

UNIVERSITY POLICE

UNION SAYS UPD COMMAND STAFF IS 'DYSFUNCTIONAL'

By ELISE COOMBS

Following a series of claimed ongoing issues, the union representing police officers at the University at Albany contends that their relationship with leadership in the University Police Department and the university is broken.

The Police Benevolent Association has raised its concern with issues including the university's handling of timely alerts for serious crimes, security at homecoming, active shooter training, and repairs for police vehicles.

These issues, the PBA claims, have either been denied or covered up by command staff and the university administration.

Referring to the areas of concern, PBA Executive Director and Counsel Daniel De Federicis said, "Command staff is doing the university's bidding to protect the image."

This statement on command staff follows a survey the PBA released last summer taken by its members who work at UPD. In the survey, respondents put forth a vote of no confidence against command staff—including Chief J. Frank Wiley and Assistant Chief Aran Mull.

Overwhelmingly, respondents indicated that they felt senior management in UPD is not interested in employee opinions and ideas.

With many respondents indicating that they are searching for other employment, a clear majority also conveyed that they felt the university has an inappropriate amount of influence over the department.

When asked for an interview, Wiley referred to Director of Media & Community Relations Jordan Carleo-Evangelist and Mull did not respond.

The university responded in a statement provided by Carleo-Evangelist, who wrote, "The members of the UPD command staff among them have six decades of service to the UAlbany community, and they come to work each day with the safety and well-being of students, faculty, staff and their fellow officers foremost in their minds."

Seeking to address the concerns revealed in the survey, the PBA met with UAlbany's Office of Human Resources several times. The PBA has since discontinued formal



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

The PBA, representing officers in UPD, is calling for a union meeting with President Rodriguez to address their concerns with command staff and their handling of issues.

labor/management meetings, where Human Resources would address the union's concerns with command staff among other issues.

Carleo-Evangelist wrote that the university is willing to meet with the PBA in formal labor/management meetings when the union is ready to resume meeting.

However, the PBA is now calling for a meeting with President Rodriguez because they believe that Human Resources is unable to effectuate change.

Referring to such meetings through Human Resources, De Federicis said, "Why would we continue to meet at a level that either refuses to effectuate change or tells us

that we do not have valid complaints?"

The university has declined meetings the PBA has requested with President Rodriguez.

Rodriguez has visited UPD to meet officers twice in his time at the university, once in November and once at the beginning of April.

De Federicis described Rodriguez as "engaged" and "genuinely concerned" in the president's April meeting with officers, but said, "The relationship between the PBA and the leadership there at the police department and higher is still broken."

CLERY TIMELY ALERTS

In several serious criminal incidents on campus in recent years, the university waited hours to issue an alert to the campus community.

Based on officers' concern that the university is violating federal law requiring universities to issue timely alerts for such crimes, the PBA filed a complaint with the Department of Education last December.

In the complaint, De Federicis claimed that nine incidents violated the Jeanne Clery Act since UAlbany either didn't issue an

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TOBACCO POLICY

University to Implement Tobacco Ban in January



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

The tobacco ban the university will implement in January includes Juuls.

By JOE HOFFMAN

The University at Albany announced Tuesday that a complete ban on tobacco products on campus will be implemented in January 2019 – an initiative funded by a \$20,000 grant.

CVS Health, in partnership with the American Cancer Society and The Truth Initiative, granted the University at Albany Foundation \$20,000 last fall as part of CVS' "Tobacco-Free Generation Campus Initiative," a campaign to encourage college campuses to ban tobacco products.

Much of UAlbany's tobacco-free initiative will be focused on marketing and informing the campus of the new policy.

How exactly the ban on cigarettes, vapes, hookahs and more might be enforced is still to be determined, according to co-chair of the Tobacco-Free Steering Committee Dr. Dolores M. Cimini.

UAlbany communications specialist Kelsey Butz said Friday that none of the grant money has been spent, but that the university expects to use it for putting up signs, raising awareness, and funding resources to help students and employees quit smoking.

Two weeks ago at a Student Association meeting, Dr. Cimini, her fellow co-chair Estela Rivero, and Middle Earth President Nicole Bulanchuk presented several reasons why the campus should ban tobacco.

"Smoking isn't good for you, let's not beat around the bush," said Bulanchuk. "So the fact that we're saying 'UAlbany you are now tobacco-free,' what does that mean for the tobacco user? It means that maybe you should work on being tobacco-free too."

Bulanchuk cited a 2015 study pub-

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SA FINANCES

Auditors State \$9.6K Missing from SA

By CHAD ARNOLD

An unaccounted-for withdrawal of \$9,600 was discovered during a financial review of Student Association finances – just one of several deficiencies highlighted by the organization's independent auditors this past week.

The withdrawal from an investment account came to light in January 2018 during an audit of the 2017 fiscal year by UHY, an independent auditing company hired by SA to review its finances.

SA's fiscal year spans from July 1 and ends June 30 the following year.

The withdrawal was discovered the same time a grand larceny in the third degree involving missing funds from SA was reported to UPD.

"When testing the investment balance, we noted a discrepancy and when we noted that discrepancy we informed management, who turned it over to the University Police

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UPD

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alert immediately or didn't issue one at all.

De Federicis wrote in the letter that he believes the university didn't issue notifications out of concern for protecting its image.

The Clery Act requires universities participating in federal aid programs to issue timely alerts to the campus community when the institution confirms that an immediate and ongoing dangerous situation exists.

In the case of a reported rape on Dutch Quad in October 2016, the university took over eight hours to issue an alert. The suspect was arrested around 10 hours after the incident occurred.

Following his December complaint to the DOE, De Federicis wrote to Rodriguez in January that he doesn't believe the university can properly investigate the claimed failings of UPD's command staff.

Command staff, who are not members of the PBA, make the decision to issue an alert along with university officials.

Rodriguez responded to the letter rejecting that the university took part in any "systematic effort" to violate the Clery Act, writing that safety and well-being of the campus community is the university's "foremost concern."

Rodriguez wrote that UAlbany would address the PBA's allegations with whatever process the DOE requires.

After the PBA released to the public its complaint to the DOE, the university issued a statement saying they were in compliance with the Clery Act.

The university referenced this statement when it declined the Albany Student Press' interview requests with officials, including Rodriguez, Chief Wiley, and Assistant Chief Mull, citing that they do not have anything to add.

The decision to issue the statement, Carleo-Evangelist explained, was made collaboratively between the President's Office and the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Issuing an alert, according to the statement, involves "close collaboration among University Police Department command staff, the Office of Equity and Compliance and, when appropriate, other senior University leadership."

In the statement, the university iterated its commitment to safety and transparency, stating that the university's actions are consistent with the federal law.

Referencing the university's statement, De Federicis said, "They're publicly denying it, but they have to realize there's a problem and I have to believe that they're

going to examine their procedures and change them."

At the end of February, there was an armed robbery at the Mobil on Western Ave., called the "Campus Mobile."

The two suspects displaying handguns ran onto University Drive in an unknown direction.

The Albany Police Department alerted UPD of this incident. The incident report, clarifying that the type of incident was assisting another police department, stated that the APD investigation was ongoing at the time.

Though the incident occurred around 1:40 a.m., UAlbany didn't send out an alert until over two hours later.

De Federicis claims that this was not a timely alert because APD notified the university police department immediately.

The Clery Act handbook states, "A warning should be issued as soon as pertinent information is available."

De Federicis sent details of this incident to the DOE in March as an addendum to his original Clery Act complaint.

In the addendum, De Federicis wrote, "Perhaps what is most disconcerting about the University at Albany's most recent failure to issue a timely warning is the fact that this occurred even after the PBA provided SUNY Albany President Rodriguez a copy of our complaint to your agency."

The DOE neither confirms Clery Act reviews or investigations nor discusses the status of cases. Once the DOE completes a review, it issues a Final Program Review Determination, which details the department's findings.

De Federicis said he hopes the investigation is completed in a matter of months.

HOMECOMING

At homecoming in October 2017, a retired police officer and her 21-year-old daughter spent nearly half an hour navigating through crowds of young people in the Dutch Quad parking lot. After missing a significant portion of the game, Kim Zara and her daughter, Maria, returned to their car to find people sitting on the hood of her 2017 Lexus with their drinks.

Disturbed by this, Zara asked them to get off her car. They were unresponsive until she got inside and moved slowly out of the parking lot, when they followed her and made comments.

Zara detailed these instances in an emailed complaint to UPD on Oct. 23., which was included in a Freedom of Information Law request the PBA filed.

In an interview last week, Zara explained her concern with a lack of security staffing: "There needed to be more police presence, much more security, much more visibility because that was not there."

Staffing for the event noticeably in-



ELISE COOMBS / ASP

A group convened by President Rodriguez in response to homecoming complaints last year set forth a recommendation to have tailgating conclude before the game begins.

creased from 2016 to 2017. There was a six-fold increase in UPD staffing for the Dutch lot pre-game, and a 60 percent post-game increase.

However, De Federicis wrote to the chief at the Albany Police Department the day before homecoming to ask for help.

In his Oct. 20 request, De Federicis asked APD Chief Robert Sears to assign personnel to patrol parking lots during and after the game or to have patrols at the ready, citing his concern with staffing from fights that erupted the year before.

Earlier that day, De Federicis had spoken to UPD's Chief Wiley, whom he described as "unaware" and "non-committal" on asking outside agencies for assistance.

Responding on Wiley's behalf to a question of whether he contacted outside agencies, Carleo-Evangelist wrote, "UPD did not request, nor did it require, any assistance from outside police agencies on homecoming weekend."

Sears confirmed last week that APD was not asked to send in help, though the agency was aware of homecoming.

After homecoming last October, university administration received a number of complaints.

One person wrote a letter to President Rodriguez detailing that when they left the game to go back to their car, a crowd of young people was congregated on the hood of their vehicle smoking and drinking.

For several minutes, the person was unable to move the vehicle because the students would not leave. A young man helped the distressed person since police officers

were addressing other situations.

Describing their experience, the person wrote, "Being completely surrounded by drunk and high young individuals was a situation that could have been avoided if proper security was put in place."

Addressing a separate situation, Carleo-Evangelist sent an emailed follow-up to someone who had called about repairing vehicle damage.

Carleo-Evangelist wrote that the attendee could be reimbursed for repair costs if they sent an estimate and final bill.

According to a Freedom of Information Law document obtained by the PBA, the estimate totaled nearly \$700.

Carleo-Evangelist indicated that no state funds were used to pay for the car's damage.

When pressed on where the money came from, Carleo-Evangelist wrote that the University at Albany Foundation "paid two claims totaling less than \$2,500," indicating that no donor money was used.

Administration responded to the complaints and request for reparation saying that President Rodriguez had convened a team to conduct a complete review of the events in the Dutch Quad parking lot.

One of the group's recommendations is to change the tailgating policy such that tailgating would end when the game began.

Senior university leadership has been made aware of the team's recommendations, who are expected to consider them before the fall season begins.

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CRIME BLOTTER

Theft of Services

4/26/2018
Alumni Quad – AQ Other
Report of a female student refusing to pay for food. A referral was made.

Criminal Trespass 2nd – Enter/Remain Unlawfully in Dwelling

4/26/2018
Indian Quad – Mohawk Tower
Report of a male student trespassing on campus. An arrest was made.

Petit Larceny

4/25/2018
Other – UPD
Report of stolen property.
Title IX Referral
4/25/2018
Other – Off-campus
Title IX referral.

Take into Custody Mentally Ill Person Likely to Harm Someone

4/24/2018
Colonial Quad – Hamilton Hall
Medial Assistance.

Grand Larceny 4 – Value Property Greater Than \$1,000

4/24/2018
Other – UAB
Report of a missing package.

Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

4/23/2018
Colonial Quad – Delancey Hall
Report of two male students in possession of marijuana. Referrals were made.

Public Lewdness – Exposes Ones Private Parts in a Public Area

4/23/2018
Empire Commons – EC A Cluster
Report of public lewdness.

Grand Larceny 3rd Degree: Property Value Exceeds \$3,000

4/22/2018
Dutch Quad – Ten Broeck Hall
Report of stolen property.
Harassment 2nd – Physical

Contact
4/22/2018
Indian Quad – IQ Grounds
Report of an altercation.

Criminal Mischief 3rd: Damage Another's Property – Amount > \$250

4/21/2018
Indian Quad – Oneida Hall
Report of property damage.

Defendant Fails to Appear in Court After Summons Served

4/21/2018

Roadways – UAB/MSC Lot
A male student was arrested for an active Bench Warrant with Albany City Court.

Criminal Possession Marijuana – 4th: Weight More Than Two Ounces

4/20/2018
Roadways – University Drive West
Report of a male subject in possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia. An arrest was made.

AUDIT

Continued from Page 1

Department," said Michael Zovistoski, one of UHY's auditors, who explained that management included the SA president and University Auxiliary Services who took custodianship of SA finances on July 1, 2017.

UPD declined to comment, citing an ongoing investigation into the missing funds.

Jordan Carleo-Evangelist, university director of media and community relations, confirmed the general timeline of events.

SA President Jerlisa Fontaine did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

The unaccounted-for transaction was just one of several deficiencies discovered by UHY during the 2017 fiscal year.

A majority of bank reconciliations for the year went unperformed, credit card approval requests were not always made available to support card usage, and several significant expenditures were not formally approved through SA's required approval



CHAD ARNOLD / ASP

UHY auditors informed senators of a \$9.6k unaccounted for withdrawal.

process. Numerous checks and wire transfers were also written and conducted without proper approval.

According to SA's Treasurer Handbook, all purchase requests and credit card usage must be approved in advance by the comp-



troller's office and any receipts must be submitted to the office before a student group is reimbursed for any expenditure.

Not following this process, according to the auditors, could lead to inappropriate expenditures.

In addition, auditors discovered old outstanding checks that continue to be carried on the books and no formal approval and review process for tracking vacation times and accruals for staff members.

"We've been told for a long time that this is the reality," said Jarrett Altilio, senate chair. "But seeing it on paper delivered to us is a whole other story."

After failing to keep up with the reconciliation process throughout the year, which led to delays in the auditing process, UAS took custodianship over SA's finances this past summer.

"The University fully agrees that students have a right to know how their money is being spent," said Carleo-Evangelist in a statement. "That is why the University strongly advocated for the inclusion of University Auxiliary Services in this process as SA's fiscal agent, and we are confident that the 2017-18 SA audit will reflect

this more robust oversight."

According to Patrick Carroll, SA deputy comptroller, problems with the reconciliation process stem from a lack of staff in the comptroller's office. Carroll is just one of three full-time employees who works in the office.

"This office has always been short staffed," said Carroll who explained overseeing a \$2.6 million budget is a lot to manage for the small staff made up of full-time students. "I think the resources this office is getting doesn't always reflect the work that is required from this office."

UHY auditors recommended hiring a full-time financial manager to create a better sense of continuity within the organization from year-to-year, an idea proposed by Carroll during his failed SA vice-presidential bid earlier this year and since echoed by Altilio.

"I think a lot of the problem has been solved by us using UAS," said Altilio. "But that doesn't negate the fact that there could be merit or benefit to having... that consistency of somebody who is working there and has the knowledge."

UPD

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ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILLS

Though the PBA has claimed issues with student safety, it also claims that command staff and the university have violated the article of their collective bargaining agreement that concerns safe working conditions for employees.

In a grievance last year, the PBA presented its stance that current active shooter training constitutes unsafe working conditions for UPD employees. The union asserts that it is unsafe for officers to not have trained with outside agencies and in the most likely location an active shooter would attack.

The grievance cited that in true active shooter situations, multiple police agencies respond.

The PBA's statement of facts on the grievance also indicates that the yearly active shooter training is typically not on the Podium—the center of campus where the union says an incident is most likely to occur.

An incident in 1994 involved a shooter, Ralph Tortorici, who took students hostage in a Lecture Center hall on the Podium.

Command staff said that training location rotates, so the probability is that training happens on the Podium once every three or four years.

Human Resources denied the grievance last December, reasoning that the PBA failed to provide its claim through documents showing that the current training creates unsafe working conditions.

The denial of the grievance shows command staff's claim that it contacts outside agencies to participate in active shooter training sessions.

Carleo-Evangelist wrote in an email, "Invitations like these are often conveyed verbally during the frequent conversations that members of the UPD command staff have with their counterparts in nearby police agencies."

Acting Chief Robert Sears at the Albany Police Department indicated that the agency does not train at UAlbany.

Sears said that it could be beneficial for APD to train on campus, though he was unaware of UPD's protocol in an active shooter situation.

"We're never going to be able to train everywhere," Sears said. "We would be open to it."

The other agency that De Federicis claimed would respond at UAlbany in the case of an active shooter situation is the Guilderland Police Department.

Deputy Chief Curt Cox at Guilderland was unsure if the department trained at UAlbany, but indicated, "Familiarity with any place is beneficial."

VEHICLE GRIEVANCES

Advancing their concerns with officer safety, the PBA alleges that the university again violates the safety provision of the collective bargaining agreement with the



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

Human Resources, housed in the University Administration Building, denied grievances the PBA brought forth claiming that command staff and the university have violated a safety provision in the collective bargaining agreement.

condition of police vehicles.

In January 2017, the PBA filed a grievance claiming that UAlbany had failed to replace vehicles that had issues with stalling, balding tires, and malfunctioning brakes. The PBA also cited vehicles having high mileage and dashboard warning lights that turned on.

The PBA wrote in the grievance that these conditions placed the safety of officers at risk and created the situation where an officer could be injured or killed.

In their response to the grievance, Human Resources cited that this claim was speculative, saying, "To-date no civilian or police grave injuries or fatalities have occurred."

Human Resources denied the grievance, reasoning that vehicles are taken out of service and repaired when issues are reported to command staff.

A report of vehicle outstanding services shows that an officer reported a vehicle needed new windshield wipers in September 2016. Two months later, the same officer reported that the vehicle still needed wipers and that it is unsafe to drive in the rain.

In their response to the grievance, Human Resources also indicated that management purchased two new vehicles in 2016 and received funding to purchase two more in 2017.

The university's administrative review through Human Resources is the first step in the grievance process.

De Federicis took the second step and sent a grievance appeal to the SUNY director of employee relations in March 2017 a couple weeks after the university denied the PBA's initial grievance.

SUNY acknowledged receipt of the appeal and later contacted the PBA to agree

to a review that included a hearing of PBA grievances in October.

De Federicis indicated that there were some improvements to vehicles after the grievances, such as more purchases and better repairs.

Referring to the grievance, De Federicis said, "They denied it, but we believe it was effective in calling their attention to the problem and the fact that this was a safety issue and they did improve the fleet notably."

A couple weeks after the PBA filed the grievance, UPD issued a policy that placed mileage caps on how far officers could drive in a given shift.

De Federicis said that, given the timing the caps were instituted, command staff was retaliating against the PBA's vehicle grievance.

Chief Wiley told the Times Union last summer that the caps were intended to increase foot patrol and help with community policing.

In February 2017, the caps for driving on the main campus and downtown campus were 15 miles per shift and 20 miles per shift, respectively.

Last May, the caps increased to 25 miles and 30 miles.

OUTSIDE CONSULTANT

The PBA claims that the university has made signs of initial effort to address these issues, but that their relationship with command staff and the university remains broken.

"We think the leadership of the police department is dysfunctional right now," De Federicis said.

Consequently, the PBA is looking for the

university to bring in an outside consultant to examine the claimed issues in UPD that extend beyond the DOE investigation regarding timely alerts.

Last year, SUNY New Paltz's UPD brought in an outside consultant to address issues within their department.

The consulting firm D. Stafford & Associates conducted a three-day assessment of the safety and security practices within New Paltz's UPD.

DSA returned a couple months later to hold a workshop that would help the UPD go forth and implement its objectives.

A planning committee formed by SUNY New Paltz's university police then came up with short-term, midterm, and long-term projects to improve its transparency to the campus and its commitment to safety.

De Federicis believes that bringing in an objective, outside consultant to review UPD is a start to repair the "broken relationship" between command staff and officers.

"I view the command staff's harmful effects on the police department and the police officers individually as the death of a thousand cuts," De Federicis said. "You may not see it immediately. It may take a few years, but it's happening."

Editor's Note:

Additional reporting from Joe Hoffman

Additional documents can be found online: albanystudentpress.net



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

Provost James Stellar and Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Christakis bear purple and gold umbrellas as they enter University Hall during last Friday's rain showers.

SMOKING

Continued from Page 1

lished by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in which 68 percent of adult smokers reported that they wanted to quit. January's tobacco ban, Bulanchuk and the initiative steering committee argue, will give UAlbany students and employees who smoke that extra push to quit.

Rich Sargent, a student ac-

counts employee who has been smoking for 30 years, said he disagrees with the policy.

"I don't know really; I understand where they're coming from, but they're taking rights away from people that are legal to smoke," he said.

Sargent had tried to quit in the past, such as when his daughter was born, but he eventually always turned back to smoking.

"I've been thinking about quitting before I heard about it," said Sargent, referring to the tobacco ban. "I definitely am gonna try,

it will give me a reason to do it more."

Brenda Seckerson, director of the Employee Assistance Program, said she is working on developing an on-campus support group for employees who wish to quit or manage cravings.

Dr. Cimini, who directs Middle Earth's parent center, Behavioral Health and Applied Research, said that a tentative plan is to use Middle Earth members as ambassadors for the tobacco ban.

If these students saw someone using tobacco on campus, they

would approach them, inform them of the new policy, and direct them to cessation services if they desired them.

"Enforcement is actually very small part of a policy that supports a tobacco free campus," said Dr. Cimini.

A study of UAlbany students and employees set to be released a month from now is expected to bolster the campaign.

Meanwhile, the inclusion of e-cigarettes and vaping in the ban has caused some controversy among students.

Ryley Scott, a psychology sophomore, uses the popular vape product called Juul. While she said she doesn't see complying with the ban next year being too hard for her, she disagrees with that part of the ban.

"I don't even know if you should have to ban Juuls or vape products because they're not really what is the issue," said Scott. "I feel like the real issue is cigarettes."

REBUTTAL

Political Correctness Doesn't Infringe on People's Right to Free Speech

By COLLIN O'CONNOR

Politically correct (PC) is a pejorative term. It is used negatively throughout conservative news media to demonstrate the "oppressive" nature of the far-left. In fact, Matthew Noyes, the president of SUNY Albany's Turning Point USA chapter states, "It's a threat to free speech and freedom and must be fought." For Turning Point USA, "freedom" is their calling card. This is why I found it so intriguing that their president does not know what free speech actually is.

Free speech is being able to say what you want when you want, as long as it does not cause clear and present danger. Turning Point USA has every right to say what they wish, PC or not, courtesy of

our First Amendment Rights. This is why our police officers protect KKK members and neo-Nazis at public rallies. Someone may correct you, but you can still say what you want. That is free speech.

If anything, attempting to stop political correctness as the norm is the opposite of freedom. Being PC prevents the marginalization of minority groups and individuals. Being PC also prevents minority individuals from being homogenized into the majority. Being anti-PC is the very definition of ethnocentrism, something that America cannot allow to continue.

Every publicly educated child should have been told that America is a melting pot of different races, cultures, gender identities, sexual orientations, religions and values. Being PC allows those variations

to blend together, while still acknowledging them for what they are. Forcing an individual to adhere to your norms simply because you are too lazy to learn word differences is dangerous and anti-freedom.

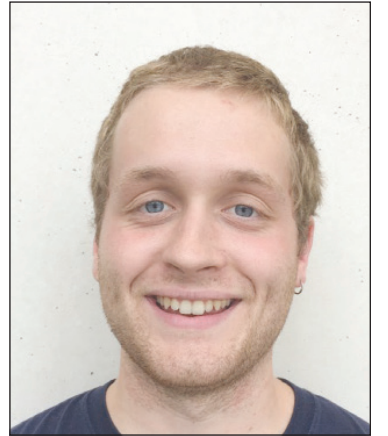
In Matthew Noyes' article, he states that PC culture shuts down free speech and is exemplified by the numerous riots that have occurred when a conservative figure comes to speak on a college campus. His logic fails to recognize that being PC has nothing to do with the riots on college campuses and is a separate issue all together. Rioting occurs because individuals do not want to listen to conservative talking heads.

I can understand not wanting to listen to conservative logic, but the key to defeating legislative

gridlock is through compromise. Compromise must include listening to the opposite side of the political spectrum. Violence is not okay, and the inability to communicate with political adversaries is counterintuitive, but it has nothing to do with being politically correct.

Political correctness is something that should be celebrated. As American citizens we should want to adhere to the correct way to describe a person, regardless of what group they fall into. The PC mindset does not come without challenges, as most people make mistakes regarding pronouns.

Personally, I am guilty of using the term "guys" to describe all people, and it is something that I am working on. Someone who uses the term, "man up" in an opinion piece is ignorant of the situation all



O'CONNOR

together. So please, don't be lazy. Learn from your mistakes. Being politically correct is synonymous to being correct, and the rhetoric of the ignorant should not convince anyone otherwise.

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NOISE FROM NOYES

Campus Met my Criteria

By MATTHEW NOYES

The University at Albany surpassed my expectations in the quality of education, extra-curricular opportunities, and the friends I've made. At the same time, the university is dominated by leftist bias and lacks a diversity of opinion.

I had two criteria in mind when looking for a university to transfer to after community college. A strong political science and Japanese program. UAlbany had both, which is what drove me to go out of state to Albany. Both departments impressed and challenged me academically. Professors Chris Clary and Susanna Fessler deepened my understanding of Political Science and Japanese, respectively, and pushed me to my full potential.

A lot of transfers would be better off living on campus instead of Alumni Quad. It reduced the quality of my first semester experience. The commute, the lack of parking, and the cleanliness left a lot to be desired. Not living on campus your first semester takes away from the sense of community. The worst aspect of the dorm was that neither the faculty nor students had any respect for the building. Every day the bathroom and facilities were neglected and filthy.

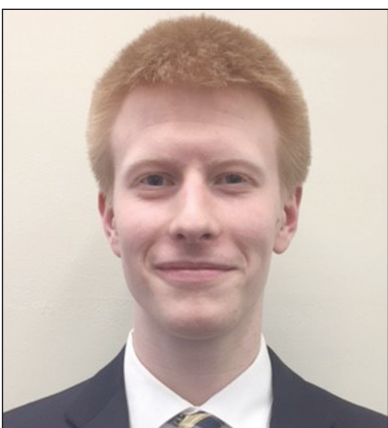
The worst thing about UAlbany, and most colleges in the U.S. is the bias.

The illiberal left on campus purports to support tolerance and inclusion but, they're often the most bigoted. Both faculty and students have created an environment that suppresses free thought. By pushing social justice and political correctness, people who believe in liberty are labeled all sorts of nasty things. I can't count the number of students that have come to me and said they're afraid to raise their hand in class because their opinion is different than the professors. This is the reason why groups like Turning Point USA are flourishing. TPUSA gives a voice to Conservative and Libertarian students by encouraging them to speak out against bias. You can't have productive academic discourse if everyone thinks the same way.

Despite the near leftist monopoly over discourse, there are many students and professors that treat others with kindness and respect regardless of political orientation. One student, Subha Tasnim and one professor Victor Asal, come to mind. I debated Subha and others on whether UAlbany should be a sanctuary campus. Afterwards, I was overwhelmed with thanks and kindness from her and those on her side. Professor Asal showed respect and encouragement to students who don't fit the left-leaning narrative. That's how things should work.

I can't count the times the opposite has happened, when professors have shut down students who think differently. Our campus community can only get stronger if we look at others for who they are instead of their ideologies. A disagreement on politics is no barrier to friendship unless you choose to make it one.

I'm proud to be a Great Dane because of the strong academics, opportunities, and people at UAlbany. My only regret is that I didn't come here for my whole undergraduate career. If you want to get the most from your time in university do three things. Join a student organization. You'll gain experience that translates into professional skills while having fun and becoming part of a community. Make friends and spend as much time with them as possible. Friendship is a gift from God that fills every day with joy. Lastly, go to class and study hard. You can achieve anything through hard work, no matter what anyone says.



NOYES

PARKFEST

SA Needs to Diversify the Music Lineup for Parkfest

By DANIEL RUSSELL

Parkfest 2018 was last weekend, and was once again dominated by hip-hop/rap acts. This has been the case for almost a decade; the last time that the event had a genre besides that was in 2008 when Phantom Planet played, and in 2007, which had Cartel and Augustana. But since then, and for all four years of my University at Albany experience, it's primarily been hip-hop or rap. I'd argue that Whetan — the 19-year-old electronic DJ that played this year's concert — is the most diverse act they've had since then. I'm sick of it, and the Student Association should diversify the lineup once in awhile.

This isn't simply a personal issue of bias. I'll admit that I'm a huge fan of alternative/indie music, but I like hip-hop and rap as well. This is an issue of just repeating the same concert over and over again, to the point that having a non-rap artist would be a surprise. If SA announced

that a group like Arctic Monkeys was playing Parkfest, I'd be flabbergasted. It's to the point now where Parkfest has the connotation of being a rap concert rather than anything else.

It also doesn't help that this concert feels as if it's always being thrown together at the last minute as well. This year, it was announced less than two weeks before it was being held, and that's usually how it's been the past few years. Half my friends didn't even know when Parkfest was, let alone who was playing it. And once the lineup was announced, most of them were as sick of the same genre as I was, and they didn't go either.

It would also be nice if students had some input into who

gets selected to play the concert. Two years ago, I remember being emailed a survey from SA that contained choices for who I wanted to see play Parkfest that year. We got no such emails last

year or this year, which seems to indicate that SA really doesn't care what students think about who they get to play. This would make sense because they also don't seem to care about following their own bylaws or keeping track of their own money in an efficient way.

I'm not saying that Parkfest needs an entire transformation, but it does need a slight one. For example, maybe having a different genre of music every year. If one year is dominated

by hip-hop, have the next year be devoted to a different one. Or perhaps have multiple genres within one show. In 2016, Binghamton University had T-Pain and Walk the Moon headline their spring concert, and that's an interesting, diverse concert I'd definitely attend. But until then, it looks like we'll be stuck with the hip-hop trend for years to come.

I'm graduating in May, and I'll be doing so without having attended a single Parkfest in my four years here. The lineup simply never appealed to me, and I threw away the idea of going almost every year once the concert's acts were announced. And honestly, I don't really have any regrets about not going.

What's the point in going to a concert to see acts that I'm not interested in? The point of going to a concert is to see a performance by an artist that you know you'll like, and you shouldn't have to be bribed to go. Perhaps if there was a bit more diversity in the lineup, I would've gone.



RUSSELL

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEE

SA Should Scale the Activity Fee Based on People's Circumstances

By RAYMOND E. STRAWN III

I don't agree with the scaling of the student activity fee. The fee in 2017-2018 was \$110 (per semester?) for students taking 12 or more credits, \$82.50 for 9-11 credits, and \$55.00 for 6-8 credits. The student activity fee funds groups, clubs, programs, and other activities of the Student Association. Full-time commuter, off-campus, or non-traditional students, who pay the full amount, have less free time to engage and participate in these clubs, groups, and programs. Therefore, they should pay less in student activity fees.

Full-time commuters, off-campus, and non-traditional students do not attend or participate in many clubs, programs, or groups anyways. Meeting usually run late at night; some start at 6:30 p.m and others as late as 8:00 p.m. A full-time student like myself who lives an hour away, I won't get home until 10 p.m. And for a full-time student like myself who has children, participating in a club or group is not doable.

In an article written on

December 7, 2016, Austin Ostro pointed out that there were issues among tickets for Parkfest and acquiring "higher quality and more diverse artists to campus" and that is one reason why he supported an increase

in the student activity fees in 2016. But how many full-time commuters, off-campus, or non-traditional students with children come to the campus on the weekend? If these students are not attending these events, then why are they paying the entire amount of student activity fees? The major concern with proposing a pay scale for full-time commuters, off-campus, and non-traditional students is the impact on funding for groups, clubs, and programs. In 2016, a vote passed to increase

the student activity fees from \$100 to \$110. Ostro explained in the same article that there were a lot of complaints from student group leaders about cuts because there was not enough funding. However, the ASP reported

this April that SA has a \$600,000 surplus and that SA has \$1,500 allocated for t-shirts using student activity fees. It appears the SA is receiving adequate funding and proposing a pay scale for full-time commuters, off-campus, and non-traditional students is not only reasonable but feasible and achievable.

Even if the SA does not have enough funding to support all the clubs, organizations, and programs, then the SA officials and student group leaders

need to learn better money management and budgeting skills. If budgeting is a problem, then we need new officials in SA and new student group leaders who can get the job done. We the students should focus more on electing SA officials and student group leaders who are qualified and have the skills to manage the budget rather than voting on popularity. If we reduce wasteful spending, increase transparency, and manage our money more efficiently, the SA budget is more than sufficient to handle the demands of the students with a new pay scale.

If part-time students are allowed a pay scale for their student activity fees, then how come full-time students who live off-campus, commute, or have children pay the full amount of student activity fees? There should be a pay scale for full-time students that factors how far away the student lives by miles and if the student has any children that determine the amount of student activity fee that student pays. It is fair and makes sense to do it that way.



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TELEVISION

'Scandal' Finale Could've Been Explosive



Source: Twitter

The finale respectably drew 5.64 million viewers, roughly half of the series-high ratings of 11.96 million (season four premiere).

By DIEGO CAGARA

After seven years which saw the show's many peaks and falls, "Scandal" premiered its series finale, titled "Over a Cliff," on April 19 on ABC.

As one would expect from a successful long-running show that it'd be explosive, nostalgic and provide closure, this finale unfortunately felt underwhelming. Warning: spoilers!

Led by main character Olivia Pope (played by Kerry Washington), showrunner Shonda Rhimes was the creative mind behind this political thriller TV show which premiered back in

2012.

In its seventh and final season, Pope was the Chief of Staff of newly-appointed President Melody "Mellie" Grant (Bellamy Young) and was Command of B613, a secret and dark organization which ran under the White House.

The show's final few episodes dealt with Vice President Cyrus Beene (Jeff Perry) wanting to have President Grant impeached so he can take the Oval Office for himself, by framing her for hijacking Air Force Two on which he was a passenger on, several episodes ago. He also enlisted NSA Director and B613 associate

Jake Ballard (Scott Foley) in his nefarious plan.

What made "Scandal" an intriguing show was that there were no genuinely good or bad characters, its cast instead embracing their complexities.

For instance, while Pope was often championed as a fierce and empowering African-American woman who exuded confidence and style, she also literally beat and killed a wheelchair-bound man with a chair (giving its fifth season's episode name: "Thwack!") and even almost poisoning Beene with a drink.

The show also constantly made use of murder, manipulation,

coercion, blackmail and ransom in its storylines so that characters can get their ways and move forward.

Hence, for the finale, seeing the majority of the characters get a happy ending just felt off.

In "Over a Cliff," Pope had decided that telling the truth will, almost sounding cliched, set her and her team free, even literally outing B613's existence to the world on record.

This shocked virtually everyone and Cyrus, desperate for his plan to usurp the Oval, decided to have Ballard kill David Rosen (Joshua Malina), the U.S. Attorney General.

During an intense scene where Rosen ran into a gun-wielding Ballard in a dark parking lot, Rosen surprisingly stood up for himself and refused to be the victim, even insulting Ballard by perceiving him as always doing things on behalf of his superiors like a trained dog.

The finale earned its first frustrating scene where Rosen later naively met with Cyrus who pretended he'd negotiate for a plea deal, only for Rosen to accept an apparently-poisoned alcoholic beverage from him. His death, rather unnecessary and predictable, also felt rushed as the finale quickly moved on other scenes, not giving the character much closure, especially since he'd been on the show since the first season.

Second was when after Pope and her team were finally free and won't be punished for their crimes (which seemed too good to be true), Quinn Perkins (Katie Lowes) excitedly said that "[We]

The good guys won."

As a loyal "Scandal" viewer, seeing her and Pope's team as purely good guys was questionable, given their criminal and unethical pasts.

Thirdly, a defeated and alcoholic Cyrus eventually agreed to sign his resignation papers and simply walked out of the Oval, which felt unfair since he rightly deserved far worse punishment for all his despicable actions in the show. Instead, Ballard took the fall for all of Cyrus' misdeeds and was jailed.

Finally, the show was often remembered for Pope and former President Fitzgerald "Fitz" Grant III's (Tony Goldwyn) star-crossed romance since its 2012 debut, and both characters have long considered to relocate to Vermont, literally make jam and live the rest of their lives together happily.

But in the finale, we're never given a single glimpse of that hopeful-sounding future and it ended still in Washington DC, not Vermont.

With Fitz constantly referencing Vermont, and Pope even entertaining that idea several times throughout the show, one would assume the finale would end with them finally living that fantasy out for real.

But it never happened. But judging from how Pope confidently walked past the White House, the Washington Memorial and the National Museum of African American History and Culture, before meeting Fitz in the show's final three minutes, it seemed that Shonda Rhimes and Pope's character both did their best to conclude "Scandal" in a satisfactory manner.



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SOCIAL COMMENTARY

Ariana Grande's Got 'No Tears Left to Cry' While Paying Tribute to Manchester Victims



Source: fourzine.it

Grande's overall image for the new era represents hope after tragedy, which she'd heavily teased on her social media, symbolizing moving forward.

By **KASSONDR GONZALEZ**

Pop star Ariana Grande returned to the music scene with the release of her first single since 2016, "No Tears Left To Cry," last Friday and began her newest era with a bang.

The song's release shuts down any rumors that the single would be an emotional ballad.

Around the 20-second mark, the soft angelic introduction builds up and transforms into a dance-pop anthem of joy.

The electronic drums are reminiscent of the 1990s, but the rest of the musical elements, lyrics included, provide a fresh pop hit straight out of the 21st century.

Although the beat certainly stands out, Grande's iconic and powerful vocals are the front-and-center star of "No Tears Left To Cry," as though the song had been crafted

to uniquely fit her voice.

The message is meant to uplift listeners as it references Grande's current state of happiness, with the first few lyrics of the chorus including: "Right now, I'm in a state of mind / I wanna be in, like, all the time / Ain't got no tears left to cry."

The lyrical relevance is not lost on the general public, considering this is Grande's first official release since the bombing at her concert last May.

That attack had killed 23 people, including the attacker, and injured even more, many of them being young children.

Grande paid her respects two weeks after the terror attack by organizing a benefit concert entitled, "One Love Manchester," to raise money for the victims and their



Source: YouTube

The Dave Meyers-directed music video evoked disorientation, which Grande felt after the attack, the city backdrop referencing Manchester.

families.

In an Instagram post about her new single to her followers, Grande said, "I hope this song brings you light and comfort but also makes you wanna dance and live ya best life! I am so excited for this new chapter with you all."

The strong optimistic energy that the song encompasses clearly resonated with the singer's fans.

Within 24 hours of its release, "No Tears Left To Cry" managed to reach number one on iTunes in over 80 countries.

The music video that came out simultaneously (an artistic effect-filled take on a world that allows Grande to defy gravity) garnered over 14 million views within that same time period.

Both achievements broke Grande's personal records and the single debuted atop the iTunes Worldwide Song Chart.

The day after its release, Grande made a special guest appearance at the annual music festival, Coachella, alongside Norwegian DJ Kygo.

She performed "No Tears Left To Cry" for the first time as well as a cover of "Sexual Healing" by Marvin Gaye, wowing the tens of thousands in the audience with her sudden arrival and stunning live vocals.

According to TMZ, Grande was apparently involved in the writing of every song on her upcoming album, which has been produced by American artist and producer Pharrell Williams, and Swedish songwriter and producer Max Martin.

In an interview with "Today," Williams said, "I have work to do. Music to make. And so many records... Ariana Grande's album is amazing."

The singer is set to take over The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon for a full hour on Tuesday, May 1, and perform her new single.

The current success of "No Tears Left To Cry" is sure to set the tone of Ariana Grande's future success with her fourth studio album planned to arrive sometime this year.

The lead single exudes pure bliss, grows on the listener more with each replay, and gives pop music lovers a new feel-good banger to sing at the top of their lungs just in time for the summer.

MUSIC

Tracing the Decades-Long Success of Country Music Which Still Continues to Thrive Today

By **DANI MARTINEZ**

Country music is one of the genres that you can either play all day long on your radio or something that you switch the channel from immediately.

According to Britannica, "Country music became popular in the 1920s with artists such as the Carter Family and Jimmie Rogers being the pioneers."

Country music generally is about struggles in life, being raised in rural areas, making it to the top and staying humble no matter what.

Although country music was around for a long time, it reached commercial success in the 1960s, with hits by singers Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and Charley Pride.

Instruments that were once widely used in an older form of country music were fiddles and steel guitars. However, in recent years, electric guitars and drums have grown in popularity.

Country music in the 21st century has adapted into many genres such as country pop, country rock, bro-country, Christian country and country hip-hop.

For example, in the 1990s, the genre known as country rock was adapted with hits by Garth Brooks and Alan Jackson.

One of Garth Brooks' songs, "Ain't Going Down Till the Sun Comes Up," is a mixture of a country sound and drums.

Most recently, Keith Urban has continued the trend of country rock, who has been inspired by pioneers such as John Mellencamp.

Another artist inspired by Mellencamp is Jake Owen who recently released the song, "I was Jack (You Were Diane)," which sampled Mellencamp's original tune, "Jack and Diane."

An example of country pop would be

Taylor Swift's earlier songs with upbeat tempo with a twang sound such as "Love Story."

In 2016, Demi Lovato, who is known for her various pop hits collaborated with Brad Paisley for the song, "Without a Fight."

Songs that display the genre of bro-country would be "Small Town Throwdown" (by Brantley Gilbert, Thomas Rhett and Justin Moore) and "Somewhere on a Beach" (by Dierks Bentley).

This genre is about men getting together and having a good time.

On the other hand, Christian country is a style of music that caters to Christian values.

Examples would be Josh Turner's "Me and God," Reba McEntire's "Back to God" and Brandon Heath's "Jesus in Disguise."

In recent years, country music has mixed with hip-hop and has proven to be successful on the charts.

An example of country hip-hop would be Florida Georgia Line.

According to Billboard.com, "The duo was influenced by rap music, such as the artist Lil' Wayne." After all, in their "This is How We Roll" song, its lyrics said, "The mixtape's got a little Hank, little Drake."

There have been collaborations such as Tim McGraw and Nelly's "Over and Over," and Jason Aldean and Ludacris' "Dirt Road



Source: Flickr

The Grammys continue to honor and respect key figures in country music, showcasing the genre's relevance today.

Anthem."

Most recently, Carrie Underwood worked with Ludacris to create this year's Super Bowl anthem, "The Champion."

Some controversies that surround these genres include how they are perceived as moving away from the traditional country sound.

According to an Entertainment Weekly article from October 2013, Jason Aldean and Zac Brown got into an argument over Brown's criticism of fellow singer Luke Bryan's song, "That's My Kind of Night."

Also that year, Shelton criticized people who liked the old style of country music; this remark led Willie Nelson to change the

name of his tour.

The change in developing more genres within country music can be perceived as beneficial because it encourages people to buy more records.

For example, without Mellencamp inspiring various country artists today, he wouldn't have various songs dedicated to him.

A future style within country music would mostly likely be one that is mixed with EDM (electronic dance music).

Country music remains important because with each year, it keeps changing as new artists emerge and discovering more music styles requires active listeners.

STRESS

Stay Sane During Finals Week



KATIE GIBSON / ASP
Finals begin on Friday, May 11.

By KATIE GIBSON

It's that time of the year. We're piled under work. We're struggling one coffee at a time. Finals can be a drag, but it may also be the last time you see your friends for the next few months. It's important to keep your priorities so that you can maximize what little free time you have. Here are some tips for getting through finals.

Breakfast

Start your day right with lots of fruits, vegetables, and protein. Haul yourself out of bed early to make sure you eat

the most important meal of the day. Your body will thank you when it's not starving in the library at two in the afternoon. Stop by the dining hall for some eggs. Consider skipping the bacon for more nutritional food like bananas, peppers, or yogurt. If you have access to a blender, get into the habit of making smoothies the night before so that you can maximize your time.

Study in bursts

Our minds can only focus for so long before they start to wander, so plan for short breaks. Bring a fun book or a card game and rest your brain

every twenty or thirty minutes. Netflix could work also work, but it's very tempting to marathon shows when you're stressed. Save TV for the evening.

Plan Plan Plan

Get a planner and schedule your tests and study sessions. If possible, set an eight o'clock rule. Work out a schedule so that you are never working before eight in the morning or after eight at night. This may sound extreme, but your body needs time to rest and recover. You probably won't be concentrating as well at night anyway.

Clear your mind

Lay in bed an extra five minutes before you wake up and try to put all stress out of your mind. Think of simple things like friendship and your favorite TV show. Remember that the world is kind of a cool place. This will put you in the right headspace for the rest of the day.

Treat yourself

I'm not saying eat a whole tray of cookies, but this is a stressful time and cookies are good, so if you want a cookie, have a cookie. One cookie will not change your life, but

it'll make that moment a little sweeter. Use what little time you have in the evening to take care of yourself. Put on a facemask, paint your nails, listen to music, or call your best friend. Do one thing for yourself each day.

Take a study break

Plan a picnic with your friends or hang around and shoot the breeze for an hour. Drink tea and create a few more memories. Finals are important, but so are the relationships you build. Don't isolate yourself during finals; draw strength from your friends.



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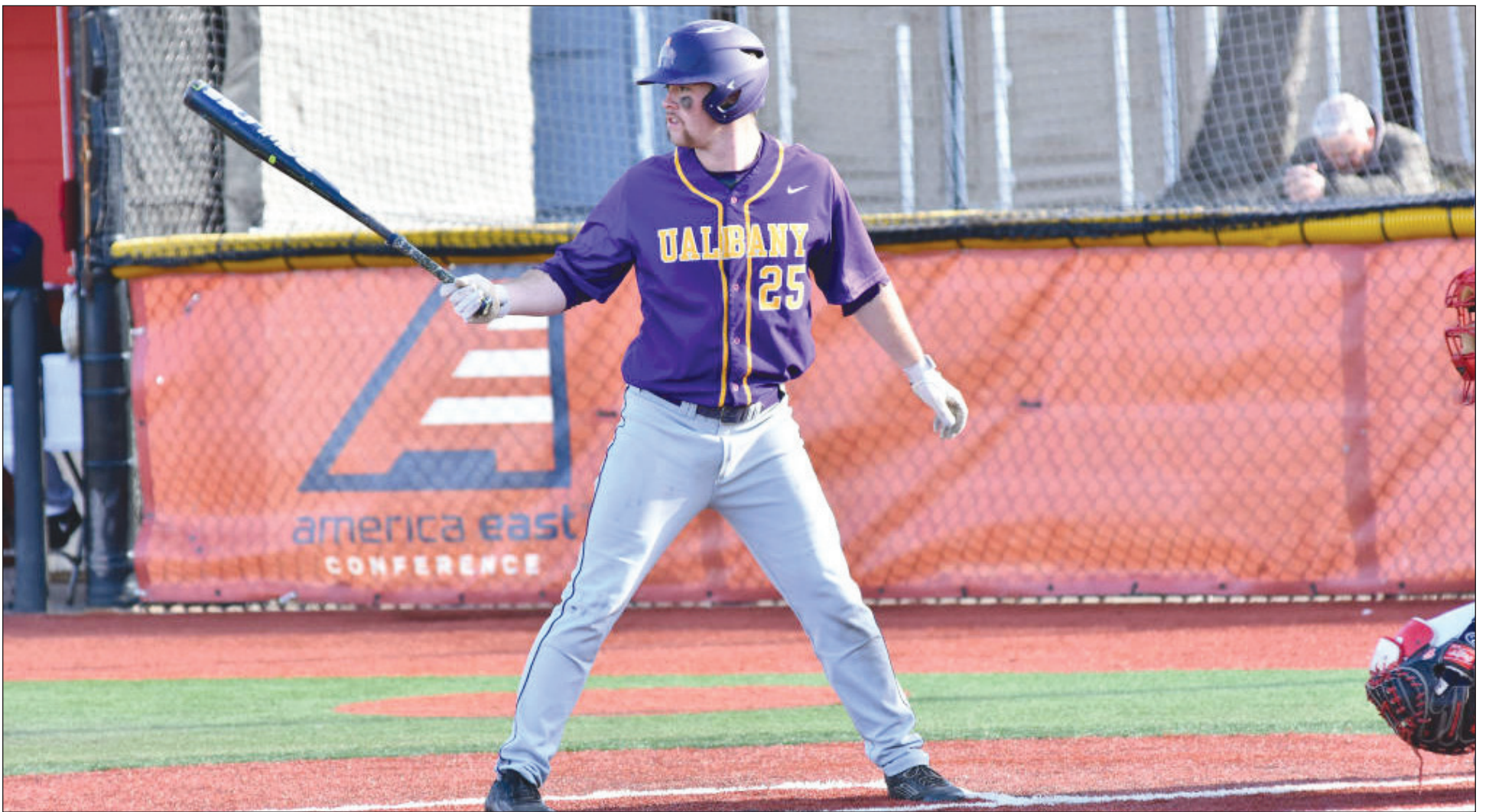
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BASEBALL

Blue Devils Sweep Danes at Home



Source: Jim Harrison / UAlbany Sports

Above: Connor Powers is the Danes' leader in home runs and RBIs this season.

By ROB LEP

After a home series sweep of the first place Stony Brook Seawolves followed by a road series win versus preseason conference favorite Binghamton and a win over Fairleigh Dickinson sandwiched in between, the University at Albany baseball team was riding nothing but positive momentum going into their mid-week clash with 2017 NEC Champion Central Connecticut State Tuesday afternoon at home in Albany.

Unfortunately for the Danes, despite taking a 1-0 lead off an RBI double by Matt Codispoti, they allowed four runs in the top of the fifth inning, ultimately falling to CCSU 4-2 at Varsity Field.

The Danes had a runner on second base with one out in the bottom of the ninth down two, but were unable to come away with any runs.

After a leadoff single by junior infielder Patrick Lagravinese and a steal to put himself in scoring position, junior catcher Matt Codispoti hit an RBI double down the left field line, driving in Lagravinese from second to put the Danes out to an early 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first.

Four runs from CCSU with four different players picking up RBIs gave the Blue Devils a 4-1 lead in the top of the fifth. Senior infielder Dean Lockery finished the day with one hit and one RBI in the win.

Lockery is the Blue Devils top offensive player this year, batting .320 with two home runs, 15 RBIs and a .438 on-base percentage.

UAlbany scored one run in the bottom of the eighth inning on an RBI double by Connor Powers, the Danes' leader in home runs and RBIs this season, to cut the deficit to two runs. Powers has 22 RBIs in 2018 to go along with five home runs as the Danes' number three hitter this season.

Redshirt senior pitcher JT Genovese lasted 4.2 innings, letting up four earned runs on four hits with three strikeouts.

Connor Takaacs was very strong in relief, pitching 2.1 innings for the Danes, allowing only two hits and striking out one.

On the other side, pitcher Matt Shane came up big for Central Connecticut State, going 4.2 innings in relief while allowing just one run on four hits to go along with two strikeouts.

Overall, the Danes had trouble getting anything going versus Shane and killed the positive momentum and hot bats they had been riding coming into this game.

The Danes had won seven of their last eight games going into Tuesday's non-conference clash, after losing nine of their last ten games before that.

CCSU lost two of their last three coming in, falling in a home series to LIU Brooklyn.

"We had limited opportunities to score, and you have to credit

Central Connecticut St.," head coach Jon Mueller said. "They did a good job of limiting us offensively. We'll just have to pack it up and look forward to Iona tomorrow."

UAlbany was set to play Iona on Wednesday, but the game was canceled due to inclement weather.

The Great Danes currently sit at fifth in the America East conference standings with a 7-8 record in conference play. They are 17-17 overall this season.

CCSU improves to 4-10 on the road this season.

Next up for the Purple and Gold, they'll take on Manhattan Wednesday May 2 at 5 p.m. in Wappingers Falls, NY.

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— DEREK JETER

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Danes Primed for Postseason Run



Source: Greg Wall / UAlbany Sports

Jakob Patterson led the Great Danes with four goals in UAlbany's win against Hartford on Saturday.

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

HARTFORD, CONN. — The No. 5 University at Albany men's lacrosse team (12-2, 5-1 AE) earned a share of the America East regular season conference title and the rights to host the AE tournament after defeating Hartford (3-10, 0-6 AE) 16-6 on Saturday.

The Danes bounced back in the win column after losing to No. 5 Yale last week 14-6. In that contest the Danes were dominated in every facet of the game and did not resemble the No. 1 ranked team they were in weeks prior.

Sophomore Jakob Patterson led the Great

Danes with four goals as freshman phenom Tehoka Nanticoke recorded a hat trick as the Dane Train rolled in the dominating win over the Hawks.

UAlbany took an early 3-0 lead six minutes into the game when Nanticoke netted his first goal of the contest. From there the Danes were on cruise control and slowly cushioned their lead.

"We wanted to walk away feeling confident. We played really good defense against a good offense," said UAlbany head coach Scott Marr. "To hold them to six goals is great by our defense."

The Great Dane defense set the tone early in the game and held the Hawks to only

three shots in the first period. Senior JD Colarusso also had a solid performance in front of the net recording 11 saves.

Senior captain Connor Fields was back in action coming off a nagging knee injury. He finished with five points dished out four assists and scored a goal. Fields has been hampered by an ailing knee for the better half of the season. With him back in the lineup, the Danes appear to be a full strength just as the postseason begins.

UAlbany hit a couple bumps in the road as of late when they suffered losses to UMBC and Yale in a span of two weeks. Up to that point the Danes were a unanimously ranked No. 1 in the nation and had

a few program staple wins. Saturday they were back to full strength and showed flashes of that mid-season team.

UAlbany will host UMass Lowell at Casey Stadium on Thursday for an America East semifinal conference tournament game that will start at 7 p.m.

Last year the Danes cruised through the AE tournament and earned their way to the NCAA tournament where they lost to Maryland 18-9 in the elite eight. This year the Danes beat the Terrapins and look to be ready if they meet again in this postseason.

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Seawolves Hand Danes Reality Check

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

ALBANY, N.Y. — Despite Emma Powlin's five goal performance, the University at Albany women's lacrosse team (8-8 6-1 AE) fell to No. 1 ranked Stony Brook Seawolves (17-0 7-0 AE) 21-8 on Saturday in their regular finale.

The loss snapped a seven game win streak for the Danes and also slotted them for the second seed in the America East Tournament, which begins next weekend.

The Seawolves were relentless on the faceoffs and took a 4-0 lead three minutes into the game without the Danes even touching the ball. UAlbany narrowed the gap to 5-3 and their offense showed signs of life as they managed to muster six goals in the first half. However, they also surrendered 12.

"Stony Brook is the No. 1 team in the country for a reason, and they showed why today," said UAlbany interim head coach Jessica Davos. "While we had some bright spots, we simply made too many mistakes. And they were able to capitalize on those miscues."

There were a few bright spots for the Danes. Powlin's five goals combined with Sam Tortora's six points was something that UAl-

bany can build off of heading into the offseason. This was the fourth time this season Powlin scored four or more goals in a game and she finished the regular season out with 43 goals.

UAlbany started the season out 0-7 and has come a long way. Since then, the team has won eight games in a row and heads into conference play with a full head of steam. The Danes look like a different team than at the season's start and have had some big wins in the past few weeks, including knocking off No. 20 Notre Dame.

Stony Brook is the number one team in the land and exposed the Danes' weaknesses, which they can build off of heading into the conference tournament. That tournament starts this weekend.

Last year the Danes' lost in the America East Tournament at the hands of a No. 4 Stony Brook by a score of 14-12. Despite the loss, UAlbany still earned a selection in the NCAA tournament. This year they look to get over that Stony Brook hump, which has grown.

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Jordyn Marr with the ball in the Danes' loss against the No. 1 ranked Stony Brook Seawolves on Saturday.