

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

4 FOR NO.1

Battle for Top SA Office Begins

2018 undergrad presidential elections guide

By CHAD ARNOLD

The race to be the next University at Albany Student Association president is officially underway.

On the ballot this year are four tickets hoping to serve as SA's president and vice president throughout the 2018-19 academic year.

They are: Mark Anthony Quinn and Patrick Carroll; Langie Cadesca and Nicholas Pepe; Jouly Lajara and Alexander O'Leary; and Alejandro Gonzalez and MikaElla Rectin-Hernandez.

Before casting your ballot next month, get to know more about each of the tickets.

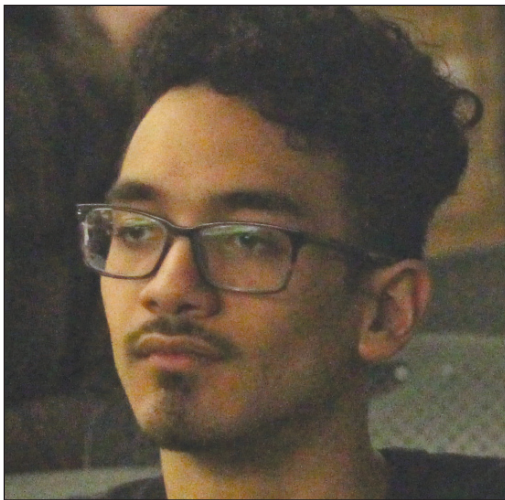
See **ELECTION** page 3



Top left: Mark Anthony Quinn; top right: Jouly Lajara; bottom left: Langie Cadesca, bottom right: Alejandro Gonzalez



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP



Who's on the down ballot?

Applied & Natural Sciences (2 seats)
Brian Yu
Morgan Eldridge
Nadia Naoum

Law & Government (2 seats)
Brandon Holdridge
Subha Tasnim
Tarlee Sonie

Humanities (2 seats)
Amber Swinden
Anahi Tapia
Dylan Marshall
Jenna Zier

Social Science (2 seats)
Briana Dominguez
Gabrielle Picard
Matthew Coco
Lisbeth Valdez

Business & Management (2 seats)
Christopher Brito
Dillion Asmus
Eric Silver
Jack O'Connell
Jeffrey Shapiro
Natalie Santos

Humanities (2 seats)
Amber Swinden
Anahi Tapia
Dylan Marshall

At-Large (13 Seats)
Alline Alvarez
Alondra Sanes
Cassandra Jones
ChiChi Igboekwe
Chloe Anne Blaise
Danny Cheng
Desann Carty
Dwaneisha Lewis-Wilson
Gina Tan
Jessica Richards
Joshua Charlot
Kelly Zelaya
Logan Losito
Madeline Brik
Mashaal Bhatti
Max Sevior
Nicholas Leonardo
Nick Gonzalez
Noah Vankuren
Nyla Khan
Omar Alrifai
Owen Howard
Rendy Desamours
Samantha McVey
Sean Correia
Skye Muniz
Terrell Miller
Tiffany Osei
Tyler Polite
Rendy Desamours

HEALTH

Flu Cases Triple Digits, Double from '17



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

The number of flu cases on campus increased from 67 to 150 this year between 2017 and 18. Cases of the flu typically occur during colder months.

By JOE HOFFMAN

Student Health Services has seen 150 influenza-like student illnesses since the first of January, more than double those the

health center saw over the same period last year.

"The flu is very wide spread this season throughout the country and here at UAlbany," said Dr. Robert Pulling, chief of pa-

tient services at the student clinic. "None of our students have had any serious complications to my knowledge."

Health services reported 67 students with influenza-like

illnesses in 2017, according to numbers university spokesman Jordan Carleo-Evangelist provided Thursday.

See **FLU** page 3

GREEK LIFE

Pre-law Frat Under University Probe

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

Unlike last semester, Phi Alpha Delta members aren't bearing their Greek letters at the University at Albany.

UAlbany's PAD chapter — a co-ed pre-law fraternity with a historically heavy presence in student government — was told by Student Involvement last month to sideline all activities as Community Standards reviews a complaint directed at the group.

The complaint was made months back regarding the organization's behavior, Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, director of Media & Community Relations said in a statement.

While reported in the fall, Carleo-Evangelist said UAlbany deemed January an "appropriate time" to issue a directive at the fraternity.

As of now, the university will not further disclose the complaint's nature.

Should Community Standards discover any act which violates UAlbany's code of conduct, students involved, along with the organization, could face university sanctions.

Mitchell Rybak, president of the Please see **PAD** page 2



RYBAK

PAD

Continued from Page 1

chapter, claimed PAD's executive board did not engage in or have knowledge of illicit behavior among membership last year. He has not yet received specifics from Community Standards.

"And so, I could say this: we have been aware that the allegation centered around hazing," said Rybak. "That is what we know, and I can say that we, as an organization, and we, as an E-Board, deny that."

Any act that degrades, humiliates or

endangers a person's mental or physical health is considered hazing under university guidelines.

While Community Standards looks over the allegation, members are not allowed to show fraternity letters on campus under the temporary ban, Rybak said.

"I don't really have anything to say to that," said Jarrett Altilio, recruitment chair for PAD, when asked what it's like to not wear PAD letters on campus. "It's not my place to say anything."

Also Student Association senate chair, Altilio is one of 23 members with a seat in the organization's legislative branch. Over a dozen PAD members are running on the

Mark Anthony Quinn-Patrick Carroll Student Association presidential ticket.

On whether there were any concerns that the ticket, which also includes several non-fraternity members, could be interpreted as PAD activity, Altilio said: "I mean, people always interpret that whenever we do anything in SA."

Claims of PAD activity influencing SA include former senator Alexander Terezakis two years ago alleging that the fraternity yielded strength in numbers to push Altilio to victory against then-opponent Austin Ostro in a chair election.

More recently, SA President Jerlisa Fontaine alleged that a senate vote on

conference oversight reform was pre-terminated due to the "demographic of the room, affiliations, whatever the case is." Altilio interpreted her comment as a knock on PAD.

Outside its membership presence in student government, the chapter is involved in networking functions, mock trial training, LSAT preparation, and organizing community events.

PAD has held a UAlbany chapter for some 27 years. Early in the decade, some members split from the fraternity to form Kappa Alpha Pi.

STUDENT OFFICES

Heritage Suite Groups to Move into Resource Center

By **TYLER A. MCNEIL**

Some cultural group leaders don't know when they will move materials into the Student Organization Resource Center. It's next month.

Organizations will move out of the Campus Center heritage suites, Student Involvement reported earlier this month. The spaces — one near the radio station WCDB and another in the former Multicultural Resource Center — house groups such as the Albany State University Black Alliance and the Asian American Alliance.

Ekow King, director of the Office of Intercultural Student Engagement, notified student groups about the March move via email last month.

For Jennifer Yang, president of the AAA, the message is still unclear. In her organization, members have used the Asian Heritage Suite in the former MRC for storage and occasional meetings.

"It's just a whole big confusion," said Yang. "Like, I have no idea what's going on."

Aniel Luna, SA director of Intercultural Affairs, who works with much of the heritage suite groups, didn't receive information about the March shift until an interview with the Albany Student Press two weeks ago.

Student groups have contacted Luna about future office space since last semester. Uncertain about future changes, he struggles to find answers.

"The lack of communication between whoever's involved in these changes and with lack of communication, people start saying other things and rumors start spreading so nobody really knows the real answers," he said.

About a month after Luna's start as director, the MRC moved from the Campus Center third floor into the west addition. Unlike the previous Center, the new space doesn't include student offices.

Most groups are expected to eventually move into the SORC, a multi-purpose space in the new wing. With the Resource Center still incomplete at the beginning of the semester, cultural groups were allowed to keep the heritage suites for storage space.

Storage units were completed in the SORC earlier this semester, a development Michael Jaromin, director of Student Involvement, said should increase traffic.

"I will say to you that what I have asked our staff up there is 'How can we increase traffic?' and that's going to take a little bit of a cultural shift," said Jaromin.

Jaromin, along with other members of administration have branded the SORC as "collaborative space." The concept is intended to build synergy among student groups.

Langie Cadesca, former Haitian Student Association president, believes collaborative space has potential, but with limits. The SORC's conference room, Cadesca said, would ensure greater privacy with frosted glass.

"I don't think it's the worst place in the world, I just think if it's geared more towards the purpose that people want it for, it should be fine," she said.

Nearby the SORC, the Muslim Student Association already uses space in the west addition. The new meditation room, Omer Ansari, president of the MSA argues, is difficult for worship.

The group's gripes with the new meditation room: the foot-washing station floods; the space is too small for growing membership; and with traffic from Starbucks and with outside it's not quiet enough.

"We need it to be a little more peaceful," he said.

UNIVERSITY HALL

University Applicants Up from 2017-18 School Year

By **KATY DARA**

UAlbany has received an increased influx of new applicants for the fall 2018 semester.

As of the beginning of February, the university has received 27,637 applicants for next semester. That is an 18.3 percent increase from the same time last year. This number is expected to increase, for the regular application deadline will not close until early March.

UAlbany attributed the increase to two factors: the Excelsior scholarship, and the addition of new academic programs.

"This is a significant bump, and interest in UAlbany is at an all-time high thanks to the University's largest academic expansion

in 50 years and the remarkable opportunity afforded students by the Excelsior Scholarship," said the statement.

"Between now and enrollment we will work to ensure that the resources are in place to provide all students with the quality education expected from UAlbany."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo claimed at the beginning of the month that the Excelsior Scholarship was the driving factor behind an increase in applications to state schools.

SUNY institutions saw a nine percent increase in year over year freshman applicants received through SUNY's Application Services Center and CUNY institutions saw an 11 percent increase in applicants.

According to the Daily Gazette, just under 1,000 students are receiving the

free-tuition scholarship at UAlbany. Approximately 23,000 students are making use of the Excelsior program statewide. This number is expected to increase as well, since the yearly maximum income for Excelsior eligibility is rising from \$100,000 to \$110,000 per year.

While many students applied to UAlbany because of the scholarship, some were disappointed by the outcome.

"The Excelsior scholarship affected my decision to come to this school because it promised free tuition. Although it came through, it didn't deliver as much money as promised," said Luke Woods, a freshman art major.

"I only applied to SUNY colleges because I thought it would be cheaper,

especially with the Excelsior scholarship," explained freshman political science major Nick Abbott. "It covers less than a thousand dollars each year which barely makes a dent in the total price of college. I wish I looked at other schools."

Fredrik Wieneke is a freshman currently studying cybersecurity who feels that he has gained a lot from the program. He said, "Studying homeland security has given me intense insight on the way our nation protects its citizens, its assets, and its territory."

It is unknown at this time how the increased applicant pool will affect the size of the upcoming freshman class or the university's acceptance rate.

CRIME BLOTTER

Unlawful Fleeing A Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle – 3rd Degree

2/22/2018

Roadways - Access H

Report of a male student driving at a high rate of speed. An arrest was made.

Criminal Nuisance 2 – Creating Conditions Which Endanger Others

2/22/2018

State Quad - Cooper Hall

Female student referred for safety code violation.

Criminal Possession Stolen Property - 5th

2/22/2018

Roadways - Collins Circle

Report of a male subject driving with a stolen inspection sticker. Vehicle was towed.

Intrusion Alarm

2/21/2018

Podium - Main Library

No emergency found.

Drug Complaint

2/21/2018

State Quad - Cooper Hall

Report of marijuana paraphernalia. Property seized.

Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle – 3rd.

2/20/2018

Roadways - Excelsior Drive.

Report of a male subject driving with a suspended license.

Crim Imperson – 2nd. By Internet with Intent to Obtain Benefit

2/20/2018

Podium - Campus Center

Report of stolen items from Campus Center.

Fire

2/19/2018

Alumni Quad - Alden Hall

Caused by microwave.

Welfare Check

2/19/2018

Dutch Quad - Beverwyck Hall

Welfare check on male student. Student found safe.

Arrest and Return of a Probationer

2/18/2018

Roadways - Fuller Road

A male subject was arrested for an outstanding Bench Warrant in Virginia

Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

2/18/2018

Roadways - Washington Avenue

Report of a male student in possession of marijuana. A referral was made.

Crim Mis - 4. Disable Equip Prvnt Emergency Call Protect Phys Harm.

2/17/2018

Indian Quad - Onondaga Hall

Report of a phone off the wall.

Possess Forged Instrument. 3rd

2/17/2018

Empire Commons - EC Commons Building

Report of a male student in possession of a forged ID.

Accident - Property Damage

2/16/2018

Roadways - DQ Lot

Assisted person in motor vehicle accident property damage.

Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

2/16/2018

Alumni Quad - Waterbury Hall

Report of odor of marijuana. A referral was made.

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

**Langie Cadesca and Nicholas Pepe**

The idea to run for SA president has been on Langie Cadesca's mind since her freshman year but didn't become a reality until last semester when she finally decided she was going to run.

The current chief of staff to SA President Jerlisa Fontaine wouldn't give details on when she decided to team up former SA senator Nicholas Pepe to form a ticket, saying only the two have a similar vision to change the culture at UAlbany.

That vision, according to Cadesca, has three main points: accountability, community and excellence.

"You have to be accountable for your team to build a community that will achieve and inspire other people to be excellent," she said.

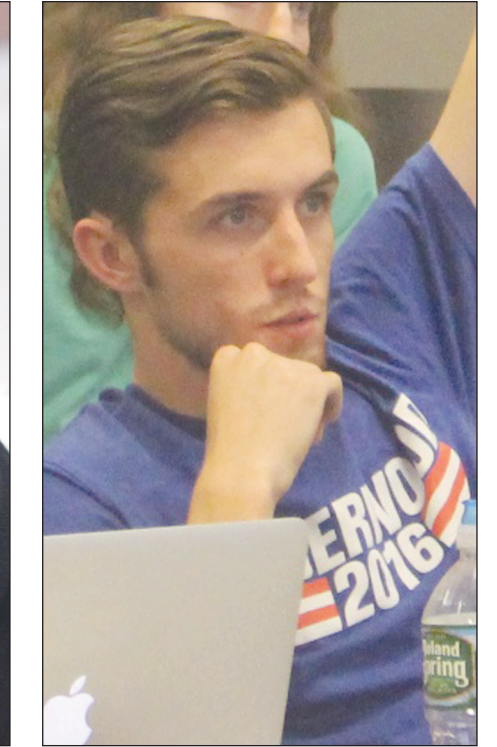
An active member on campus, Cadesca plans to focus her campaign not just on the Student Association, but the student body as a whole.

"Our passion is to get this community together to see it as one body," said Cadesca.

**Mark Anthony Quinn and Patrick Carroll**

Mark Anthony Quinn has been thinking about running for SA president since his freshman year. For the current appropriations committee chair, it was just a matter of timing and finding the right person to run as his vice president.

"Patrick Carroll is someone who I actually have a real relationship with," said Quinn of his running mate and current SA deputy comptroller. "We are literally in



the trenches shoulder-to-shoulder helping student groups. For me, it was a clear-cut choice."

Quinn said he has a "very long list" of things he'd like to accomplish as SA president, but marked increasing student involvement through better student group funding and expanding diversity inclusion as top priorities.

"UAlbany United, that's what we're pushing," said Quinn of his campaign's message. "We want to be united in our struggles and united as a community."

**Jouly Lajara and Alexander O'Leary**

When Jouly Lajara decided to run for SA president last month, after a year of mulling it over, his ideal running mate, Alexander O'Leary, contacted him proposing the two form a ticket.

"The day before I contacted Alexander O'Leary, he called me," said Lajara who explained the pair formed a friendship after meeting in class last year. "He told me the same exact things I have been thinking about

for a month."

For the current off-campus senator, improving communication between the SA branches, and campus diversity top a long list of issues he would like address should his ticket be elected.

"There seems to be this status quo on campus," said Larjara. "It seems like certain resources and certain things are only accessible to certain people, and that's what I want to work hard to dismantle. I want to diversify resources."

**Alejandro Gonzalez and MikaElla Rectin-Hernandez**

The only ticket with no prior SA experience, Alejandro Gonzalez and MikaElla Rectin-Hernandez decided to run as president and vice president respectively just a few weeks ago.

"MikaElla had some campaigning experience and I had some political experience so we figured we could combine those talents and put together a campaign that would really work for the school and the students," said Gonzalez.

An e-board member for Middle Earth, Gonzalez currently interns at the State Assembly. Rectin-Hernandez is a member of UAlbany's mock trial team and served as president for her high school's student government in St. Louis, MI.

With a campaign based on relationships and Christian faith, the pair hope to bring about ethics reform, greater oversight on the executive board, smarter spending and promote a safer more academically diverse environment.

"We want students to thrive on the UAlbany campus," said Gonzalez.

FLU

Continued from Page 1

Carleo-Evangelist stressed that the reports aren't confirmed cases of influenza.

"Student Health Services does not test every person who exhibits flu-like symptoms for influenza," said Carleo-Evangelist, "in part because the CDC advises that rapid tests for influenza can be less accurate during peak flu season."

Several students spoke about their experiences getting the flu on campus.

"[Urgent care] prescribed me a medication," said Carly Ward, a sophomore social welfare major who had the flu at the beginning of the month, "but apparently so many people had the flu at that point that the CVS across the school on Western ran out."

Ward said that she had never gotten illnesses like pneumonia or the flu until her freshman year of college.

"It was one of those things where you don't really want to get out of bed," said Ward. "My throat was really sore but just because I was coughing a lot. It felt like a cold on steroids."

The higher flu-like cases at UAlbany reflect a particularly powerful flu season in several years for the United States.

The Center for Disease Control reported on Friday the national percentage of outpatient visits for influenza-like illnesses was

6.4 percent, surpassing the peak reported for the 2014-15 flu season.

The number of child deaths associated with influenza so far is 97, which is lower than the 148 total reported for the 2014-15 season.

Campus dining hall's food pick-up service for sick students has been used 36 times since October. The "Sick Meals" program allows students to send their ID card with a friend to the dining hall, where they can pick up a boxed meal.

Students can pick up a box containing tea bags, dried soup mix, and Jell-O free of charge. Full entree boxed meals deduct a meal from students' plans.

At Alumni, Indian, and Colonial's dining halls, one, nine, and four sick meals were picked up respectively. Students picked up 28 sick meals, all in January and February, from State Quad's dining hall according to University Auxiliary Services.

"We actually recommend anyone with flu like symptoms to stay at home to limit the exposure to others, unless there are serious concerns such as difficulty breathing, or if they desire to be treated with Tamiflu," said Pulling. "General recommendations are rest, drink lots of fluids and take Tylenol or ibuprofen for pain and fever."

**ALEKSANDRA NEFEDOVA / ASP**

Student Health Services, located in the Patroon Creek Corporate Center less than a mile away from campus.

WELFARE

Proposed SNAP Overhaul Could Benefit USDA's Other Programs

By OLIVIA S. MATA

The latest news out of Washington regarding the status of welfare recipients comes off as a tad strange. President Trump has proposed an alternative to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits and E.B.T's: it's called America's Harvest Box, sponsored by the Department of Agriculture and would replace 81 percent of SNAP recipients with a pre-selected, pre-packed selection of staple grocery items. The United States Department of Agriculture has estimated it would save over \$2 billion for the U.S. government annually, and sells the box as not just beneficial for those who need food assistance, but for American farmers who would be stocking the boxes.

The proposal has elicited a heavy yuck factor from both parties. Democratic Senator Stabenow and Republican Senator Roberts, both on the Senate Committee of Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, have both denounced the proposal, and Stabenow has been quoted

calling the plan "a distraction." After budget director Mick Mulvaney commented on how the boxes were a "Blue-Apron like program," lead investor and community entrepreneur Joseph Sanberg distanced himself from the comment and highlighted that the proposed plan would feature foods that are processed, the very opposite of fresh.

But before we cry out on the insensitive nature of downsizing SNAP, or the "Harvest Box" isn't some evil-genius, dystopian creation devised from the imaginings of people with personal chefs. It has its roots in standard approaches to food pantries and food-assistance programs. Through The New York State Women, Infants, and Children's

Supplemental Food Program, the Saratoga County Economic Opportunity Council offers individualized food packages along with nutritional assistance. The New York State Department of Health's HPNAP program lists guidelines for its selection of food given out to shelters and other Emergency Food Relief Organizations throughout the state.

Simply put, all Trump is doing is reinventing the wheel -- one that was designed in 1939 by President Roosevelt as part of the New Deal to help relieve the burden of the Great Depression. The USDA was put in charge of the program and today, 69 percent of the USDA's budget is spent subsidizing costs for hungry Americans. While the number

of people receiving SNAP fluctuates, the monthly dollar amount is rising. It is easy to imagine SNAP taking up more and more of the USDA's total expenditure, leaving less money for the other functions of the agency. This includes projects such as sustainable land management, programs to improve opportunities and infrastructure in rural America and different types of food assistance programs like the WIC and HPNAP program funding for states.

Regardless, changes in SNAP are more likely to come in the form adjusting the USDA's budget, establishing strict work requirements and other subtle maneuvers felt longer by Americans in need that reflect more on our politics overall than one administration's view of government assistance and the poor. And while some may consider the proposal heartless, it's equally possible that this is the beginning looking for ways to preserve, not destroy, programs that benefit Americans in need.



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CONSTRUCTION

Constant Construction Plagued my Undergraduate Experience

By DANIEL RUSSELL

When I was a freshman, I walked from my dorm on Indian Quad to campus, and every day, I was greeted to a nice, big, mound of dirt. My neighbors that lived in Oneida Hall across from me would often complain about the sounds of drills in the morning that would often wake them up. My sophomore and junior year, I was greeted to a vacant campus center, where half the walls were made of plaster. And on my walk back to Freedom Quad, I was greeted to a giant metal frame where the Campus Center now stands. Now, in my senior year, there's a handful of different construction projects in progress on campus. At least I graduate in May.

My biggest problem with these various construction projects

is that they're eye sores. On a day with nice weather, they're a bit less noticeable, but during the days where it's snowing and raining (approximately ¾ of the time we're here for classes), it accentuates an often depressing atmosphere. I feel bad for tour guides who probably have to awkwardly explain to touring high school students that the construction is "just something you deal with."

It's also irritating to know that these fixtures are something that I don't get to reap the benefits of for long. Like I mentioned, the full usage of the Campus Center was defunct for the better part of two years, and now, it's great to have during my senior year, but that's all I get to enjoy it for. Future students will get to reap such benefits for all four years, while I was left navigating a campus that echoed

with the chorus of drills, and the sight of tents that blocked off views of what was being done.

With the new constructions, it's somewhat inconvenient for some students' routes to get to class. For example, I live on Empire Commons. As an English major, four out of my five classes this semester are in the Humanities building, and the entrance that I usually use to get into the building is blocked off. As a result, I have to walk to the other side of the building to get in. This is also the case with a few other buildings on campus, as well as some of the entrances to the lecture centers by the library. Granted, these projects only disrupt commutes by a few minutes, but if you're ever in a situation where you're running late, those few minutes can make a world of difference.

The one positive aspect of these construction projects is the fact that, for the most part, students don't really have to pay for them. The biggest example here is the Campus Center project, which cost about \$58 million, and was paid for by funds from the state. If these costs were imposed onto University at Albany students, I can guarantee you that it wouldn't have gone that smoothly.

I appreciate the fact that UAlbany is actively looking to improve their campus, but putting all these projects in succession of one another may be a bit too much. It wasn't something that got on my nerves too much in the first half of my undergraduate studies, but in the latter half, it's begun to irritate me. My best solution to this issue is to perhaps space out the projects a bit more, and let students enjoy



RUSSELL

the campus without being plastered by construction projects which are constant eye sores. I'll always have pleasant and positive memories of my time here at UAlbany, but the constant construction projects will be something that I won't fondly remember.

REBUTTAL

Capitalism Leads to Death and Disparity

By COLLIN O'CONNOR

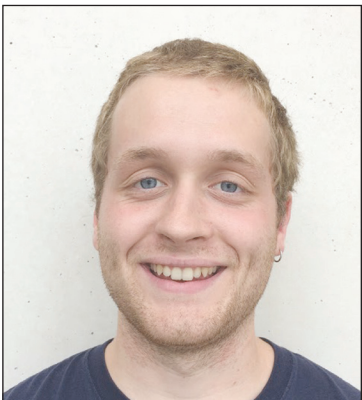
Since the dawn of America, citizens have been told to believe that taxation is bad. The notion that "taxation is evil" reinforces our belief that socialism is bad, as it requires taxation. Albany Student Press opinions author Matthew Noyes claims that taxation in any sense is theft. These are strong words from an individual who goes to a state-funded school. If taxation is theft, does that not make each and every student, faculty, and staff member at the University at Albany a thief? We are in fact using tax dollars to get an education, which is a form of socialism.

Socialism has quite the reputation in the United States. Some might call it a scourge, but to those who have empathy for other humans, it's fair. It's the best method of economic governing in order to establish equal opportunities to all citizens, a trait the United States repeatedly claims it has. Conservative pundits have constantly rebranded socialist ideals by using examples from totalitarian regimes, both communist and fascist alike. The fact of the matter is that modern socialism, like what's practiced in Scandinavia, is much different from the governance of Mao Zedong, Joseph Stalin, and Adolf Hitler. Modern socialism aims to reduce disparities in socioeconomic status (SES), which is a dirty word for the GOP.

Capitalism in the United States, on the other hand, seems to believe that a low SES is caused by the fault of the individual alone, which results in a continuous cycle of low SES. This belief leads to economic, health, educational disparities, and death at inconceivable magnitudes. In order to better understand this problem, let's take a look at

the issue of healthcare in the United States, followed by the real scourge of mankind: war.

To many, healthcare in the U.S. is a business for economic gain as virtually every sellable item or skill should be. Conservative America touts the pre-Affordable Care Act healthcare system worked, despite the nearly 18,000 lives lost every year due to lack of healthcare.



O'CONNOR

This issue could be much reduced if healthcare was controlled by a Socialist governmental system, instead of being based on a for-profit system, exploiting individuals' oftentimes uncontrollable health problems.

The 18,000 lost lives per year may seem like a large number, but it pales in comparison to the number of deaths resulting from wars waged for profit thanks to capitalism. The war in Iraq, which was waged following 9/11, was started for a slew of reasons. We were told it was because of 9/11 (none of the terrorists were from Iraq), and because Saddam Hussein had access to nuclear weapons (he didn't). The truth is that the U.S. went to war because politicians and corporations made money from it. Estimates put direct and indirect death from the invasion of Iraq up to around 500,000, which is apparently not as valuable to the estimated \$40 billion made by Dick Cheney's old company Haliburton.

Socialism, or "The scourge of mankind" as Noyes puts it, is helping provide an education to around 18,000 at this school. Coincidentally, the same amount of individuals die every year from a lack of ability to receive medical care, thanks to our capitalistic healthcare principals. I'll take 18,000 educated over 18,000 dead, but hey, capitalism is the way to go right?

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black History Isn't Just for February

By RAYMOND E. STRAWN III

It is Black History Month. Before writing this article, I never understood why Black History Month was in February, the shortest month of the year. I felt it was disrespectful. Once I learned its origins, it became clear to me as to why. But I still wondered, is it disrespectful to have it on the shortest month of the year? Aren't there other months that could represent Black History Month? Or is it fine to leave it as it is? Or maybe get rid of it altogether as Morgan Freeman once said. What I do know is, it is not up to me to say when Black History Month should be.

In September 1915, Harvard-trained historian Carter G. Woodson and prominent minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. That group is known today as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. In 1926, that group sponsored a national Negro History week on the second week of February to coincide with Abraham Lincoln's and Frederick Douglas's birthdays. By 1976, President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in February. Ever since then, every President would endorse a specific theme for Black History Month. In 2018, that theme was "African Americans in Times of War."

Expanding from National Negro History Week to Black History Month in February makes sense. But once again, is there a better month to designate Black History Month? It was originally set on the second week of February because of the birthday of Lincoln and Douglas. But how about having Black History Month in January, the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr.? Or maybe we should have Black History Month in August, the month Martin Luther King Jr. gave his

famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Both these months have 31 days in it. Even the U.K. has Black History Month on a month with 31 days (October). Some may argue that October has Halloween, but February has Valentine's Day in it. Maybe the number of days in the month doesn't matter at all. Having a month where we can educate and spread awareness about African Americans and their history is really all that matters.



STRAWN

According to Morgan Freeman, we should get rid of Black History Month. In 2005, Morgan Freeman conducted an interview with 60 Minutes and said, "I don't want a black history month. Black history is American history." Freeman explained that there is not a "white history month" because white people are celebrated every day; therefore, they don't need a month. Carter Woodson also hoped one day there would no longer be a need for Black History month because black history and American history would be fused into one. Whether you agree with Freeman or not, he does bring up some interesting points.

What is the "right" thing to do about Black History Month? Should it end, following Freeman's suggestion? Should we follow the U.K. and move Black History Month to a longer month? Or should we leave it as it is? Clearly, with tradition backing it, we most likely will not move Black History Month. But is February the ideal month for Black History? I don't know. But I would like to honor and show my respect towards African Americans during this month and every day afterward. In my opinion, we should never stop educating and spreading awareness about black history.

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MUSIC

Justin Timberlake Reflects on Family and Love and on ‘Man of the Woods’



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Timberlake, above, began his Super Bowl halftime show setlist with “Filthy,” the lead single from “Man of the Woods.”

By DANIELLE MARTINEZ

Justin Timberlake released his album, “Man of the Woods,” on Feb. 2, 2018. According to Timberlake himself, there had been speculation if he would make a country album. The album is named after his son, Silas. The name Silas means “man of the forest.”

During the past week, I’ve seen interviews stating that

Justin Timberlake is referencing his family a lot in his album. This statement is true because his wife and son are featured throughout various tracks.

“Young Man” is a great song on the album which is a reference to his son, Silas. I admire that Timberlake is saying to his son in the track that it’s okay for him to cry and he encourages him to be his own person. This song overall describes a parent’s unconditional love for their

child.

Another song, “Say Something,” features the vocals and acoustic guitar stylings of country star, Chris Stapleton. Who could forget Timberlake and Stapleton’s performance of “Tennessee Whiskey” and “Drink You Away” at the 2015 CMA Awards? It was a powerhouse performance.

The second best track on the album is “The Hard Stuff,” its deep lyrics talking about real love. The song discusses going through the ups and downs in relationships.

However, no matter what life throws at a couple, standing by each other and being supportive triumph over any troubles that they may have at the end of the day.

The next song I want to discuss is “Flannel.” Although there may be misconceptions that the song is about a flannel shirt, the meaning is profound.

The song talks about the type of love a father and mother sometimes give a child. It discusses love, the soul and one’s own personal experiences. Timberlake’s singing softly in the background has a resemblance to Prince’s “Purple Rain.”

Releasing a new album before the Super Bowl was a god marketing tool. The first song off the album is the first song he performed at the halftime show which was “Filthy.”

“Filthy” is a catchy tune and features a lot of futuristic sounds. The purpose behind “Filthy” seems to be Timberlake embarking on a different track and he doesn’t care what the haters say.

Critics may be quick to point out the cons of Timberlake’s recent album, but after sitting down and listening to the entire album, I really appreciated his insightful words and soothing sounds.

I think the album deserves a listen because it is different from Justin Timberlake’s other albums. However, just because its different doesn’t mean it isn’t successful.

Justin Timberlake’s album is about life lessons. It’s about where he is in his life with his family and all that he’s accomplished.

CINEMA

When the World was ‘Freed’ from ‘Fifty Shades’

By DIEGO CAGARA

The “Fifty Shades” film franchise feels like a one-night stand that one should desert the morning after.

While the original film was marketed as a romance film flocked with literally in-your-face sex scenes to help spice up one’s theatrical visit, it has since now awkwardly climaxed into a film series that has issues not only with critics and audiences, but also its own identity.

The most obvious genre the franchise is concerned with is its erotica and much-discussed sex scenes.

While lead actors Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson definitely are considered by many to be physically attractive, their chemistry sadly never make it past the front door and they don’t feel natural around each other.

However, this third film, “Fifty Shades Freed,” which came out on Feb. 9, starts to show Dornan and Johnson looking and feeling more comfortable around each other.

It does not feel as terribly awkward like in the first film but it once again revolves back to the concept of the franchise’s confused identity.

While it delivers in serving a buffet of sexual fantasies, the franchise attempts to convince audiences that there is a genuine romance between Dornan’s Christian Grey and Johnson’s Anastasia Steele.

There is also drama as Grey’s troubled childhood and background have come up, and Steele (in one of the franchise’s rare strong points) respectfully tries to break down Grey’s metaphorical walls.

With “Fifty Shades Freed” though, there is now a thriller element as Steele’s creepy former boss who’d sexually harassed her in the last film, Jack Hyde (Eric Johnson), has become a tragic stalker who resorts to trespassing, kidnapping and ransom.

Director James Foley and original novelist E.L. James seem to not have a clear grasp of what the novel series and film franchise should go, resulting in the confusing juggling of genres that’s thrown to the audience.

Like how Dakota Johnson’s character remained wide-eyed throughout the three films, “Fifty Shades Freed” desperately needed direction and a purpose.

“Fifty Shades Freed” began with—and quickly moved on from—Grey and Steele’s wedding, something that was heavily promoted in teaser trailers and the prior film’s ending.

So, it seemed quite odd the ceremony ended quite abruptly in this film. As the couple shared their first dance, they would not realize they would later deal with an unwanted pregnancy and Hyde’s jealous wrath.

There were some satisfactory action sequences as the two were involved in a car chase, and Steele had to deal with Hyde kidnapping her sister-in-law, Mia Grey (played by Rita Ora).

The film was also flocked with numerous sex scenes, always being accompanied by a dramatic soundtrack to amp up the so-called sexual tension between the two main characters.

The main highlight of “Fifty Shades Freed”—which ironically was not even truly part of this film—was a poignant montage of scenes from the prior two films, quickly recapping how Grey and Steele first met, fell in love and how their journey has led to them to where they are by this film’s end.

Pop singer Ellie Goulding’s 2015 smash hit, “Love Me Like You Do” began playing too, making this bittersweet montage the most memorable part of the film as it also reminds how much the “Fifty Shades” franchise has contributed to pop culture.

There was a sense of responsibility this film franchise had but never followed through with.

It had sparked intense discussions about obscenity, BDSM, sensuality and what type of sex is considered “normal” (and even whether that thought process is politically correct).

The public and academia have debated about all this, propelling “Fifty Shades” into a worldwide phenomenon but the films themselves overall just felt awkward and half-hearted.

While quality was missing from this ménage à trois of a franchise, quantity won out.

The original film made over a whopping \$571 million altogether and the second made a slightly-flaccid-but-still-functioning \$380 million. As of Feb. 25, the third has made over \$320 million, a respectable worldwide gross so far.

No matter what anyone says, one can’t deny how “Fifty Shades” has influenced

popular culture.

It has inspired much R-rated humor via social media and word of mouth, and even yielded some memorable soundtracks, like Ellie Goulding’s aforementioned “Love Me Like You Do,” The Weeknd’s “Earned It,” and Zayn and Taylor Swift’s “I Don’t Wanna Live Forever.”

The film ends on a happy note, with the Greys now being parents of two children.

While one may wonder how being parents will have affected the Greys’ sexual appetite, there won’t be another film or novel to answer or illustrate that question.

It could have renewed heated debates about the films again among the public and academia; this time, it’d hypothetically revolve around whether parents should continue with BDSM when their children are probably snoozing in their bedrooms next door.

If another novel or film after “Fifty Shades Freed” does spring up though, using the safe word should suffice.



Source: Flickr

The “Fifty Shades” books and films have become pop culture phenomena, ever since the “Fifty Shades of Grey” novel first came out in 2011.

CINEMA

‘Black Panther’ is More Than a Movie, It’s a Globally Conscious Movement



Source: Flipboard

Chadwick Boseman, top left, as T'Challa/Black Panther fights Michael B. Jordan, top right, who portrays the complex villain, Erik "Killmonger" Stevens, to decide who becomes the Wakandan king.

By DIEGO CAGARA

Never has there been any Marvel superhero that has been as socio-politically, racially and culturally conscious as “Black Panther” which debuted on Feb. 16.

The eighteenth movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), “Black Panther” deserves widespread recognition for its themes, delivering its promise of featuring an all-but-two black cast, its thrilling soundtrack à la Kendrick Lamar, and Ryan Coogler’s direction.

The film had been highly anticipated worldwide, particularly among people of color, as watching a black superhero in theaters is rare, hence further offering diversity in the superhero film industry.

Black Panther was the first superhero with an African background to hit popular comics back in 1966 after all.

Across social media, people have posted and shared how avid filmgoers arrive in traditional African garb, some even showing up with African drums, and many doing triumphant poses with the film posters.

It all also translates into numbers as the film grossed over \$202 million in the U.S. over its first three days (being the fifth highest of all time), and earned a massive

\$242.1 million in its four-day opening weekend, both records of which helped make it the most financially successful film opening for an African-American director.

Set after 2016’s “Captain America: Civil War” where the Black Panther character debuted onscreen, this film shows T’Challa (Chadwick Boseman) going back to Wakanda, a thriving and technologically-advanced African nation that’s disguised as a Third World country.

As his father had died in the previous film, T’Challa eventually becomes king but he becomes challenged by malevolent forces like Erik “Killmonger” Stevens (Michael B. Jordan) and Ulysses Klaue (Andy Serkis).

Wakanda secretly has an abundance of vibranium—an extraterrestrial material that offers superhuman powers and also helps power Wakanda’s technology.

This is a haunting reference to how white colonists had won control over Africa’s resources and peoples during the Scramble for Africa in past centuries; though this time, vibranium has not been fully exploited by outsiders yet.

Boseman impeccably portrays T’Challa as a respectful leader who cares much for his family and Wakanda, though he sometimes falls back as he is more reserved

than his more animated cast mates.

This is a clever decision on the filmmakers’ part as Black Panther is not shown to be too aggressive or “in your face.”

Like his moniker, he blends into the night, only striking if he has to.

Jordan does a great job at painting Killmonger as a complex yet intimidating character who, while he seems intent on revenge, feels like Wakanda should share its vibranium with the world, but for troubling reasons.

He wants to literally empower people of African backgrounds to use it to overthrow their suppressors, as if for vengeance for the racism, exploitation and slavery they’ve long faced throughout human history.

This brings up an intriguing discussion of whether Killmonger’s objectives are justified because his point about African people deserving to have more power does make sense.

Thus, this is one of the film’s stronger points as it shows that it is much more than a standard superhero movie and that there is a larger crisis at stake that transcends Wakanda’s borders and the movie screen.

The so-called “Women of Wakanda” also were stellar paragraphs in this 134-minute film, offering female empowerment.

Comic relief comes in the form of Shuri (Letitia Wright) who is the more excitable sister of T’Challa whose intelligence for a 16 year old feels unparalleled.

She has immediate access to the nation’s advanced technology, shown to be more vibrant and illustrative than the West’s, which she designed.

Okoye (Danai Gurira) is at the forefront of the female-only special forces of Wakanda, called the Dora Milaje who also are T’Challa’s chief protectors. Gurira incorporated parts of the fighting style of Michonne, her character in AMC’s “The Walking Dead.”

She becomes a key figure in the film as she’s involved in many of the action sequences while she remains loyal to her duty even when Killmonger takes the throne, which causes a personal predicament over where her true loyalties lie.

Finally, Angela Bassett is always radiant as Ramonda, T’Challa and Shuri’s mother.

Even when she is stripped of her role as Queen Mother of Wakanda midway through the film due to Killmonger becoming king, her maternal instincts and gentle-but-firm disposition makes her quite the unforgettable character.

The cast, as well as revealing that

CULTURE

Event Explores Judaism Across Globe

By KATY DARA

Jewish student groups held their third annual Shabbat 360 dinner on Friday, Feb. 23 in the Campus Center Ballroom.

The event was sponsored by Student Association, non-profit Jewish student center Shabbos House, and five UAlbany student groups: Hillel, Lchaim, Kehila, Ruach, and Great Danes for Israel.

The groups opened the dinner to the public to promote the idea of inclusivity and to teach others about UAlbany’s Jewish community.

“I think that having this open dinner is a very good idea because for people like me...I get to be in touch with people who are Jewish and I get to learn more about the religion,” said Noelle Vanyi, a freshman student who is not Jewish.

“One of my best friends is Jewish...and I think it’s very interesting to be open-minded and I think it’s very important to learn about other people’s cultures so that you can also learn about respect.”

The theme was “Around the World,” with each table marked with a flag to represent different countries. Each table also had trivia about Judaism in that country and icebreakers for guests.

“Roll the dice” trivia games encouraged discussion at tables. Throughout the night, Jewish songs and blessings were performed in the tradition of Shabbat.

Hillel faculty adviser Rabbi Nomi Manon, who helped organize the event, agreed with the sentiment of including the whole community.

“Shabbat 360 is a big event that we do once a year, and not only does it get the Jewish community together on-campus,” said Hillel president Ryan Fox, “but in addition it gets other student groups involved and it really brings us together for one big meal.”

“The participation in it just shows that when all different Jewish organizations work together... we really produce a great community.”



Source: Flipboard

Members of campus Jewish organizations pose at Shabbat 360 in the Campus Center ballroom.

SEXUALITY MONTH

Speaker Talks Surviving, ‘Journey to self-love’

By EGYPT SANTIAGO

A gender, transgender, gender fluid or cis gender are all terms you might be familiar with. Trace Lysette, a “Living out loud” transgender woman and TV actress, touched the hearts and minds of University at Albany students, as one of the keynote speakers of sexuality month. Lysette currently plays Shea on Amazon’s hit show “Transparent.”

Lysette deals with transphobia on a day-to-day basis. “I still remember the day that I was called into human resources and told that I would not be allowed to use the women’s restrooms at Bloomingdale’s where I worked,” she reported.

In 2008, Lysette moved from Dayton, Ohio to New York City to pursue acting. She turned to the House and Ballroom scene to save up for her transition and began stripping for at least eight years to afford the street hormones she purchased at the time.

She refers to her transition as, “The journey to self-love...My truth and purpose set me free. All those years of trying to blend in when I was really meant to just stand out and be a voice.”

Lysette stands as a reminder that we are fighting for America’s transgender youth and their rights as minorities in an under-represented, marginalized community.

“While I passed as cis gendered most of the time I was not one hundred percent exempt from being clocked or scooped as we call it,” she shared, looking into the crowd.

“The thought that I could be cat-called and then — if discovered as trans — beaten to death, horrified me,” Lysette recalled. She referenced the death of a transwoman in Harlem who had been beaten and killed by a group of men after being cat-called and discovered as trans.

More and more, schools and other public facilities are accommodating those who identify as transgender from discrimination and harassment. Lysette described an inner power that got her through her rocky road and the encounters that would have proven a weaker spirit unworthy.

“Often times in the queer community, it might not be your biological family, but I think chosen family and friendships are where I always clung to get me through those dark times.”

As part of the #MeToo movement as well, Lysette is a survivor of many calibers. Standing tall in the face of discrimination and sexual assault, she speaks out against her former cast member Jeffrey Tambor and supports the justice of over sexualized women.

“I never got to go to college.” Lysette shared with the question-hungry crowd. “I never learned skills to get me through life that were beyond my best resource which



LYSETTE

ended up being my body. And for a lot of trans women, that’s the only resource that they have.”

For Lysette, it was all about survival.

A bigger issue still remains for the trans community. Whether gender identity should be federally protected as a civil right or not, Lysette simply stands on the side of equality.

“I had to somehow harness this lifetime battle of depression, identity, otherness and all of these things and I knew that my life had to be something bigger. I knew my life had to be bigger than waiting for a man to accept me. I knew my life had to be bigger than a statistic.”

As an advocate for “TrevorLIVE,” a LGBTQ suicide hotline, she is doing just that.

ACTIVIST

Trans Jewish Advocate Draws Support On Campus

By MICHAEL APOLLO

University at Albany students filled Campus Center room 375 to hear transgender Jewish activist Abby Stein share her story and insight into transgender issues.

Stein left the Hasidic Jewish community of Williamsburg, Brooklyn in 2012 through the help of Footsteps, an organization that assists people who wish to leave the ultra-Orthodox community.

In September 2015, Stein began hormone replacement therapy, and two months later, published her coming-out post on her blog, The Second Transition.

Stein serves as an activist and educator. Additionally, she is an undergraduate student at Columbia University studying political science and gender studies.

Presented by Kehila Conservative Jewish Student Group in collaboration with Hillel, Stein’s presentation was the final event of the 35th Anniversary Sexuality Month hosted by UAlbany’s Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program.

Sarah Nolan, the director of Middle Earth, said the goal of Sexuality Month is to educate students about sexuality through a diverse range of topics.

Stein was the second of two trans speakers on the Sexuality Month agenda. Actor Trace Lysette, known as “Shea” on the Amazon series “Transparent,” presented this year’s keynote address two days prior.

The audience included members of the general public, Middle Earth participants and students from the Jewish and LGBTQ campus communities.

Junior and public policy student Hailey Hamias said she was excited about the event.

“I’m interested in the intersectionality of gender and religion,” said Hamias.

Hillel president Ryan Fox said he was pleased by the size of the crowd.

“It is awesome to see so many people here to welcome such a



MICHAEL APOLLO / ASP

famous face to UAlbany,” said Fox.

Hasidic Jewish communities have been known to dismiss the legitimacy of transgender men and women.

“I used to joke when I started my activism: the day the Hasidic community is hating trans people, I have accomplished my goal,” Stein said. The Hasidic community also enforces strong divides between men and women, she added.

Stein said a common argument she hears is, “Where were all the trans people 100 years ago?” Stein believes she can prove the existence of trans and gender nonconforming individuals throughout history, especially in Judaism.

Stein, trained as a rabbi prior to leaving the Hasidic community, claims to have identified references to transgender men and women in an abundance of Jewish texts.

One such text was a translation of an 18th century Hasidic teaching that Stein showed her father when she came out to him as trans.

“At times the female will be in a male body. The soul of the female will come to be in a male,” the translation read.

“Who you are and what your body is doesn’t always add up,” Stein said. “Blame it on Hollywood or counter culture or hippies...we were around throughout history.”

Stein ended her presentation with a video from her 2016 name change ceremony at her Manhattan synagogue, Romemu. David Ingber, Romemu’s founding rabbi, compared Stein’s transition to the exodus of the Jews from Egypt.

“Whenever we leave a narrow place, a place of constriction...a place where we are not authentically who we are...that transitioning is an exodus. It’s a freedom walk,” Ingber said as he welcomed her to “a place of new name.”

Aliza Barnett, president of Kehila, said the event exceeded her expectations.

“We are so honored that Abby was able to join us and impart her experiences and wisdom,” Barnett said. Barnett said the popularity of the event and resulting support for the Jewish and LGBTQ campus communities reveals UAlbany’s diversity.

ROMANCE

SHAPE a Healthy Relationship

By KATIE GIBSON

We all could do better to understand and care for our partners, friends, and family. A healthy relationship can seem like an impossible standard at times, but it is the only way to truly love. We need to recognize unhealthy and abusive actions in ourselves and others to improve and protect ourselves.

On Thursday, Feb. 15 Project SHAPE (Sexual Health and Peer Education) put on an interactive panel about our conceptions of what makes up a healthy relationship. Members of SHAPE read a situation and the audience had to hold up a green card for healthy action, yellow for unhealthy action, and red for abusive action.

Some actions drew mixed responses such as whether to share passwords at the demand of a partner. Carol Stenger, founder and director of SHAPE, emphasized the importance of trust in a relationship. If you are in a healthy relationship your partner will trust you to do what is best. If you have concerns about your relationship it is imperative to communicate with your partner in an open and honest way.

The audience was given a flier with the warning signs of abusive. These signs include: “Get[s] angry when I don’t drop everything for him or her? Criticize[s] the way I look or dress, and say[s] I’ll never be able to find anyone else who would date me? Keep[s] me from seeing friends or talking to any other guys or girls?” Be on the lookout for nonconsensual, unbalanced power dynamics.

But how do you develop a healthy relationship? SHAPE says mutual respect, trust, honesty and support. Try to understand each other’s flaws. No one is perfect. Be honest about who you are and build trust so that you two can grow together. SHAPE also advises curating your own identity. Join clubs and work on hobbies. Stay your own person so that you and your partner have something to talk about at the end of the day. And most of all communicate.

We are often brought up with the romantic idea that our “soulmate” will understand us in every way. They will just get us. But no one will ever be able to read our minds. If you are irritated, or sad, or lonely you need to tell your partner. Be with someone who makes you feel safe, and even encouraged, to share your feelings. I know like this sounds like a lot. Many of us have never loved or been loved in this way. But it does exist.



Source: Pexels

What’s your weirdest food pairing?

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BASEBALL

Duke Dogs Tame Danes in Series



Source: UAlbany Athletics

The men won 1 of 3 games against James Madison.

By OMAR NOUJOURM

HARRISONBURG, V.A. — It may still be February, but with the UAlbany Baseball season officially underway, spring is in the air.

The Great Danes spent the weekend in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where they managed one win in a three-game series against James Madison. The series is just the beginning for the Danes this season, who will play 53 games between now and May 19.

UAlbany opened their season with a dramatic 8-5 win in the series opener, as the Danes scored three runs in the 11th to grab the victory. The unsung hero of the day was J.T. Genovese, who hurled three scoreless innings of relief, striking out two.

Offensively, it was Connor Powers who

provided the power. Powers, who may be the Danes' most talented hitter, bashed a two-run home run in the 11th to give UAlbany the insurance runs they needed. Matt Codispoti was another bright spot on offense, going 4-5 on the day. Brendan Smith got the win for the Danes, while Hunter Torres earned the save.

"Tremendous win for the team [Friday]. Both teams played hard and we collected a couple big, two-out hits in the 11th. Great showing by a number of guys [Friday]," head coach Jon Mueller said after the victory.

Unfortunately for the Danes, their hot bats cooled off as the weekend went on. They were able to muster just three runs on Saturday, and despite a well-pitched game, fell to the Dukes, 4-3. Pitcher Angelo Spedafino cruised through the first three innings, keeping James Madison off the

scoreboard. As he warmed up for the fourth inning, Spedafino felt something off, which forced him out of the game with an injury.

"Today was another tightly contested game. We had trouble generating offense, which had something to do with the JMU pitching. Defensively we were solid and we again had different guys show flashes of what they can do," coach Mueller said after the loss.

The Danes committed just three errors all weekend, avoiding the early season defensive struggles that fall upon many NCAA teams.

In the rubber game Sunday afternoon, the UAlbany lineup lacked any bark whatsoever. James Madison was able to limit the Danes to just one earned run on five hits, as they won the final game of the series 6-2, sending the Danes back to Albany with a 1-2 record.

Connor Powers had another pleasant day at the plate despite the loss, racking up three more hits. However, his fellow Danes combined to go just 3-29 at the dish on Sunday.

It's a cliché heard over and over again in baseball, but it's a long season, and the Great Danes are just at the beginning. Going forward, the Danes will look to build on their 2017 season, which saw them finish with a 26-26 record, including two conference tournament wins. Next up for the Danes is another weekend road trip, as they'll take on Towson from March 2-4. The Danes will not play their first home game until March 27 when they host UMass.

For James Madison, they improved to 5-2 and will take on Richmond in their next game.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Danes Lose Regular Season Title in OT

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

BANGOR, M.A. — The women's basketball team had an opportunity to seize the number one seed in the America East Conference Tournament, but fell just short losing in overtime 74-69 to the University of Maine Sunday night.

"That was a heartbreaker," said UAlbany Head Coach Joanna Bernabei-McNamee.

The game was a regular season showdown between two teams knotted up in first place atop the America East in the final regular season game of the season. Seeming like the game was drawn up in a movie script, UAlbany senior guard Jessica Féquière added to the drama and notched her 1,000 point as a Great Dane.

"It's a huge milestone but I wish we came out with the victory instead," said Féquière. "I could care less how many points I score, right? But it is a huge accomplishment to be the 14th player to ever score 1,000."

Féquière finished with 25 points on the night and recorded a double double with 12 rebounds, but it wasn't enough as the Black Bears proved to be the better team down the stretch.

The Danes were outscored 22-10 in the fourth quarter by a Maine team that played from behind the entire game. The Black Bears were red hot down the stretch and shot over 71-percent from the floor for the duration of the fourth quarter, compared to their Dane counterpart who only were 2-for-11 from the field in the last period. Maine sent the game into OT and that's where the crowd came into play to seal the deal.

Besides Féquière, only one other Dane

recorded double digits. That was Mackenzie Trpic, who had 14 points on 11 shots including four 3-pointers. Trpic also dished out seven assists. An eighth might have given the Danes a regular season title.

Féquière, Trpic and their Danes have won six conference tournament championships in a row and if they want to do so again they might have to travel back up to Maine to play in front of the same hostile crowd that helped win the America East regular season title for the Black Bears.

"I thought the crowd was spectacular and really was a good sixth man for them," said coach Mac.

The first two rounds of the America East Conference Tournament will be played in Portland, Maine and the Danes would only meet Maine in the championship game pending both teams win two games. The conference tournament tips off next weekend on Mar. 3 and concludes with the championship game on Mar. 9.



Source: Bob Mayberger

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MEN'S BASKETBALL



PHOTOS BY SAM RUI / ASP
UAlbany won against Maine on Saturday.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Red Hot Victory Against Drexel Dragons

Source: Bill Ziskin / UAlbany Sports
Connor Fields moves the ball up the field.

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

ALBANY, N.Y. — Houston, we have lift off. The University at Albany men's lacrosse team started their 2018 campaign 2-0 after defeating the Drexel Dragons 18-5 at Casey Stadium on Saturday.

The No. 2 ranked Danes have now outscored their opponents 33-8 on the season and have won 32 more faceoffs than they've lost in the process.

Three different UAlbany players recorded a hat trick in the game, including number one recruit and freshman phenom Tehoka Nanticoke. Since joining the team, Nanticoke has averaged four goals a game and has brought an unmatched presence to the UAlbany offense.

"It was nice to play in front of the crowd here," said Nanticoke, who played in his first regular season game at Casey Stadium. "It

was a lot more than I expected."

Senior attacker Connor Fields got the party started early scoring a goal 41 seconds into the game. Fields finished with two goals on the day, but an even more impressive seven assists. The offense was flowing through his stick and he spread the ball around as 10 different Great Danes netted a goal.

"The ball is definitely going to go through him. I think eventually it will start going through Tehoka a little bit just to take some off of Connor," said UAlbany Head Coach Scott Marr. "When you have a player like that you have to take advantage of it. LeBron James got the ball. Michael Jordan got the ball. You've got to give the ball to your best players."

Fields had a career year last year and the senior attacker has only gotten better this season because there are so many other

talented players on this roster.

"We like to get everyone involved and like we've said we have a lot of weapons," said Fields. "It's really nice to have this year and we feel like our offense can be very dangerous if we play at our potential."

The reason why the Danes got on the board so often was because they had the ball for much of the game. It started up front. The Danes won 25-of-27 faceoffs and that was due large in part to TD Ierlan. The sophomore faceoff specialist won 21-of-22 faceoffs on Saturday and is 37-for-43 on the season. The 86 percent win rate that Ierlan brings to the table is the best in the nation and gives the Danes a major advantage over any opponent.

"The wings did a great job. They gave me space to win it to myself," said Ierlan. "We kind of knew that that was the game plan

going into today because their wings like to crash really hard on me and it would have been tough to get the ball to my wings. So they just gave me a lot of space and everything was clicking."

The game was pretty much decided as the teams headed for the break. The Danes scored four goals before Drexel even had a possession. They started the game on a 6-0 run and took a 16-2 lead into halftime.

"The fact that we were up 4-0 before they [Drexel] touched that ball was amazing," said Marr. "That's a nice luxury to have."

The game plan that was put into place worked to perfection and the Danes had a chance to get their backups in for most of the second half. That's the only time in the game that UAlbany struggled on both sides of the ball. The Dragons scored three goals in the fourth period in what some would

call "garbage time."

"In lacrosse if you want to be a championship team everyone has to perform," said Marr.

He admitted that the team as a whole still has things that they need to work on, but they are definitely off to a red hot start.

Looking forward, the Danes play host to Cornell this Saturday at Casey Stadium for their second of back-to-back home games. The Big Red fell to the No. 20 ranked Colgate Raiders 14-11 last week and could prove to be a tough out for the Danes.

"Cornell is probably harder than everyone that we play," Marr said. "We focus on one game at a time and Cornell is next on our schedule and we are going to focus on Cornell."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Danes Secure Win with Player's Knee in Question

By ROBERT LEPELSTAT

ALBANY, N.Y. — The fans started to make their way towards the exits in the final minute of a University at Albany men's basketball (21-9, 9-6 AE) victory at SEFCU Arena vs Maine (6-24, 3-12 AE) Saturday night.

Then, with 42.3 seconds and an 81-73 lead, everything changed. The cheers turned to worries. SEFCU Arena went silent.

Travis Charles, the Great Danes third-leading scorer with 14.9 ppg, collided with Maine sophomore Andrew Fleming fighting for a loose ball.

Charles fell to the hardwood and immediately slammed the ground before screaming. It was his left knee.

The 6'6" graduate student from Brooklyn, NY was able to walk off the floor with the help of the training staff and after going to the locker room returned to the UAlbany bench under his own power in the final seconds of the game. He was able to go through post-game handshakes. His status moving forward is unknown.

He finished the game with 16 points and a career-high 14 rebounds before the injury.

"I'll know more in a little while," head coach Will Brown

said. "It's his knee and the last thing I was told is we have to see how it is when he wakes up. If it swells up, that will determine how we move forward."

After the incident, junior guard David Nichols walked over to the Maine bench and exchanged words with Maine redshirt junior Aaron Calixte. Calixte went diving for the loose ball and hit Charles' knee on the previous play.

Both players were given technical fouls for the incident. For Nichols, it was his first personal foul but Calixte, who led the Black Bears with 25 points on the night, fouled out with his fifth.

"I never have an issue with a player defending his teammate," Brown said. "It all comes down to how you do it, how you handle your business. You have to be smart about it."

Charles and Nichols were not made available to the media after the game.

Junior guard Joe Cremo finished the night with 24 points and four rebounds, making him the 10th leading scorer in UAlbany men's basketball program history in the win Saturday night.

"We've had a lot of great players come through here and have great careers," Cremo said. "Just

to be on that list, I'm proud of myself for all the work I've put into the game but at the same time obviously it wouldn't be without my teammates and coaches. Can't thank them enough."

The Great Danes, who clinched the No. 4 seed in the America East Tournament, will host No. 5 Stony Brook in the quarterfinal next Saturday, March 3 at SEFCU Arena. UAlbany closes out the regular season with Senior Night at home versus Binghamton on Tuesday.

Overall, UAlbany controlled the game throughout, especially in the first half, taking a 39-26 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Maine would not go away in the second half, cutting the UAlbany lead to single digits with a Dennis Ashley three with 1:33 remaining. Greig Stire hit six free throws in the final to help seal the victory late.

Charles and senior forward Greg Stire both had double-doubles in the win. The Danes converted from the charity stripe, converting on 29 of 37 free throw attempts. UAlbany dominated on the offensive glass, out-rebounding the Black Bears 45-26 on the evening.

UAlbany may have won Saturday night but the true victory will be the status of Charles come

SAM RUI / ASP
Travis Charles, #30, injured his left knee during UAlbany's win against Maine.

Tuesday night and beyond.

"I'm not a doctor so I just listen to those people (training staff),"

Brown said. "I just tell them what I want to see happen. I want Travis to get back on the court."