



UNIVERSITY HALL

PLANS TO DRIVE PLANS



Strategic Plan, Contingency, Textbook Prices, Discussed at President's First Faculty Address

By JOE HOFFMAN

University at Albany President Havidan Rodriguez delivered his first faculty address last Wednesday, detailing membership of the Strategic Planning Committee and answering questions about textbook prices and contingent faculty, among other concerns.

"Originally, the steering committee had about sixteen members," said Rodriguez about the strategic

TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

UAlbany President Havidan Rodriguez takes questions from faculty in a town hall format Q&A after his first ever faculty address.

See HAVIDAN page 2

SA SENATE

Gift Request Roils Senators for 2nd Straight Week

By CHAD ARNOLD

For the second time in two weeks, Student Association's legislative agenda was bogged down by a debate surrounding an appropriations bill, paving the way for a rule change in how student groups can spend appropriation dollars in the coming weeks.

Wednesday's debate circled around a \$427 appropriation request from Doctors IV Hope, an on-campus organization that aims to support academic, service, and professional development for pre-medical and health students.

Divided into two lines, it was the second line which sparked debate. This line sought \$104 to purchase "thank you" gestures for the event's guest speakers, once again raising concerns about SA's appropriation budget and whether money given to student groups should be used to purchase gifts.

"Should we be giving gifts out with appropriation money?" asked Mitchell Ryback, chair of the Board of Finance, who



ALTILIO

See GIFTCARDS page 3

FACILITIES

Praise, Worry for E-TEC

By JOE HOFFMAN

Students, faculty, and staff are voicing both hopeful anticipation and logistical concerns as the construction of the Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurship Complex nears its second stage.

Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the project's planned site last February, describing it as the central location for University at Albany's new College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity and the headquarters of the Mesonet, a new weather analysis service.

Plans have been announced to move both the College of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences and the physics department onto the 12-acre site being built on the Harriman State Office campus to the east of UAlbany.

Need for more space for

classes, offices, and research labs has been an issue for years, with acknowledgment of the problem coming from administration in the 2012 Facilities Master Plan.

Qing Lin Li, a third-year physics Ph.D student, described a cramped environment for students and faculty in the physics building on the podium.

"From my understanding, we don't have enough space for graduate students," said Li.

See E-TEC page 2

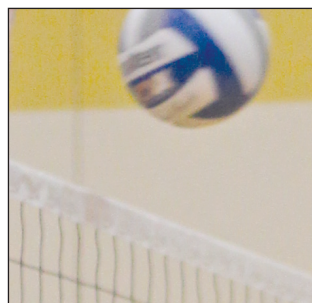


BRITTANY GREGORY / ASP

A construction vehicle situated within the future site of the Emerging Technologies and Entrepreneurship Complex



Photos by ALEKSANDRA NEFEDOVA / ASP



CONFERENCE CHAMPS

After a rough start, the women's volleyball team won the American East conference.

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HAVIDAN

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planning committee. “As of today, we have 98 members.”

UAlbany has had strategic planning committees in the past, including one with 55 members formalized by George Phillip in 2011.

According to UAlbany’s website, the planning committee will review documents, provide input to planning events, and ensure strategic goals line up with university campaigns and initiatives.

Rodriguez emphasized the varied composition of the committee, which includes 29 faculty members, 29 professional staff, 18 senior staff, and 11 undergraduate and graduate students.

Citing statistics that 16 percent of the committee are students and 60 percent are members of, Rodriguez said the makeup of the committee should make everyone feel represented.

In the town hall following the address,

Bret Benjamin, former president of UUP at UAlbany, asked Rodriguez for his perspective on the increasing trend of hiring ‘contingent faculty’ to teach a small number of courses on a temporary contract.

“The University at Albany has begun to take steps that have put it in the lead among SUNY institutions,” said Benjamin. “But there’s a lot more work that needs to be done, especially on job security, on pathways to permanency, on finding a way of shifting composition of instructional faculty away from heavy dependence on contingent faculty and towards more permanent, full-time tenure-line positions.”

A 2015 university report which Benjamin referenced found that contingent faculty taught 56% of all lecture and seminar courses in the preceding semester, and that the minimum per-course salary of \$2,800 had not been increased in over ten years. The report recommended raising the course rate to \$5,000 and working to ensure employee benefits for non-tenure-track faculty.

James Stellar, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, responded to the question, claiming that administration had raised the average compensation per course somewhere between \$800 and \$1000 since the release of the report.

“It took us decades to get into this problem,” he said. “It’s gonna take us a long time to get out of it.”

Maritza Martinez, director of the Educational Opportunities Program, asked President Rodriguez what he would do about the rising costs of attendance, especially concerning textbook prices.

“For many of them, that’s going to be a real factor in their family dining tables -- whether they send them back here to be educated or whether they transfer to a more affordable college back home,” she said.

Rodriguez asked faculty to be “mindful” of the situation of high book costs, and that he didn’t yet know whether new fees would be added for students to pay out-of-pocket. He pointed to creation of student scholarships as one of the reasons for current efforts to raise funds from alumni and donors.

LAW

Title IX Lawsuit Continues

By JASMINE MILLNER

The University at Albany and the university’s athletic director, Mark Benson, are currently facing a lawsuit over an alleged Title IX violation after cutting the women’s tennis team.

Former Women’s Tennis Coach Gordon Graham, along with four former UAlbany women’s tennis players, are hoping for the reinstatement of the team on campus and the university’s compliance with Title IX requirements.

While the lawsuit was what brought the issue to the light, it’s not the extent of the reaction to alleged discrimination -- the Federal Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights investigated UAlbany’s athletic division. The University has since entered into an agreement with the OCR stating that they will comply with Title IX standards within the next three years.

In order to meet Title IX requirements, the school would have needed to offer 97 more opportunities for female athletes between 2016 and 2017. This is an increase from the prior year, when the gap was 55 spots.

Title IX is a law that prohibits discrimination against anyone based on sex in any educational institution that receives federal funding.

This is not the first time the university has been sued for athletic violations. In 1994, the university eliminated the men’s tennis team, wrestling team, and both the women’s and men’s swimming teams.

Todd Rutecki, coach of the Albany women’s crew team, said that this is not a new problem by any means. The women’s crew team was cut by the University back in 2013. When the team was originally cut, Rutecki recalls his players saying that the administration had not provided a reason for the removal.

Rutecki said that he believes that the inequality between men’s and women’s sports on campus could be solved with the addition of the women’s crew team.

“It’s not uncommon for Division I women’s crew programs to have rosters of 100-plus individuals with many never having rowed before college,” said Rutecki.

As of its first competition this year, the team had a roster of 53 players.

This is a decrease from 2012, when the team opened their season with a 90-player roster. Rutecki said that his crew team already competes against Division I teams and that he believes there is more than enough opportunity for recruiting in the area.

Fiona Dutcher, a sophomore and member of the Albany women’s crew team, said that she is dissatisfied with the current opportunities for female athletes on campus.

“We can and need to do better for the women of UAlbany,” said Dutcher. Athletic Director Mark Benson said that administration is working to resolve the Title IX complaints.

“The University does not comment on pending litigation,” said Benson. “We are currently working with the Office of Civil Rights to resolve any compliance issues as we are committed to complying fully with the requirements of Title IX.”

E-TEC

Continued from Page 1

Several graduate students had to give up their second-floor offices when new physics professors were hired. He described how some offices have had to be housed in the building’s mailroom, and how nearby nanoscale offices are loud and crowded.

“I’ve grown to like the podium, so I’m not looking forward to leaving this nice central area that the campus has here,” said Associate Professor of Physics Dan Robbins. “On the other hand, a brand new building with an office has certain appeal as well.”

Robbins said he has heard that some classes may still be taught on the Podium.

“In terms of how well that’s gonna work, it’s too soon to say; that’s where I have a little bit of concern as to how smoothly that will go.”

E-TEC was originally planned to be constructed on UAlbany’s campus. The decision last year to build it on the State Office’s land necessitated that some form of quick transportation be available for students.

According to John Giarrusso, a crosswalk and traffic light will be installed on the Harriman Campus’ “ring roads,” two three-lane access roads which will be pared down to two lanes each near the crosswalk for safety and traffic reasons.

A bus stop will also be installed near the E-TEC building.

“It’ll be a really short ride, though,” said Giarrusso in an email.

Giarrusso said later in an interview that since the Harriman ring roads are not usually crowded with traffic, the reduction in lanes is not expected to affect State Office commuters.

Robert Griffin, dean of CEHC, said E-TEC will allow students to get hands-on experience, like training at an ‘emergency operations center,’ a room where students could practice responding to mock emergencies. The college also expects to partner with private businesses, as long as administration attracts them to the complex.



BRITTANY GREGORY / ASP
A rendering of the future home of E-TEC.

CRIME BLOTTER

HARASSMENT 2ND

10/27/17
Colonial Quad- Clinton Hall
Report of a female student being harassed by a male student.

MEDICAL INCIDENT

10/27/17
Colonial Quad- Herkimer Hall
Report of a female student with a head injury. Transported to hospital by 5 Quad.

CRIM TRESPASS - 3RD ENCLSD PROP

10/28/17
Podium- Campus Center
Report of a female student trespassing in the Campus Center. A referral was made.

MEDICAL INCIDENT

10/28/17
State Quad- Eastman Tower
Report of a female student having difficulty breathing. Refused medical attention.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

10/29/17
Roadways- Western Ave
Report of a male student in possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. A referral was made.

DOMESTIC INCIDENT

10/29/17
Other- UPD
Report of a male student harassing a female student.

CRIMINAL TRESPASS IN THE SECOND DEGREE

10/30/17
Dutch Quad- Ten Eyck Hall
Report of an altercation between two students.

DEFENDANT FAILS TO APPEAR IN COURT AFTER SUMMONS SERVED

10/30/17
Other- Off-campus
A male subject was arrested for an Active Bench Warrant with Albany Police Department.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA

10/31/17
Other- Indian Pond
Report of a male student in possession of marijuana paraphernalia. A referral was made.

CRIM MIS INTENT DAMAGED PROPERTY

10/31/17
Other- UPD
Report of a damaged vehicle by an unknown subject.

FIRE ALARM

10/31/17
Liberty Terrace- LT South
Caused by burnt food.

DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED - 1ST OFFENSE

11/1/17
Roadways- Tricentennial Drive
Report of a male student driving while intoxicated. An arrest and a referral were made.

AGG HARASSMENT- 2:PHONE/TELEGRAPH/WRITTEN COMMUN TO ALARM

11/1/17
Dutch Quad- Stuyvesant Tower
Report of a female student being harassed by another female student. A referral was made.

TRESPASS

11/1/17
Podium- Humanities
Report of a male student trespassing on campus.

INTIM 3-INSTILL FEAR INJURY

11/2/17
Podium- Chemistry
Report of a female student receiving a threatening note.

HIGHER EDUCATION

EX-SUNYSA CHIEF OF STAFF STARTS NYIHEA

By CHAD ARNOLD

With less than a year until graduation, Rey Muniz left his role as chief of staff for the SUNY Student Assembly for a new project: the New York Institute for Higher Education Advocacy.

"I would love to see this become sustainable and move far beyond me," he said. "I want this to be bigger and better than I will ever be."

NYIHEA is a month-old nonprofit group established to bring about progressive reforms in higher education throughout the state. The group, which will officially launch this coming week, currently houses a staff of 15 and has policy advisors throughout the state.

After many conversations with friends over several months, Muniz decided to leave his position as chief of staff for the SUNY SA to establish NYIHEA -- an entity he believes would better allow him to make political endorsements and contributions while lobbying for policy for the state's two million collegiate students.

Muniz, 23, said college institutions are vital economic drivers, with many throughout the state being the largest employers in its respected communities. As a result, Muniz found that state legislatures are inclined to discuss issues important to these campuses, which is where he sees NYIHEA fitting in.

By partnering with individual student governments throughout the state, Muniz aims to assess the legislative needs of the campus community, before streamlining the legislative process by setting up the meetings and drafting policy. Then, according to Muniz, it's a matter of stepping aside and letting student leaders represent their constituents.



Source: Carolyn Sheridan

Rey Muniz, director of the New York Institute for Higher Education Advocacy.

"I have a pretty aggressive travel schedule," said Muniz who would like to meet with the student

governments on every SUNY and CUNY campus by Feb. 1, to establish connections and better

understand the legislative needs of these communities.

Muniz hopes to have 15 legislative policies drafted by the start of the upcoming legislative session, policies he says are likely to include issues pertaining to

campus safety and drug overdose, food insecurity, sustainability initiatives, and campus diversity.

Fascinated by government and policy his entire life, Muniz, who grew up in the Chautauqua County, has been a member of the SUNY SA for nearly five years. He served as SUNY SA's director of Legislative Affairs, a role that allowed him to begin to see the impact his work could have on students.

This past spring, Muniz, alongside men-

tal health professionals and members of the state legislature, worked to create the Student Telecounseling Network, a program designed to alleviate pressures on counseling centers throughout the SUNY system.

The result: a \$300,000 investment from the state to establish a five-campus pilot program to be rolled out in the coming weeks.

"I realized then, without delay, that I needed to focus on doing real things, on making real things happen," he said.

TITLE IX

Admin: Sexual Assault Measures to Remain



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

By DESIREE SHEPHERD

Title IX changes will not change how University at Albany administration conducts on-campus sexual assault probe procedures.

The federal change made by the Depart-

ment of Education on Sept. 22 offers a "new guidance," a question and answer form. Higher education can now address administrative policies in conducting a sexual assault investigation.

Chantelle Cleary, assistant vice president for Equity and Compliance and Title IX co-

ordinator, said that the new standard gives universities the choice in how to handle sexual assault cases.

Cleary noted that the new guidance does not lead to any distinctive changes in the way UAlbany currently conducts administrative investigations.

Paul Burlingame, deputy chief of the University Police Department, agrees. "I don't see that as terribly different from our old standard," he said. "'Preponderance' is not that far off from 'clear and convincing' and I don't see it having that big of an impact in the process."

In early September, Betsy DeVos, United States Secretary of Education, made a speech at George Mason University in which she made a critique about Title XI under the Obama Administration. The main topic of discussion was if there was a one-sided investigation process for individuals accused of sexual violence against another person due to a potential lack of due process.

Burlingame pointed out that the two processes that come about within a reporting is administrative versus criminal. The criminal standard of UPD has not changed since the federal change. All procedures are exhausted within ongoing investigations that are reported to the department.

He defines this as a "burden-of-proof change."

UAlbany already affords those involved in an investigative report due process, an administrative process where victims and those accused are both provided an in-depth investigation. This process gives both parties the right to know the evidence that is against them to make a statement, and to respond to opposing statements.

Many colleges including The University of Colorado Boulder, California State Universities, and Bentley University have made statements announcing to maintain current guidelines.

With this specific topic going viral, there has been a new stage of awareness on how sexual assault is defined.

Burlingame pointed out that there has been an increase in the amount of sexual assaults being reported on campus this school year. Although, this does not mean that the rate at which sexual assaults are still occurring has changed.

Once a report is sent to UPD, they either send it to the Cleary or to the District Attorney's Office.

This emphasizes the role administrations have in handling the resolutions of a case and is why the Title XI changes do not affect UPD.

GIFTCARDS

Continued from Page 1

voiced similar concerns the previous week when SA debated whether to give La Dolce Vita, appropriation money to purchase gift cards. "Money we take out of appropriations [now] isn't going to go to another group in the future."

"We should give gifts," said SA President Jerlisa Fontaine who explained the medical field can be overwhelming. The gesture expresses appreciation for those taking the time out to speak to students on campus and allows students to networking, she said.

According to Senate Chair Jarrett Altiglio, a member of SA for the last four years, there is no history for using appropriation money to purchase gifts and doing so now would not be in the interest of student groups on campus.

"This is not how we [SA] operate a budget," said Altiglio before moving to strike the request from the bill before it went up for final vote. "We are not here to provide gifts for students nor are we here to provide gifts for adults whether they're doctors or not."

The \$104 was eventually struck from the bill giving Doctors IV Hope only \$322.50 of its original \$427.79 request.

Sen. Lela Edwards, during the debate, brought attention to the fact there is no by-law pertaining to the use of appropriations money for gifts, and suggested the issue be addressed moving forward.

"I'm going to sponsor a bill that would cut the possibility of gifts being purchased with Student Association money," said Mark Anthony-Quinn, chairman of the Appropriations committee in an interview following the meeting.

Quinn explained he does not want an internal debate



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Senate chair Jarrett Altiglio speaks with Appropriations chair Mark Anthony-Quinn after Wednesday's meeting.

between SA members to hold any groups back in the future and said a meeting between himself and other high-ranking members of the senate would take place before the next SA meeting to further discuss a solution.

"We as the senate had a good, healthy conversation" said Quinn. "We're going to work with the entire executive

committee to come up with a solution to this problem."

Further information regarding the proposed bill was not available as of writing, however, a final draft is expected to be presented to SA in the coming weeks.

COUNTERTERRORISM

U.S. Should Intervene in Niger to Fight Terrorism, Encourage Democracy

By NICHOLAS SHERMAN

The death of four United States soldiers in Niger earlier last month has prompted the questions: where's Niger, why are we in Niger, and should we be in Niger? First off, Niger is a landlocked country in Africa. It is bordered by Libya and Algeria in the North, Mali and Burkina Faso to the West, Benin and Nigeria to the South, and Chad to the East. The United States involvement in Niger has two explanations: countering terrorism and helping the French.

The first explanations as to why we're in Niger is rather simple: to stop the spread of terrorism. Since the events of Sept. 11, 2001 the United States has become preoccupied with ensuring that radical foreign born terrorism be stomped out to prevent another 9/11. This is an easy answer as the United States has intervened in many countries in the name of counterterrorism. Such countries include Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya. Part of the United States' mission in Niger was to fight terrorism. These four troops were

ambushed and killed by soldiers fighting for ISIS in the Greater Sahara, an offshoot of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

The second explanation as to why we are in Niger has to do with France. All of the countries surrounding Niger, with the exception of Libya, were all at one point part of the French colonial territories. In 2012, the neighboring country of Mali erupted into a state of armed conflict.

The Tuareg, an ethnic group native to Libya, Algeria, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali rebelled against the Mali government. The Tuareg did not fight their rebellion alone — they were aided by several outside groups such as Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Since the Tuareg are Muslim they banded together to fight their common foe: Mali.

By April of 2012 the Tuareg had gained control of Northern Mali and instituted their own national state of Azawad. This, however, was not to last. The Tuareg were then betrayed by their Al-Qaeda comrades who then seized the Tuareg and instituted their

own Islamic state with Sharia at its center.

The Mali government requested French intervention. The French were joined by several African states to retake Northern Mali. It is here that the United States became involved. To aid France, a United States ally, Barack Obama sent in 150 troops to Niger to

So, should the United States intervene in Niger? The answer is yes. There are those who believe that we are intervening in Niger for oil, it is a conspiracy that follows United States intervention wherever it goes and is plainly not true. There are those still that claim United States and French intervention in the region is an effort to establish or reestablish some sort of colonial empire in Africa, which is another baseless conspiracy.

The United States has the right to protect itself from would-be terror organizations who wish to do us harm, and as a side-benefit, the United States also helps and protects Niger from people and organizations who would wish to turn the country from a fledgling democracy into a theocratic despot state. With France, the French were called in to



SHERMAN

help a former colonial territory regain its territory, stability, and — most importantly — to create a democratic country.

In both of these cases, what could be more just than the creation of a stable, democratic, and terror-free central Africa?

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DINING

UAS Should Ditch Sodexo

By BAYLEE WEST

UAlbany made the switch from their then-current dining service, Chartwells, to Sodexo, another dining company in 2013. But this isn't the first time that UAlbany has dealt with Sodexo. Prior to Chartwells, Sodexo was the school's food service provider, and according to an ASP opinions article, "Sodexo had a tenuous relationship with the university including an E. coli outbreak and labor issues."

But these weren't the only problems the company had faced on campus either. Back in 2000, 30 UAlbany students protested the company's removal, then called Sodexo-Marriot. "The goal... was to bring attention to the injustices being carried out by Sodexo-Marriot," stated another opinions article.

The protest was being held regarding a lawsuit the company was facing, as there were accusations of discrimination against minority managers in the hotel contract. Then, right after the lawsuit was taken care of, the previously mentioned E. coli outbreak sent at least six students to the hospital after they ate at Indian Quad's dining hall, both articles mention.

Sodexo has also seen its fair share of international outbreaks as well. There was

also an E. coli outbreak around the same time as the Indian Quad outbreak in an elementary school in Wisconsin that left 19 kids sick and four more hospitalized.

Similarly, in 2012, Sodexo faced one of its largest E. coli outbreaks to date in Germany. The outbreak left over 11,000 students infected across 500 schools. Thirty-two of those children were hospitalized due to their illness. It would be understandable to switch back to a company that only had one or two small outbreaks like these, as it is understandable in a company that large dealing with that much food. But with as many outbreaks and on this large of a scale as Sodexo has had, why would UAlbany take Sodexo back?

When UAlbany first made the switch to Chartwells from Sodexo, it was because of poor food quality and working conditions. If this is so, why would the school entertain Sodexo

a second time, if they know how poorly the first contract turned out? It seems like the university will end up losing money by continuing work with Sodexo.

The Agriculture Department of the federal government tried to intervene in 2011 by proposing new food rules. They "would set

maximum calories for school meals; require more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains; and limit trans fats," according to a New York Times article. But who was opposed to these new rules? Sodexo, and other companies like them.

Sodexo claimed that if they tried to increase fruit and vegetable intake at schools by offering more, it might result in "plate

waste." They also, with other companies like Aramark and Chartwells, claimed that "children may not want to eat healthier food." It is from actions by companies like Sodexo that schools could pass tomato sauce on pizza as a vegetable serving.

More recently, in October of 2017, Sodexo cancelled plans for the construction of Tully's Good Times in the Campus Center, due to "unknown" disagreements between the two companies. According to a more recent ASP article, Sodexo and Tully's couldn't come to agreements about a partnership, even though Sodexo and Tully's successfully worked together to bring the pub-style restaurant to Binghamton University, another SUNY campus.

The article states that plans were sacked in the "11th hour," but things like this do happen. It is unfortunate, however, that issues with Sodexo seem to continuously pop up over their long history. The Sodexo dining company is not the best choice for UAlbany, as it seems. With its numerous large-scale E. coli outbreaks, aversion to complying with healthier food rules for students, and overall disappointing record with their food, it's hard to understand why UAlbany continues this partnership.



WEST

increase fruit and vegetable intake at schools by offering more, it might result in "plate

INTERNATIONAL

Catalan Crisis Shows Lack of Democracy

By M. FRANCIS MIRRO

Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." Time and time again that statement has proven prophetic and events in Catalonia, Spain, have been no exception. Catalonia's fight for independence from Spain has been an on again, off again struggle lasting the better part of the last 500 years. Largely unknown by many outside of the country in the modern era, it has reemerged in full force in the midst of this strange and tumultuous global political climate.

On Oct. 1, Catalans went to the ballot box to vote on an independence referendum. Due to Spanish police interference ordered by Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, only about 43 percent of the region's population came out to vote. The New York Times called the scene "one of the gravest tests of Spain's democracy since the end of the Franco dictatorship." But despite the Madrid sanctioned violence, 90 percent of those voters decided in favor of Catalonia's separation from Spain.

Though the vote, a just expression of the vital democratic principle of national self-determination, was denounced by the conservative Rajoy Administration and the Spanish courts, Catalonia's separatist leader, Carles Puigdemont, declared his region's independence from Spain on Oct. 27, following a vote from the Catalan parliament. Puigdemont stated he wished to discuss a peaceful separation with the Spanish government to avoid violence.

Instead, the Rajoy Administration sacked the Catalan government. Rajoy exercised an executive power and dissolved the region's government, placing full control of Catalonia in Madrid. Catalonia's separatist officials have either fled the country or been jailed. Puigdemont himself has gone to Brussels and Spanish high courts have issued an arrest warrant for the president in exile.

It is not only that the Catalonia's democratic decision to void their union with the Republic of Spain has been simply dismissed by Spanish hubris, it is also that it has been handled using violence and militant police. Rajoy ignored Puigdemont's expressed desire for a peaceful discussion and, instead, chose to usurp the region's autonomy. Duly elected officials have been jailed, beaten or driven into hiding by federal whim simply because they sought to fulfill the wish of the large percentage of their population. This is not how democracy works and, as a member of NATO, the United Nations and the European Union, Rajoy's Spain needs to be



MIRRO

held accountable for its egregious abuse of power.

President Donald Trump has come out in support of Rajoy and spoke out against the possibility of Catalonia leaving Spain. This came following a meeting between Rajoy and Trump at the White House in late September. That was before Rajoy sicced armed police after people who simply wished to cast a vote and before he dissolved the provincial government and placed himself in charge of Catalonia.

Since the Oct. 1 debacle, the Oval Office has been dead silent on Catalonia which doesn't surprise anyone. Frankly, it's surprising that Trump knows the difference between Catalonia and Cambodia.

Many fear that Spain may be headed for another civil war, its first since the 1930s when the fascist Gen. Francisco Franco took control of the country and ruled as dictator until his death in 1978. During his reign, Franco was especially harsh at Catalonia, diminishing their autonomy and forcing many to abandon their native language, Catalan, in favor of Spanish. History does indeed repeat itself, often with dire consequences for those who fail to learn their lesson the first time around.

The Catalonia Crisis has the potential to be bring a type of conflict not seen in Western Europe since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Western democracy is a breaking point with ultranationalist ideology once again rearing its ugly head in Germany, the United States and England while the Russian autocracy of Vladimir Putin looms large over the West. For democracy to survive this current challenge, the trials of Spain must be handled in a purely democratic way, with diplomacy ruling over violence and the wishes of the people holding more weight than the wishes of the Madrid government. *Viu Catalunya!*

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TELEVISION

‘Stranger Things 2’ is Darker, Dominates Halloween Weekend



Source: Flickr

Rising actress Millie Bobby Brown, above, returns to play Eleven in this cultural phenomenon after

By KATHRYN DARA

On Friday Oct. 27, Netflix released the long-anticipated second season of its most popular original drama ever, “Stranger Things.” Many doubted that the series’ second installment could live up to the first. Recreating the sense of discovery of the first season is impossible. “Stranger Things 2,” while not perfect, is an excellent continuation of the story.

The show’s first season was released last July and was an immediate hit. It garnered critical fame and dominated nearly every television awards show of the 2016 season

with 78 total nominations.

Last year, the series gained over 14 million viewers within the first month of its release. Now, it has become an obsession that left fans counting down the moments until season two.

The science-fiction series created by the Duffer Brothers starring Winona Ryder and David Harbour is filled with everything that makes a show deliciously addictive: drama, horror, mystery, and heart.

The characters are real and lovable, the story is gripping, and the 1980s setting gives it a nostalgic feel that pays homage to Stephen King’s works. The October release

date of the second season came just in time for Halloween and tempted fans to stay in and binge-watch it all weekend.

Some of the series’ new characters were introduced and a few unanswered plot points were addressed. It was also much darker than the first season. It generally was met by fans with a positive reaction. While there is too much to talk about with “Stranger Things 2,” there are a few key elements that should be addressed.

The story takes place a year after the events of season one.

It addresses the effects reverberating from last season’s events after Will Byers (Noah Schnapp) returned from the alternate dimension, “The Upside Down.” He deals with the trauma he experienced and struggles to adjust to the normal world, all while his mother Joyce (Winona Ryder) lives in fear of losing him again.

It becomes evident that “The Upside Down” is not gone forever. Instead, a much larger and more powerful force threatens to seep into the world and destroy it.

Audiences also see Eleven (Millie Bobby Brown) as she tries to find her place in the world after nearly dying at the end of last season. She seeks to discover her origins and tries to figure out what to do with her telekinetic powers.

This season was strong with its energy, plot development, and character growth. However, certain storylines felt rushed or like they existed to serve the fans instead of the story itself.

For example, while most fans were rooting for Nancy Wheeler (Natalia Dyer) and Jonathan Byers (Charlie Heaton) to end up together, their relationship felt more forced this season than the last one.

While the chemistry and shared history was obvious, the writing did much more telling instead of showing.

Also, the season featured an episode where Eleven travels on her own to Chicago to find another experiment like her, who she referred to as her “sister.” What was odd was that this was the sole focus of that episode instead of featuring the stories of several characters like it usually does.

While the episode was important for Eleven’s character, it felt off-beat and somewhat killed the momentum of the season. It will be interesting to see if the idea of other people with powers like Eleven’s will be explored in later seasons.

The major part of what made this season successful was the fan’s devotion to the characters. They are an eclectic group that gives the show its heart. They are compelling yet imperfect, which makes viewers see themselves on screen.

There is no doubt that certain characters are fan favorites. The most surprising new standout of this season was Steve Harrington. He matured and became a father-like figure for the show’s main gang of kids, quickly becoming a season highlight.

In addition, Noah Schnapp gave a phenomenal performance as Will Byers. Considering he was not in the last season that often, he had a chance to shine as the center of the new storyline. The kids in the cast have all matured in the past year as actors, which was made evident in their performances as a whole.

Overall, “Stranger Things 2” hit just the right mark. Although there were weak points in story development, the season was fantastic as a whole. It was terrifying, dark, mysterious, fun, and heartfelt.

Only one question remains on fans’ minds: when is season three coming out?

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UAS

4.5k UAlbany IDs Replaced Within 8 Months

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

University at Albany ID cards were replaced nearly 4,500 times within the first eight months of this year.

Of over 11,000 cards printed within this time, 44 percent were replacements, University Auxiliary Services reported.

It's unclear how many IDs were replaced over the last two months. UAS doesn't compile card data until semester's end. Should numbers mirror data from last fall, over 80 percent of cards printed during September and October will be replacements.

The number of card replacements was highest around the start of the spring and fall semester: 753 in January and 980 in August. Both levels are common when stu-

dents return to campus, according to UAS officials.

"The reasons that people report for having lost their card and the reasons that people report as to how their card has been damaged are — there's a million of them," said Michelle Schifley, senior director of Administration for UAS.

Most cards are replaced due to wear and tear or loss. In rarer cases, cards have been cut, damaged while used to scrape ice, and in a recent case, Schifley said an ID appeared to have been set ablaze.

"Some students simply don't care well for their card," said Sharon Webster, director of ID Card Services for UAS. "Whether they keep it in a pocket or they keep it somewhere where they're sitting on it all

the time, there's always that breakdown of integrity of the card."

Since the start of the Dane It! temporary card program three years back, the number of replacements has decreased, UAS reported. Over the last eight months, about 70 percent of cardholders with a temporary ID had their cards restored.

Temporary IDs are active for three days. Official ID replacements cost \$20.

Sydney Wright, a junior communications student, lost five IDs in two years, totaling \$100 in replacements. She often discovered her card missing after riding taxis and buses across Albany.

Wright secures her ID in a wallet, a measure taken after her last card was lost six months ago.

"I never lose my credit cards or anything," she said. "It's because with SUNY-Cards, you forget it's there and if it's not connected to anything [sic]."

UAS stopped referencing the ID as a SUNYCard in effort to maintain consistency with university branding. The name was part of a failed initiative from SUNY Central during the 1990s to put all 64 campuses to be under a uniform ID.

Some SUNYCard signage was replaced across campus over the summer. In some areas, such as the UPD office, the old branding still remains.

"Although it is the official name, it's not the commonly referred-to name," said Mikaela Norris, a junior political science student.



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

'Longshot' Amazon Bid Could Impact University if Approved, Officials Say



Source: Dalpos Architects & Integrators, Syracuse

The CEG found 25 acres in downtown Albany and 75 acres in Rensselaer for development.

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

Andrew Kennedy, president for the Center of Economic Growth, believes the University at Albany would experience an uptick in out-of-area students along with greater alumni numbers in the region should Amazon build a \$5 billion site nearby.

The CEG last month made a \$100,000 pitch for the online retail giant to build a second headquarters in Downtown Albany and Rensselaer, home of two UAlbany campuses. The Capital Region pitch — considered a pipe dream from critics — is one of 238 proposals across the country made to Amazon.

If approved, Amazon would generate 50,000 jobs in the Capital Region through tax incentives. Such employment opportunities could attract more UAlbany students to remain in the area after graduation, Ken-

nedy said.

"Having a big company like this gives them that sort of stable environment which could help retain our college educated students that come here," said Kennedy.

Robert Spahn, a Long Island native and graduate student, would be interested living almost anywhere in the region with a second Amazon headquarters. Expecting to take a master's degree in math come May, Spahn has been eager to apply for employment at the online retailer's Buffalo sortation center.

"It would be easier in terms of travel and opportunities," he said. "I don't want to move to Seattle."

Spahn is one of 3,253 in-state graduate students this fall. Overall numbers indicate that 816 international students and 166 out-of-state students are enrolled in a gradu-

ate program at UAlbany. Out of 13,508 undergraduates, four percent of students are from out-of-state and five percent are international.

Should Amazon choose the Capital Region to build a second headquarters, Matt Grattan, UAlbany director of Community & Economic Development, said out-of-state and international numbers could be impacted by such a project.

"I think a lot of it is a combination of 'Do you have the academic programs and do you have the right mix of industry that can employ the student after graduation in your area?'" he said.

For STEM demands, emerging schools like the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity, he believes, make a difference in CEG's proposal.

While proposals are processed, some have poked fun at Albany's pitch. The Onion, a satirical publication, recently published an article titled "Jeff Bezos' Heart Breaks A Little Reading Albany's Amazon Headquarters Pitch."

Byoung Park, a UAlbany assistant professor in econometrics, considers the possibility of a second Amazon headquarters in the Capital Region unlikely. The cold climate and lack of an large urban center, he explained, could risk high talent applicants looking elsewhere.

"It's much of a longshot," said Park.

Other proposals in the state include a joint Buffalo-Rochester bid, a Westchester County bid, a Long Island bid, and a New York City bid.

DIY CLEANING

Supplies to Clean Your Dorm Room

By KATIE GIBSON

It is better for the earth to make your own cleaning products and keep them in reusable containers. Not only is this practice better for the earth and healthier for you, it's also fun. I'm here to show you some simple cleaning supplies to tidy up your dorm.

ALL-PURPOSE CLEANER

Find a used squirt bottle and clean it thoroughly. Fill it halfway up with vinegar, then halfway with water. Vinegar naturally dissolves dirt and deodorizes smells. Add five drops of lemon or any essential oil you have lying around. This is more for aesthetic value. If vinegar isn't your favorite smell you can counteract it with the essential oil. Close the bottle, shake up the mixture, and you're ready to go. You can use this to remove stains, freshen a room, wipe windows, or clean dishes. For a stronger cleaning power use only white vinegar and essential oil.



BATH CLEANER

In a jar, mix baking soda, water, and essential oil until a paste is created. Spread this paste around your bathtub or sink to remove grime.



Source: Pixaboy

Essential oils help create a bath-cleaning paste.

BODY WASH

Don't forget that you have to stay clean as well. For a no-frills body wash, mix coconut oil, raw honey, and liquid castile soap in a jar. This will keep you clean and moisturized.



Photos from Wikimedia Commons, Pixaboy, and Flickr.

SHAMPOO

Once again, coconut oil saves the day. Reuse one of your old shampoo bottles for this recipe. Mix coconut oil with castile soap, sea salt, and essential oils. The coconut oil will make your hair soft, the soap will clean it, the sea salt will add volume, and the essential oils will make it smell nice. Shake the mixture and let it sit for 24 hours. Because of the moisturizing coconut oil, some hair types will be able to use this as an all-in-one shampoo and conditioner.

LEISURE

Activities in Albany for Chilly Weather



Source: Wikimedia Commons

The New York State Museum, located in Empire State Plaza.

By KATIE GIBSON

You can have fun in Albany no matter the season. The weather's getting chilly and it seems like Netflix is the only option, but never fear! You can still spice up your schedule. Whether you're trying to organize a fun hang out with friends or a cute date, Albany offers a variety of options.

Busses can be a hassle. Sometimes it's better just to stay on campus. It's not too cold to have a picnic next to Indian Pond. Indian Pond is underutilized by our community. It's beautiful, full of wildlife, and quiet. Gather some friends and some snacks and spread out on the grass or picnic tables. Bring a frisbee or some cards and get a tournament going. At night you can curl up with a picnic blanket and a well-charged laptop and watch movies in Collins Circle. Make sure to bundle up in a big sweater and some fuzzy socks!

If you're looking for fun off campus try the New York State Museum. It's free and a route 12 bus away. The museum is full of exhibits, but my personal favorite is the carousel on the top floor. You can see all of Albany as you ride around on a plastic horse. The Corning Tower Observation Deck offers another great view. It is the highest building outside of New York City. From the 42nd floor you can see Albany, the Catskills and beyond.

Once winter picks up, Empire Skate Plaza offers a cheap location to try out your ice skating moves. You can rent skates or bring your own. This is a fun activity for couples or friends. While you're out you can build a snowman and hunt for winter treats. Take a stroll through Washington



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

The CDTA bus offers free transportation with a UAlbany ID card.

park and see all the lights. A cup of hot chocolate and some friendship will warm up your night.

This is the perfect season for spending time with friends — indoors and outdoors. Don't let the chilly weather stop you from exploring Albany.



Source: UAlbany Photos

Collins Circle offers a space to unwind.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Empire Skate Plaza is a place to skate with friends downtown.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Team Makes History with 10th America East Title



PHOTOS BY ALEKSANDRA NEFEDOVA / ASP

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

ALBANY, N.Y. — The Volleyball team won their 10th America East title and secured the rights to host the 2017 conference tournament after knocking off the Hartford Hawks in three straight sets (25-16, 25-16, 25-11) at home on Sunday.

The Danes have now won nine matches in a row and 10 out of their last 11, securing their historic run in the America East Conference. The regular season title is coming on the heels of the Danes losing their first 12 matches of the season. During that run UAlbany lost a combined 45-3 sets. There was not much confidence in their locker room, but it was a learning experience.

“Preseason was kinda tough because we were playing really high ranked teams that have 6’5” girls hitting 10-foot lines,” said redshirt sophomore Akuabata Okenwa.

The Danes started their season out on the west coast and played schools like Michigan, Colorado and USC.

“We weren’t really in the mindset yet to play them, but we ended up coming close with USC,” said Okenwa.

The fact that their out of conference schedule was so strong prepared the Danes for a historic run in the America East while capturing the title.

“It ended up being a little tougher than I thought it was going to be, but I think it made us more mentally tough,” said volleyball head coach MJ Engstrom, referring to the Danes’ rocky start.

Engstrom is in her 10th season with the team and believes that she has a special group of players in her locker room.

“I think that in all the years I’ve been here at Albany this team has made the greatest progress ever,” said Engstrom. “Hats off to my assistants and the kids that come to practice and work hard every day.”

The Danes’ slow start didn’t get in their head, but actually brought them closer together as a team and companions.

“I think it showed us that even though teams have big people and people who hit the ball really hard that we can come back and fight. And it also compared us to what we’d

see in conference because it’s two very big differences,” said Okenwa.

The Danes rolled through the America East, but they still have work to do if they want a chance of redemption to play those teams they faced early in the season again in nationals.

“It’s still one game at a time. We have a lot to improve upon and that’s what we’re going to focus on,” said Engstrom.

The team will wrap up their regular season conference play this Friday when they make the trip to Long Island to square off against Stony Brook. Then the following week they will host the America East Tournament, which starts on Friday Nov. 17th.

The ladies know they have to take it one game at a time, but this bizarre season has given the team the confidence they need to go out and make it to nationals.

“I think we’re going to come out and dominate,” said Okenwa. “We’re very close as a team. We know what we have to do and we’re going to come out strong.”

FIELD HOCKEY

Women’s Season Ends in Defeat Against New Hampshire Wildcats

By ROBERT LEPELSTAT

It was an opponent that the University at Albany women’s field hockey team had defeated twice in the regular season, outscoring them 8-2 in the two victories.

It was that same team that UAlbany had dominated 4-2 on the road just eight days before their semifinal matchup in the 2017 America East Tournament on Saturday.

But when New Hampshire’s Katie Audino ripped a shot past Great Danes goalkeeper Melissa Nealon with less than one minute remaining in overtime, it was the Wildcats who left Wicked Blue Field with a 2-1 overtime victory and a trip to the conference championship game.

It was the 21st-ranked team in the nation who walked off the field hockey turf on a November afternoon in Lowell, MA in utter disbelief.

Just like that, UAlbany’s pursuit of a second America East title in three years and their season are both likely over.

Behind goals by freshman midfielder Kayla Siz and freshman forward Audino on top of a nine save performance by junior goalkeeper Kelsey Rudert, UNH knocked off UAlbany 2-1 in an overtime thriller to advance to the title game versus the #1 seed Stanford on Sunday.

“Today had very similar stats to our



Source: UAlbany Communications and Marketing

two previous games with UNH, which we won those comfortably,” head coach Phil Sykes said. “With a little over a minute to go we earned a penalty corner and it was all looking good for the possible game winner but we hit the post. It was just one of those days. Hats off to UNH for the win and we

wish them all the best in the final.”

After the Wildcats charged out to an early 1-0 lead off the Siz goal in the eighth minute, freshman forward Katie MacCallum tied the match with 15 minutes to go before the end of the first half.

MacCallum dribbled into the circle,

spinned to create an open shot for herself and fired a shot into the back left corner of the net to even the score at one.

In the 72nd minute, the Clifton Park native Nealon made two incredible saves to keep the game even at one and give the Danes an opportunity in extra time.

Off a rebounded slap shot, Audino sealed the win for UNH eight minutes into overtime for their third straight victory.

UAlbany outshot UNH 17-6 in the match as a whole and had nine penalty corner opportunities compared to just three for the Wildcats.

The Great Danes will have to hope for an at large berth to keep

their season alive. Coming into Saturday’s contest, UAlbany (12-7, 6-2 AE) had won eight of their last nine matches outscoring opponents 33-12 over that stretch.

SOCCER

MEN ADVANCE TO SEMIS IN CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT



Source: Bill Ziskin / UAlbany Sports

By OMAR NOUJOUR

You can stop biting your nails now.

In a first round playoff match that was nip and tuck from start to finish, the UAlbany Men's Soccer team knocked off University of Maryland, Baltimore County in a penalty shootout Saturday, advancing to the America East Semifinals.

"We're thrilled to advance and get a chance to move on in the America East tournament," said UAlbany head coach Trevor Gorman. "I thought it was a hard-fought game between two good teams."

90 minutes of regulation time wasn't enough to find a victor in the match, and neither were the two overtime periods. After 120 minutes, with the teams knotted at one goal apiece, the Danes outscored UMBC 4-2 in penalty kicks to earn the win at Casey Stadium.

It didn't take long for the Danes to jump out in front in the match, as the familiar give-and-go play between Daniel Krutzen and Carlos Clark worked to perfection. Krutzen would polish the play off, firing his fourth goal of the year into the UMBC net. He continues to be a key cog in the bal-

anced UAlbany attack.

Once UAlbany had the lead, it was time for Danny Vitiello, the dominant Dane goalkeeper, to go to work. Coming into Saturday's contest, Vitiello and the stout Dane defense hadn't conceded a goal in four consecutive matches. UMBC tested Vitiello all day long, firing 14 shots in his direction through regulation and overtime. Vitiello and the Danes stood tall until Sammy Kahsai finally put one home for UMBC, tying the score in the 83rd minute.

In the two overtime periods, neither team was able to find the back of the net, but momentum quickly shifted. After allowing the late goal, the Danes were visibly a step slower in the first overtime, knowing that they had just let their biggest win of the season slip through their fingers.

Clearly, after the first overtime, head coach Trevor Gorman said something to his team that riled them up. The Danes came out in the second overtime playing like their pants were on fire, outshooting UMBC 5-1. Still, UAlbany's suddenly rejuvenated attack wasn't enough to score a decisive second goal, and the game moved to a penalty kick shootout.

It's safe to say that the momentum UAlbany built in the

second overtime carried over into the PK shootout, as they slotted home four of their five attempts to advance to the conference semifinals. Because regular season matches can end in a tie, Saturday's shootout was the first of the season for the Danes.

UAlbany, the fourth seeded team in the conference playoffs, is no stranger to winning with their season on the line. However, after capturing the America East crown in 2016, the team has quite a rocky path to repeating as champions this season. The next stop on the Danes path is Burlington, where they have a date with top-seeded Vermont in the America East semifinals. The Danes will have a chance to exact a little intersport revenge, as it was Vermont that knocked UAlbany's Men's Basketball team out of the 2017 America East Tournament. UAlbany will be looking to do the same to the Catamounts, this time on the soccer pitch.

UAlbany and Vermont will kick off their semifinal match at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday night, with the winner advancing to the America East championship game on Sunday.

FOOTBALL

Danes Rack up 5th Loss in a Row

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

Stony Brook, N.Y. — The UAlbany football team lost to Stony Brook 28-21 in overtime in the New York State "Empire Clash" on the road in front of a crowd of 7,106 at LaValle Stadium Saturday, relinquishing the Golden Apple to the Seawolves.

The Great Danes' season has taken a turn for the worse as they have now lost five games in a row since upsetting #6 Villanova back on September 23rd. This year the team has been plagued by inconsistent performance on the offensive line, which has led the Danes to fall from fifth in the Colonial Athletic Association in rushing in 2016 all the way to last in 2017.

Last year the team had four seniors on the offensive line and led the league in rushing behind Elijah Ibitokun-Hanks, averaging just over 177 yards per game. This year the team had to fill that void left by the departing players as their average dropped off by more than 100 yards with the team only being able to muster 70 yards on the ground. Saturday's game was no exception as the Danes only manufactured 85 yards from their run game.

The game didn't start off to well as Donovan McDonald fumbled the opening kickoff inside the UAlbany 20-yard line, which was recovered by a swarm of Seawolve defenders. That set Stony Brook up in the red zone on the 16-yard line with only seconds taken off the clock. From there the Seawolves ran a 4 play 1:54 drive



Source: UAlbany Communications and Marketing

capped off by a 6-yard touchdown run by Donald Liotine, giving Stony Brook an early 7-0 lead.

The Danes responded the way that coach Gattuso would have liked them marching down the field and tying the game on a 7-yard pass from Will Brunson to Brad Harris. The drive went 12 plays and took 6:07 off the clock. If the Danes could have maintained that same efficiency for the duration of the game, then this would be a different story. That simply was not the case.

The Danes forced a 3 and out on the en-

suing Seawolve drive, but shot themselves in the foot again when Karl Mofor was stripped inside the UAlbany 10-yard line as Stony Brook jumped on the ball at the 9. Stacey Bedell ran in for a 4-yard touchdown and the Danes found themselves in a 14-7 hole.

Mistakes were the difference in the game for a UAlbany team that led the league in turnover margin last year. This year that has not been the story, as they have given the ball away more than taken it from their opponent.

"We gave them opportunities. It's self-inflicted," said UAlbany head coach Greg Gattuso. "We shouldn't be in the position that we're in. We need to play better. The discipline, the penalties, the turnovers were silly."

In the second half the Danes played a cleaner game and didn't allow Stony Brook to put points on the board. UAlbany tied the game up on a 3-yard Karl Mofor run with under two minutes to play in the game, which put the clash into overtime.

In the extra frame the Danes elected to start of defense and it only took a few plays for the Seawolves to find the end zone. That came on a 13-yard pass from Joe Carbone to Harrison Jackson.

On UAlbany's overtime chance they got the ball all the way down inside the 10-yard line, but that's where the drive stalled out and Will Brunson's pass attempt on 4th down sailed over his intended receiver, ending the game. UAlbany has now lost by a touchdown or less in four of their last five games.

Now it's back to the drawing board for a program that looked as if it turned the corner way back on September 23rd, but has regressed since. Greg Gattuso and company have two games left in the season where they would like to go out with some pride and end on a high note.

Saturday they travel to Delaware and take on the Blue Hens and before they look to play spoiler when they host #19 New Hampshire at Casey Stadium next week.