perhaps two things fans can hope for at this point: where their beloved characters will end up in the series finale, and how there will be a special crossover episode with fellow TV show neighbor, "How to Get Away with Murder," set to air on Mar. 1.

Perhaps the fusion of leading female empowering figures Pope, and defense attorney and law professor Annalise Keating, played by the powerful Viola Davis, could live things up.

Rhimes has been dominating Thursday nights on ABC for years now—"Grey's Anatomy" at 8 p.m., "Scandal" at 9 and "How to Get Away with Murder" at 10—but that will unfortunately change once "Scandal" concludes, while "Murder" is struggling with viewership too.

While one can hope, this is one crisis Pope and Perkins' firm may not be able to fix.

IFC

Continued from Page 1

Chaplains bumped heads with administration throughout the fall, trying to push back on plans to vacate the IFC with a short-lived social media movement, #SaveTheInterfaithCenter.

After discovering a request between the university and John Holt-Harris III to kill a provision in the property's deed, Damhof, Cathy Reid of Newman Catholic Association, and Rabbi Nomi Manon of Hillel sent a complaint to the state attorney general office.

Damhof believes their complaint, along with other church closures across state, could bog down the legal review process as long as two years. Mike Nolan,

UAlbany communications specialist, said last fall that the transfer is likely to occur this spring.

"I would say we don't have any reason to believe why it wouldn't [occur], but it isn't a process under our control," said Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, director of Media and Community Relations, last week.

Regardless of the transfer's final verdict, interfaith programming remains on track to move into the Campus Center by June. Carleo-Evangelist said the move-in deadline accommodates summer orientation and the fall 2018 semester.

Interfaith programming's future office is undetermined.

According to Michael Jaromin, director of Student Involvement, while the chaplains' location remains unclear, they will likely have individual offices in the

Campus Center. A document from a meeting between Student Affairs and Facilities Management showed one potential temporary interfaith room located on the Campus Center third floor.

UAlbany officials including President Havidán Rodríguez believe the new location will provide greater support services and ease student access for interfaith programming.

Katarina Kitt, an undeclared sophomore who regularly attends Cornerstone Campus Ministries events, is vigilant about the move. She fears lack of sanctuary space will alter interfaith programming in the Campus Center.

"I know if we do go over there, we're going to make the best of it and make it work," she said. "It's just not the same."



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Members of Cornerstone Campus Ministry sit around and discuss faith, challenges, and the future of the Interfaith Center during Tuesday's annual Food and Faith event.

WRITERS INSTITUTE

Celebrated Novelist Gish Jen Discusses Her Books With an Asian American Perspective



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Gish Jen has also written for *The New York Times* and won accolades since 1986.

By KATY DARA

Award-winning author Gish Jen visited the University at Albany to speak about her new book on Tuesday, Jan. 30 in the Standish Room of the Science Library.

Jen is a celebrated author whose novels and short stories explore the Chinese-American experience.

Having written six novels previously, she has branched out to nonfiction with her new work, "The Girl At the Baggage Claim." The book compares the ideas of "self" in Eastern and Western cultures.

On her website, Jen writes, "While I think this book will be of special interest to anyone who is teaching or doing business with Asians, or visiting or studying Asia, I hope it will be read, too, by people wanting just to understand the world and themselves."

Jen spoke about her book and then took questions from the audience. She explained the difficulties of writing nonfiction for the first time.

"This book is something of a departure for me," she said. "People will ask me, 'Was it hard to write this book?' and I will say, 'yes.'"

The idea of "self" was greatly discussed. Jen explained that all people have a sense of self that they use to define their place in life.

In her view, people have their inner self and the person they actually present to the world. Both selves exist, but most people only acknowledge one.

"Just like you can say that you're left-handed or you're right-handed, but actually you can use both hands, similarly...you can talk about what it means to have one self or the other self...most people actually have

both selves."

Approaching nonfiction as a novelist was a transition for her, but Jen always felt that it was something she needed to write.

"I knew there was something about the dominant literary culture that did not quite fit me," she said. "In my book you can see little bits of memoir coming out. It's not a memoir, although in a funny kind of way, it's more about me than a memoir would be."

Jen is known for writing fiction that shows the world through the Asian-American lens.

An audience member asked how she felt Asian-American literature fit into the American literary canon as a whole.

"I think that Asian American literature is American literature...there is no one figure who can be representative of the American today," she explained. "To me, this is a very rich kind of literature...[but] there is no one lens that is the ultimate lens."

When it came to explaining why she began writing fiction in the first place, Jen offered some insight by saying, "I was very late coming to fiction, and I came from an immigrant family where people didn't write novels...I had always just loved to read. I had never thought of myself as a writer."

She shared that she recently uncovered her third-grade report card where her teacher noted that she loved to write, even back then.

"I felt like it took me decades to understand that this is what I had to do, but my third grade teacher knew."

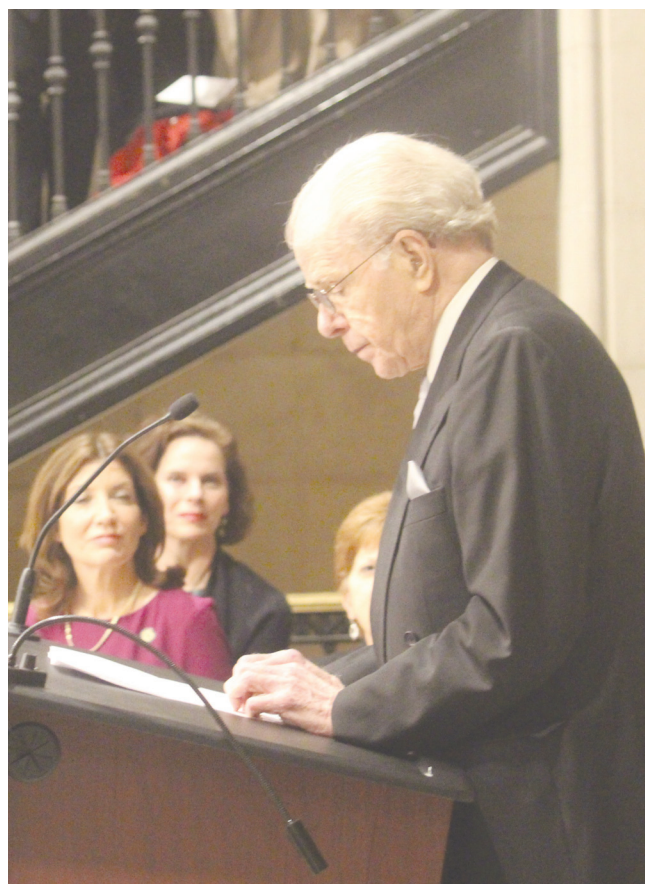
Jen left the audience with one piece of advice for writing nonfiction pieces, "Talk to as many people as you can...have them read it."

WILLIAM KENNEDY



PHOTOS BY TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

New York State Writers Institute founder and regional writer William Kennedy celebrated his 90th birthday (Jan. 16, 1928) at Albany City Hall on Wednesday. Speakers included Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul, and Institute director Paul Grondahl.



STUDY ABROAD

Senior Observes Queer Culture Abroad in Japan



Source: Jamie Parnes

Scarlet Brown returns from Japan with more knowledge on queer behaviors and culture.

By KATIE GIBSON

Gender and sexuality are deeply impacted by society. It's fair to say that the way we look at sexuality in America is not the same way it is seen abroad. UAlbany Senior, Scarlet Brown, had the opportunity to study Japanese language, sexuality, and culture at Kansai Gaidai University in Japan.

Brown found the experience eye-opening. She loved her host family, enjoyed taking three classes exclusively in Japanese, sightseeing, and working under esteemed professors. Brown even enjoyed learning the specific dialect of the area surrounding her university.

A double major in women's, gender and sexuality studies

and Japanese, Brown gathered knowledge for her thesis on gender and sexuality while in Japan. Brown acknowledged that globalization has melded western and eastern cultures, but she said, "There are clear differences."

Queer culture has been policed in the United States. Brown discussed the criminalization of queerness in our country and the way it shapes queer culture with events like Stonewall.

"It's about fighting back," Brown states, "Japan isn't like that."

In Japan, pressure comes more from family values than policing. Brown gathered that as long as one fulfills their family duties by marrying and having children, no one minds if queer behaviors are expressed on the side.

Brown pointed out the

importance of a traditional family structure in Japan. Her host family also fit a traditional mold.

She cited the incredible time commitment necessary to be a salaryman in Japan. It would be extremely difficult to build a career and foster a close relationship with children. Because of this, most mothers do not work and most fathers are not close with their children. Brown mentioned that it was unusual that her host mother held a part-time job.

When asked what she would do if she was given another semester to study in Japan, Brown said she'd study persecuted communities in Japan to give a wider lense of sexuality and culture in Japan. Such communities include people of Korean descent and the indigenous people of the Hokito region.

MENTAL HEALTH

New Year Calls for a New Mind

By KATE WEST

This year is young and many of us are trying to find ways to improve ourselves. For some we may be trying to find ways to better our health. Diets, gym memberships, and cleanses may be on your list of things to do. But what about the other kind of health — the kind that has to do with what's going on in your mind.

Mental health is a topic that is becoming increasingly focused on today. Especially in a fast-paced, ever-changing environment like college, many students may find themselves feeling anxious or even depressed. Plus, there's the added stress of classes, extracurricular activities, and even relationships. Amid all this, it's important to remember to take care of yourself.

One of the easiest ways to deal with issues is to simply talk about them. At the University at Albany, CAPS, or counseling and psychological services, is a great resource to keep your mental health in check.

Dr. Angela Banks said, "Students seek counseling for a variety of reasons. Everything from mental health conditions to everyday stress and issues."

Banks suggests a service called Lets Talk for students who may be apprehensive to one on one psychological counseling. This is a program held on campus that provides students with easy and casual access to a confidential conversation with a psychologist. A complete schedule for Lets Talk times and locations can be found on the CAPS website.

Another great resource for students is to contact a Middle Earth peer wellness coach. For example, say you want to improve your sleep schedule or study habits. This service provides access to peer mentors through a telephone hotline and online. The number for Middle Earth is (518) 442-5777. This hotline service is available Monday through Friday from 1 p.m. to midnight and 24 hours on the weekends.

CAPS also provides group counseling. Group counseling gives students who have common concerns the opportunity to come together and talk about them with the help of a CAPS psychologist. Some of the groups they have include LGBTQ, alcohol and other drug recovery, and grief group.

If you feel you need a one on one counseling experience, then you can make an appointment for individual counseling by calling or walking in to the CAPS office. The office is located at 400 Patroon Creek Boulevard across Washington Ave. in the same building as campus health services.

For complete descriptions of services, dates and times, and contact information about CAPS, check out https://www.albany.edu/counseling_center.



Source: Pixabay

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Danes Shake Off Rust vs. Colgate



SAM RUI / ASP

Men's lacrosse beat Colgate 13-11 at Casey Stadium in the first game of the season.

By ROBERT LEPELSTAT

With the snow completely melted at Tom & Mary Casey Stadium and the season opener just two weeks away, it's time to check in on the No. 3 ranked men's lacrosse team in the nation.

In their first game action of the 2018 season, the University at Albany men's lacrosse team knocked off Colgate 13-11 in an exhibition scrimmage at Casey Stadium Saturday afternoon.

"Our attitude and effort is outstanding," head coach Scott Marr said. "The kids are excited to play and very positive with each other. If we can continue to grow from where we are right now, I think we're in good shape."

Those in attendance got to see 2018 No. 1 overall recruit Tehoka Nanticoke in the Purple and Gold for the first time this season.

Nanticoke finished the game with three goals along with senior midfielder Connor Fields, the 2017 Tewaaronon Trophy nominee who also had three.

Colgate started out the game brilliant defensively as Fields was held scoreless in the first quarter.

Senior midfielder Kyle McClancy led the way with four goals to lead all scorers.

"It's all a testament to my teammates," McClancy said. "They were just finding me. I had the easy job. Just put the ball in the net."

The Danes held just a one lead after the first period but broke the game open with a four-goal second to take an 8-4 lead into the locker room.

Faceoff king TD Ierlan continued his dominance from his freshman campaign, a season in which he won over 70-percent faceoffs one year ago, finished the afternoon 13-for-20 (65-percent) to help seal the win for the Danes.

Fields, the Danes' leading assist man with 62 last season, picked up right where he left off. In the second quarter, Fields connected with teammate Justin Reh on a behind the back pass that Reh ripped into the back of the net for his first goal of the afternoon.

"We do that in practice all the time," Fields said. "He was



SAM RUI / ASP

sliding under and I was looking. I saw him create an opening for himself and just popped it in there."

Fields would lead all Danes with three assists on the afternoon.

UALbany held a comfortable 12-4 lead in the third when head coach Scott Marr decided to take his starters out including Fields, Nanticoke, and McClancy.

The Raiders would go on a quick run immediately after the substitutions, allowing Colgate to cut the lead to 12-6. The Raiders second half run was in part fueled by the turnovers by the Great Danes second unit.

UALbany finished the game with 13 turnovers compared to just 11 for the Raiders.

The Danes at times played stagnant on the offensive

end and didn't get into their sets as quickly as Coach Marr would've liked. He also hoped to see improvements in the transition game.

"We're not there yet. We're not even close. We really have a lot of work ahead of us these next two weeks."

UALbany will head up to Syracuse in two weeks to play the Orange at the Carrier Dome to open the 2018 campaign.

"Can't wait," Fields said. "We've got one more week against Princeton so we're gonna work on some things. We can't wait. Obviously more we could do but we thought we played well."

The home opener is set for Saturday Feb. 24 as the Great Danes face off against Drexel at 12 p.m.

TRACK

Continued from Page 10

"We're strong across the board, except for the pole vault. We don't have a pole vaulter. But, you know what? We won [the conference championship] last year without a pole vaulter. So, let's score as much as we can in everything else."

Despite this void, the Danes remain successful in winning not as individuals, but as a team.

"As a captain, team goals always come first," added Gronostaj. "We can't take the conference lightly as every team in the conference tries to beat us every year."

To Wolin, it's each athlete's selflessness that keeps him happy, "We win as a group, we lose as a group. And this group of kids understands that. I'm very proud of all of them."

The conference championship is right around the corner on Feb. 23. Before then, the Great Danes travel next to Ocean Breeze in Staten Island, as well as Arkansas, where they will compete—for the first time in program history—at the University of Arkansas' Randal Tyson Track Center, a venture that will support the team's ascension in becoming a nationally recognized powerhouse.



ALEC AMBRUSO / ASP

Kyle Gronostaj crosses the finishline in Boston, breaking the University at Albany's 3,000 meter school record.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Great Danes All Growl, All Bite

By ELIJAH CASPER

The University at Albany Men's basketball team won their second straight America East conference game 83-74 over the University of New Hampshire 83-74 on Friday night, thanks to a career high 31 points from Joe Cremo.

In front of a crowd of 3,831 at the SEFCU arena on Purple Growl night, the Great Danes finally broke away from UNH late in the second half and avenged a three point loss earlier in the season in New Hampshire.

Joe Cremo lead the balanced attack with 31 points as the Great Danes had four starters in double digits. David Nichols had 18 points, Travis Charles had 14 and Greg Stire added 10. Devonte Campbell also pitched in eight points to go along with seven rebounds.

Iba Camara lead UNH with 20 points and 10 rebounds on 10-of-12 shooting. UNH's leading scorer Tanner Leissner, who averages 18.9 ppg, was held to 15 points on 5-of-14 shooting. Josh Hopkins added 11 points off of the bench for UNH, who shot 6-for-25 from three.

"It was a good win against a team that has been playing well in league play, that's got a talented veteran front court," UAlbany coach Will Brown said. "It was a good win for us, a good crowd, and good energy in the building."

The win improved UAlbany's record to 18-7 overall and 6-4 in the league. Meanwhile UNH dropped to 9-15 overall and 5-5 in America East play.

Devonte Campbell opened up scoring for the Great Danes to start the night, and Cremo added 3 on the team's second possession to get the home crowd on their feet. On the next time down Greg Stire put a UNH defender in the spin cycle and was left wide open for a two handed slam to give the Great Danes an early 7-2 lead and put the Purple Growl crowd into an early frenzy.

The Great Danes controlled much of the first ten minutes of the game, pushing the lead out to 19-9 after an Alex Foster layup and then pushing the lead out to 23-11 after a Greg Stire layup with 10:48 left in the first half. The forced a UNH timeout and the Purple Growl was in full swing at the SEFCU Arena.

This would be UAlbany's largest lead as



SAM RUI / ASP

Junior guard David Nichols drives the lane on UNH defenders Iba Camara and Evan Horn.

UNH cut the deficit to one after going on a 7-0 run late in the first half as Jordan Reed scored five straight points for UNH as they closed the gap to 29-28.

After a UAlbany timeout, Cremo made two free throws and then hit a three on the next possession to put the Great Danes up 34-28. The Great Danes would take a 35-30 lead into the half. Cremo had 11 going into halftime.

UNH opened up the second half on a 13-7 run to get their first lead of the game, 43-42, just a little over five minutes into the second half. The UAlbany crowd was silenced for the first time all night as the Great Danes struggled to get the offense going. The fans then started to take their frustration out on the refs as boos began to

rain down after some controversial calls went against UAlbany.

The questionable calls eventually lead to UAlbany's coach Will Brown drawing a technical foul eight minutes into the second half.

"If you noticed our guys are pretty good about not saying 'boo' to the officials for the most part," Coach Brown said. "So I just told the team 'I got your back, you guys don't say a word' I apologized to the team, I just said 'I'm not gonna let anyone rough you up.'"

With the game tied 54-54 with 9:35 left in the game, the Great Danes began to take over. After a pair of threes by Nichols and 10 points by Cremo, the Great Danes went on a 20-10 run to go ahead 74-64 and never

look back. Going on to win by the score of 83-74.

"I started off the second half a little slow, but these guys kept telling me to be aggressive and David [Nichols] and Travis [Charles] and those guys kept setting me up in good spots tonight, so without them those points don't come." Cremo said, who scored 20 points in the second half, eight of them off free throws, as he went 11-14 from the free throw line.

Up next the Great Danes will take on league leading Vermont at the SEFCU on Thursday at 7 p.m. as they look to avenge an earlier season loss against the defending America East champs.

MORE FROM PURPLE GROWL



SAM RUI / ASP

TRACK AND FIELD

Teams Aim Higher with New Records

By ALEC AMBRUSO

The University at Albany's track and field program is elevating to new levels. Following an impressive showing at the Columbia Challenge in New York City, competing against the likes of Duke, Brigham Young University, Georgetown, and Oregon, the program looks to continue trending upward—by breaking its own records.

"We're on the right trajectory for our desires to become a top-25, top-30 national team," said Associate Head Coach Todd Wolin. "When you're breaking your records in January, and four in a single meet, it says you're going

in the right direction because usually your records tend to be at the end of the season. We're in the middle of the season."

The records he referred to came on Jan. 28 in the women's 60-meter dash, 200-meters, and shot put, as well as the men's 60-meter-high hurdles.

Two of these records have been broken yet again.

In Boston, Stephanie Osuji set a new 200-meter record with a blistering 23.59, and Tara Belinsky threw a shot put at 49 feet-08.25 inches—and they both bested their own records from just a week ago.

Team captain Kyle Gronostaj joined the record books as well with an 8:15.09

second 3,000-meter run, which was enough to win the race and dethrone the 8:16.66 mark set by Paul Lagno in 2012.

"This record means a lot to me because the 3,000m is both a speed and endurance event," Gronostaj said in a statement. He added that it shows his "diversification as a runner" due to his primary events being in the 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters.

The team has already competed in six different venues, each serving a different purpose in accommodating specific events and maximizing each athlete's skillset. This includes utilizing small, less competitive meets for high jump, pole vaulting and sprints, and banked tracks for faster distance times.

"We try and vary the tracks we go to, the meets we go to, the competition we go to," said Wolin. "It works out really well."

Currently, both the men and women are ranked seventh in the northeast region, and look to continue their dominance in the America East Conference—the men are seeking their 15th championship in 16 years, and for the women, their 7th in the last 8 years—and win at IC4A's and ECAC's as well.

Wolin spoke highly of both teams, and claims the women's team may be the "best team" the program has ever produced, but joked on one minor hitch.

Please see **TRACK** on page 9