Dorothy of students have reported to campus voting initiatives that their applications for absentee ballots were never received, or were received too late, to vote in the midterm elections.

The issue gained attention in the week before the November 6 elections when approximately 50 students across campus did not receive the absentee ballots they applied for, an estimate gathered from students involved in the initiative to register and collect absentee ballots.

There was a dedicated place for students to submit their ballots at the University at Albany campuses. Stenger and other administrators arrived at the Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence in 2014 to better position the center to help students.

Finally, the initiative to register and collect absentee ballots was in place for students to vote in their home voting districts and to make sure they voted against the resolution that doesn’t come across as negatively oriented to colleagues about creating a resolution that does it in a way that doesn’t come across as negative or hostile and actually have discussion groups that accommodate all religious groups.

Senator Picard said after the resolution passed that the sentiment of the majority then and if that is the echoing out of the floor, they’re allowed to strike down and if that is the case, it’s not fair either.

“Voting is a political act,” Senator Picard said. “I voted in favor of the resolution which the University at Albany to keep the religious holidays off for the following academic year.

“We’re a public institution, we should respect the religious holidays of all students,” senator Tasnim argued. “We’re a public institution, we should be recognizing the religious holidays of all students.”

SA Senator Galway has said that reports of students students and apply for absentee ballots, along with vote awareness assistance.

The Advocacy Center is housed in the corner of Indian Quad, a small cluster of offices with warm light and hot water ready for waiting rooms. Stenger and her fellow advocate, Mary McCarthy, are in the business of helping sexually abused, harassed and assaulted students through their own journey.

The Advocacy Center is a group that she has for years been an advocate of in response to an ever-increasing cultural at the Advocacy Center.

A divided Student Association voted down a resolution urging the University at Albany to keep religious holidays off for the following academic year.

The detractors of this resolution are important and I think it’s something that needs to be addressed, and I’m already speaking to colleagues about creating a resolution that doesn’t come across as negative or hostile and actually have discussion groups that accommodate all religious groups.

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Freshman Senators on Indian Quad Hope to Bring Transparency to SA

By NICHOLAS SHERMAN

Two newcomers to Student Association senate have teamed up to try to address issues with transparency, dating back to before they themselves arrived on campus. Last Wednesday, SA passed the “Constituent Relations Act,” which aims to increase communication between SA and the student body.

This was sponsored by Freshman Senator Sam Salazar from Indian Quad, and was his first piece of legislation. SA approved this in a vote, 27 for, two against, and three abstained.

“This would amend the bylaws—the laws which SA has to follow—by requiring SA to hold at least one town hall meeting every semester.”

“I codified the committee of constituents’ new initiative into the bylaws,” said Salazar. “What that does is that it sets a precedent for future committees to follow these new regulations and do more to engage SA and the community.”

The act requires that SA must hold meetings with students no less than two weeks after they are announced, and that they must be properly advertised throughout those two weeks or no less than three days before the meeting.

It also changes who will be in charge of organizing these meetings, from the Senate Chairman to the Committee on Constituent Relations.

The Committee will now have to submit a report detailing concerns students have once a month.

“For going forward, each Senator will be required to keep contact or reach out to their own constituency throughout their term in office either through social media, printed materials, office hours, or other means of communication.”

The constituent relations act is a part of a two-step process, according to Senator Salazar and Senator Nicholas Chin.

According to Chin, another freshman senator on Indian Quad, the second part of this two-step process will be proposed at next week’s SA meeting and will take the form of a “transparency bill.”

“The transparency bill would require SA to send out a sort of newsletter to the students who they serve.”

“Every two weeks, every student living on campus—every student enrolled in this university—will get a basic email that states the agenda for that night’s meeting and the minutes.” Senator Chin said.

Chin believes that these bills will make SA more transparent, stating that both he and Senator Salazar had run their campaigns on making SA more transparent.

“Are the problems that we are asking about what goes on? Don’t they know what goes on here?” Chin asked.

Chin also hopes to make the information public on SA’s website. At next week’s Senate meeting, Chin will bring the bill to the floor to be voted upon.

Part of the upcoming bill will work with the IT department to make sure that the upcoming transparency bill works with their department. The Student Association Senate has come under fire in recent years for decisions made behind closed doors, leading some students last spring to rally for greater SA transparency.

Both Senator Salazar and Senator Chin had researched previous years of SA history going into their first years as senators.

“Ultimately at the end of the day they [the students] are allowed to tell us what to do, and we are their representatives.” Salazar said.

By PHILLIP DOWNES

and it would be unfair to blame them for this error.”

However, some inconsistencies did emerge between the groups at departments of the university on how exactly this voting initiative worked.

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Chad Arnost / Albany Student Press

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CITED A 1988 STUDY BY MS. TESS EDWARDS, A STUDENT AT SUNY PLattsburgh. The study found that 42 percent of students assaulted on college campuses tell no one, Stenger argued. 

"We're seeing a cultural change that's necessary to really tackle sexual assault," said Stephens, secretary for Two and A Half, also a member of the recently-formed Sexual Violence Prevention Ambassadors. Stephens is optimistic about the culture on campus. "I feel like the word on sexual violence is getting out more," she said. "The campus is slowly but surely becoming more educated about sexual violence as a whole."
By MATTHEW MIRRO

In 1868, following the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, the United States ratified the 14th Amendment, defining citizen as a right of birth and guaranteeing equal protection of the laws. No State shall...
FOOD REVIEW
Tanpopo Ramen: An Affordable and Delicious Downtown Spot

By AARON GINSBURG

One of my favorite restaurants off campus is Tanpopo Ramen, located at 403 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207. I’m from the city, and one of the things I value the most is the wide variety of quality food I have access too. Ramen is one of my favorite foods, and I like trying it from all different kinds of restaurants. Honestly, the first time I went to Tanpopo Ramen I didn’t have high hopes. It wasn’t that it looked dirty or gross, it’s just that I didn’t expect it to be that great because it wasn’t in the city. I can’t deny, I was ignorant. I ordered the Tonkatsu Ramen, which is $11.05 and consists of pork broth, sliced pork, scallion, bacon, and mushrooms. I decided to add a seasoned boiled egg, which is a topping that I enjoy on my ramen. The pork was very flavorful, and reminded me of the ramen back home in the city. There are also options for any vegetarians or vegans, as well as gluten-free noodles.

The layout and décor of the restaurant is also very interesting. The building the restaurant is housed in is actually registered as a historic place. The structure that stands today was originally built in 1941 and was called Li’s Diner, which is the name it is registered as a historic place under. Parts of the movie Interstellar, starring Jack Nicholson and Meryl Streep, were filmed in it. There are a couple of booths that can seat 4-5 people, and a long table lined with stools. There is also the bar counter which is used for seating as well. The only downside is that one too many times entering and exiting the restaurant – I’ve bumped my head one too many times entering and exiting Tanpopo Ramen. If you show your waiter/waitress your student ID, you get a 10% discount off your check! The staff of Tanpopo Ramen. The border between the United States and Mexico.

The story of the refugee caravan traveling through Mexico is one of profound desperation and sadness. Thousands of refugees are making the long journey to the United States after fleeing their home countries due to economic poverty and seemingly endless political violence. They have gotten here only after several weeks of exhaustion and heartbreak, their journey seeing multiple government attempts to impede their progress and broken promises of transport, most notably a promise by Mexico to bus the caravan to Mexico City.

The story for the refugees, if not dire enough, stands to get worse as their route takes them through some of Mexico’s most dangerous areas. The threat of disappearances looms large, and as of the time of writing, there are already reports of caravan members being kidnapped along the route, most notably a group of 100 members taken by a drug cartel in the state of Puebla, south of Mexico City.

Of course, you wouldn’t know any of this if the only news you’ve seen on the caravan was from Donald Trump. In fact, if this was your only source, you’d probably believe we were about to be invaded by an army. Trump has, among other things, claimed on Twitter that the caravan includes “MANY CRIMINALS” (he all caps), and that the caravan had been infiltrated by “MANY CRIMINALS” (he all caps), and that the caravan had been infiltrated by individuals from the Middle East. In addition, he has sent military units armed with guns and barbed wire fences to the border, threatened to end birthright citizenship, and has attempted to suspend asylum for undocumented immigrants crossing the border, a blatant rebuke of international humanitarian laws and norms.

To recycle the old line: “I’m not surprised, but disappointed,” the general theme of this response shouldn’t surprise people. Trump has exhibited racist tendencies in his immigration positions all the way from the beginning with his infamous comments about Mexico, and, like any racist racist, he has continued to express views of this type up to the present day (though I still find myself�能够 think of him as a racist). For Trump to do a 180 and let the caravan in without any conflict, then, would be a change of position so extreme as to be incredibly unlikely.

On the other hand, though, this response is bumbling and anti-foreign even for him. His prior responses to similar situations seemed inspired by oppressive strongmen, this response seems like it could have been lifted right from a strongman’s speech. It’s all there, from his promises of a grand military response and a crackdown on those he deems to be “CRIMINALS” right down to his promise of single handedly complying with constitutional rights in birthright citizenship that’s existed for more than a century.

And of course, in the context of history, this flies right in the face of what we, as a nation, have claimed to stand for. While the history of American immigration is certainly not perfect, the underlying theme that runs throughout this history is the notion that America was the embodiment of the city on a hill, welcoming, in the immortal words of Emma Lazarus, “your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Trump’s response to the refugee caravan goes right along with his other immigration actions as a direct reversal of this history. It’s a disgusting response to a group of desperate men, women, and children fleeing economic and political oppression, and it’s a response that should be dismissed by conscious individuals for the blatant racism and xenophobia that it is. If we are the country we like to believe we are, we’d let the caravan in.
By SARAH NOCHEZ

Going home for Thanksgiving break is stressful. The first thing you have to get through in order to start your break is the long car ride home. No matter how early you hit the road, traffic and any other issue imaginable will pop up and cause you to get home after dark. You’ll probably age a bit during this ride but not gain any wisdom. So arm yourself with a good playlist or podcast. Once home you’ll either come home to a nice meal made by your parents or slightly cold pizza — there’s no in between with this one. The one thing you’ll really need at this point is sleep and time to think of a bunch of lies to tell your family when you see them at Thanksgiving.

Thanksgiving day has arrived. The best way to be prepared for the day is putting on some clothes that look good but also stretch: like a nice loose shirt, leggings for the gals and some khaki joggers for the lads, that way you have some real space to work with because unbuttoning your pants after round one of food just won’t do it.

Those lies I told you about? Now is the time to use them! When nosy Aunt Carol asks you how school’s going and what your plans for the future are, give her an elaborate but believable answer. Or if you do have serious plans for the future and school rally is going well, good for you, just remember, the only thing you really know is what you’ll eat in the next five minutes, not the next five years.

Once at the table make sure you have planned out where you want to sit, you don’t want to be near the overly-chatty family members but you do want to be near your favorite dish so choose your seat wisely. And if sitting at the adult table gets too serious with talks of politics or religion, just head over to the kids table or find a quiet place in the house where you can watch Friends on Netflix and chill with the dog.

After eating and arguing, everything should die down as people enter their food comas and then some time after that everyone will start to depart. You’ll help with some clean up and decide whether or not Black Friday is worth the hassle, and then pass out in bed. You’ll make arrangements to see your friends and soon break will be over and you’ll have to face the long trip back up. But on the way, you’ll realize you have a small paper due Monday. You’ll get back and pull an all nighter writing the damn thing. Welcome back to the grind!
ELECTION PARTY

ROCK. COLLEGE HOSTS ELECTION NIGHT PARTY

Professors, students gathered as results poured in

By PHILLIP DOWNES

Students, faculty, and alumni attended an “Election Party” sponsored by the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy to watch as election results were being counted and as candidates became elected officials.

The party at Damian’s, facilitated and planned by the Rockefeller College, brought the university community together to watch live election results on different major cable networks while also enjoying food and refreshments catered by the University at Albany.

The Director of Undergraduate Student Services at Rockefeller College Zakhar Berkovich was excited at the start of the night and pleased by the end of the party, as the turnout indicated a successful event.

“As a college of public affairs and policy, I think it’s important for us to be civically minded and to help our students to become engaged,” said Berkovich. “A lot of our students are voting for the first time, and that’s very exciting.”

The Rockefeller College has events similar to the election party on the first Tuesday of each month. A follow up for the election results party will take place on Dec. 4.

A large number of attendees were students, and it was clear that they were very interested in the election and very pleased with the event.

“I really wanted to see the election results with people who were also as interested in politics as I am,” said freshman political science major Courtney Veno, who expressed a large interest in the Beto O’Rourke versus Ted Cruz U.S. Senate race in Texas. Veno was most certainly not the only person who found this race fascinating. When O’Rourke took an early lead in the result count, there was a round of applause and audible cheers, while there were sighs of underwhelmed attendees when the incumbent Cruz was revealed to be the winner.

Rockefeller College also engaged students with an election trivia game where a group of five students were able to win prizes like water bottles and tote bags.

Among those who attended were three Purple and Gold Student Ambassadors who attended to meet UAlbany alumni and converse about campus life.

Moises L. Urena, one of the student ambassadors present, was impressed of the event and praised its inclusion of the university community.

“One of the things I like most about this event is the climate here,” Urena explained. “Students came here instead just going home and adults, like the alumni here, came out to embrace the election and its results.”

Most people who came to the event felt that the election party was a success, providing a comforting environment, inclusive activities, good food, and a great place to enjoy the results of the election, regardless of their political affiliation.

Danya Mekkielamin, a freshman at UAlbany, felt that inclusion was essential to those who attended because the election party was intended to be an opportunity to come together and appreciate voting rights.

Mekkielamin also talked about the importance of using your right to vote and promoting political activism, saying, “It’s really up to the people who come to these things, you either use your vote towards whatever you may believe or you miss out on a chance to be a part of something larger.”

This could be YOUR article!

COME TO OUR NEXT NEWS NIGHT

WEDNESDAY 7 P.M.

CAMPUS CENTER 326
Peaceful Strategies at Animal Rights Group

By TIMOTHY CHIZZIK

Albany Outreach for Animals is the only animal rights group on campus, with an ultimate objective to reduce animal suffering, typically through community service. Most of their work is based around volunteering at local animal sanctuaries weekly and fundraising for non-euthanizing dog shelters; but they also advocate veganism, a boycott of all products and services derived from animal exploitation.

They started four years ago with roughly 10 members, but since efforts to open up the group last year, they have reached around 170 members.

Their constitution states that they will do their advocacy through a philosophy of peaceful and non-judgmental activism, focusing on discussion. When asked about the effectiveness of this method, the group’s president Sharon Amaro said that it is effective in reaching people without making them feel attacked, but does not yield nearly as good of results as more combative activism such as the Earthlings movement or more radical animal liberation groups.

“I believe that you can get your message across without being that harsh and in people’s faces,” said general member Dylan Ruggieri of the group’s policy of peace.

He also said that it is important to him to combat the stereotype of the “preachy vegan”. Ruggieri said that although livestock is more important to him than individual businessmen, he would not want to put people out of work.

To educate: Albany Outreach for Animals does documentary screenings followed by a discussion afterwards. The events are primarily attended by people who are already vegan, but they hope to get more non-vegans to their meetings through tabling with community groups such as Albany Vegan Network.

Ruggieri said the documentary screenings helped him transition from vegetarianism to veganism but that the documentary screenings recently have not had much of a turn out. When asked why he thinks that is, he said: “probably because people knew what it was for.”

Amaro said that she has noticed a slight increase in vegan options, yet there has been no noticeable decrease in meat options on campus. They are now focused on pressuring the school to make simple changes that decrease the use of animal by-products such as not putting butter on pasta or rice.

When asked how the group views UAlbany’s treatment of animals, Amaro said that the only issues that came to mind were: that they aren’t allowed to bring a pig on campus to table with, and that the school uses pictures of animals in advertisements for meat dishes.

Amaro said that she has “not heard so far” about any misuse of animals in UAlbany’s equestrian club.

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Write columns, how-to’s, humor, profiles, and more
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Email sports.asp@gmail.com
A Win and a Loss for Danes Volleyball
Gains No. 2 seed heading into America East tournament

By CAMERON CUPP

The University at Albany women’s volleyball team split the two games they played this weekend, winning against the University of New Hampshire 3 sets to 1, and dropped their second match to UMass Lowell 3 sets to 1. This weekend’s match-up caps off the regular season for the Great Danes, who head into the America East conference tournament as the No. 2 seed with a 9-3 record.

Friday night’s win against UNH was highlighted by a game high 21 kills from star junior Alimah Okenwa. Teammate Chole Evering also had double digit kills against the Wildcats. Other notable performances from Friday night include: freshman setter Andersen Vaughan’s 40 assists, and senior libero Nicole Otero’s team-leading 20 digs.

The team honored Otero, the team’s lone senior, prior to Saturday’s match-up against UMass Lowell. Since arriving in 2015, Otero has amassed an impressive list of accomplishments that includes, joining the 1,500 digs club; three all-conference team selections; and twice being named the America East Defensive Specialist of the Year.

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The match started off strong for the Danes when they won the first set 25-18. Things turned quickly, however, as the River Hawks took the following set 25-18.

The Great Danes then dropped the third set 25-22.

UAlbany took an early 6-0 lead in the final set, but couldn’t hold off the surging River Hawk offense that battled back to tie the game 11-11.

The set went back-and-forth the rest of play, but the River Hawks came out on top 25-23.

Vaughan lead the team with 32 assists, while the Great Danes had three players, including Otero, with double digit digs.

The team is the No. 2 seed heading into the America East tournament despite Saturday’s loss.

The Great Danes begin their quest to win a conference title for the first time since 2011 Nov. 16 when they take on UNH at 7 p.m. on the campus of Stony Brook University. UAlbany has beaten the Wildcats in every matchup this year.

Danes Suffer One-sided Loss to USF

By SKYLER HELLER

The University at Albany’s women’s basketball team fell short in coach Colleen Mullen’s debut, losing to the University of Southern Florida Bulls 73-37.

UAlbany was outmatched in their first game of the season against the 22nd-ranked Bulls who were playing at home. The Great Danes failed to score for several minutes to start the game.

Senior forward Heather Forman ended the team’s scoreless drought with a quick basket in the paint.

Amanda Kanary provided the bulk of UAlbany’s offense. The senior forward finished the night with 17 points, seven rebounds and three baskets from deep in her UAlbany debut.

Following a quick run to end the first quarter, the Bulls led 24-10.

The second quarter featured impressive defensive efforts from the Great Danes, who held the Bulls to just 15 points. “I think we really took them out of their offensive rhythm in the second quarter,” Mullen said. “We were switching up the defense and I think they didn’t know what we were in defensively.”

The Great Danes continued to struggle in the second half, putting up just five points in the third quarter and 10 in the fourth.

South Florida’s Laura Ferreira had a big game for the Bulls. The senior guard had 21 points, six rebounds, four assists and a block on the night.

The Bulls defensive efforts were boosted from the play of freshman center Beatriz Jordao, who had four blocks and nine rebounds.

UAlbany will host their first home game Wednesday Nov. 14 against Manhattan College.