



# ASP

ALBANY STUDENT PRESS

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TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2018

**ELECTIONS**

## Missing Absentee Ballots Prevent Student Votes

By PHILLIP DOWNES

Dozens of students have reported to campus voting initiatives that their applications for absentee voting never returned them a ballot — leaving them with no way to vote in the midterm elections.

The issue gained attention within the week before the November 6th elections when about 40 students across campus did not receive the absentee ballots that they applied for, an estimate gathered from students involved in the initiative to register and collect absentee ballots.

The application for ballots were submitted and postmarked before the deadline to do so, according to

SA's Associate Director of Civil Action Mashaal Bhatti.

It is unclear exactly how many ballots were not delivered, as the student groups and university departments did not keep official records of these figures, but students and organization leaders estimated that there were somewhere between 20 and 50 students that openly discussed being affected by this issue.

However, Bhatti and UAlbany College Democrats president Mirren Galway have said that reports of this issue from affected students indicates a widespread and pressing issue rather than a simple anomaly of a handful of students.

"I think we're going to need to

look into this further but if it's a pattern across this campus and others it's worth acknowledging," Galway said. "If it's not voter suppression I think it at least speaks to the difficulty for students to vote in elections in this country, even when they really want to."

The university's voter registration program was intended to provide a service to register students and apply for absentee ballots, along with voter awareness assistance.

Bhatti estimated of 1,470 students that were able to register through the initiative. Non-Capital Region students tended to apply for absentee ballots to vote in their



PHILLIP DOWNES / Albany Student Press

40 or more students never received an absentee ballot, shown above.

home voting districts.

"I want to make it clear that this error is not a fault of the student

groups." Bhatti said. "These groups worked very hard to get those 1,400 students registered

Please see **ABSENTEE** page 2

**#METOO**

## Sexual Violence Prevention Advocates Face New Obstacles

By JOE HOFFMAN

As the #MeToo movement and increased awareness of sexual assault on campus progresses, student and professional groups on campus face new challenges this semester.

"Teaching a year long course, and working and doing all these evening courses, is stuff that I love doing, and I miss desperately," said Carol Stenger, director of the Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence. "But I can't keep that up when I'm also going to the hospital at 2 in the morning with students."

The Advocacy Center is carved into the west corner of Indian Quad, a small cluster of



STENGER

offices with warm lighting and hot water ready for waiting teabags. Stenger and her fellow advocate, Mary McCarthy, are in the business of helping sexually abused, harassed and assaulted students through every step of their journey.

Stenger arrived at the University at Albany in the 1980s as a 21-year-old Residential Director, but soon her passions drove her upwards. She started teaching sexuality courses and forming a student peer education group called Project SHAPE — a group that she has finally stepped back from in response to an ever-increasing caseload at the Advocacy Center.

After President Obama's guidance in 2014 to better police sexual violence on college campuses, Stenger and other administrators at UAlbany decided that they needed a dedicated place for students to come and speak with trustworthy and knowledgeable advocates.

Four years after starting the

Please see **ADVOCACY** page 3

# RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY BILL FAILS AT SA

## Student Association divided over keeping days off.

By NICHOLAS SHERMAN

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

Several weeks ago, Michael Christakis had announced to SA that the University was considering removing days off for the religious holidays, including three Jewish holidays and Easter.

Last week Gabrielle Picard sponsored the "Resolution to support the Jewish Holidays" with senators Correia, Eldridge, Holdridge, and Whitney co-sponsoring took to the floor where it was tabled until this week.

This week the senators took to the floor to defend their resolution to have the university support the Jewish Holidays.

After an intense back-and-forth between those Senators who supported the resolution and those who did not support the resolution, the resolution failed. Fifteen senators voted against, while 10 voted for it and six abstained.

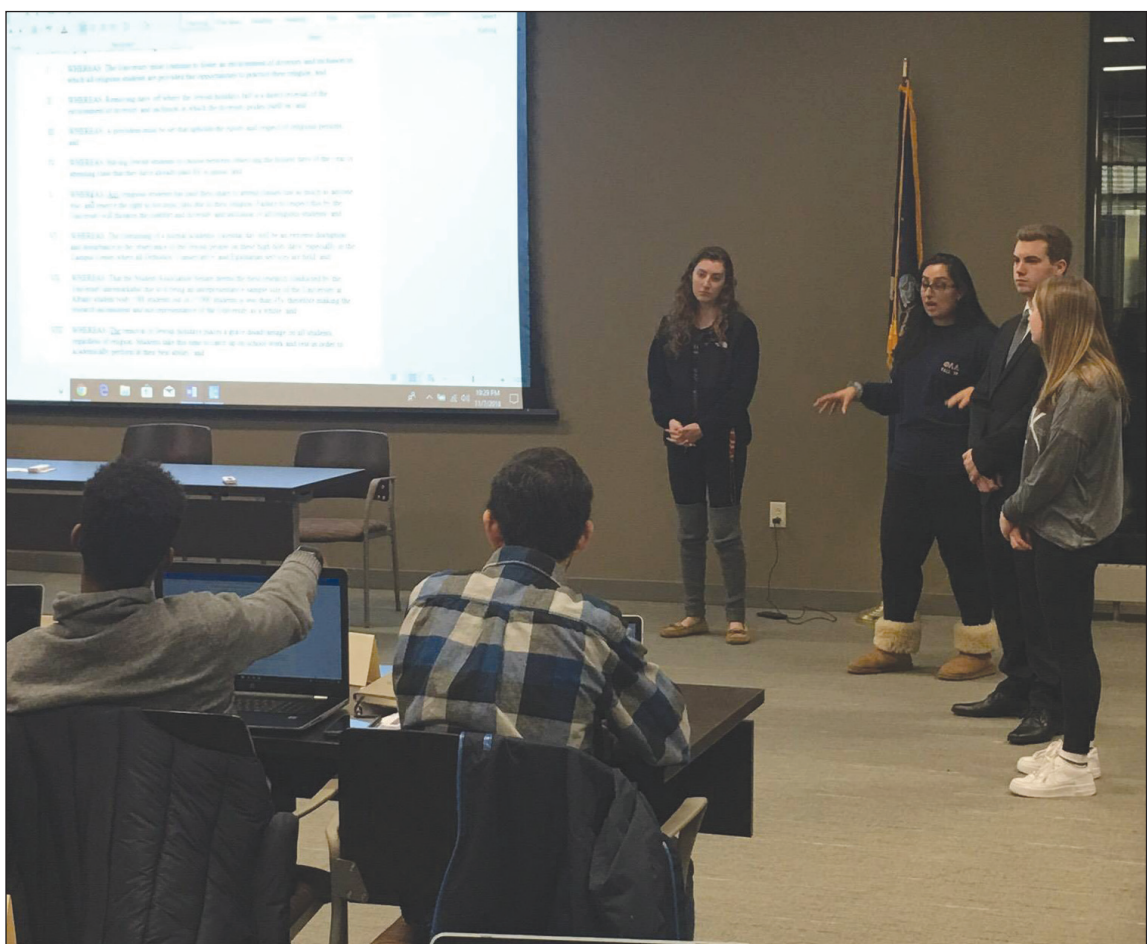
The debate revolved around fairness and inclusivity. Senators like Picard argued that removing the Jewish Holidays would harm the University's goal of creating an inclusive campus.

"By you giving off holidays to groups of people, you are therefore expanding the groups of people that you're including and catering and tailoring. So if you remove those from people that already have that right you are going backwards in the definition of inclusiveness," Picard said.

Other senators argued that having the University celebrate one religious group over others is unfair and harms inclusivity.

Senator Nick Gonzales argued that it was not feasible to accommodate all religious holidays, and what the University should do is make faculty more aware of student's religious dispositions.

Some senators argued that having the Jewish holidays off were unfair to other religious



Nicholas Sherman / Albany Student Press

SA Senator Gabrielle Picard argued in favor of the university continuing to observe religious holidays.

groups and harmed inclusivity on campus.

"We're a public institution, there's a separation of church and state," senator Tasnim argued.

"If we recognize one religious holiday we need to be recognizing every single one and that's not feasible."

The detractors of this resolution also argued that having the university observe the Jewish holidays harms student's academics.

"I have had different constituents come up to me, concerned about why they miss so many classes because of these holidays. And they're behind on two or three classes because of this."

"That's not fair either," Senator Tasnim said.

While some Senators argued about academics, other argued

about how the Jewish holidays would affect Jewish students on campus.

Senator Eldridge—one of the cosponsors of the resolution—said "people literally picked where they live because they were able to practice their religion freely here, as opposed to any other campus."

Eldridge argued that removing the Jewish holidays would remove a selling point that attracts so many Jewish students to the UAlbany campus.

The Senators were not the only ones to speak. Many Jewish students came the SA to lobby to have the Jewish Holidays remain, such as UAlbany Hillel: a Jewish student group on campus.

The debate went on for nearly forty minutes before SA voted on the resolution, in which they

voted against it.

"I think the purpose behind the resolution is important and I think it's something that needs to be addressed, and I'm already speaking 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 accommodates all religions." Senator Gonzales said after the resolution had failed.

"Essentially, people are allowed to not like it [the resolution] so I was not going to withdraw from the floor, they're allowed to strike it down and if that is the echoing sentiment of the majority then it deserves to be struck down," Senator Picard said after the resolution failed.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

# 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 those new regulations and to 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.

The reports will be sent to the Rules and Administrations committee, who will then communicate to the SA senate to address any problems.

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.

"How are students supposed to ask us questions about what goes on if they don't 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 so that meeting information is online.

Senator Salazar plans to meet with the IT department this week to make sure that the upcoming transparency bill works with their department.

The Student Association Senate has come under fire in re-

cent 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.



Chad Arnold / Albany Student Press  
Nicholas Chin plans to propose a newsletter mandate on Wednes-

ABSENTEE

Continued from Page 1

By PHILLIP DOWNES

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

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

Bhatti claimed that all absentee ballot applications were sent to New York City boards of election because the large influx of ballots may not be processed by a local board of elections.

The Center for Leadership and Services denied this, and instead provided that the ballots were sent to their designated districts.

All 5 of New York City's borough boards of election were contacted for information, but were not able to provide a



Source: UAlbany Media Relations.

timely response.

Bhatti said that SA plans to identify where there was an issue and make sure this does not happen again.

She speculated that the problem could

have stemmed from a mailroom error or a problem with the boards of election that processed the ballots.

For the students kept from voting, the error represents a missed opportunity to fulfill civic duty.

Hannah Carroll, a freshman at UAlbany from New York's 24th congressional district, had recently turned 18 and was excited to be able to participate in the election.

"A friend of mine and I cried yesterday afternoon after making several phone calls and going to the polls because our absentee ballot never came," Carroll explained. "We were turned away and given little to no information or guidance. We were so upset because in this political climate we knew we needed to vote; it was our civic duty."

"I understand that a lot of New Yorkers have political beliefs that align with mine because of our highly liberal state, but I would have liked to have added my name and ballot to the list of those in support."

ASP OPPORTUNITIES

*This could be YOUR article!*

**COME TO OUR NEXT NEWS NIGHT**

**WEDNESDAY 7 P.M.**

**CAMPUS ENTER 326**

**ADVOCACY**

Continued from Page 1

By **JOE HOFFMAN**

Center, it has become such an often-visited resource that Stenger has settled into the position full-time, staying there long hours of the day and getting calls long into the night.

“My goal in starting the center was to increase reports and decrease incidents,” Stenger said, though she warns this can be misinterpreted.

Citing a 1988 study by Ms. Magazine finding that 42 percent of students assaulted on college campuses tell no one, Stenger argues that the increase in reports is a step forward.

Stenger’s job ranges from listening to students and informing them of their options after a sexual assault, to getting phone calls from the hospital at 3 in the morning and accompanying frightened students through confining and invasive rape kits.

“Even on the weekends, they can call me, and they do,” Stenger said. “Some months I go two times, sometimes zero. This month has been a lot.”

She has long petitioned her superiors at the university to hire

a third advocate to help with the large caseload. Earlier this year, Student Affairs Vice President Michael Christakis indicated in an interview that there were still no plans to expand the Center.

Last semester, Stenger made the decision to step away from Project SHAPE, the student peer education group that she had led, trained, and organized since the 1990s. Though students from the group rallied around Stenger, created a petition to hire another advocate, and met with administrators, they

SHAPE is now in a period of transition. Stenger is not teaching the 6-credit class, and SHAPE is now under the Counseling and Psychology Services (CAPS).

President Kirstin O’Sullivan did not respond to request for comment.

**Student Community**

Meanwhile, student leader Tess Edwards faces a challenging atmosphere translating social media outrage at sexual assault

into real action.

“It’s very easy to like pictures or comment on posts online. But when it comes to actually having to show up and have a discussion, people are hesitant to do so,” said Edwards, the president of Two and a Half.

The group, which works to combat sexual violence, first began on campus in 2013. Its names comes from a statistic: every two and a half minutes someone is sexually assaulted in the United States.

The statistic has since worsened, according to RAINN, the Rape, Abuse & Incest Network, which says someone is assault every 90-seconds in the U.S.

This semester, members of the group have continued to collaborate on events like “Black Women: Know Your Rights,” and offer themselves as relatable resources for students who have suffered from sexual assault.

But whether the increased attention to sexual violence in national and local media has helped is a harder question to answer.

After a former student gained attention posting dozens of anonymous stories of assault at UAlbany, Edwards said the reaction from the students she works with was mixed.

“In general minority communities tend to protect their own, and for valid reasons because of attacks historically on minority communities,” she said. “However, I do think it’s a larger cultural change that’s necessary to really tackle sexual assault.”

Amber Stephens, secretary for Two and A Half, is 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,” said Stephens. “The campus is slowly but surely becoming more educated about sexual violence as a whole.”

**ASP OPPORTUNITIES**

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OUR NEXT  
NEWS  
NIGHT***

***WEDNESDAY  
7 P.M.***

***CAMPUS  
CENTER 326***

**CRIME BLOTTER**

**GRAND LARCENY 4 CREDIT CARD**

11/2/2018  
Dutch Quad  
Report of a stolen SUNY Card.

**PETIT LARCENY**

11/2/2018  
Colonial Quad  
Report of a stolen laptop.

**CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA**

**5TH DEGREE PUBLIC PLACE**  
11/3/2018  
State Quad  
Report of two students in possession of marijuana and marihuana paraphernalia. Referrals were made.

**IDENTITY THEFT 1: ASSUME ANOTHER’S IDENTITY - CAUSE LOSS >\$2000**

11/4/2018  
Liberty Terrace  
Report of stolen debit card.

**CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA - 5TH DEGREE PUBLIC PLACE**

11/4/2018  
Indian Quad- Onondaga Hall  
Report of two male students in possession of marihuana and marijuana paraphernalia. Referrals were made.

**UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA**

11/5/2018  
Indian Quad- Seneca Hall  
Report of two students in possession of marihuana. Referrals were made.

**IDENTITY THEFT 2: COMMIT IDENTITY THEFT 3/PREVIOUS CONVICTION**

11/5/2018  
UPD  
Report of identity theft. An arrest was made.

**FIRE ALARM**

11/5/2018  
Dutch Quad- Van Cortlandt Hall  
Caused by air freshener.

**CRIM POSS CONTRL SUBST**

11/6/2018  
Freedom Quad  
Report of three students smoking marihuana in public. Referrals were made.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION**

11/6/18  
Alumni Quad- Pierce Hall  
Report of an intoxicated male student. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.

**CRIM POSS CONTRL SUBST**

11/6/18  
Collins Circle  
Report of a male subject in possession of a controlled substance. An arrest was made and vehicle was towed.

**DISOBEY MANDATE EXC JL 753A-2**

11/7/2018  
Roadways- State Quad Parking Lot  
Report of a male subject trespassing on campus.

**PETIT LARCENY**

11/8/2018  
State Quad  
Report of a stolen bicycle.

**FIRE ALARM**

11/8/18  
State Quad- Eastman Tower  
Caused by burnt popcorn.

**RAPE INTRCRSE FORCIBLE COMPLSN**

11/8/2018  
Colonial Quad- Livingston Tower  
Report of a sexual assault. Student transported to hospital. Investigation ongoing.



CITIZENSHIP

# Trump's Threat on Birthright Citizenship is Unconstitutional

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 under the law. So says Section One of the Amendment:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereafter, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge these privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The authors of this groundbreaking democratic legislation could not possibly have accounted for the likes of President

Donald J. Trump. In late October, Trump incorrectly told the world he was able to unilaterally overturn the provision for birthright citizenship via executive order.

Further, the president falsely claims the United States is the only country in the world whose citizenship is promised by just being born on that nation's soil. The New York Times clarifies that the U.S. is just one in over 30 nations that guarantee birthright citizenship including our North American neighbors in Canada and Mexico.

Trump's usual ignorance of the facts aside, his ludicrous idea that presidential power would allow him to change the Constitution is not only frightfully despotic, but wholly moronic. The 14th Amendment is a part of the Constitution (kind of like that 2nd Amendment thing Trumpkins like so much) and Article 5 of that same document gives the power to amend the Constitution to Congress:

The Congress, whenever two thirds of both

Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose Amendments to this Constitution, or, on the Application of the Legislatures of two thirds of the thirds of the several States, shall call a convention for proposing Amendments...

The president cannot, under any circumstances, change the provision of the Constitution. Not through executive order, not through Twitter, not through a genie in a bottle or a fairy godmother. The very suggestion that he is capable of applying such power hits at the fool's blatant disregard towards, and utter ignorance of, the checks and balances defined to prevent the reign of a tyrant. The fact that we have a president so out of touch with reality as to assert dictatorial power over the highest law in the land, is an insult to everyone whose blood, sweat and tears are woven into the fabric of the document Trump so carelessly cleans his golf clubs with.



MIRRO

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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 893 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 to. 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 \$11.00 and consists of pork broth, sliced pork, scallion, fishcake, 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 Lil's Diner, which is the name it is registered as a historic place under. Parts of the movie *Ironweed*, 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 there isn't a lot of space inside, so it's common to have to wait to get a seat. Luckily, ramen is usually a quicker meal to ingest so tables will become available fast. Additionally, if you happen to be tall, be careful entering 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 the restaurant are also super friendly. I was wearing a shirt of a band I like, and one of the waitresses complimented it and started talking to me about the band, which was very comforting and made me appreciate Tanpopo even more. I'm happy that I've found a ramen place that nearly matches the quality of ramen back in the city, and is more affordable.

REFUGEES

# DENY XENOPHOBIA; LET THE REFUGEES IN

By **LIAM JEFFRIES**

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.

And the situation 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" (his 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 stalwart racist, he has continued to express views of this type up to the present day (need I really remind people of that?). 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 unrealistic.

On the other hand, though, this response is bombastic and out-there even for him. If 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 who he deems to be "CRIMINALS" right down to his promise of single handedly expunging a constitutional right 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.



The border between the United States and Mexico.  
Source: **Wikimedia Commons**

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HOLIDAYS

# How To Survive A Trip Home for Thanksgiving



Source: Pexels

A trip home for the Thanksgiving holidays presents its own unique set of challenges.

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 really 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 by your favorite dish so choose your seat wisely. And if sitting at the adult table gets way 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 forgot all about school realizing 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!

**WINTERSSESSION 2018-19**

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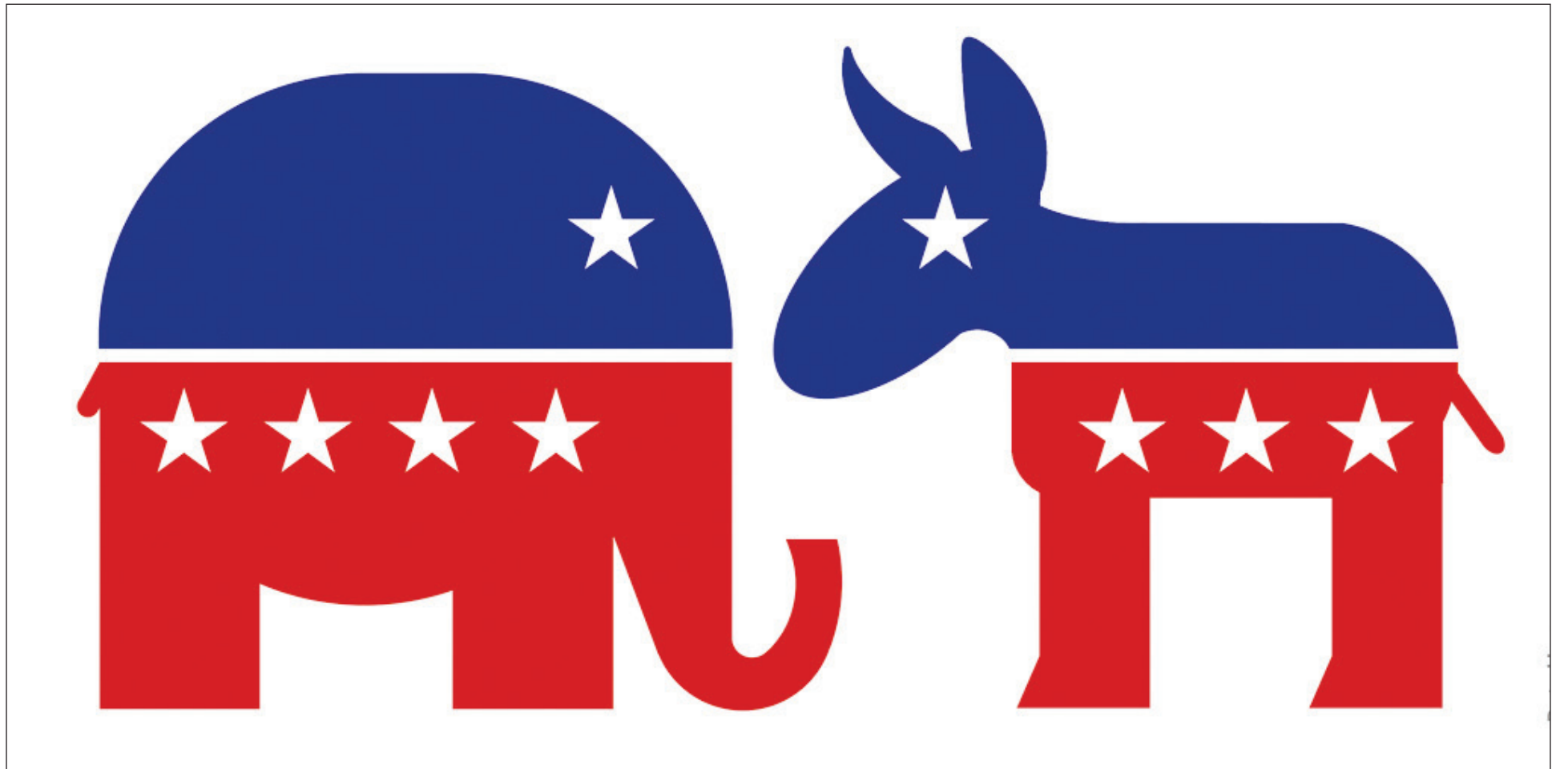
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Source: Flickr

**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 Stu-

dent 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 politi-

cal 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!*

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STUDENT GROUPS

# Peaceful Strategies at Animal Rights Group



Members of the student animal rights group at Block Party in September.  
Source: Albany Outreach for Animals

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.

PHOTOGRAPHY



A view of city hall flanked by the NYS Dept. of Education on the left and the State Capitol Building on the right.  
Joe Hoffman / Albany Student Press

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PROFILE

# Devonte Campbell: A New Leader

## Canadian-born forward shares his journey to stardom

By **TOM CASTRO**

"I want to be one of the best two-way players in the country. Not even the conference."

Devonte Campbell has set himself to a high standard going into his senior season with the Great Danes and looks to be in a great position to lead an inexperienced group. Campbell heads into the 2018-19 season as a captain, manning down one of the perimeter wing positions for coach Will Brown.

Born in Canada, Campbell had an unconventional journey to becoming a Division I basketball star. He began playing basketball in the 3rd grade in his hometown of Vaughan, Ontario. At the time the principle of his school was also the head coach of the basketball team. Seeing Devonte's talent for the game, he added him to the primary "varsity" team.

During his early childhood, Campbell had only played basketball for fun. He loved the NBA but never saw the sport as something he would take seriously. With the help of his coach/principle, Campbell realized he had a future in the sport. After changing cities in the seventh grade, he started playing outdoor extracurricular basketball against more elite competition.

Things skyrocketed from there.

With AAU basketball gaining prominence in Canada, Campbell was able to travel to the U.S. and showcase his skills. He landed an opportunity to play at Indiana's Culver Academy in the 11th grade, which allowed him to be more widely recruited. Campbell started for two years and was named captain during his senior campaign -- a position he now finds himself in with the Great Danes.

Campbell channels inspiration on the court each day as he thinks about the family and friends that he left behind in Canada.

"A lot of friends, even family members, don't get this life in terms of coming to the states, playing a sport and getting their education paid for," he said.

"I play for people back home, the people that didn't make it, the people that didn't get the opportunity."

Humble and soft spoken, Campbell has steadily grown as a teammate during his time at UAlbany, becoming a vocal leader of the team.

In his first two seasons, Campbell experienced both sides of the winning spectrum. First, making it as far as a trip to the conference championship, then failing to make it out of the first round. As a freshman, he spent the



Source: UAlbany Sports

first half of the season on the bench. He was added to the starting lineup around the time the team played its third conference game.

Campbell credits coach Brown in becoming a stronger player and believes that the

time he spent on the bench was key in his development.

"I love that guy," Campbell said with a laugh and smile. "He truly paved the way for me in this program. I don't know if I'd be where I am today as a basketball player."

Campbell devoted his offseason to becoming a more complete player and leader. Up to this point, he has been an outstanding defender, having been named to the American East all-defensive team twice.

With tremendous skills defending the perimeter, Campbell has made it a point to become a more consistent threat offensively, particularly when it comes to outside shooting and three-point consistency. A slight tweak to his stroke and a busy offseason has Campbell seeing more shots go down already. Being the only returning starter from last season, Campbell's leadership may be even more important than his shot-making heading into the season.

On a team littered with inexperience, it is crucial that Campbell and the team's other returning players help instill the winning culture that has surrounded the program for years.

"He's shown outstanding leadership from the spring through the preseason and through practices," said Brown of Campbell's attitude coming into the season. "He's done a really good job of being vocal and helping the younger players."

Campbell understands how important this is to the success of the program and has already earned high praise from his teammates.

Second year guard Cameron Healy describes Campbell as the "rock" of this team.

"For us that's him, he has been a really good captain so far," said Healy, who described the team as young but talented.

"He has the most experience under his belt and kind of pulls us all together when we're acting out like an inexperienced group," Healy added.

As he enters his senior season, Campbell hopes the team's talent manufactures success.

"With this team, I am so tunnel vision right now. As much as we care about Ws, it's getting that ring," said Campbell, referring to an America East title.

"Being so close my first year here, that is something I really want to capitalize on."

FOOTBALL

# Losing Streak Continues as Danes Fall to UNH

By **ELIJAH CASPER**

The University at Albany football team lost its sixth straight game on Saturday, with a 24-10 loss at the University of New Hampshire in a Colonial Athletic Association matchup.

Carlos Washington Jr. lead New Hampshire with 142 yards rushing, on just 11 attempts. Ninety-three of those yards came on one run when Washington broke free and raced down the field for a touchdown.

New Hampshire's (4-6, 3-4 CAA) Evan Horn sealed the game late for the Wildcats, when he picked off UAlbany's (2-8, 0-7 CAA) Jeff Undercuffler in the UAlbany end zone to make it 24-10.

"Pretty good game for us, especially with the elements, the way the wind and everything was," Wildcats' head coach Sean McDonnell said. "I thought we played very well at times on both sides of the football. Obviously on defense we did the first thing we needed to do to win the football game, we stopped the run, and our guys did a great job tackling."



Source: Bill Ziskin, UAlbany Sports

Running back Karl Mofor ran for 52 yards on 10 attempts in the Great Danes' 24-10 loss against UNH on Saturday.

Undercuffler had found Karl Mofor at the beginning of the fourth quarter with a 28-yard touchdown pass to close the gap to 17-10 at the time, but that's as close as the Great Danes would get.

"We had opportunity after opportunity after opportunity to take the lead and get in the game," UAlbany coach Greg Gattuso said. "And we squandered every one of them.

We just didn't finish anything."

Undercuffler was making his second career start at quarterback for the Great Danes. The freshman finished 15 for 34 for 167 yards passing and a touchdown.

Karl Mofor ran for 52 yards on 10 attempts, to go along with three passes caught for 41 yards, including the 28-yard touchdown.

The touchdown was Mofor's

fourth of the year.

The other offensive bright spot for Great Danes came in the first quarter when Ethan Stark hit a 49-yard field goal to give UAlbany a 3-0 lead. The ball hit the crossbar before bouncing through for Stark's second longest field goal of the season. His previous best came against Morgan State on Sept. 15, when he hit a 51-yard field goal.

Starks 49-yard field goal in this game was the fifth-longest field goal in program history.

The UAlbany defense held the Wildcats to just 70 passing yards on the day, but the Wildcats controlled the game on the ground, gashing the Great Danes for 223 rushing yards.

On top of Washington's 142 yards rushing yards, Trevon Bryant also added 61 yards on 12 attempts, and quarterback Trevor Knight added 28 yards, including a 1-yard touchdown run at the end of the first quarter.

New Hampshire extended its lead just before halftime on a 27-yard Jason Hughes field goal with 16 seconds left.

With 3:11 remaining in the third quarter, Washington broke off the 93-yard touchdown run, giving the Wildcats their largest lead of the game at 17-3.

UAlbany responded on the next possession with the Mofor touchdown, making it 17-10. But Horn's interception in the end zone sealed the win for the Wildcats, making it 24-10 with 7:31 remaining in the game.

The Wildcats were coming off an upset win over No. 3 James Madison last week. The win made it three in a row for the Wildcats.

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VOLLEYBALL

# A Win and a Loss for Danes Volleyball *Gains No. 2 seed heading into America East tournament*



Source: Bill Ziskin, UAlbany Sports

Despite a weekend of play with mixed results, the Great Danes are the NO. 2 seed in the 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 Akuabata 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.

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 head into tournament play having lost three of their last five matches.

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.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# 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 Forster ended the team's scoreless drought with a quick basket in the paint.

Amanda Kantzy 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.



Source: Bill Ziskin, UAlbany Sports

The Great Danes lost their first game of the season 73-37 to USF.