



20TH PRESIDENT

RODRIGUEZ GETS 'BLING'

The president is formally inaugurated after 7 months at the university.

By **JOE HOFFMAN**

Following months of lobbying the legislature and working to develop a new strategic plan, Havidán Rodríguez was officially inaugurated as the University at Albany's 20th president in a ceremony held on Friday.

University spokesman Jordan Carleo-Evangelist said the delay between the president's first day in September and the formal ceremony was intentional, citing Rodríguez's busy schedule since beginning in the fall.

"The president came and he was just extraordinarily busy," said Carleo-Evangelist. "He also wanted to take some time to tour the campus to meet as many people as he could from the academic and administrative units. Plus, we had to get everyone's schedules to line up."

A key part of the president's work since taking office has been lobbying the state legislature to allocate more funds for SUNY — and in turn, for UAlbany.

New York State's budget season begins in the fall, when the governor plans his proposed budget for the state and typically unveils it in January. The assembly and senate then draft versions, working with the

See **INAUGURATION** page 3



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

President Rodríguez received a sterling silver presidential medallion when he was inaugurated on Friday in the Performing Arts Center.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Debate on Finance Appointment Spotlights Recent Training Bill

By **CHAD ARNOLD**

A Student Association debate over a Board of Finance appointment Wednesday night highlighted a need for better senate training according to some within the organization.

SA President Jerlisa Fontaine sought to appoint Moises Urena to the BOF following the resignation of Mark Anthony Quinn, the former chair of the Appropriations Committee, whom she appointed to the board last year.

A debate ensued on whether Fontaine could make the appointment.

Freshman Sen. Isaiah James said the debate Wednesday night highlighted the need

for senators to receive mandatory training.

The proponent of a mandatory training bill that was passed last month, James said debates like the one last Wednesday would be better understood if senators had training on issues concerning the constitution and bylaws.

"With us having knowledge and making sure that we understood the bylaws and constitution, things like this wouldn't happen," he said.

According to the SA constitution, the president is allowed three appointments to the BOF whereas the senate chair is given four — two of which must be members of the Appropriations Committee and include the committee's chair.



CHAD ARNOLD / ASP

Sen. James said the debate highlighted the need for mandatory senate training.

See **BILL** page 3

SEXUAL HEALTH

Future 'SHAPE' of Project Uncertain

By **JOE HOFFMAN**

Students from a University at Albany sexual health education group have started a campaign to "Save SHAPE" after learning that their director would step down and Middle Earth would help lead until a new director comes in.

Director Carol Stenger began SHAPE (Sexual Health and Peer Education) in the 1990s. Students in SHAPE host events and classes teaching other students about sexuality, sexual health, and sexual violence.

In a meeting on March 23, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Clarence McNeil announced to SHAPE students that Stenger felt it was time for her to step down.

Students in attendance said McNeil expressed uncertainty about how the transition would work. This uncertainty was echoed by leadership of Project SHAPE's new oversight center, Behavioral Health and Applied Research.

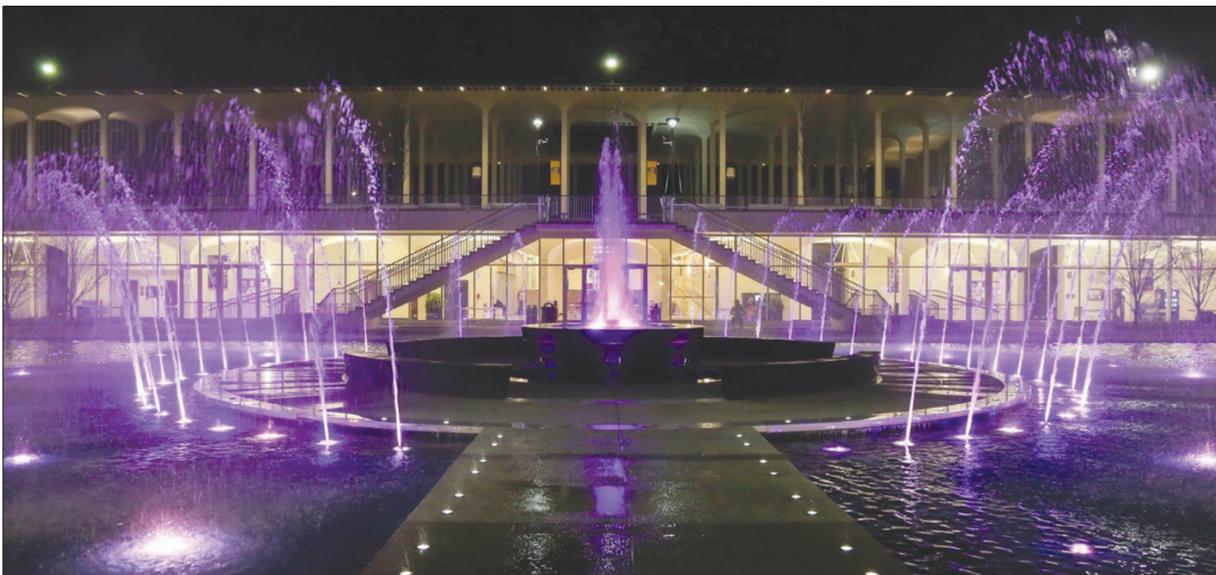
The decision came after Stenger's leadership in the Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence, which she founded four years ago, began to take up more of her time and effort.

Stenger declined a request for comment.

Stenger, who holds a graduate degree in human sexuality from New York University, founded the University's Advocacy Center for Sexual Violence four years ago. The Center seeks to be a place where students can talk and receive support after instances of sexual violence.

See **SHAPE** page 2

FOUNTAIN NIGHT



MICHAEL APOLLO / ASP

The fountain sprouted for the season last week.

RENOVATION

State Quad Maintenance Prompts Orientation Switch to Colonial

By MICHAEL APOLLO

Elevators, façades, and asbestos abatement — summer renovations are coming to State Quad, prompting a move in freshman orientation to Colonial Quad.

All three projects, according to Senior Communications Specialist Mike Nolan, are part of the university's ongoing efforts to upgrade and maintain residence halls.

Beyond the \$3.9 million price tag for the renovations, there are other costs: freshman orientation, historically held on State Quad, will be moving to Colonial Quad.

Holly Barker-Flynn, UAlbany's director of Orientation and Transition Programs, said she and her team are taking the relocation in stride.

This is not the first time orientation has been on Colonial Quad, according to Barker-Flynn.

"My first summer that I took over as director for orientation we were on Colonial so it's been a few years since we've been back there," she said. "I'm returning to my original roots."

With State Quad unavailable this summer, Colonial Quad was the only other option to host orientation. The Educational Opportunity Program, known as EOP, uses Indian Quad and renovations are also slated for Dutch Quad, Barker-Flynn said.

Freshmen students will occupy five low-rise buildings on the quad. The quad office in Livingston Tower and Herkimer Hall, the newly renovated hall on Colonial, will be used as a summer operations space for

orientation staff.

Besides location, there will be no other major changes to the program. Meals will be served in the Colonial Quad dining hall and a new location has been selected for the outdoor activities usually held on the soccer field behind State Quad.

"Now because of our proximity to Collins Circle we will be going back there this summer to have the 'Dane Games' out on Collins Circle," said Barker-Flynn.

Freshmen students have the option to live on either State or Indian Quad. With orientation held on Colonial, freshmen student's first dose of UAlbany will be on what is typically a sophomore quad. However, Barker-Flynn is not concerned.

"New students don't really know the difference," she said. "When we are on our tours we will point out the freshman living areas to them."

"Many of them will, if they have visited on the tour through admissions, have seen State Quad because that's where the admissions tour room is," Barker-Flynn added.

Nearby construction on Building 27, the old Business Administration building, may potentially impact students' orientation experience and image of the university.

"It's all about first impressions," said Barker-Flynn, who added that orientation staff will work with facilities to make things look tidier. "As a new student and a new family member you want to make sure we're putting our best foot forward," she added.



MICHAEL APOLLO / ASP

State Quad has normally housed incoming freshmen during summer orientation, but the program will shift to Colonial Quad as State undergoes renovations.

SHAPE

Continued from Page 1

Michael Christakis, vice president of student affairs, said Friday there were no plans to hire new staff, though Stenger has advocated for that change.

"Their case load's gone up, and there's always gonna be a desire for new staff," said Christakis. "You make strategic allocations best that you can, and [Stenger] knows where we stand on that."

Some students in SHAPE view this as avoiding an easy solution to their problem: If the university hired another advocate for

the Center, they say, Stenger could continue leading Project SHAPE.

McNeil also informed SHAPE students that Stenger would no longer be teaching the organization's training courses in human sexuality, ECPY 311 and 312. The courses have previously been required for every SHAPE member, leading many at the meeting to voice significant pushback.

"If we don't have someone to teach the class, we're not going to know any of the information that we're teaching," said SHAPE member Kirstin O'Sullivan in an interview Wednesday. "The organization is pretty much null without the course."

Dr. Dolores Cimini, director of Behavioral Health and Applied Research, which

oversees Middle Earth, said Wednesday that Middle Earth will try to find other ways for SHAPE students to receive training.

"We need to explore that," said Cimini. "There have been courses in department of psychology, the department of sociology; we would network and give the students what they need."

In a note to Middle Earth student leadership, Cimini emphasized that Middle Earth would only be helping Project SHAPE transition.

"At no time did Middle Earth intend to absorb Project SHAPE permanently or compromise its identity as a group," said Cimini in the note. "The goal has always been to welcome Project SHAPE students

and conduct a process over the next year to examine how the transition could best be accomplished."

Cimini said that they have not yet met with SHAPE members, saying that now was not a good time since emotions are running high.

In the coming months, newly-appointed Middle Earth Director Sarah Nolan will be working to process applications for new Project SHAPE members.

How the process will work is unclear. Cimini said last week that Middle Earth was considering bringing new SHAPE applicants into their peer wellness track, but that the process of how Middle Earth will help SHAPE is still being developed.

CRIME BLOTTER

Crim Obstruction Breathing/Blood Circulation - Apply Pressure

4/12/2018
Dutch Quad - DQ Office
Report of an altercation between students. A referral was made.

Crim Nuisance 2 - Create Conditions Which Endanger Others

4/12/2018
Empire Commons - EC B Cluster
Report of a covered smoke detector. A referral was made.

Unlawful Possession of Marijuana

4/11/2018
Indian Quad - Montauk Hall
A male student was found to be in possession of marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia and arrested for same.

911/Blue Light Hang Up

4/11/2018
State Quad - Eastman Tower
Elevator entrapment, subject freed safely by Elevator Company and Power Plant.

Public Lewdness - Expose

One's Private Parts in Public Place

4/10/2018
Other - UPD
Report of public lewdness

Domestic Incident

4/10/2018
Dutch Quad - Ten Eyck Hall
Assisted students in domestic dispute.

Criminal Trespass 2nd - Enter/Remain Unlawfully in Dwelling

4/9/2018
Dutch Quad - DQ Grounds
Report of a male subject

trespassing on campus.

Harassment 2nd - Physical Contact

4/8/2018
Alumni Quad - Alden Hall
Assisted subjects in domestic dispute.

DWI: 2 Previous Convictions Designated Offenses in 10 Years

4/8/2018
Roadways - Fuller Road
Report of a male student driving while intoxicated. An arrest and a referral were made.

Driving While Intoxicated - 1st Offense

4/7/2018
Roadways - DQ Lot
Report of a male subject driving while intoxicated. An arrest was made.

Crim Nuisance 2 - Create Conditions Which Endanger Others

4/7/2018
Alumni Quad - Sayles Hall
Report of a covered fire alarm. An arrest and a referral were made.

Rape Introrse Forcible Compuls

4/6/2018
Indian Quad - IQ Grounds
Report of a possible assault.

Possess Forged Instrument - 3rd

4/6/2018
Indian Quad - Machican Hall
Report of a forged ID. A referral was made.

Petit Larceny

4/6/2018
Dutch Quad - Van Rensselaer Hall
Report of a stolen debit card.

DINING

Colonial Quad Dining Set to Close This Fall

By SARAH VALDEZ

University Auxiliary Services confirmed Thursday that Colonial Quad's dining hall will close next semester — a move that will keep student meal plans from becoming more expensive.

Savings from the closing will prevent student meal plan rates from a 3.5 to 4 percent increase next year, according to the executive director of University Auxiliary Services, Stephen Pearse.

"We know keeping costs down is important to our student customers, so we try to do that at every chance it is reasonable to do it without sacrificing quality," said Pearse. "Colonial just isn't being used enough to warrant the resources necessary to keep it open."

UAS reported a 69 percent decrease in usage in the fall semester and a 71 percent

drop this semester.

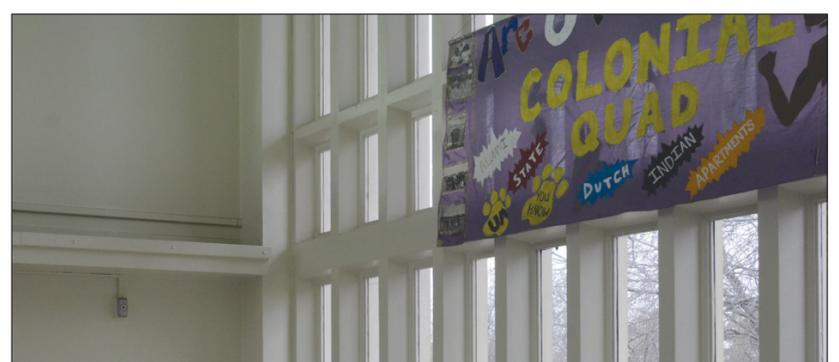
"We take our cues from students, who are our customers," said Pearse, who explained that students prefer other dining options, such as the Campus Center.

Though there have been no formal announcements made regarding the dining hall's closure, Pearse said that Residential Life and UAS are preparing students for the change by making them aware as they choose housing for next year.

"If they aren't making money, closing it is probably the smartest thing to do," said Jessica Rubbert, a junior biology major living on Alumni Quad. While on campus, she usually opts for the Campus Center.

With the closing, Colonial Quad's 20 employees will relocate to other venues on campus, Pearse said.

"There are typically enough openings in dining services that we expect that every



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

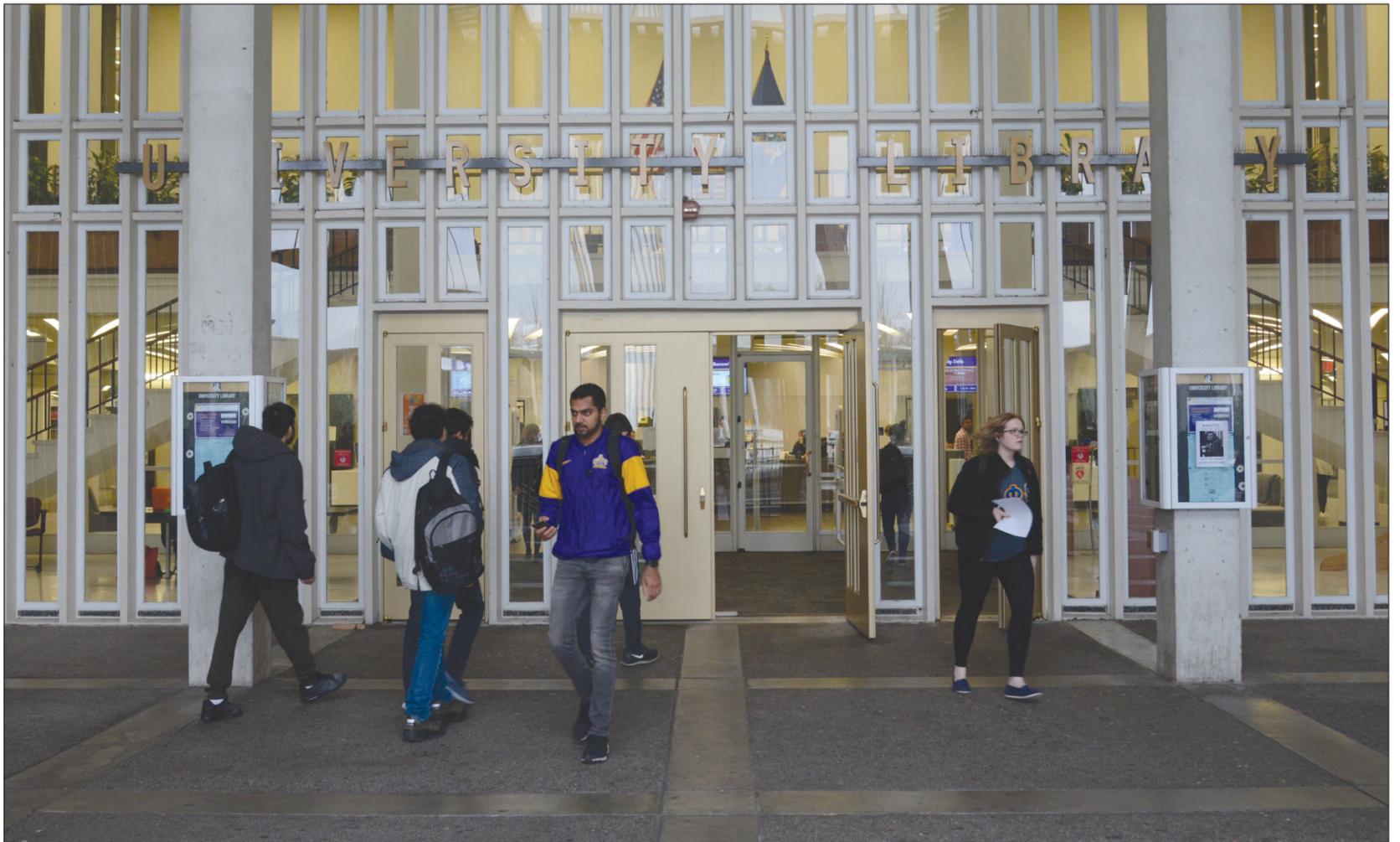
Colonial Quad dining will close to save students from paying a 3.5 to 4 percent increase in meal plan rates.

employee who wishes to remain will be able to find a position elsewhere on campus," said Pearse.

"This savings is a benefit that will positively impact all students with a meal plan, including those at Colonial."

PUBLIC LEWDNESS

UPD Arrests Student for Masturbating in Library



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

A 23-year-old male was charged on Friday with public lewdness, a class B misdemeanor.

By JOE HOFFMAN

The University Police Department has made an arrest after asking students, faculty and staff Thursday for help identifying a student reported for masturbating in the main library on Tuesday, April 10.

Police Chief Wiley said in a statement sent Saturday to the University at Albany community that they spoke with the 23-year-old male on Friday and charged him with public lewdness, a class B misdemeanor.

Assistant Chief Aran Mull said that the student withdrew from the University some time between the incident and when he spoke with UPD.

A blast email Thursday asked students to call UPD if they knew anything about the identity of the male individual, attaching a photo of him and assuring students that no one was physically harmed in the incident.

Mull said Saturday that UPD began receiving information about the suspect within ten minutes of sending out the email.

Dean of Libraries Rebecca Mugridge said Thursday that staff learned from UPD that someone was masturbating in the library after a student recorded and reported it to police.

The daily crime log shows that an incident of public lewdness — exposing one’s private parts in public — was reported on Tuesday, April 10 at 5:22 PM. UPD listed the location as “other.”

Mull said the reason they reached out to

the community for help was the failure of the usual identification databases to identify the person.

“This was one of those instances where we’ve checked with the resources here on campus,” said Mull. “We’ve checked with the law enforcement resources that we typically use to identify people, and ultimately those weren’t able to get identification.”

Many students learned of the library incident from a Snapchat video of a student confronting the person sitting at a desk in the library.

Gabriel Torres-Trinidad, a freshman studying business, saw it the day of the incident when a friend sent it to him on Snapchat. Soon, he saw memes and parodies that began circulating on social media.

When he received an email from UPD on Thursday asking for help identifying the person, he was surprised.

“I was like ‘oh wow,’ I knew it was gonna be a big thing on social media, but I didn’t think UPD was gonna get involved,” said Torres-Trinidad.

A paper with the photo UPD circulated and the words “JACK THE JERKER, \$5,000,000 REWARD,” was posted on a column outside the university library Thursday. It was taken down later that day.

Library staff said last week that they were taken aback by the news that a student had been masturbating in their library.

“We’ve never had that public of a display, but we have had some people who have been inappropriate,” said Deborah



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

A sign outside the University Library was posted on Thursday but taken down later that day.

Bernard, director of public services for the library. “If it had been reported to us, we would have called UPD right away.”

In the statement announcing the former student’s arrest on Saturday, Police Chief Wiley thanked the community for its help.

“You helped make our campus safer and are proof that an engaged community makes community policing successful,” said Wiley.

INAUGURATION

Continued from Page 1

governor to finally enact a budget in the spring.

Rodríguez met with state lawmakers in the runup to the budget enactment on March 31. He pushed the university’s key requests, including critical maintenance funding and additional funds for the Center of Excellence in Atmospheric and Environmental

Predication and Innovation.

The university had asked the legislature for \$20 million to renovate the Schuyler building, a former high school slated to hold departments in the emerging College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

The state’s final enacted budget includes \$22 million of allocated funds for all of UAlbany’s critical maintenance projects — \$2 million more than the university requested for the Schuyler project alone.

Rodríguez said he was not worried about choosing which parts of UAlbany’s aging infrastructure to replace with the funds.

“We’re going to make these decisions as a team. We’re going to use the funding that we have, then we’re going to continue to build and to see what the priority projects are and move forward,” said Rodríguez. “Obviously, I spoke about Schuyler; it’s a priority.”

At the ceremony in the Performing Arts Center theater Friday, Rodríguez stepped towards the podium after receiving the sterling silver presidential medallion.

“I now have bling,” he said.

Rodríguez said he believes the leadership change can bring about positive change for

UAlbany, pointing to the recently released strategic plan as evidence of the university’s capabilities.

The planning committee, whose listed members number more than 100, released a 27 page booklet on April 3. The plan includes the university’s mission, vision, values and priorities.

“Throughout this process we were strategic, we were selective, and organized but we also developed a sense of urgency,” said Rodríguez.

BILL

Continued from Page 1

Quinn, who did not become appropriations chair until September 2017, was appointed to the BOF by Fontaine in May the same year. His resignation last month has led to a debate over who gets to fill his vacancy.

Due to confusion, senators voted to debate Urena’s appointment at a later date.

“This isn’t a yes or a no thing,” said Liberty Terrace senator Paulina Hatzipetrakos who called further debate over the appoint-

ment absurd. “Give us sometime so all the senators...who are all arguing at 10:46 at night about complex bylaws that a majority of us haven’t even read over.”

James’ recently passed bill, which was supported by Senate Chair Jarrett Altilio, and Brandon Holdridge, chair of the Rules Committee, requires mandatory training for all senators before the first senate meeting following an election.

Prior to the bill’s passage, rules of the senate and responsibilities for senators were not required as part of the brief training session covering the organization’s procedural rules — a session not mandatory until now.

“When new senators are elected, we have one practice bill,” said James. “We do have

access to the constitution and bylaws since they’re public, but besides that, that’s the only type of training we get.”

According to Altilio, senators not understanding the bylaws, constitution, and senate procedural rules is a “two-tiered issue.” Blame, he says, can be accredited to a lack of senate training and individual responsibility.

“It’s a culture that’s persisted beyond me even being here,” said Altilio, who described his training as a freshman senator four years ago as a brief PowerPoint presentation regarding procedural rules of the senate. “Since then we haven’t done a whole lot in the way of training and that’s a mistake. That’s something I take responsi-

bility for.”

James, alongside Holdridge and Altilio, is currently working on creating a training handbook containing brief explanations of the organization’s constitution, bylaws, and procedural rules to supplement future training.

“This is the responsibility of everybody to know the bylaws and to know the constitution. It’s sad seeing that they don’t,” said Holdridge. “Hopefully next year, with the right leadership, we’ll be able to implement the handbook...and really fix the problem of the education of all these senators.”

USE OF DEADLY FORCE

Law Enforcement Needs a Shift from Reasonable Force to Necessary Force

By **RAYMOND E. STRAWN III**

Use of deadly force by law enforcement has been a huge debate recently and there doesn't seem to be any signs of change to fix this issue. Calling for body cameras may help, but even with evidence of the use of deadly force against unarmed civilians, it doesn't provide justice or accountability. That was, until the recent news of California's new bill requiring the standard of use of deadly force by law enforcement from a reasonable force to a necessary force — a much-needed change that I fully support.

The reasonable force standard is traced back to Tennessee v. Garner 471 U.S. 1 (1985), where the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that

if a law enforcement officer "has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others" then the officer may use deadly force. The necessary force standard would require law enforcement officers to only use deadly force if "there were no other reasonable alternatives to the use of deadly force," said Lizzie Buchen, a legislative advocate for the American Civil Liberties Union, which supports this change of standard.

Changing to the necessary force standard would be similar to the use of deadly force policies in European countries. Such countries follow an "absolute doctrine" found in Article 2 of the European Convention of Human Rights, which states, "The

use of force which is no more than absolutely necessary."

Implementing this change will help hold law enforcement accountable when the officer used deadly force in questionable situations, such as an unarmed civilian. This change will also require that law enforcement receives more training, which I argue they desperately need. Law enforcement needs more training on conflict resolution, non-lethal takedowns, and handling situations dealing with someone with mental illness. Requiring a change in the policy on when law enforcement can use deadly force will result in requiring better and more training for law enforcement.

With a new policy and better training, there will be less

controversial police shootings and if there is an unfortunate incident where there is one, it will be easier for the courts to hold the officer accountable for his or her action.

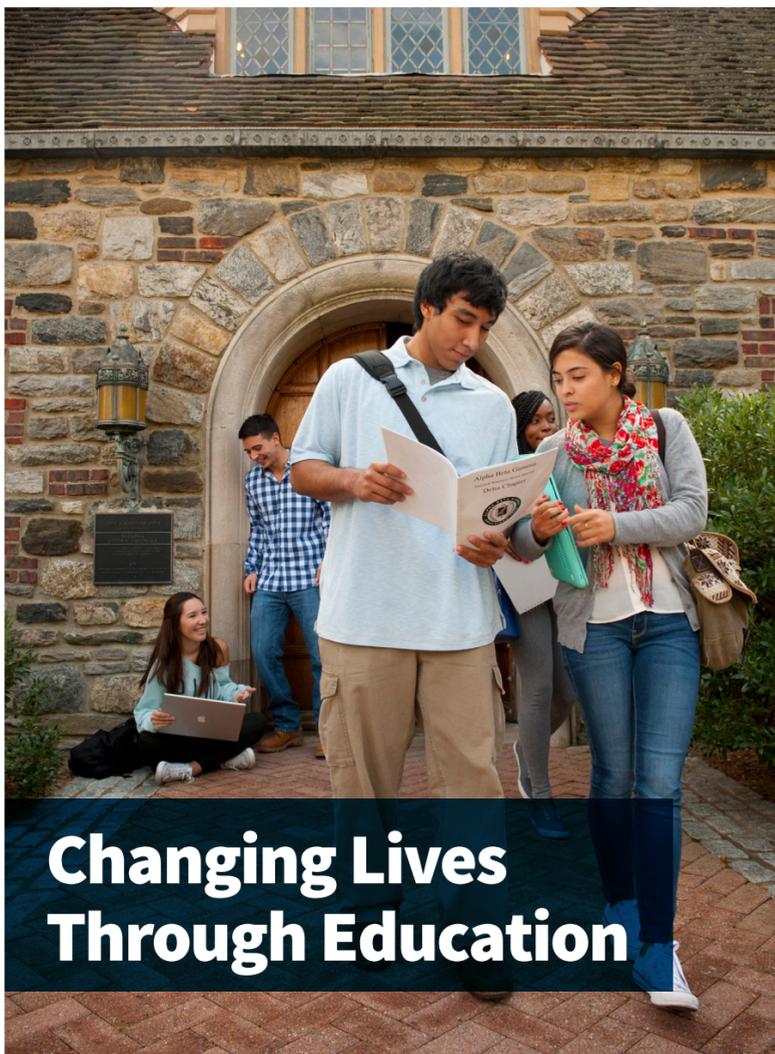
This will help repair the damage of trust civilians may have against law enforcement and the justice system and can also lead to fewer riots and protests.

There may be concerns that changing the policy will create more risks for law enforcement because the officer may have doubts about using deadly force when it is necessary. However, with the proper training and use of non-lethal techniques, officers will be able to continue doing their job safely if the use of deadly force policy changes. With a change in policy, citizens will feel safer, law



STRAWN

enforcement will feel safer, and the community will feel safer. It is about time that every state changes to a standard of necessary force.



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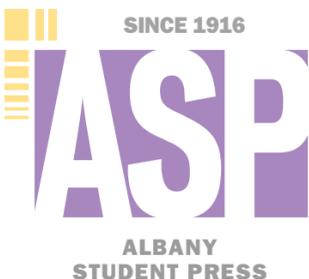
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NOISE FROM NOYES

Trump is Wrong on Tariffs

By MATTHEW NOYES

The Trump Administration levied tariffs on steel and aluminum last month through an executive order. Imported steel is subject to a 25 percent tariff and aluminum to a 10 percent tariff. A tariff is a tax on the American people. The money is paid for out of citizen's pockets and does more harm to Americans than it does to their trading partners.

There are several arguments President Trump and his supporters use to defend the tariffs. Economist Walter Williams says that one of these arguments is that they help domestic steel and aluminum industries. Increasing the price of foreign steel and aluminum reduces the supply and makes it easier for domestic firms to compete. Williams then debunks this claim by arguing the increased profit of domestic firms comes at an aggregate cost to Americans.

Artificially higher costs on steel and aluminum make the prices of other goods go up that use them. The argument that it helps steel and aluminum producers in the U.S. is true, but it ends up hurting the economy overall.

Another point that deserves rebutting is one made by Trump. NPR quoted Trump saying, "A strong steel and aluminum industry are vital to our national security." Defense Secretary James Mattis said, "Military demand for steel and aluminum can be met with just 3 percent of domestic production." The notion of autarky, that the U.S. needs to produce all of what it needs instead of trading, greatly limits the economy's potential and as a result may limit future defense capabilities.

The New York Times reported that Trump also claims that shifts in trade policies are necessary to make countries like China engage in fair trading. However, there is no such thing as fair trade, only free trade. Free trade is the voluntary exchange of goods and services between people in different countries. It allows one region or firm's comparative advantage to create more of something at a lower cost, benefiting everyone.

Free trade produces mutual benefits to all parties involved. Trade isn't a zero-sum game that has losers and winners. A great quote that summarizes this concept is one by sociologist Franz Oppenheimer, "The first method [of acquiring wealth] is by producing a good or a service and voluntarily exchanging that good for the product of somebody else," aka: the free market. The other method being forcefully taking someone else's property by force.

The Trump Administration wants you to artificially pay more for certain goods. Cans of soda, construction, and countless other things we pay for everyday are going to be more expensive. Free trade is a part of capitalism. Trump's campaign was full of protectionist rhetoric, so it isn't surprising that he followed through with it. What is disheartening is the hypocrisy of the media and politicians. President Obama's tariff on tires did not see the same scrutiny from the mainstream media as Trump's tariffs have.

On the flip side, some from the right-wing media have not been critical about the tariffs simply because they're Trump's. Many in the Republican Party who claim to be capitalists and conservatives have supported the tariffs as well. Trump's tariffs are bad, not because Trump is good or bad, but because tariffs are always bad. Government interference in consensual interactions between people is wrong whether it's by Republicans or Democrats.



NOYES

UNIVERSITY IMAGE

UAlbany's Reputation as a Party School has Died Down

By JABARI COLEMAN

Is the stereotype that UAlbany is one of the biggest party schools in the northeast true?

Many think UAlbany is a school full of wild students who love to party, yet that isn't entirely the case. There may be students who love to party, but there are many students who are deep into their studies. Being a student here at UAlbany, I wouldn't consider ourselves as a party school.

There have been many times that this campus has been inactive because students went home for the weekend, studied for exams, or there was simply nothing to do. UAlbany is a very active campus filled with many organizations that keep many students involved, but a party school? No. Now, there are parties that happen occasionally here on campus and in the

downtown area of Albany, but not enough to categorize it as the wild party school many claim it to be. The typical time to expect massive parties is when school resumes in late August and early September, and also during the end of spring semester in April and May.

The biggest factor contributing to UAlbany being a party school is the hype surrounding it. Specific parties are often advertised as the event of the weekend for students, but instead turn out to be a disaster. Terrible music, lack of organization, and a bad turn out. Also, unexpected

cancellation or rescheduling influences students to not bother attending the next upcoming event. This stereotype of being a party school is mainly produced

by outsiders, who may think of UAlbany as a party school because of what they may have seen on social media or heard. This has influenced the incoming freshmen and transfer students. Many students come in with the mindset that this school is going to be a mad house with parties every weekend. However, after the first couple of months

into the semester, the party life is dead.

The impression of this school is that it is great for academics, and is an affordable, beautiful campus (with the fountain being the focal point), and that it's big on partying. Over the past few years, UAlbany party life has died down; it isn't as rowdy as people think it is. It used to be the number one party school and was also known for the infamous "kegs and eggs" incident. Incoming students assume the supposedly wild party life here will hinder their ability to obtain a good academic standing, but there are many students here excelling in the classroom. To many this may come as a shock that UAlbany isn't living up to the reputation it has had for decades, but the reality is the party life has simmered down.



COLEMAN

PUBLIC HEALTH

Parents Who Don't Vaccinate Children are Endangering Lives

By M. FRANCIS MIRRO

Ignorance is bliss, but it's also immensely dangerous. Such is the case with parents throughout America who, for one reason or another, choose not to vaccinate their children. Before you throw your arms up in the air and wonder what stake I, or anyone at the University at Albany has in the matter, know that parents who don't vaccinate their children are not only endangering their kids' lives, but also the lives of everyone around them.

As long as you'd rather not have deadly, highly contagious and largely eradicated illnesses such as Polio, Smallpox or the Measles, this is an issue for you as much as anyone. Contrary to popular belief, someone who has been vaccinated can contract a disease they've been previously protected against from someone who has not. Is that not scary?

Let's get the obvious out of the way: in no way, shape or form do vaccines cause Autism. The one, single study that reached those conclusions has been proven to be the product of sloppy science, doctored results

and faulty experimenting. The man, not doctor, who originally published that research, Andrew Wakefield, was stripped of his medical license for fudging his findings as well as ethical problems. He is in no way credible and shouldn't be treated as such.

To be fair, the overwhelming majority of parents are doing the responsible and safe thing by vaccinating their children. But that small outlier is what could prove to be a real problem. Not only are their children at greater risk, but so is every other child they come in contact with. That's why schools (as well as colleges) mandate vaccinations. Infected students eventually go home and can affect parents. Parents then go to work and infect the population at large. Sounds like a movie now, doesn't it?

Because rational people don't

listen to junk science, supporters of Wakefield and McCarthy have begun to use a different argument, saying that this is a free choice matter. True enough,

in most places it isn't mandatory to immunize your children. You can choose not to. You can also choose to walk around campus in your underwear during the dead of winter. But, like choosing not to vaccinate, that decision will end badly. The presence of choice doesn't mean both options are inherently equal; it just means they exist.

Herd immunity describes a species' collective resistance to certain diseases. This is a major aspect of human survival which can vary from society to society and have major ramifications.

The Spanish conquistadors brought diseases to the New World that virtually wiped out millions of native peoples — much more than the guns and horses they ferried from Europe. Herd immunity can also mean the preservation or destruction of large populations of humans. The thing is, when even one out of ten people, the rate of parents who delay or skip shots in America, have a compromised immunity, it can drastically affect the entire population's Herd immunity. And the number of unvaccinated people is rising in many states and that is a horrifying prospect.

This is part of a much larger problem that is plaguing the internet-heavy world. People are feeling too comfortable ignoring hard facts from experts and professionals and accepting inaccurate information from unreliable sources simply because it fits into their preconceived opinions. But, unlike modern politics, this vital science is in no way subjective and fact cannot be mistaken for opinion. People's lives are most certainly at stake.



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MUSIC

Cardi B's Debut Album is an 'Invasion of Privacy'

By JENNIE HEYWARD

Cardi B's long-awaited album, "Invasion of Privacy," was immediately the number-one album on iTunes in its first week.

Being her debut album effort, it was released on April 6 by Atlantic Records, it marks a departure for her career as she had previously released mixtapes.

Things changed particularly with her claim-to-fame single, "Bodak Yellow," which was released in June 2017.

Cardi B was the musical guest on "Saturday Night Live" on April 7, where she promoted her album and first performed a mashup of "Bodak Yellow" and "Bartier Cardi."

In her second performance with "Be Careful," as the camera panned out, the crowd started to cheer as Cardi's baby bump was shown for the first time after rumors of her pregnancy had been speculating for months.

Besides her pregnancy reveal on SNL, this was her first performance of "Be Careful" off the new album. Right away, this song made its way to the top of the charts, along with "I Like It" and "I Do," the latter featuring SZA.

The album has some big names featured on it such as Migos, Chance the Rapper, Kehlani and 21 Savage.

The first song on the album is called "Get Up 10," with the lyric: "Knock me down nine times but I get up ten."

This song references Cardi getting knocked down in her career and her rise to success.

The song begins slow, then a heavy beat comes in and gives the song a faster pace. This is one of the more exciting, heavy rap



Source: FYH.com.pl

Cardi B's "Invasion of Privacy" debuted atop Billboard 200, selling 255,000 copies in its first week.

songs on the album.

Also, the fifth song, "Be Careful," is a standout track with lyrics like, "It's gonna

hurt me to hate you, but loving you is worse."

The song, "I Like It," is a remix of the

song, "I Like It Like That," by Pete Rodriguez that came out back in 1967.

In the beginning of the song, the famous verse from the original version is heard, then a beat is mixed in and Cardi's verse begins. There are many Spanish verses in here to express Cardi's Dominican and Trinidadian descent, along with the Latin rhythm.

"Ring" is the first slow and romantic song on the album.

It begins with vocals from Kehlani, and a very meaningful and strong verse by Cardi B. Kehlani adds a romantic melody with her voice that makes this song one to sing along to.

Other outstanding vocals on this album come from "Thru Your Phone" and "I Do" (which features SZA).

"Thru Your Phone" is another song with strong vocals, giving the song a romantic vibe to it before Cardi B's verse gives the song a faster pace.

The most badass song on the album is definitely "Bickenhead," which has a bit of an old-school rap vibe to it with a "I don't give a f---" attitude.

There are 13 songs on the album and the ones described above were the ones that were the highest on the charts and most popular in the first week of being released.

Cardi B's album has made its way to the top of the charts in its first week with over 100 million streams on Apple Music, setting a new record by a female artist.

This album is filled with hits after hits, from many different genres.

So, whatever one's style of music is, one should enjoy this album and Cardi B's talent to make music.

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WRITERS INSTITUTE

How a Painful Neurological Condition Injured and Inspired an Author to Write

By **DIEGO CAGARA****DIEGO CAGARA / ASP**

Moderated by NYSWI Director Paul Grondahl, left, the public learned as Buchanan, right, said most doctors did not believe her condition.

Acclaimed author Andrea J. Buchanan was simply crossing the street one March day in 2015 when she had a severe coughing fit. After breathing normally again, she did not think much until she later found out it was something serious that would dramatically impact her health, state of mind and her family.

Buchanan had been feeling off that morning, already worrying about her fever-stricken son, whether she was succeeding enough as a mother and undergoing a divorce.

Buchanan visited the Guilderland Public Library on Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. which was part of the New York State Writers Institute's Visiting Writers series.

She spoke candidly with members of the public about her condition, her slow recovery and how she turned that painful experience into writing. This resulted in the book, "The Beginning of Everything."

She revealed that her coughing fits gravely led to her cerebrospinal fluid seeping out of a minute tear in her dura mater, being the scientific term for the membrane blanketing the brain and spinal cord.

Her condition worsened as her brain painfully sank to the skull's base.

She said that her condition is not well known in the public and medical field.

"A lot of times when women go to doctors with symptoms of pain, they're not necessarily believed. It's like you come across as an unreliable narrator in your own life," she said. "The pain is so invisible, especially with head pain. It's not something you can see. You can't see a brain injury. So, it was difficult to be taken seriously."

She also said that it was hard to "find a place of expertise to treat this... It took nine months to get into Duke University where the doctors and radiologists there had the expertise, experience and knowledge to fix this."

Having written books prior, she worried that she would not be able to write again or fully be there for her family, especially since she and her husband were undergoing divorce at the time.

She had to learn that patience was essential in her recovery.

During the first full year of recovery while being treated at Duke University, she recalled mostly resting in bed and regaining her lifelong ability to play the piano, which

she'd feared she'd lost after her condition.

She is indeed a professionally-trained pianist, holding "a bachelor of music degree in piano performance from the Boston Conservatory of Music and a master's in piano performance from the San Francisco Conservatory." She had also played her last recital at the prestigious Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall in Manhattan, New York.

Buchanan explained how the human brain processes two kinds of memory: implicit and explicit.

Implicit is unconscious memory, where the person automatically remembers certain facts or skills by heart, like their own name and in Buchanan's case, her love for writing and playing piano.

Explicit is conscious memory, where the person has to actively use "energy" for their brain to remember or process something, like a newly-learned fact or less important skills.

She wrote in her book how she could not make many explicit memories due to her sunken brain's state but her implicit memory remained.

This made it easier for her to slowly continue playing the piano and write in

time, which she personally cherished with immense gratitude, previously fearing she'd lose who she was intrinsically.

With more practice and aid from Duke University, her body slowly recovered.

Although she did not detail how Duke University specifically treated her during her visit, she believed the underlying issue was how the medical field should be aware of her condition and not reject similar victims with invisible pain stories.

She noted that she learned about other victims' journeys, particularly actor George Clooney in the mid-2000s, who'd discussed in interviews then how he almost considered taking his own life because of the sheer pain.

"It's so bad George Clooney has it," she half-joked, eliciting audience laughter.

She also credited her supportive family for helping her recover and regain her life back.

After chuckling that she'd initially thought of naming her book, "Leak Year," she reiterated that there's "so much we don't know about the brain that it's fascinating" and she's thrilled to share her experiences through her writing.

MUSICIAN PROFILE

Singer Alan Jackson to Hit Times Union Center

By **DANI MARTINEZ**

Alan Jackson remains as one of the biggest acts in country music since the 1990s, with hits like "Don't Rock the Jukebox" (1991) and "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)" (2001).

In fact, he will have a concert at the Times Union Center in Albany on Saturday, April 28.

Born Alan Eugene Jackson, he originally was raised in Georgia and after he dropped out of high school, he went to sing with his band, Dixie Steele.

Jackson wedded his high school sweetheart, Denise Jackson in late 1979. Denise herself met fellow singer Glenn Campbell when she was still a flight attendant at the time.

After working with Campbell on his demo, it led Jackson to earning a place at Campbell's record label.

Some fun facts that fans are not aware about is that Jackson remains married to Jackson.

He has also been a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, which recognizes outstanding figures in the Nashville music community in Tennessee.

His family was not hugely into music when he grew up, which was further expressed by how he did not have his own guitar at that point in his life yet.

This is notably odd since professional musicians usually

learn music from a family member or receive lessons.

He also was the first singer signed to Arista Records' country division, which is based in Nashville and geared to country musicians, helping them become successful in the country music world.

He went to take home a Grammy for the aforementioned "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)," which is a song that references the 9/11 attacks in 2001.

Jackson is known for how his songs are about being humble as well inspiring listeners and fellow musicians.

He was encouraged to start his music career later in life after attending a country music concert.

An example of his rise to stardom can be found in the song, "Chasin' That Neon Rainbow," where he talks about his dream and the roads he traveled in order to achieve it.

His wife also supported his dream, to the point that they both took up paying jobs and eventually moved to Nashville.

Although, he is a famous musician, he is not into the media attention.

Regardless, Jackson is still making music today. He recently released a song on Nov. 12, 2017 called "The Older I Get" which references his career and where he is now in his life.

The beauty of this song is that some people run from the fact of aging, but instead Jackson embraces it: "The more

thankful I feel / For the life I've had, and all the life I'm living still."

In addition, Jackson was featured in the music video for "Forever Country," which has a list of well-known country musicians that were honored at the 50th Annual Country Music Association Awards in November 2016.

That night, he performed his timeless classic, "Don't Rock the Jukebox" for the opening show.

Tickets are now available for his Albany show later this month.



Source: Wikimedia Commons
Alan Jackson, above, hit the ACM Awards stage last Sunday.

TRASHION FASHION

Recycled Material Brings New Looks



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

Students wear outfits made of trash and recycled materials to vie for a handful of gift cards in an event that encourages students to recycle.

By KATIE GIBSON

University at Albany students hit the runway to serve looks and raise awareness about environmental sustainability at the Trashion Fashion show last Tuesday. UAlbany Green Scene hosted the fashion show with help from Students for Sustainability, the Student Association, and Campus Center Connections. All of the outfits were made from trash and recycled materials at or around the Albany campus. Fifteen models vied for fame and a handful of \$100 gift cards.

Shamika Gentle represented the university apartments in her armor of cereal and garbage bags. Her costume, as well as Taylor Martin's, was inspired by Black Panther. Gentle also carried a spear that unfolded into a banner that read "Wakanda Forever." The crowd went wild, but it was Martin's duct tape shield and dress won Kappa Alpha Pi the Greek organization award.

Dianna Butrowes modeled for Dutch Quad in a dress with a long train and a hat made of Albany Student Press newspapers. As Butrowes walked down the runway, co-host Mike Boshart mentioned that thousands of newspapers are discarded incorrectly on

our campus. Some are tossed on the ground others pile up in garbage cans, but newspaper can be recycled. They can also be used as insulation, to create art or decor with paper mache, or turned into a stunning dress. Haven Hutchinson of the Student Association also modeled a newspaper outfit. His suit jacket and pants ripped off in a Magic Mike-esque strut.

Marygrace Graves walked for Delta Phi Epsilon in a mod halter crop top and mini skirt. The top was made of stretchy silver plastic and the skirt was made of trash bags. She carried a purse decorated by an old record. This dress won the style award.

Jinju Kim went on to win the prize for the individual category for her long white dress and veil made of plastic bags. It was amazing to see something so plain and wasteful like a plastic bag turned into a work of art. The dress was elegant and eye-catching.

Other winners included Indian Quad for creativity with a duct tape dress modeled by Chelsea Aguakwa. The Office of Sustainability won construction. The Gender and Sexuality Resource Center won sustainability with a go-go dress and a giant cloak inspired by LGBTQ+ flags.



JOE HOFFMAN / ASP

Haven Hutchinson (above), Jinju Kim (bottom left), and Jason Slagg (bottom right) sport recycled materials.

The Office of Parking & Mass Transit won best campus office with a cute little dress made of parking tickets modeled by Sidney Pesta, a staff member's daughter. Colonial Quad won best living area and Alumni Quad won fan favorite.

This fashion show allowed UAlbany students to exercise their creativity and innovation. All of these outfits were made of the same kinds of material that people toss out car windows and stuff into overflowing trash cans. The Trashion Fashion show is hosted in hopes that it will motivate students to recycle.



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PROFILE

TD Ierlan is a True X Factor

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

With just over 14 minutes left to play in a game where the No. 1 ranked University at Albany men's lacrosse team trailed the No. 2 ranked Maryland Terrapins 10-6 and looked as if they were going to fall yet again to a team that ended their 2017 season, something miraculous happened. The Terrapins beat the Danes twice last year and have been the hump that UAlbany has seemingly not gotten over. The Danes were in desperate need of a spark. Nothing seemed to be working, but then all of a sudden, something clicked, and the Dane Train went full-steam ahead. A goal by senior star Connor Fields brought the Danes within three. A few minutes later another goal by senior Kyle McClancy brought the deficit to two. Then back to back goals by sophomore Jakob Patterson tied the game. The momentum shifted and just like that a four-goal lead by the Terrapins was wiped away. With just over a minute left in the contest, Connor Field had possession of the ball with a head of steam heading towards the Maryland goal. A Terrapin defender tried forcing him to his right, but Fields slipped by and gave himself enough open space to sling a shot that clinked off the post and trickled in. And in the blink of an eye the Great Danes dethroned the defending national champions by scoring five unanswered goals in the fourth quarter, shocking the world. "It's a character win," said UAlbany head coach Scott Marr as he addressed his team after the win. "Five nothing fourth quarter. Five nothing fourth quarter against

the defending national champions. The character in this room and our certainty is greater than anybody else's doubt." There was one overall catalyst that helped the Danes battle back in that game. And it's also been the reason why they are off to a historic 10-1 start. They win faceoffs. They don't just win faceoffs, but they win them at an astronomical rate. Sophomore faceoff specialist TD Ierlan has put the ball in his teammates hands more than anyone else that plays that position in the nation. Ierlan's 211 faceoffs won are tops in the nation and it isn't even close. The second most is 25 behind the Victor, N.Y native. When Ierlan steps into the circle he wins just under 85-percent of the faceoffs he takes. This gives the Great Danes a huge advantage and at the end of that Maryland game he won faceoffs when his team needed them the most. "It's a crazy clip to be going at," Marr said. "For us to have the ball that much is just unreal to have that kind of time of possession. He goes out and gets ready to play then he goes out and executes." Ierlan hasn't always been a faceoff specialist. In fact, he was primarily a midfielder until his high school coach had the idea at putting him at the X. Back then Ierlan was a two sport athlete with the other being wrestling. According to some people in the lacrosse world, wrestlers make great faceoff players because they are used to being down in a scrum. "Wrestling was my main focus back then and our lacrosse coach pulled me up and said that 'I hear wrestlers are good at faceoffs.



JOHN C. LONGTON III / ASP
TD Ierlan takes the faceoff versus Harvard.

Do you want to start taking faceoffs?" said Ierlan. "I went and watched a couple YouTube videos and learned how to do faceoffs and it kind of just took off from there." Almost right away, something clicked. Ierlan was already a decent wrestler and also sparred with the 2018 NCAA Division I wrestling champion, Yianni Diakomihalis out of Cornell. Diakomihalis and Ierlan were close friends from the same part of New York. Ierlan's wrestling background has paid dividends to his lacrosse career. This year he's had two games where he was perfect from the faceoff. Against Cornell and

Stony Brook, Ierlan went a perfect 24-for-24 at the X. He's also had two other games where he was one faceoff won shy of having an untarnished outing. "Having him [Ierlan] is unbelievable," said Fields. "If we score we can get the ball back real quick and it can be demoralizing for other teams." In their game versus Drexel earlier this year, the Danes scored four goals without the Dragons even touching the ball to start the game. That's what Ierlan brings to the table. "I probably watch film for about an hour to two hours a day whether or not is is on our team or

our opponent," said Ierlan. "Then I go to the box and work on faceoffs for about an hour to an hour and a half three times a week." "He's [Ierlan] a tireless worker in the way he prepares himself and that's what great athletes do is prepare themselves," said Marr. The Danes are off to an historical start and they have a National Championship in their sights. If they continue playing the way they have they might just hang a banner down at Casey Stadium. Ierlan and his teammates know what they have and they want to keep it going. "We want to be number one at the end of the season," he said.

SOFTBALL

Danes Cruise Over Hawks to Series Win



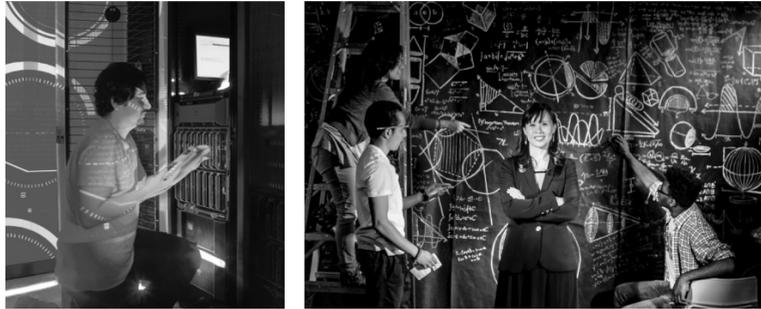
Source: UAlbany Communications and Marketing
Donna Conrad rounds the bases.

By JOHN C. LONGTON III

HARTFORD, C.T. — The University at Albany softball team swept Hartford 3-0 in the three-game series this past weekend on the road in Connecticut, extending their record to 17-10 and 5-3 in the America East. The series kicked off on Friday with a 12-0 drumming of the Hawks that was called after five innings. The Danes got the party started right away and scored six runs in the first inning. They set the series tone. Kelly Barkevich hit a

three-run home run in the second inning, followed by another home run in the fourth inning. Barkevich recorded five RBIs in the contest and went 3-for-4 from the plate. The teams resumed the series the next day for a doubleheader on Saturday that did not get much better for the Hawks. In the first game the Danes jumped out to a 7-0 lead after two innings and went on to blow out Hartford 19-1. Sarah Petzold went 2-for-3 from the plate had six RBIs. Nine different Great Dane players brought in at least a run in

the contest. The last game of the series didn't run as smoothly for the Danes as the prior two. Hartford jumped out on the board first after scoring three runs in the bottom of the third inning. Kelly Spear hit a three-run RBI-double in the top of the fifth to tie the game. Kelly Barkevich broke the tie the next inning with a game winning RBI-single to secure the series sweep. The Danes have won eight of their last 10 games and will be on the road with Wednesday for a double header with West Point that begins at 2:30 p.m.



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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Danes Extend Winning Streak to 6 with Win Over UMass Lowell



Source: Bill Ziskin / UAlbany Sports

Emma Powlin led the Danes to victory against UMass Lowell with five goals and two assists.

By BRYAN TORRES

The University at Albany Women's Lacrosse team continued their hot streak on Saturday as they beat UMass Lowell 14-5 to secure a spot in the America East Tournament.

Emma Powlin led the team to a victory with seven points, including five goals and two assists. Sam Tortora, Kyla Zapolski and Kaylee Rickert each added two goals apiece to help the effort.

The Danes were all over UMass Lowell from the jump, outshooting the visitors 28-8 in the first half to take a 6-2 lead into the break. The second half saw a more balanced

shooting total as UMass Lowell shot 13 times to UAlbany's 12, but the Danes made the most of their shots, outscoring their opponents 8-3 to put a stamp on their 14-5 victory.

Rickert, in addition to scoring two goals, also added two caused turnovers and four ground balls on the defensive end. Sophomore Jordyn Marr played well defensively, causing two turnovers and winning five draw control. Marr also scored a goal as she won a draw control and then sped past a UMass Lowell defender to score.

"The attack followed the game plan," said UAlbany Interim Head Coach Jessica Davos, "And it was our best defensive ef-

fort yet on the other end."

Goalkeeper Erin Leghart earned the win for UAlbany in the cage as she made seven saves to limit the UMass Lowell attack.

The win clinched a berth to the America East tournament for the Danes who raised their winning streak to six games, including a perfect 5-0 record in America East play. The streak comes at the perfect time for a Danes team that was on the verge of spiraling completely out of control after starting the season 0-7.

"We've been working for a postseason berth since Day One," said Davos, "And we're really happy to have clinched a spot with today's win."

UAlbany would host the America East tournament if the season ended today as it will be held on the conference standings leader's home turf on May 4 and 6. The Danes currently hold a half game lead over Stony Brook and New Hampshire who both hold 4-0 records.

Before the game, seniors Powlin, Shannon Mackesey and Mary McAvey were honored for their time at UAlbany.

The Danes will look to raise their win streak to seven games this Wednesday as they host Notre Dame at Tom and Mary Casey Stadium. The game is scheduled for 1 p.m.

BASEBALL

Danes Sweep First Place Seawolves

By ROB LEP

The University at Albany baseball team came into this weekend's series with the Stony Brook Seawolves with what looked like an impossible task: after losing nine of their last eleven games, a matchup with the first place Seawolves, the best hitting (batting .265) and pitching team (4.90 ERA) in the America East Conference.

The result that put the entire conference on notice: a three-game series sweep for UAlbany where the Danes finished the weekend outscoring the Seawolves 25-11. Ironically enough, UAlbany also came into the series as the worst hitting team in the conference.

After a 5-4 win in the opening game of the series Friday afternoon, the Great Danes came away with a 16-4 statement victory in the first game of their double-header Saturday afternoon. In game two, they capped off the game one win with a 4-3 walk off RBI single by redshirt senior Connor Powers in the seventh inning to seal the series sweep.

Game one: In Friday's series opener, the Great Danes held Stony Brook's powerful bats, securing a 5-4 victory.

After three innings from fresh-

man Ben Brown, who allowed three runs on two hits, pitcher Brendan Smith came through huge in relief. The junior right hander gave the Danes 4.1 innings, allowing no hits and no runs with five strikeouts.

Redshirt senior Jack McClure earned a five-out save, allowing one run and striking out two.

Junior infielder Travis Collins, who was 2-4 on the afternoon, delivered a leadoff home run to right field in the bottom of the fifth inning to give UAlbany a 4-3 lead.

From there, the Danes never looked back. UAlbany would add another run in the seventh inning and despite a last ditch effort by the Seawolves, scoring one run in the top of the ninth, UAlbany came away with a 5-4 win.

Game two: In game one of the Saturday doubleheader, redshirt freshman John Clayton lasted six innings, allowing four runs on seven hits with six strikeouts.

UAlbany scored a remarkable 16 runs on 14 hits, delivering an eight run explosion in the third inning before following it up with six in the fourth to give the Danes a 15-2 lead at the end of four innings.

The Danes righty hurler John Clayton lasted six innings, allowing four runs on seven hits with

six strikeouts.

Brendan Cournoyer and Nick Bird came on in relief, combining for three shutout innings with four strikeouts to seal the win and a series sweep of the first place Seawolves.

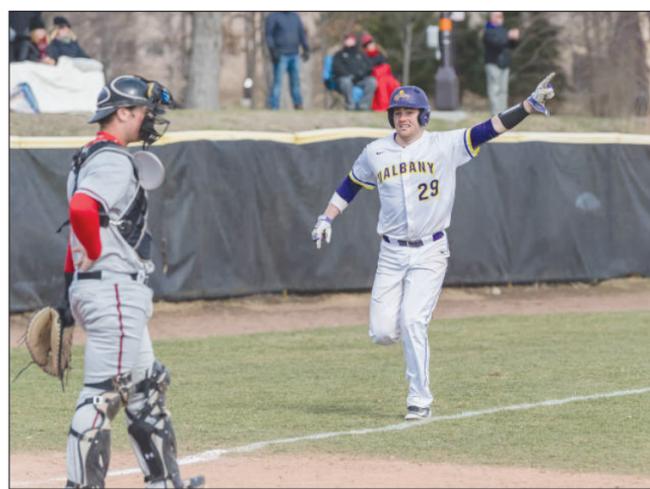
The 16 runs scored by the Danes matches the team's season-high single game scoring total from last year. It also matched their total scoring output for their previous five games coming into the weekend.

Game three: In the series finale, Danes pitcher Dominic Savino pitched a complete game (7.0 innings), letting up three runs on seven hits to go along with five strikeouts.

Connor Powers, the Danes' leader in home runs and RBIs this season, delivered with the dramatic late-game heroics in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Powers came to the plate and ripped a single off the leg of Stony Brook pitcher Aaron Pinto, out of the reach of the second baseman Brandon Janofsky to bring in teammate Kenny Hayden and seal the series sweep 4-3.

Coming into the weekend, Pinto was the star of the Stony Brook bullpen, leading the team with eight saves this season. He also ranks 13th in the NCAA. His eight saves tied the Seawolves



Source: Bill Ziskin / UAlbany Sports

Matt Codispoti rounds the bases after scoring on an RBI double by teammate Patrick Lagravinese in the Danes 16-4 victory in game two of the series.

single season record.

Powers, the Rockville Centre, NY native, is the team leader in home runs and RBIs.

"A week ago I was really worried and concerned with Stony Brook coming in," UAlbany baseball coach Jon Mueller said. "We had lost some tough games and had some things not go our way."

"It completely changes things around for us and I'm so proud of

the guys. It's a really exciting win for us and it's something to build on after this weekend."

The Danes improve to 5-3 at home this season. Stony Brook falls to 6-8 on the road.

UAlbany will play a mid-week clash with Fairleigh Dickinson on Tuesday before traveling southwest to Binghamton for a three game series with the Bearcats.