walls,” said Charles Rogers, the Senior Associate Director of Police. “While crime on campus has generally been on the decline, last year residence halls had a higher rate of crime than on the podiums.”

By MICHELLE MULLEN

“Students, this is a letter,” the University Police Department has been adding cameras to the residences on campus to attempt to combat crime. In the past fall semester, UPD added 20-25 new surveillance cameras to UAlbany’s campus, bringing up the total number cameras to 338.

Most recently, cameras have been installed in elevators on the campus’s residential towers, according to UPD officials.

Paul Burlingame, the Deputy Chief of Police, said campus police plans to add more this year to increase coverage in potential trouble spots on campus.

“In the last couple of weeks, Chief Deputy Officer Burlingame said cameras have helped investigators identify suspects in two separate incidents involving property damage on campus.”

While some organizations like the ACLU are concerned about the potential for privacy issues, Rogers said that the cameras are not monitored 24 hours a day and tapes are deleted after 31 days.

A camera that was later installed in one of the vending machines opposite the damaged wall subsequently led to the culprit’s identification and capture.
much money to a certain event. What that includes is still up for debate.”

There is still time before the 2019-20 budget is approved in early May, but the appeals process for the initial budget proposal is approaching.

“We are a little over halfway,” said Brandon Holdridge, Senate Chair and member of the Board of Finance. “We are planning on finishing it after spring break so we can send it to those student groups and they can go to Zak for the appeals process.”

Other club funds are still being retained and finalized, but senators expect FACE to join Five Quad as a winner of increased funds in 2019-20’s $2.7 million budget.

Cyber Attacks: What’s Going on?

Large cyber attacks on University at Albany servers have students and officials scratching their heads — here’s what we know so far about these Direct Denial of Service attacks.

There have been several attacks over the course of the semester, with the most recent crashing the university’s domain name servers over spring break.

DDoS attacks seek to slow down online resources like Blackboard by overloading them with traffic, eventually crashing the system so that normal users like students and faculty cannot access the site.

These attacks deploy what is known as a “botnet,” which is made up of a massive number of “bots,” computers infected with malware, controlled by one person or group of persons.

“In one incident we counted over 600,000 source IPs over a period of four seconds that were participating in the (March) attack. However, it’s also possible that some of the attacks are originating from a single system that is spoofing source IPs,” said Martin Manjak, Chief Information Security Officer.

The nature of DDoS attacks makes them hard to predict, with seemingly random patterns of incidents.

“It’s very difficult to predict with any degree of certainty what will happen. For example, a month transpired between the February and March incidents,” said Manjak.

Although the source of the attacks are difficult to pinpoint, the bots are spread over almost a dozen countries, ITS has reason to suspect the attacks are orchestrated by the same body.

“We suspect it’s the same actor because they’ve used identical tactics, such as amplified and reflected attacks.”

UAlbany is not the only victim of such attacks according to ITS; Manjak said in a campus-wide email that at least two other SUNY schools were experiencing the problem.

However, Manjak said he was not at liberty to discuss the identity of those schools.

Going forward, Manjak is not one hundred percent certain that the attacks will continue, but nevertheless, ITS has changed some protocols and policy.

“The University has made a number of changes to network settings, as well as reached an agreement with an external service provider to assist with our mitigation efforts.”

The motives of the attack are almost impossible to discern, which makes it that much harder to identify who might be responsible.

If more of these attacks occur, according to computer science experts, it becomes easier to defend against them, as internet traffic can be blocked from the bots as the attack begins.

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CAMPUS CENTER 326

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CAMERAS
Continued from Page 1

“...The laundry and garbage rooms...”

The laundry and garbage rooms have lights that turn on automatically as well as doors that are unlatched 24/7,” he said. However, former resident assistant and Ulubnary said Ivy Spas shared that some laundry room doors do in fact have a locking mechanism on them.

This year, UPD plans to install cameras throughout the south end of Dutch Quad, and they will be updating the exterior cameras on the south side of State Quad. They will also be adding to the existing system of cameras currently installed in the ground floor of the Campus Center. Burlingame stressed that cameras alone are not going to keep you safe.

His advice: Always remember to keep your dorm room doors locked and not to let strangers into the residence halls.

To find out more about these positions, contact Joe Hoffman at theaspeic@gmail.com.
equality

Proving Discrimination Requires a Better Argument Than Often Posed

By CHRISTOPHER PERILLO

In today’s milieu, we are used to the concept of fairness and equality. Our politicians use it in their campaign platforms, we hear it on the news, we hear it in their campaign platforms, we hear it in our classrooms and there are even people walking around in t-shirts that succinctly show the word “equality” on them. But, no matter the implications of such social displays, many of us seldom understand the facts and statistics behind inequality.

One of the most common explanations for instances of inequality is discrimination. For example, phrases like “the glass ceiling” are often used to describe the phenomenon of the gender pay gap. People generally point to the statistic that women make “79 cents for every dollar a man makes”. Though there is a statistic published by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics that shows this, this statistic is an univariable one. It simply takes the average amount a man makes compared to what a woman makes. It does not consider education, experience, time off, or even the types of jobs women work.

This statistic has been labeled erroneous by a plethora of economists and social scientists. For instance, because the number of African American men and women that are employed is different. African Americans and very often these arguments are quite dogmatic. Though there are reasonable arguments to suggest that discrimination does cause some disparity and the history of African American discrimination should not be discounted, this logic is ultimately simplistic.

For instance, because the number of African Americans in prison is more than the distribution of African Americans in the US population, some argue that there are discrimination against the police and the justice system. But this explanation turns out void information. According to the FBI, over 52% of all murder and 54% of all robbery in the United States are committed by the 13% of the US population that is black. Moreover, 80.7% of African American men without a high school were committed by other African Americans. Famous black Stanford economist Thomas Sowell compares this phenomena of using discrimination to explain crime disparities with the NIH. He says that you can see similar reasoning to suggest that black tennis players were racially biased because the proportion of blacks killed for drug offenses was greater than 13%, but this would omit the fact that the vast majority of NBA players are black.

There are, of course, legitimate instances of discrimination in our society and some disparate outcomes can be attributed to that, but the all too common act of disregarding facts and statistics for a subjective narrative is problematic. We need to get away from the impulse of letting our emotions and preconceptions of society control our judgments and embrace evidence driven arguments instead.

Got an opinion? Email opinions.asp@gmail.com
DOWNTOWN ALBANY

There’s More to Off-Campus Living than the Student Ghetto

By JESSICA SHERMAN

How “student ghetto” - We all know the area: those streets that run between Madison and Washington, the center of Hotel and Goose Quack. The area is not known for its cleanliness or safety, but you can’t throw out the baby with the bathwater – there’s more to Downtown Albany than Pine Hills.

That same area that has not been given a good college public in the recent month. During March, as we started St. Patrick’s Day, the streets were filled with everything from pizza boxes, 30 racks and red solo cups. It looked like a garbage truck has spilled into the streets but it really was left over remnants of the “Keg and Eggs” parties that are popular around St. Patrick’s Day.

While many students choose to live there because it allows them to be in close proximity to campus and their friends, other options do exist. For those of us that maybe want a slightly different living experience, there is life in Albany outside of the “student ghetto”. Living off campus does not have to mean just within the confines of the Pine Hills neighborhood.

After having lived in Albany for a number of years, I have resided in some nice areas and the same more unhealthy ones. To my happiness, I seem to have found a small oasis within this concrete jungle. The Delaware Area Neighborhood has become my home for the past two years and it is without a doubt proving itself to be its all.

The area encompasses Delaware Ave and the surrounding outskirts of downtown Albany. Nestled between the end of Lark Street and Delaware, Delaware Area has become a tight knit and friendly community with much to offer.

You can walk to almost anything - the hairdresser, the cleaners, restaurants, ice cream parlor, the bank, the library, etc. It is also home to the Spectrum Movie Theatre. Spectrum is the only movie theater left in the center of Albany and not only shows box office hits but also has a cultivated selection of Independent films. They offer a unique experience, whether it be their popcorn buttered with real freshly melted popcorn or the baked goods offered at concession baked goods.

Parking is usually plentiful, even though on street and you have easy access to the major highways if it is a quick walk to Lark and Washington Park. Homes here are affordable with an average two bedroom going for eighty hundred with some utilities included.

If you’re a pet owner with children in every age group, from college students to retirees, those who enjoy a close sense of community. It is not uncommon while walking my dog that someone stops to say hello or a neighbor will come to ask if you need help shoveling your sidewalk.

According to the University’s website, Professor Branden Ballif-Bower suggested the construction of a drone lab after he stumbled across the vacant basketball court in Page Hall into a new two story drone lab.

Last month Albany Police Department announced that, with a $100,000 loan from the Department of Homeland Security, they will be purchasing two drones to assist in aerial surveillance methods. The ACLU has noted that “siren surveillance methods”, also known as predictive policing, have sometimes been linked to racial bias.

Furthermore, UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) such as those being tested by the University have been used extensively by the United States military. Between 2004 and 2015, 413 separate drone strikes occurred killing anywhere between 416-939 civilians including 160-204 children in Pakistan alone. As well as 329 drone strikes killing 174-225 civilians including 44-50 children in Yemen since our involvement in the region began in 2015.

Between the new drone lab and the expansion of the CEHC, it seems as if it will only continue to grow in size. If that is indeed the case, students should be asking questions and the school must answer them.

As an student living within the urban core, I feel fortunate that we use all means at our disposal to reject the “University to War” pipeline. We can no longer allow the University to train the next generation of weapons contractors and intelligence agents not develop and test tools designed for the control and mass killing of civilians both domestically and abroad.

Edward Said once said “Every empire, however, tells itself and the world that it is unlike all other empires, that its mission is to plunder and control but to educate and liberate.” The American Empire requires the American youth to carry on the idea that they are fighting for good, so we continue to feed into the war machine. If we ever want to live in a peaceful and equitable world, we must not go.

OPINIONS

By TIMOTHY CRIZZIK

UA is Supporting a Pipeline to War

We must talk about the University at Albany’s involvement in the endless U.S. military industrial complex.

Earlier this month, it was announced that the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cyber Security had converted a vacant basketball court in Page Hall into a new two story drone lab.

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607.962.9151  admissions@corning-cc.edu
Bros and Joe Schmoes: All welcome at Thursday night Smash Club tourneys

By JACQUELYN ORCHARD

Is making friends hard for you? Are you more of a “stay home and play video games” kind of person? If so, boy do I have an idea for you!

The Super Smash Bros Club on campus meets every Thursday night at 7:30 in room 021 in the education building. The President is Jack Vignone, gamertag “Tarzan,” and he wants you to come play a few rounds on the big screen for bragging rights, or cash.

Anywhere from five to twenty people show up to each Super Smash Thursday and they divide themselves into twos and play on each of the four walls of the room. You can bring your own system or wait for a turn on one of the three that are already there.

On the main wall is a projector setup with a pull-down screen. Against the other walls are TVs brought from home. Simply walk in, say hi, and pull up a desk.

For some students, especially those new to UAlbany, the Super Smash Club is a way to make friends, when otherwise they might just stay home. “I wouldn’t have a past time. I wouldn’t have an area to enjoy myself in,” said Kevin Viera, a UAlbany freshman.

The members don’t always hang out outside of the club; they can have different majors and live in different areas. But Viera says that for those few hours on Thursday nights, they are definitely friends while they’re playing. “It would be weird to say actual every-day friends, but we are friends at the moment when we come and meet and sit down for the game... just enjoying the game,” Viera explained. “You just settle in and everyone knows what’s up.”

Super Smash players have something like a secret society in Albany. “There is a general community of people that play this game in the whole capital region. So whenever something’s going on, people show up,” Jack Vignone, “Tarzan,” explained.

Immortal Fight Night at Crossgates mall, for example, is the “premier” tournament. Vignone’s are less expensive, with a one dollar buy-in vs. Immortal Fight Night’s five dollar buy-in.

“College students are poor,” said Vignone. “Not every Thursday is a tournament, but when there is one, it’s affordable. It’s mostly about bragging rights.”

“Whatever a tournament is run there’s a small fee to enter the bracket, usually a dollar to enter, it keeps a competitive kind of feel towards it,” Vignone explained.

All the money is put toward the winnings: 50% for first place, 30% for second, and 20% for third. The more people, the more money in the pot.

Despite many of the members describing themselves as the “stay in” type, they come out for this club. It’s special. “I mean, it’s one thing to play the game by yourself. But it’s just way more fun when you have people to play with. Like, ‘how did you learn this move?’ The more you play them and see them, friendships come out of it,” Viera said.

The Thursday night Smash club is a standing appointment, but this crew plays spontaneously as well. It can start anywhere, any day.

“Honestly what it usually is is we’re studying and then someone starts talking trash so then we turn the game on,” Vignone laughed. Room 021 has a decent setup now, but Vignone hopes to expand the club and, one day, upgrade to a larger room with more projectors.

“We’re doing what we can for now,” Vignone said. “You can join the club’s public group on Facebook: UAlbany Smash Bros Club. Or, stop by any Thursday. You might leave with some bragging rights and, maybe, a few new friends.”
Rogue Thespians: Student group preps for a main stage debut

I work all night, I work all day, to pay the bills I have to pay….

The familiar ABBA lyrics floated through the halls of the Performing Arts Center last Wednesday night. A chorus of voices echoed off of the walls to the distinct music. The source? The Musical Theatre Association’s rehearsal for their upcoming production, “Mamma Mia!”

With a little over a week before opening night, the cast was running their full numbers, including choreography, blocking, dialogue, and of course, singing.

They didn’t have a rehearsal space, so they were running numbers in the lobby of the Studio Theater. It’s not an ideal space; the acoustics are echoey and their music was coming from a laptop speaker which was easily overpowered by the singers.

Still, the performers had enough space to dance, perform, and give their all.

Musical Theatre Association (MTA) is a student-run group on campus that puts on a production every semester. They are not part of the UAlbany Theatre Dept., and are open to any students who want to join. The Mamma Mia cast is comprised of a variety of majors and theatre experience.

For freshman biology major Luke Williams, MTA is his first ever experience with theatre.

“My friend convinced me [to audition],” he just said I sounded like a decent singer and should try out,” Williams said. “Just go for it, that’s the only thing I can really say.”

Other cast members are theatre majors with plenty of experience, such as Mickey O’Donnell.

“I’ve always been doing theatre and I joined right away my freshman year with the department, and I auditioned for Into the Woods last semester because I didn’t get cast in the department shows,” she said. “I really appreciate the opportunity to keep up with my acting skills and singing especially. It’s a fun place.”

Alexa Passante, a sophomore theatre major who will be playing Rosie in the production, agrees.

“It’s just really fun and a great way to do theatre,” Passante said. “We’re all working really hard to put on the best show we can.”

“Super Trouper,” is an iconic number known by film and musical fans alike. Although they were not on a stage, the cast rehearsed the full number with choreography, harmonies, and acting.

The director, UAlbany junior Jess Nicholson, watched with a smile and wrote down notes. The club is looking at its biggest year yet, being the first year with a full production both semesters (MTA did “Into The Woods” in the Fall).

Its upcoming production will also be the first first MTA show on UAlbany’s Main Stage, the largest theater with just under 500 seats.

“This will be our first Main Stage performance, which was a goal right away,” said Darius Clinton, the club’s president and show’s head choreographer, “Before I graduated, I wanted to do a show on the Main Stage, and it’s finally happening, and I think it’s going to be our best show yet.

At the end of rehearsal, around 10:15 p.m., the creative team gathered the cast to give notes.

Stage manager Ryan Buchholz asked the cast, “Is there anyone who is interested in staying after rehearsal on Saturday to help with set construction, from 12 to 11 p.m.?”

Hands shot into the air.

“Yeah, because if you guys don’t come and help, then you won’t have any sets,” the director reminded them. Every aspect of the show, from directing to design to advertising, is in the hands of students.

Clinton held a stack of posters, urging members to post around campus and “dorm storm.”

The posters were designed by cast member Kendra VanAllen. Buchholz assigned locations to people to post posters advertising the show. The creative team urged people to post about tickets on social media.

When the rehearsal officially ended, the cast broke off to go home, already talking about tomorrow night’s rehearsal, Saturday’s set construction, and problem spots to work on before the show.

“Mamma Mia” will run for three performances on Friday, April 5 at 7 p.m., and on Saturday April 6 at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.

“The student group Musical Theatre Association doesn’t have a dedicated rehearsal space, so they have been practicing in places like the lecture center, pictured here.

“My friend convinced me [to audition], he just said I sounded like a decent singer and should try out.

Just go for it, that’s the only thing I can really say.”

- Luke Williams, freshman
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**UAlbany men’s lacrosse sophomore Tehoka Nanticoke led the way with five goals in the Great Danes’ 14-10 victory over Hartford Saturday afternoon.**

**UConn Advances to Final Four**

Big Wins at Weekend Games at Times Union Center

By JAY BENDLIN

For the 12th Consecutive year, the UConn Huskies advance to the Final Four. Led by Katie Lou Samuelson, the Huskies defeated the number one seed Louisville to solidify their run for the championship.

“I wanted to keep my career going,” said the Senior “I had to step up. They were really making it hard for us, so I had to do what I could.”

Samuelson put up 29 points to lead her team to victory beating the Cardinals 80-73. Although the Cardinals gave a good fight, tying and pulling ahead a few times, ultimately UConn pulled away in the final quarter.

Coach Geno Auriemma complimented the opposing team saying, “It’s always a pleasure to watch Asia Durr play.” in final remarks to fans at the Times Union Center.

Durr led the cardinals with 21 points. The Huskies entered the tournament seeded behind the Cardinals, shocking the team and the nation.

The Elite Eight game on Sunday was a rematch from January 31 when Louisville beat UConn, 78-69, contributing to one of two losses the Huskies had this season. Led by Coach Geno Auriemma, the Huskies look to win their twelfth national title next week when heading to Tampa Bay to possibly play the defending national champions Notre Dame.