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LIFESTYLE: Make Superbowl Sunday a Superbowl fun day PG. 8

FACULTY

Heat Over Prof's Exit

By JOE HOFFMAN

"You're not supposed to agree with me," said Amanishakete Ani, assistant professor of Africana Studies at UAlbany.



"This is politics and this is what's not supposed to happen." Ani's professional conduct, teaching style, and controversial research have cultivated a student following but also lead to conflict with faculty and administration. In November, Africana Studies faculty voted to not renew her contract.

See **AFRICANA** page 3

UNIVERSITY HALL

SOCIAL JUSTICE IN STRATEGIC PLAN DRAFT PART OF 'CHANGED' WORLD

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

Social justice wasn't mentioned in the University at Albany's last strategic plan eight years ago.

In a recently released draft for the next plan, social justice and sustainability are listed as one of six institutional values. Its description: to care for the environment and each other in a thriving ecosystem.

James Stellar, provost and co-chair of the strategic planning committee, linked the usage of social justice in the draft to cultural movements like #MeToo and Black Lives Matter.

"I think the world has changed," said Stellar.

The new value, along with the rest of the draft, has taken reviews from faculty and administration during the first several presentations of a 21-stop "roadshow." Some expressed confusion over



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

James Stellar, provost & vice president of Academic Affairs speaks at the third presentation of the strategic plan draft "roadshow" on Wednesday. The event was held in the ITS Building.

the pairing of social justice and sustainability; some sounded praise.

During a draft presentation at the Health Science Campus, Jan Conn, a

research professor in the School of Public Health, suggested that the two terms would be more appropriate if they were separated.

Some pointed at other potential flaws with the verbatim. Michael Parker, Internet Technology Services associate director of communications, described

social justice as a "loaded term" at an ITS Building presentation.

Outside of the presentations, for Bobby Walker, executive director for the New York Federation of College Republicans, the value's description appears appropriate.

But Walker has taken fault with other uses of "social justice" which he believes alienate conservative views. Walker cited polarizing incidents like last year's riots at the University of California, Berkeley when some far-left protesters pushed to cancel several far-right figures from speaking on campus.

"The liberal movement has kind of coined it into something that [is political] and a lot of conservatives, too," said Walker. "And I'll admit, when I hear the word 'social justice,' the first thing I think about is

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STATE

Schuyler 'Occupiable' if \$20M Passes



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

The Schuyler Building pictured above in Downtown Albany.

By TYLER A. MCNEIL

A growing STEM college would have enough banked to eventually open doors in Downtown Albany should the state fork over \$20 million this upcoming budget cycle.

University at Albany officials will lobby state lawmakers to make the Schuyler Build-

ing, a former public school sold five years ago, habitable for one department in the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences.

The UAlbany Government & Community Relations Office considers the \$20 million request, along with \$500,000 for the Center of Excellence in Atmospheric and Environmental Prediction and Innovation, as top university

priorities this budget season.

If the request for CEAS goes through, labs, offices, and the dean's suite will eventually move into the southern half of the building on the downtown campus facing Western Ave. after interior demolition.

See **CEAS** page 2

SA SENATE

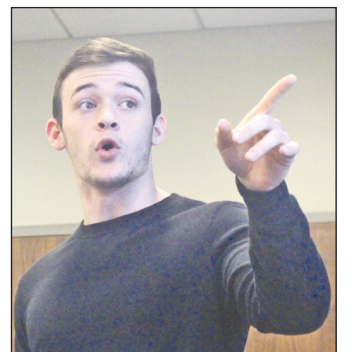
7 Seats Up For Grabs in Winter Duel

By CHAD ARNOLD

Following a string of resignations and impeachments last semester, the Student Association senate is seeking to add new life to its ranks while preparing to lose many of its senior members later this year.

Tasked with managing a \$2.2 million budget comprised entirely out of student activity fees, SA currently has seven

See **SA** page 2



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

Logan Losito left senate for an internship in Washington D.C.

IMMIGRATION

Clock Ticking Down on DREAMer Protection Legislation

By ELISE COOMBS

A month after graduating from the University at Albany, the daughter of undocumented Ecuadorian immigrants is utilizing her

bilingual skills as a secretary in a personal injury law firm.

At the same time, she is awaiting the looming federal deadline for a legislative solution to the Deferred Action for Childhood

Arrivals program, of which she is a recipient.

Jhoanna Haro, the graduate thinking of a career in law, questioned, "Am I going to have a future here?"

DACA, a policy established by the Obama administration that protects undocumented immigrants brought into the United States as children, was rescinded by the Trump administration in

September.

Congress has until March 5 to make a legislative solution to the program that would provide a path to citizenship for DACA recipi-

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CEAS

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As of now, the project's timeline is still fuzzy.

"I don't think there's any way we could take \$20 million and not push through to something occupiable at the end of it," said Boyer. "The question is, 'How do we get there?'"

Last year's request for the same amount fell short with \$15 million provided for general campus projects, none earmarked for the Schuyler Building. CEAS did, however, ring in \$4 million from an anonymous donor later that spring. Roughly \$10 million has already been accumulated.

Should the state funnel support for renovation this year, it hasn't been determined whether the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering or Computer Science Department would eventually move in first. For either, Boyer plans to move in an entire department at once.

"It's important that you keep a department together, especially when they got to learn to work together, they've got a lot of things to do build their programs and so on," said Boyer.

CEAS is currently divided across campus. The Department of Electrical and Computer Engi-



TYLER A. MCNEIL / ASP

The home of two departments in the College of Engineering & Applied Sciences.

neering is located in the basement of the University Library. The Computer Science Department and Environmental and Sustainable Engineering Department are housed within the University Administration Building.

While departments remain scattered, CEAS continues to expand.

Within the next five to seven years, the college is projected to lure in some 2,000 students.

University officials expect the growth of CEAS and the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity — both attracting new faculty and exceeding enrollment

goals — to pump up university coffers. Stellar has said before that on-the-rise technology programs in both colleges would help stabilize funding elsewhere at UAlbany.

According to Kevin Wilcox, associate vice president and controller, at a UAlbany Finance &

Administration leadership candidate forum, research grant funding can be gradual from the start.

"Any time you bring in new faculty, you have to build a school, you have to build a reputation," said Wilcox.

SA

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vacancies — equal to one seventh of the body's total voting power. The vacated seats will be filled this February in a special election, currently in the nomination phase, that will mark the start of a transition period for SA.

Senators Jarrett Altilio, senate chair; Mitchell Ryback, chairman of the Board of Finance; Olivia Johansen, chairwoman of Community Engagement and Outreach; and Adam Shayo, chairman of the Subcommittee on Ethics, will be graduating this coming May. Graduating in December are

senators Sean Correia, chairman of Constituent Relations and Anna Agnes, chairwoman of Government Operations.

Changeover in SA leadership is nothing new, according to Altilio, who has been involved with SA since his freshman year and has been senate chair for the past two years.

"Every single committee chair no longer is in SA because either they didn't run, didn't win or graduated," said Altilio. "SA goes on."

When asked how the changeover in senate leadership will impact the continuity of the organization, Altilio said he expects no major disruptions, citing institutional balances within SA that will remain intact even as the body's

leadership changes.

"It's about the people, yes," he said, "but SA is bigger than that."

Altilio is viewing February's special election as more than an opportunity to fill vacated senate seats, but a way to attract new, committed leaders to the organization moving forward — something SA struggled to find last semester.

In December, SA's Rules Committee voted to remove senators Carlos McArthur of Alumni Quad and Katherine Dobler of Colonial Quad following five and six unexcused absences, respectively. Under current SA bylaws, senators are only permitted three unexcused absences.

"They obviously don't want the job, or they have too many other things going on where they can't

give their undivided attention to it [Student Association]," said Rules Committee Chairman Brandon Holdridge at the time.

Adding to the vacancies, Dejourae Williams and Patrick Carroll resigned their senate seats last semester after transferring schools and assuming the role of SA deputy comptroller, respectively. Logan Losito gave up his seat to pursue an internship in Washington D.C., while Amanda Goldfine graduated last winter.

More recently, Sen. Moises Urena resigned his senate seat at the start of the current semester to take up a role on the executive board.

There are currently three at-large senate seats up for grabs in the upcoming special election as

well as one each from Indian, Colonial, Alumni and off-campus.

"With seven seats on the ballot, I'm positive that we can get some new faces in there who will probably have some staying power and if they like it, want to run again in March," said Altilio.

When pressed about who he sees filling his leadership role in the future, Altilio declined to answer.

"The people who might be left will need to take on larger roles or will have to step up to the plate now that the plate is open," he said. "It seems to me that it's always been the case that someone has."

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Continued from Page 1

is political, like, 'Oh God, here we go.'"

On campus, the Student Association has come under fire for making statements flagged as political by some conservative students. The SA senate stood against the White House travel ban, the end of DACA, and in November, sponsored an event in support of Colin Kaepernick, a for-

mer NFL player who protested racial profiling by kneeling for the flag during the national anthem.

For SA President Jerlisa Fontaine, also a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, social justice is important to discuss.

"I feel like anything that targets a specific demographic of the student body should be addressed by the university," she said.

In the SPC's public engagement & outreach workshop, Government and Community Relations director Jordan Carleo-Evangelist said social justice was referenced in

terms of producing alumni who do "good in the world."

Both social justice and sustainability were paired by the SPC's executive committee last month.

Mary Ann Mellia, director of Sustainability, initially advocated for sustainability to be listed in the draft. Like social justice, sustainability was not listed as an institutional value in the 2010 draft.

"I agree with the idea that we want people to understand that sustainability involves a little bit more than just the environment," said Mellia. "There's a little more ecology and interaction."

START-UP NY

Branch VFX in Tax-Free UAlbany Partnership

By JOE HOFFMAN

Visual effects firm Branch VFX has begun its third month in partnership with University at Albany's division of the START-UP NY program, which allows businesses to operate tax-free for ten years in locations near universities.

As a condition of participation in the program, Branch has committed to creating sixteen new jobs and will partner with UAlbany in creating digital arts and other internships.

Shade, Branch's sister company, is known as a "top-tier" firm in the film industry, having worked on simulating everything from the adamantium claws in Wolverine to the teeming throngs of protesters in Selma.

Branch VFX, LLC was started by Shade founder Bryan Godwin, who is no stranger to taking advantage of tax incentives; Branch's website pitches potential filmmaker customers by reminding them that effects work done in their New York office can qualify them for 30 percent tax savings via the New York State Post Production Tax Credit.

"Branch mitigates all of those conflicts," reads the site, "while keeping your bottom line, and your tax rebates in tact."

Gov. Andrew Cuomo launched START-UP NY in 2013, promising it would "supercharge" New York's job market. The Empire State Development Corporation, the agency handling START-UP, estimated in 2016 that 1,135 jobs had been created since



Branch VFX

As a condition of participation in the program, Branch has committed to creating sixteen new jobs and will partner with UAlbany ships.

its inception.

State representatives' response to START-UP has been lukewarm to cold, with many complaining that the several hundred million dollars spent on the program were ineffectual. At the beginning of the month, NY Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan published a message identifying START-UP as an item he wants

reviewed.

"Investing in job creation is and will continue to be a priority," said Flanagan, "but we can't throw good money after bad."

UAlbany currently is partnering with six other firms in START-UP NY. Matt Grattan, director of Community and Economic Development at UAlbany, said that last year's count estimated that the six firms

have created sixteen new jobs in total since 2014.

Grattan said in a phone interview Thursday that making internships or other opportunities available is a prerequisite for partnering with a potential start-up.

"It's not just about letting a company come in and squat on some tax-free space," said Grattan, "it's about establishing a relationship with a potential university."

Owner of Shade and Branch Bryan Godwin said in an email that internship planning was in the works.

"We are still working out our internship program, as we need to get our core team to 100 percent," said Godwin. "However, there will be opportunities in the digital media arts space, production coordination (communication arts) and potentially computer science and programming in the near future."

Sam Margolius, executive producer at Branch, said that interns would potentially be working on projects that film and television studios keep secret and secure throughout development.

"All employees and interns are thoroughly vetted and run through our onboarding process before ever having access to protected content and workstations. They are legally obligated to adhere to our strict security protocols and sign NDA's," Margolius said in an email, referring to non-disclosure agreements.

DREAM ACT

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ents.
Separate from the federal program, there is a state DREAM Act that has not yet been enacted.

Speaking in the budget hearing on higher education last week, SUNY Student Assembly President Marc Cohen said that DACA recipients in the university system “have reason to worry.”

Cohen called on Albany to make up for the federal government’s failure and pass the state DREAM Act, which Gov. Andrew Cuomo included in the proposed budget.

“Every New Yorker should have access to the Tuition Assistance Program and to the Excelsior Scholarship, including DREAMers,” Cohen said.

Since DACA doesn’t provide a path to citizenship, Haro was unable to receive financial aid when she was a student.

The state DREAM Act includes provisions that, if passed, would allow for students protected by the policy to receive financial aid under certain qualifications.

Haro believes financial aid would help DREAMers still in school. However, she believes a legislative solution that would give DREAMers legal residency in the country is more pertinent.

“It’s about being able to be considered human,” she said.

This draws attention to the recent three-

day government shutdown. At the center of the shutdown was the issue of immigration.

When the government shutdown, Cohen put forth in a statement, “A legislative solution to protect DACA recipients has broad bipartisan support in the public and in Congress, and would pass both houses if a vote were called.”

Last fall, Jerlisa Fontaine sent an email out on behalf of the Student Association two days after the Trump administration decision to rescind the DACA program. The message articulated SA’s stance against the federal decision.

Fontaine referenced students affected by the decision, writing, “Know that we will fight like never before to ensure that you will not have to live in the shadows ever again, and that your humanity will not be

ignored.”

After speaking to the Albany Student Press in September, Haro hoped other DACA recipients at UAlbany would speak out.

“I’m 100 percent sure that there’s other students in UAlbany that are DACA recipients or maybe they’re not even DACA at all—they’re just undocumented and couldn’t qualify,” she said.

Haro believes that these students should feel comfortable speaking out about their status.

“I hope somebody steps up and maybe even forms an organization or something to support these types of students and someone to tell them, it’s okay to come out, it’s actually good that you’re coming out,” she said.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Pathway System Starts With Albany Med. College

By **JEFFERY DOHERTY**

Laura Schweitzer, vice president of the University at Albany Health Sciences, has been the spearhead of talks that have created the Early Assurance Pathway Program: a program that will focus on allowing marginalized and untapped student potential, to attain medical education that otherwise would not be attainable to them.

“Albany Medical College and medicine in general needs more diversity,” Schweitzer said.

In the United States, for every one seat in a medical college, there are 100 applicants applying for that seat. EAPP attempts to offer those who would otherwise not get that chance the ability to access medical degrees in fields where physicians and other professional medical staff are needed.

EAPP was formed from a desire by the Albany Medical College to tap into the talent of minority communities, from first generation immigrants, to those who are in the lowest rung of the economic bracket.

“They [AMC] approached us because we have such a talented pool of such [diverse] students,” Schweitzer added.

Student groups like the Minority Association of Pre-Med/Health Students desired such a program. There was a previous Early Assurance program designed to allow students with a 3.5 GPA overall, and in their courses, to get a seat in a medical college three years later. Students were independent from one another; they interacted with mentors who guided them through the program. The program was concentrated, with less than a dozen students in the program.

The new EAPP enables eligible freshmen to go on a pathway learning with other students into getting a doctoral degree through AMC. These freshman are likely to be in the Educational Opportunity Program, but other students mitigated by circumstances outside their control, like legal or economic issues, would be eligible as long as they have already begun the pre-med curriculum. Students who have gone past that first stage are ineligible.

Although Schweitzer is the Vice President of Health Sciences, her prior work experience has given her

connections to the medical education community. These connections have enabled her to form partnerships with leading universities, in order for once inaccessible opportunities to be made widely available. She reaches out to institutions who are looking for solutions to their needs, from greater diversity to the expansion of access to new students.

With the United States’ ever-evolving population, student populations change with them. These range from first generation immigrants, to refugees and migrants who want better lives.

Albany Health Sciences is a community made of practitioners, scientists, and policy makers. The school includes programs in Public Health, Human Biology and Human Development.

Eligible students will likely be contacted by their advisors, who can point them in the right direction towards applying for EAPP. Credit requirements and eligibility guidelines are fully outlined on the UAlbany Health Sciences website.



JEFFERY DOHERTY / ASP

The Health Sciences Campus located in Rensselaer.

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AFRICANA

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“Faculty expressed concern about [Ani’s] disregard for department leadership, faculty, and staff,” as recorded by minutes from February’s term renewal meeting.

Faculty cited an exchange between Africana Studies Chair Oscar Williams and Ani in which she accused the Chair of not being committed to Africana Studies.

Ani’s 2017 article “To The Mothers of White Men” was another concern. The article argues that white women have not lived up to their responsibilities as mothers and that feminism misplaces blame on men.

Faculty took issue with the opening sentence, which reads, “I, being an African American womban and mother, have a special intolerance for White women.” “Womban” is a term coined by Ani to refer to ‘wombed ones.’

A catalyst for department tension came in the spring of 2016, soon after the Jan. 30 bus incident involving three UAlbany students charged with falsely reporting an attack. Ani was a vocal defender of the three students, publishing an op-ed in the Times Union and writing letters to the university provost.

Ani had, since fall 2015, been coordinating an event to be held in March 2016 called ‘State of Black SUNY Albany Town Hall.’ Faculty meeting minutes said Ani did

not consult with the department about the event and that it “turned it into a rally of activism for the female students involved in the ‘bus incident.’”

Ekow King, director of Intercultural Student Engagement (which co-sponsored the event), gave a different description in an interview Friday.

“We talked about enrollment, and about the Africana budget and whether it was lower than other departments,” said King, who attended the event. “The things they were talking about went well beyond the bus incident.”

The chair of Africana Studies and the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences both declined to respond to questions for this story.

Ani’s former students paint a picture of an instructor who set herself apart from other professors.

“She was unorthodox,” said Ammed Kouakou, a junior who took Ani’s Life in the Third World course in the fall of 2016. “I was shocked when she was fired,” said Kouakou. “She probably might have been my favorite professor that I’ve had.”

Princess Good, who took Ani’s ‘Afro/African-American Family’ course last spring, said that one class exercise reenacted historical segregation of African-Americans.

“We had brown paper bags, and if you were lighter than the bag, you were a ‘passer,’” said Good. “All the passers had to sit on one side of the class.”

SPORTS

Jacksonville Jaguars Lost to the Referees

By **RAYMOND E. STRAWN III**

The New England Patriots had another comeback victory, winning 24-20 against the Jacksonville Jaguars in the American Football Conference Championship game. But did the Patriots have help from the referees? There was a discrepancy among penalties between the teams.

Throughout the game, the Patriots had just one, and the Jaguars had six. The Jaguars had the same amount of first downs as the Patriots, but the Patriots had three first downs from penalties, while the Jaguars had none.

The Jaguars won the time of possession and turnover battle and had a higher third-down conversion and red-zone percentage.

The Jaguars rushed for twice as many yards (101) as the Patriots (46) and the Jaguars' yards per pass were almost identical (7.0) to the Patriots (7.1). The game stats alone may have suggested the Jaguars were robbed by the refs.

I watched the game and noticed some inconsistencies among the officiating. I disagreed with the helmet-to-helmet flag against Jaguars safety Barry Church on Rob Gronkowski in the second quarter.

Yes, Gronkowski left the game and

never returned with a concussion, but Gronkowski jumped to make a catch, and at 6'6," it was hard to avoid not hitting Gronkowski in the helmet from that angle. But I understood why the flag was thrown and precedent was set for that game.

However, in the third quarter, Patriots receiver Danny Amendola wasn't penalized for a helmet-to-helmet hit against Jaguars safety Tashaun Gipson after the play was over.

Jaguars Cornerback A.J. Bouye said, "I was pissed because I seen Amendola head-butt the hell out of Gip in front of the ref, and you all don't call nothing?" There was no consistency among the rule for helmet-to-helmet hits, favoring the Patriots.

The next play after the flag on Gronkowski was another questionable call against the Jaguars, a defensive pass interference against Bouye. This 32-yard

penalty helped set up the Patriots to score a touchdown before halftime, the only touchdown the Patriots were able to score during the first half.

With the defensive pass interference against Bouye, the refs set a certain standard for the cornerbacks; however, there was a double standard. There were a few passes from the Jaguars that were similar to the plays they were flagged for, but there was no flag in sight.

The biggest was on a fourth-down play late in the game. Bouye also stated that he wanted to see a flag thrown on that fourth-down play against Patriots cornerback Stephen Gilmore. I agree.

A questionable delay of a game penalty cost the Jaguars a first down, and a missed holding call on the third-down and nine run with 1:30 left in the fourth quarter ended

any possibilities for the Jaguars to come back.

During replay of that running play, there was a holding call on the edge of the run that allowed Dion Lewis to break free for an 18-yard run, which was the longest run the Patriots had all game. It could be said that the only reason Lewis was able to break free for the longest run in the game was because of that missed holding penalty.

The Patriots were called for the fewest penalties in a playoff game since 2011, where the Patriots were once again called for one penalty against the Ravens.

It could be possible that the refs were letting the Patriots "play it on the field." We all know the dominance and dynasty the Patriots have had for over a decade. The refs know this too.

Maybe the refs were afraid of interfering with that greatness. Maybe the refs didn't want to impact the game by throwing the flag against the Patriots on any questionable calls.

Instead, the refs impacted the game by not throwing the flag against the Patriots on those penalties, costing the Jaguars the game.



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AWARDS

Merit Matters in Oscar Nominations

By DANIEL RUSSELL

Around this time every year, movie lovers come together during the awards circuit to hopefully see their favorite films get nominated for the grand prize, the Academy Awards. Most years, in the aftermath of nomination announcements, the common arguments have always been something along the lines of “X actor got robbed for Y movie.”

That argument will always take on different shapes and forms, but in recent years, many fans are quick to accuse the Academy of Arts and Sciences of favoring Caucasian actors and filmmakers. I don’t see the Academy as an institution that thinks this way; I see them as a body that hopes to simply award the actors and filmmakers that are the best in their craft.

In 2016, movie fans went so far as to start the “#OscarsSoWhite” trend on social media after that year’s nominations were revealed. This was mainly due to the fact that out of 20 acting nominees, not a single one of them was a person of color.

But in that year, when you look at the

other major film ceremonies – specifically the Screen Actors Guild and Golden Globe Awards, there isn’t that much a difference between nominees, yet those ceremonies didn’t receive the same criticism that the Oscars did. Both of those ceremonies had 20-plus nominees for actors and actresses in film, and both only had one or two colored actors nominated in each ceremony.

So out of 70 total possible nominees, only three of them were people of color. This shouldn’t be seen as the awards circuit favoring Caucasian actors, but rather favoring those who are simply giving the best performances, regardless of race or gender.

At the 2017 Oscars, out of the 20 acting nominees, seven were people of color, including at least one in each category. In both the Supporting Actor and Actress categories, a person of color won as well.

These winners, Mahershala Ali and Viola Davis, were both front runners to win their respective awards. I can argue that they both gave the best performances in the group of nominees that they were a part of, rather than being given the award simply due to their race.



RUSSELL

This trend seems as if it will continue so far, as the 2018 Oscar nominations were announced this past week. The acting categories contained a handful of nominees of color, but the real conversation on the topic has shifted to the filmmaking side.

For their respective films, Guillermo Del Toro, Greta Gerwig, and Jordan Peele, are all nominated for Best Director, Original Screenplay, and Picture. In 90 years, Gerwig

is only the fifth woman to be nominated for Best Director, and Peele is only the fifth African-American man to be nominated in that category as well. These filmmakers are often deemed as “outsiders” in the world of film, and it’s important to note that their nominations are due to the fact that the films they’ve made (The Shape of Water, Lady Bird, and Get Out) are among some of the best of the year.

It can often be difficult to distinguish the artist from their work, but for awards ceremonies such as the Oscars, this must be done. The Oscars, when all is said and done, is film’s biggest talent show, and there’s a reason why each award begins with the word “Best.”

When it comes to awards consideration, film, as well as actors and actresses, should be judged solely by their work in the potentially-nominated films. All other attributes about them shouldn’t sway the nominations process.

NOISE FROM NOYES

More Government Won’t Solve Drug Problems in U.S.

By MATTHEW NOYES

People are born with inalienable natural rights: the right to life, liberty, and property so long as one does not violate the rights of others. Government exists to uphold the rights of individuals, although it often supersedes the very rights it is supposed to protect.

Does the government therefore have the authority to intervene in people’s private lives when they are doing no harm to others? The answer of course is no, they don’t. This begs the question, should marijuana and other drugs be legalized?

I recently spoke with a friend who supports the legalization of marijuana. His reasoning behind it makes sense; marijuana is a relatively safe substance to use and many who use it do so responsibly.

Because of that, he believes the government should let people use marijuana. After hearing his reasoning, I was able to see the difference between our understanding of the issue and role of the state even though we agree policywise.

While logical, my friend’s stance has the underlying assumption that government should intervene in people’s private lives if it deems something to be unbeneficial to the individual. He supports the legalization of marijuana because he thinks it is not dangerous.

Whether marijuana is good for people is not the question we should be asking though. Whether something is bad or good for

an individual is irrelevant to why it should be legal or illegal.

Proponents of big government miss the point: it is not government’s job to run people’s lives. So long as it doesn’t directly restrict the freedom of others, the government has no business in restricting individual liberty.

What about hard drugs like meth or heroin – should they be legal? In the Northeast the opioid crisis is taking lives and destroying families. People can become addicted or even die after using heroin just once. Opioid addiction destroys people’s lives and is connected to violent crimes and theft. Far more than marijuana, hard drugs are a scourge on humanity.

That being said, I’m hesitant to say drugs like heroin or meth should be illegal. What right do I have to force you not to use a drug? We should always be doubtful of trusting the government to control aspects of our lives. If the use of a certain substance is inherently causal of violent crime and theft, then there is a case for it to be made illegal because it would directly result in the loss of the freedom of others. A drug should only be illegal if it can be proven that the use of a certain substance always leads to an assault on the liberty of others. By that same logic, people who choose to use drugs should be held accountable for the consequences of their actions even if they are addicted because at one point they made the choice to use. They

have no right to the labor or property of others.

The argument that a drug should be legalized because it’s “not so bad for people” misses the point that government has no authority to restrict one’s freedom. That being said, I am strongly opposed to the use of drugs on a personal level. My position is based on the moral, cultural, and societal cost that drugs pose. The narrative that drugs are good and make society better is false; apart from medicinal uses and the occasional individual using marijuana responsibly, drugs are detrimental to humanity. You can think something is wrong while still supporting it being legal.

The key to solving drug problems is not big government, it’s restoring the moral fabric of society. We as individuals should set higher standards for people and help those who have drug problems. It’s immoral for the state to punish people for using drugs when they are doing no harm to others. The government and community should only step in when the wellbeing of others is compromised by someone’s drug use.

Most, if not all drugs should be legal because people have the right to their own self and property. We must stop embracing authoritarianism by giving the government control over people’s private lives. The solution to drug problems is more freedom and stronger families and communities, not more government.

Immigration Should Be Based on Merit, Work

By MATTHEW NOYES

America is unique because anyone can become an American if he or she embraces our core principles, becomes a legal citizen, and contributes to society. They’re just as American as any other native-born citizen. Unfortunately, our current immigration system is far from ideal. Some who should be able to immigrate cannot, and many who should not are here.

Instead of accepting people based on their merit, the U.S. has immigration quotas for each country. That means we accept a certain number of people from each country. On top of that, there is also chain migration and the diversity visa lottery.

According to the New York Times, chain migration is the ability for a single citizen or green card holder to have certain family members also receive permanent residence. This results in multiple immigrants that are extended family of a legal resident coming here simply because they are related to someone.

According to CNN, every year the diversity visa program gives green cards to as many as 50,000 randomly selected people from certain countries. The problem with these immigration policies is they don’t consider individuals for who they are. Country of origin should not matter.

The political left and alt-right both favor immigration based on things people cannot control: their race, ethnicity, and country of origin. Our own senator, Chuck Schumer helped create the diversity lottery bill in 1990. Last time I checked though, using country of origin, race, and ethnicity to decide how to treat someone was the very definition of racism.

We need to see people as individuals and let as many of the best qualified individuals in as possible. When you open your door to the most qualified candidates, there will almost always be diversity, and race and origin doesn’t determine someone’s value and skills. Morals and hard work do.

What we need is a merit based immigration policy. A merit based policy would select people who want to assimilate to our values and will contribute to the economy.

Once that’s established, it’s important to tackle the issue of those who are here illegally. It would make sense to create a pathway for the illegal immigrants who do not receive government handouts and contribute to the economy to earn legal residence.



NOYES

That is so long as their only crime is breaking immigration laws. As Charles Krauthammer put it for PragerU, “For both practical and moral reasons, America cannot, will not, and should not expel [the] 11 million people [here illegally].”

You might think to yourself: Why not let everyone in who wants to come? Open immigration for those who embrace our values and contribute to our economy would be ideal.

However, it would destroy our wealth because of the welfare system. People who come here either legally or illegally can receive government welfare. What would stop innumerable numbers of people from coming to receive other people’s money through government handouts?

That’s not to say immigrants legal or otherwise are more prone to be dependent on the system. If the handouts are available it makes sense that people would want to take advantage of them. That is why open immigration is only possible by the abolition of the welfare state and government forced wealth redistribution.

If charity was completely privatized and the welfare state abolished, who would argue against open immigration? Only people who can support themselves, and therefore add rather than subtract from society would be able to make it.

That would be ideal but for the time being, we should implement a merit based immigration system. That way those who are best suited to joining our nation can come and we will all prosper as a result.

All the immigration under a merit based system would contribute economically, culturally, and would reinforce the principles that our country is based on.

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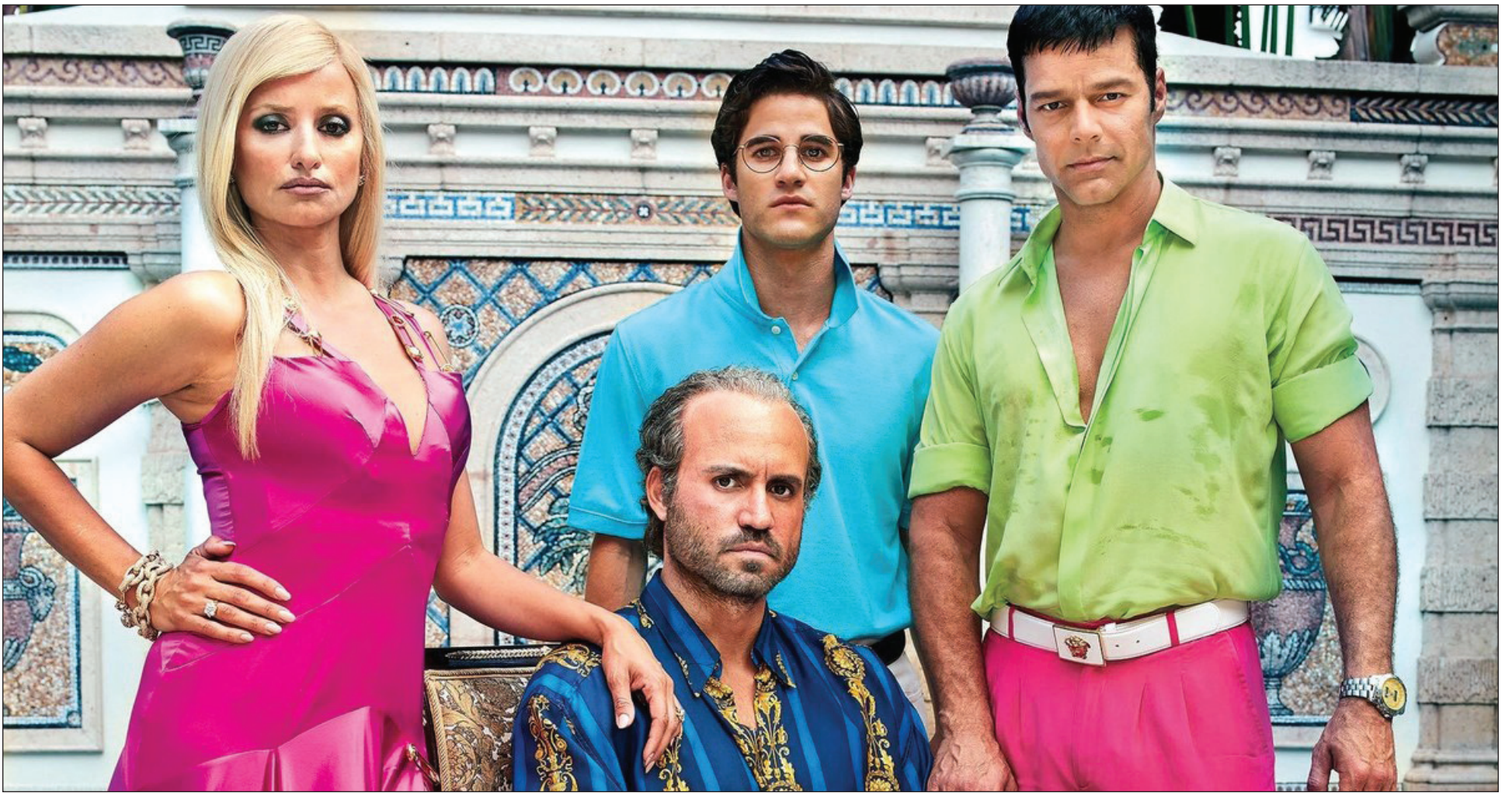
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TELEVISION

Fashion, Homophobia and Tragedy: the Next ‘American Crime Story’



Source: Pinterest

The second season's core cast, above, left to right: Donatella Versace (Penélope Cruz), Gianni Versace (Edgar Ramirez), Andrew Cunanan (Darren Criss) and Antonio D'Amico (Ricky Martin).

By DIEGO CAGARA

The second season of FX giant Ryan Murphy's "American Crime Story" premiered on Jan. 17, its nine episodes intending to bring viewers into the late fashion designer Gianni Versace's mansion and its surroundings in Miami Beach in the 1990s.

Its subtitle, "The Assassination of Gianni Versace" already evokes fear, which complements the dramatically unsettling atmosphere of the first two episodes so far.

Following in the footsteps of the critically acclaimed "The People v OJ Simpson," this season literally begins with Versace (Edgar Ramirez) being shot on the steps of his mansion by mysterious serial killer, Andrew Cunanan (Darren Criss) on July 15, 1997.

Immediately, Ryan Murphy's conscious direction highlights the contrast between the two doomed figures.

Versace is enveloped by his sheer opulence, beautifully-tiled swimming pool and fashion designs, while Cunanan carries a mere backpack, simplistic civilian clothing and the fateful gun.

As the episodes wind down, familiar faces like fellow designer and Gianni's sister, Donatella Versace (Penélope Cruz) and Gianni's partner, Antonio D'Amico (Ricky Martin) appear.

What makes Versace's downfall far more complex than a simple runaway homicide is that Cunanan is revealed to have killed several men before, he had penetrated the gay nightclub scene in Miami Beach shortly before committing the famous murder, and the FBI is shown to be somewhat inept at capturing him.

The viewer uncomfortably has to watch Cunanan creepily meet up with gay—both

closeted and out, of varying ages—men, while left wondering how this is connected to Versace in the end. And yet, that's the point.

To this day, the public does not know why Cunanan murdered at all. This, hence, contributes to the overall disquieting nature of the show so far.

Ramirez instantly does an impeccable job at coaxing the audience into sympathizing with him, as he'd been happy living with D'Amico.

His almost teddy bear-like disposition further makes his murder very tragic as he seemed very intent on expanding his company and strengthening his personal relationship.

What makes him so likable is how humble he acts, as he often brings up his childhood, his designing family background and his time in Italy.

On the other hand, Criss, already known by young fans for once playing teenage dream Blaine Anderson from "Glee" (2010-2015), seems determined to take on a more dramatic role here, as if wanting to prove he can be more than a fanfiction-inspired teen idol.

While his acting was a little uneven during the first episode, he starts to hold his own in the second.

His performance yields a doomed gypsy, who travels across the country, murdering several men but his disturbingly blank expressions bring up the idea that he is searching for a purpose in life.

The purpose, however, could be infamy as he's shown creepily smiling when coming across newspaper front covers of Versace's murder—and even having the audacity to buy all the copies in one scene, as if to congratulate himself.

Perhaps the show wants to confront the

idea that he should not just be seen as an insane serial killer.

It could become more psychologically intriguing if it delves into his past, his previous murders and him coming to terms with his sexuality.

Cruz, despite having few scenes so far, always attracts eyeballs any time she appears as Donatella onscreen, her somber visage and convincing Italian accent combining to create quite the grieving figure.

Instead of just sobbing and pacing impatiently, her character becomes multifaceted when she reveals she does not respect Gianni's lover, D'Amico.

This clash between Gianni's two closest figures should show up again in future episodes, to prove that Versace's life was not always trouble-free.

Ricky Martin as D'Amico, however, needs more time in the spotlight to showcase his acting abilities as it still is not convincing lately.

In his defense, there's only so much Martin can do besides crying and grieving for Gianni for now, given the plot.

The show also confronts homophobia in the 1990s, detailed by the judgmental looks of the FBI, how closely knit the gay community is in nightclubs and bars, and the consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the background.

Murphy has directly addressed this in multiple interviews while promoting the project and this issue further raises the stakes for the season's characters.

"I've done nothing my whole life," a dejected Cunanan says in episode two, chronologically before shooting Versace. "That's the truth."

Cunanan would later accomplish quite

a feat though: successfully murdering multiple individuals, and evading the FBI who'd named him as one of their "Most Wanted."

And while that captivated the American public in 1997 and would make for great television in 2018, it's hardly something to be proud of.

But under Ryan Murphy's evidently superb direction and his brilliant casting decisions, this season seems already determined to remind viewers that even wealth can't hide from a gun.



Source: Wikipedia

The season's eerie promotional poster, above, references Versace's real-life Medusa logo.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COVERED IN THIS SECTION?

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MUSIC

Camila Cabello Stays Humble to Roots Despite Reaching out Across the Globe



Source: Flickr

Camila Cabello's, above, landmark hit, "Havana" (feat. Young Thug) became a major sleeper hit in late 2017 and finally hit number one on the Billboard Hot 100 for the week of Jan. 27, 2018.

By DIEGO CAGARA

Drama tends to ensue when a pop group member departs for a solo career, and since leaving Fifth Harmony in December 2016, Camila Cabello has worked tirelessly to gather her ideas and creative spirit to birth her own album.

Her debut effort, "Camila" finally came out back on Jan. 12 and it's noticeably different from her solos in Fifth Harmony's EP, "Better Together" (2013), and first two albums, "Reflection" (2015) and "7/27" (2016).

"Havana" was the catalyst that spearheaded Cabello's stylistic change from adequate Sia-penned pop songs and rapper-inclusive singles for a more Latin sound that complemented her Cuban heritage.

Granted that "Havana" features rapper Young Thug, Cabello and her team ditched songs like "Crying in the Club," "I Have Questions" and "OMG."

"Havana" initially was just a promotional single to gain some buzz but its Latin-infused background and sensual lyrics unexpectedly exploded to become one of 2017's biggest hits, finally topping the Billboard Hot 100 in January 2018 after 23 weeks of climbing the chart.

Her album starts with "Never Be the Same," a drum-heavy ballad with her almost-nasal vocals which culminate in a satisfactory opener that slowly draws the listener in.

Her suddenly-high notes when she sings "Just like nicotine, heroin, morphine," is an apt foreshadowing that her voice can reach high tides at will.

As she sings about meeting and loving

someone, this begins the ongoing theme of interpersonal connection that she seeks, regardless of in the form of a friendship or relationship. This also is a facet in how Cabello's fandom grew as her fans can empathize in that sense.

"All These Years" has Cabello reminiscing about someone from her past whom she may still have feelings for but he remains clueless: "Cause after all these years/I still feel everything when you are near/And it was just a quick 'Hello,' and you had to go/And you probably will never know/You're still the one I'm after all these years."

This bittersweet confession resonates well with listeners, especially during a section where multiple recordings of her vocals flutter simultaneously for a one-woman harmony.

"She Loves Control" is where her Cuban heritage starts kicking in, with an upbeat tempo, a seductive guitar player and steady hand-clapping throughout. Here, she lets go of her deeper emotions for a more relaxed and dance-ready entry.

Following "Havana" is "Inside Out," one of the album's highlights. Its infectious beat and mid-tempo feel makes it a low-key anthem that still boasts a great first impression.

It also incorporates sun-kissed drumming and tropical musical instruments for an addictive smash at the beach. Cabello's charismatic spirit is alive in this song, and it's a shame it's only a hair over three minutes long.

"Consequences" takes a huge risk by slowing the album a little too much with its emotion-saturated sound but "Real Friends"

gradually lights things up again, where Cabello wishes for genuine friends and not to feel alone.

The light guitar strumming augments her barely-concealed feelings, her voice never strays too high or low, rather it is nestled comfortably within her range of choice and it shows how she never needs to show off her vocal prowess.

"Something's Gotta Give" brings up an all-too-familiar subject where she sings about wanting more equality in a relationship: "But all I do is give, and all you do is take/Something's gotta change, but I know that it won't."

Her frustration with her unnamed lover can connect well with her fan base, mainly comprised of youth who are going through relationships too.

The album's last two original tracks, "In the Dark" and "Into It" are among its strongest.

The former revolves round Cabello's real-life encounter with a male celebrity and she wants to get to intimately know him, wanting him to metaphorically show his vulnerabilities, features of which are beyond his groomed exterior.

As she plays with the light-and-dark concept, the pop song sounds catchy, especially during the chorus where she sings about wanting him to reach out to her likewise.

The latter sees Cabello's ravenous side emerge as the lyrics bring up how she's into a guy and wants to do "infinite" things with him: "I'm into it/Whatever trouble that you're thinking, I could get into it/I see a king-sized bed in the corner, we should get into it."

Its beguiling background music is not too much of a shock when one notices that Cabello co-wrote it with acclaimed lyricist and producer, Ryan Tedder, among others.

Two more reasons why Cabello, as an artist, is succeeding in 2018 are her humility and how she uses the turbulent political landscape to connect with her fan base.

Her publicity photoshoots, social media messages and interviews often conjure up her Cuban background, and she is proud to teach listeners that it's possible to go far while coming from very humble beginnings.

In addition, she has dedicated her music performances and her "Havana" music video to "all the dreamers," referencing Dreamers of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

This was an immigration policy that allowed certain minors who entered the U.S. illegally to not be deported back—this was altogether rescinded by the Trump administration last fall.

One could argue that Cabello embodies the idea of the American Dream and her support for DACA, the marginalized and young fan base makes her a unique rising musician.

While she is busy expanding her career, she remains conscious of the political and sociocultural scene of late, a trait that'll likely make her stick around through the end of the decade.

After all, her global hit, "Havana" and her album both entered at number one on their respective Billboard charts on the same week, which is clearly a sign that she has made a mark on today's music industry. And she intends to make more soon.

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GAME FOOD

Super Foods for the Superbowl



Source: Flickr

By KATIE GIBSON

It's time to prepare for the super bowl! Whether that means feeding ten adult men, or just a friend or two, you're going to need snacks. Yes, it's possible to order a pile of wings from your local grocery store, but here are some cheaper and healthier options.

Buffalo Cauliflower

This recipe is sweeping the nation. Trendy restaurants and hip moms rave about buffalo cauliflower bites. All you need is a head of cauliflower, half a cup of water, half a cup of flour, a tablespoon of garlic powder, two thirds of a cup of buffalo sauce, and a tablespoon of hot sauce. Preheat the oven to 450 degrees fahrenheit. Break the cauliflower into pieces. Mix the flour and garlic powder in a bowl. Dip the cauliflower pieces in water and roll them in flour. Leave them on wax paper to set. Cook the cauliflower for 15 minutes. Mix the hot sauce and buffalo sauce in a bowl. Toss the cooked cauliflower in the sauce and place it back in the oven for 20 minutes, or until crispy. Flip the cauliflower once. Serve with ranch or blue cheese.



Source: Wikimedia Commons

Deviled Footballs

Hard boil a carton of eggs. Peel each egg carefully. Cut the eggs in half and scoop the yolks into a bowl. Mix the egg yolks with paprika, plain greek yogurt, salt, pepper, mustard, and a dash of hot sauce. Scoop the mixture back into the egg whites. Use hot sauce to draw lines as if each egg were a football.



Source: Flickr

Strawberry Footballs

This one is super easy. Chocolate covered strawberries are a hit at any party. Customizing them to fit the theme makes them the ideal dessert for mindlessly munching while watching sports. Consider using heart-healthy dark chocolate. Dip strawberries in melted chocolate. Once they have set, use white chocolate to draw the lines of a football.



Source: Flickr

Taco Dip

This recipe is far from healthy, but it's definitely easy! Mix cream cheese, sour cream, onion dip, and taco seasoning. Create layers of taco dip, lettuce, tomato, and cheese. Serve with chips!



Baked Taco Dip

Take the dip from above and scope it into a circle of crescent roll dough. Shape the dough like a football. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cook the dough for twelve minutes or until golden brown.

Baguette Pizza

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Cut a baguette lengthwise. Spread sauce on each side. Add desired toppings. Cook for twelve minutes. Cut into small slices.

Enjoy your snacking!

Ingredients for Baguette Pizza:



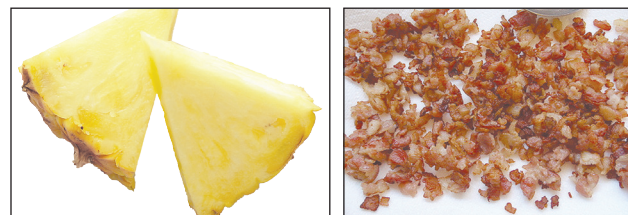
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SENIOR PLAYER

Senior Guard Féquière Given a Chance, Never Looked Back

By ROBERT LEPELSTAT

Jessica Féquière was never highly recruited. She never made a high school all-star team or was ever really taken seriously as a potential basketball star. She had always been overlooked.

That was until she stepped on to the University at Albany campus as a freshman in 2014.

Five years and four consecutive America East conference championships later, as the redshirt senior closes in on her fifth and final season with the Purple and Gold, she can't help but be thankful for everything that being a Great Dane has allowed her to accomplish on and off the court.

Growing up in Montréal, Féquière was required to attend three years of junior college after high school before she could attend a four year university. She used those three additional years to work on her game and perfect her craft.

Her senior season with UAlbany will be one to remember for the Montréal native, regardless of how it ends. Féquière is averaging a career-high 19 points per game and leads the team with 40 steals this season, up from her previous scoring average of 12.5 PPG and 39 total steals in 2016-17. She's also learned to be a vocal leader and role model for the younger players on the team.

During her time with UAlbany, all she's done is win. The Danes have won six straight conference championships, four of which Féquière has been a part of. As she prepares for a run at title number five, she attributes one of the main reasons for her success to her calmness in the biggest moments.

"Pressure? I don't really believe in pressure. Pressure is more an opportunity to get better or do whatever people say you couldn't do," said Féquière. Pressure, if you call it pressure, I love pressure. I love the hard stuff."

Looking back now, family is extremely important to her and when given the opportunity to play close to home, it was something she couldn't pass up.

"I wanted to stay close to home and Albany's only three and a half hours away. The athletics is good but I wanted to go to a good school as well. It was the total package."

Her growth over her five years in the Purple and Gold is about more than just her success on the court.

A large part of her growth has been off it, something she attributes to the philosophy of her first ever collegiate head coach, Coach Katie Abrahamson-Henderson. Henderson coached Féquière her first three seasons in the Capital District.

"Coach Abe really opened my eyes about school and basketball. Her goal was never to make you a good basketball player, but a good person," said Féquière.

This philosophy helped Féquière become more disciplined. She started to pay more attention to details and look at the bigger picture. It was never just about right now.

When asked about her legacy and how she wants to be remembered when she hangs up the Purple and Gold uniform, Féquière is adamant about not wanting to be defined just by her play on the court. For her it's about so much more.

"I don't want to be remembered as a good basketball player but as a good teammate, leader, role model, captain. I don't want my teammates to say I was good because I could shoot the ball," Féquière said.

Féquière's favorite on-court moment was a game she never even played in. It speaks to her unselfish team-first attitude. During her junior season, Féquière suffered a season-ending injury that sidelined her for the entirety of the 2015-16 campaign. While on the other hand, her teammates fought to make program history.

With a 61-59 victory over the five-seeded Florida Gators on March 16, 2016, the Great Danes won their first ever NCAA Tournament game. The team rushed the court to celebrate. Féquière never hit the court during the game but for her, it's a moment she'll never forget. A moment of sweet redemption, a moment of validation.

"It was crazy. The emotions of it. I don't know how to describe. It was an unbelievable feeling," said Féquière.

Although Féquière's favorite basketball player is NBA Superstar LeBron James and models her own game to James' based on the versatility she displays on the court, her biggest influence growing up was never someone who played collegiate/professional basketball.

She credits her hard working mentality to her older brother, who she grew up with and was always there for her. His advice?

"Never let people doubt you. Don't listen to the noise behind you. Hard work always pays off," said Féquière.

When Féquière takes the court for the final time, whenever that will be, she'll miss it all. Her family-like bond with her teammates, the laughs, making fun of each other on the bus, her relationships with her coaches, and of course the winning.

"Yeah I don't know if I'll be able to say goodbye to be honest. Basketball has been a part of my life forever," said Féquière. "I don't know how I'm going to react. It's all I know."

The years in junior college are finally paying off. The extra experience that has allowed Féquière to perfect her craft and her game is translating brilliantly on the court.

With program legends Shereesha Richards and Imani Tate both graduated, the girl who was always overlooked coming into college is now the one running the show at SEFCU



JOHN C. LONGTON III / ASP
Féquière shoots a free throw.

Arena. When she graduates in May, Féquière will be a 24-year-old senior.

Regardless of what comes next, she's ready to embrace whatever is next for her post-basketball life, even if she isn't exactly sure what that will be yet. She knows everything the 518 has given her on and off the court will allow her to succeed no matter what life throws at her next.



FEQUIERE

WBB AGAINST STONY BROOK



PHOTOS BY SAM RUI / ASP

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Danes Prove Tougher Than Seawolves



SAM RUI/ ASP

Women's basketball won their 8th game in a row against Stony Brook.

By JUSTIN BERGLUND

The University at Albany women's basketball team defeated the Stony Brook Seawolves 64-58 Saturday afternoon at the SEFCU Arena. The win, Albany's 8th in a row, brings the team to 19-3 on the season, including 7-1 in conference play.

The Danes, who are ranked #17 in the College Insider Mid-Major Top 25, sweep the season series against Stony Brook following their 72-68 overtime win earlier this month.

Tiano-Jo Carter's double-double was the Danes' top performance in the victory, putting up 14 points and 10 rebounds despite fouling out with 2:39 left in the game.

"My teammates did a good job of getting the ball down low," said Carter of her

performance. "I just try to go up strong and finish."

Senior Jessica Féquière, the Dane's leading scorer this season, had an off game, going just 2-for-15 from the floor and 1-for-5 from three.

Salvaging her game by drawing fouls and going 7-for-9 from the free throw line, Féquière ended the game with 12 points, her second-lowest total of the season.

Mackenzie Trpcic scored 13 points along with four rebounds while adding six more assists to her sophomore record which now sits at 133.

The free throw line was a big factor in the game, with the Danes going 20-for-29 from the charity stripe.

Stony Brook avoided the line during the game, going 10-for-14 on the day and

shooting their first free throws with 1:23 left in the 3rd quarter.

Stony Brooks' lone bright spot was from Shania Johnson, who had a game-high 29 points.

The junior finished 12-for-31 from the field and 3-for-16 from three, while UAlbany seemingly planned for her high output.

"She took a lot of shots. We expect her to put up the big numbers," said coach McNamee. "We did a better job securing their other players. Nobody else was in double digits."

While not referring to them specifically, McNamee pointed out the team's foul trouble was due to some questionable calls from the referees.

"We were playing with bad odds," said McNamee, referring to the referee's calls

against her team. "They really were taking away the flow of the game."

With Carter and Heather Forester in foul trouble late, the Dane's bench was key to maintaining the lead, which McNamee later praised.

"I think we have the best bench in the America East division, hands down. It's great to have that depth," said McNamee. She also specifically pointed to Chyanne Canada, saying she is "starting to get more disciplined. She's made some good adjustments."

After playing a hectic schedule the month of January, the Danes have a week before their next game Feb. 3 at New Hampshire.

"I think for our players we can really use this break," said McNamee. "We deserve a bye week right now."

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Danes Can't Get Over Catamount Hump

By ROBERT LEPELSTAT

It was a roller coaster week for the University at Albany men's basketball team in the final week of January.

UAlbany started out with its most well-played performance of the season, an 83-39 victory over University of Maryland, Baltimore County for their second straight conference victory.

The Danes held the Retrievers, the America East's highest scoring team, to just 39 points on 32 percent shooting from the field and 10 percent from the three-point arc.

Travis Charles, better known as the "Walking Bucket" by his teammates and coaches, led all scorers with 21 points to go along with six rebounds. Charles shot a dominating 60 percent from the field in the win.

Junior guard David Nichols was not far behind with 17 points and grabbed two boards. Guard Joe Cremo was held to just 8 points on 4-for-10 shooting.

UAlbany sophomore guard and fan favorite Nick Fruscio scored the Great Danes final basket, attacking in the paint for a layup to put a wrap on the game. The crowd at SEFCU Arena erupted as Fruscio scored his first basket of the 2017-18 campaign.

The Great Danes then traveled up to Burlington, VT to take on the defending America East champion Vermont Catamounts.

That is the same place and opponent where the Great Danes fell in the title game one season ago.

Ten months later, the rosters and the stakes may have been different but the results were the same.

Behind the hot hand of athletic playmaker Trae Bell-Haynes, the Catamounts overwhelmed a stout UAlbany defense allowing the third-fewest PPG in the America East. Bell-Haynes led all scorers with 21 points, adding three rebounds.

The Catamounts ferocious defense, ranked second in points allowed in the conference, gave problems for the Great Danes all night long and held UAlbany's backcourt duo of Nichols and Cremo to just 19 points combined in the game.

Nichols did reach the 1,000 career point mark in the loss.

"Another hard-fought game, we had a tough scoring drought," head coach Will Brown said. "Give credit to Vermont, they do not beat themselves or waver from the game plan. We had opportunities, we just didn't take advantage of them."



Source: Bill Ziskin/UAlbany Sports

The Men's Basketball team outscored Stony Brook on Saturday in their third game of the week after winning to UMBC and losing to UVM.

UAlbany will have one more opportunity to take on the conference champions before tournament time on Feb. 8 at SEFCU Arena in Albany where the Great Danes are 11-1 this season. They've struggled and are just 5-6 on the road.

The Danes would wrap up a two-game road trip on Long Island versus conference rival Stony Brook in Suffolk County, NY. Nichols and Cremo got back on track with 14 points apiece in the win.

After being held scoreless in the first half, Nichols notched 14 of UAlbany's 31 second-half points. Charles dominated from the charity stripe shooting 8-of-9 from the free throw line to go along with seven rebounds.

In the final 3:21 of each half combined, UAlbany outscored Stony Brook 15-1 with 7-1 in the first half and 8-0

in the second half.

Next up for the Great Danes: they'll return for a two-game homestand at SEFCU vs University of New Hampshire and University of Vermont as they continue America East conference play.

Coach Will Brown preaches the philosophy of getting better each and every day so the team will be at its best come March. UAlbany has made strides in recent weeks but they have plenty of work to do before then if they want to give UVM a run for their money come tournament time.

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