Passover or Parkfest? PAGE 4

Track and Field celebrates seniors PAGE 10

ON CAMPUS

LIMITED PARKFEST TIX PROMPTS CHANGES

BY JANNIE FRANK

The department of asbestos in the Campus Center at the University at Albany is complete. However, asbestos removal across the entire campus will not be complete for at least another 10 years, according to Kitty Keating, who is in charge of coordinating campus-wide asbestos removal.

The asbestos removal on campus began more than 10 years ago, according to John Giammatteo, associate vice president of Facilities & Administration.

The Campus Center abatement

was complete in 2014. However, asbestos removal across the entire campus will not be complete for at least another 10 years, according to Kitty Keating, who is in charge of coordinating campus-wide asbestos removal. A bathtub became a concern in the 1970s when organizations such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the New York State Department of Health labor began to regulate it.

Stephen Pearse, executive director of University Auxiliary Services, said this is normal for most buildings built between the 1950s and 1960s.

"Most of this campus was built in the late 1960s," Pearse said. "Asbestos was a miracle substance back in the 60s and it appeared in so many of the building components: floor tile, wall siding, insulation, and more."

In its Campus Center at UAlbany, much of the Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) were in the glues used to hold down floor tiles, according to Keating. There was also asbestos present in thermal duct insulations and exhaust ducts. Other SUNY schools have similar asbestos removal projects. The University at Buffalo has been dealing with asbestos problems since at least 2005, according to the Spectrum. Ulster County has had asbestos projects since 2006, according to the Spectrum.

"Asbestos is a highly regulated and rather routine part of virtually any significant work we do to alter or upgrade original

Health

Campus asbestos removal may take decades

BY JANNIE FRANK

After a struggle to obtain tickets to this year’s white and fame events are demanding a change to the system. The first 500 tickets to the spring concert were distributed to students during the Campus Center on April 17 and the following days of ticket distribution resulted in students skipping class and work to line up as early as 6:30 a.m.

On Monday, April 18, the first day of ticket distribution, the enshrined Student Association shut down further sales after being mobbed by the student body. To release their anger and frustration with the distribution, students took to social media.

For a post on Facebook, sophomore environmental science major Madissen Cortez said, “I am a dedicated student and also hold a part-time job. I should be prepared for work and for going to class. Instead, I am excluded from the main spring social event because I can’t afford to skip all of my classes and spend hours waiting in line.”

Donovan Swanson, director of Programming for SA and a senior public administration major, immediately reached out to students and provided an email address for those who wanted to voice their concerns. One of the foremost complaints among students is that Parkfest ticket sales are not online. The University at Buffalo has its Springfest tickets available for purchase through Ticketmaster.

Swanson has addressed this issue and said online ticket sales will be available next year.

See PARKFEST page 3

Great Danes welcome return of fountain

By JANNIE FRANK

Great Danes are still taking advantage of the spring sunshine and cool water before finals approach.

Alessa Siemien, a freshman environmental science major, and Alan Ose, a sophomore accounting major, lounge under the sun in front of the business school.

See PARKING page 3

PARKING

Better technology, fewer tickets

BY JOANNA HARD

New technology in the University at Albany Parking and Mass Transit Office is allowing to help students avoid parking ticketing fees and improve customer service, according to the parking director.

“At least two pictures of the station will be downloaded into the computer through a reading machine which can help for the appeal process given visual evidence,” said Jason Jones, parking director at UAlbany.

Various payment methods like mobile and online voucher passes as well as physical passes that are sold at the office, and pay and display machines in SEFCU are also available.

“We are moving toward mobile pay technology to replace tokens. LPR systems are plate recognition that snap up seven times the job for the enforcers,” Jones said.

One of the many ways Mass Transit is trying to upgrade the user experience is to use online parking based ticketing services. SUNY Oswego has had similar projects since at least 2005, according to The Spectrum. Ulster County has had projects involving asbestos removal since at least 2006, according to The Spectrum.

"At least two pictures of the station will be downloaded into the computer through a reading machine which can help for the appeal process given visual evidence," said Jason Jones, parking director at UAlbany.

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Citizen Action’s campaign for minimum wage increase

Workers in the Capital Region rallied together on April 11 with Citizen Action of New York to two McDonald’s restaurants to protest for a $15 statewide minimum wage. The first rally began at 1 p.m. at the Hessock Street McDonald’s on Duanesburg Road. Another followed at the McDonald’s on South Pearl Street in Albany at 5 p.m.

These rallies came just two weeks after the release of the 2016 New York State Budget which announced a minimum wage increase to $11.65 an hour by 2016-2017 New York State.

Citizen Action, has spent the past several years organizing community organizers for parts of the state.

Citizen Action is pushing for a minimum wage increase for 2018 for parts of the state.

On South Pearl Street in Albany at 5 p.m.

Citizen Action organizers, some hold signs saying #faithfor15.

Emanuel said, “New York City got $15 in 2015. We’re in the vicinity of Long Island by 2017.”

Update exception

Despite these victories, however, it seems as though the rest of the state might be left behind.

Some students raise their hands for a $15 minimum wage.

Citizen Action organizers, some hold signs saying #faithfor15.

“I think it’s important that the people who are struggling, this is actually happening,” said Emanuel. “We need to make it happen for our communities.”

“Citizens have to stand up and vote for this. All of these things are possible,” said Emanuel.

Rallies were held in the vicinity of Long Island by 2017.

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This week, we asked students:

Did you vote in the primary? Why or why not?

Name: Forhad Rahman
Year: Junior
Major: English
Least like to see president:
Name: Mike Almas
Year: Senior
Major: Business Accounting
Didn’t vote, didn’t know the location of the polls.

Name: Alexis Fiddemon
Year: Sophomore
Major: Mathematics
Year: Sophomore
Major: Economics
I voted, I heavily support

Name: Alexander Martin
Year: Senior
Major: Communications
Didn’t vote, I messed up my absentee ballot.

Despite students’ dissatisfaction with the distribution of tickets, Colin Manchester, next year’s vice president of SA, hopes students will look on the positive side of the event.

“Even though some students felt slighted by the discontinuation of ticket distribution after the university decided there would not be a physical ticket to manage the line,” said Swanson.

While the Student Association was not a nonprofit entity separate from the university, it is the university that determines the capacity of the event, according to Swanson.

"In the future if there is such a desire to attend ParkFest such as this year, Student Association would be forced to hold the concert off campus and begin to charge students in order to pay for the venue," said Swanson.

After April 18, ticket distribution was capped at 1,000 per day and the venue, "was capped at 1,000 per day and the venue," said Swanson.

Aer to April 18, ticket distribution was capped at 1,000 per day and the University Police Department helped manage the line.

On Thursday it was decided that with a physical ticket distribution after the university decided to increase the maximum capacity. Instead, SA would raffle off the remaining 1,000 tickets.

Despite students’ dissatisfaction with the distribution of tickets, Colin Manchester, next year’s vice president of SA, hopes students will look on the positive side of the event.

“As far as ParkFest goes, I think the lineup we have really reaches out to many genres and appeals to a broad amount of students,” said Manchester, a junior who is double majoring in financial market regulation and financial analyst.

ParkFest was held on Sunday, April 24 for a crowd of 5,000 students on the State Quad Field and was hosted by Terrence J and DJ Young Chow with performances by Pusha T, Timeflies, Hippie Sabotage, Jeremih, and headliner Future.

PARKFEST

Continued from Page 1

year. “Student Association was not guaranteed that service as of this year, resulting in physical tickets and lines,” Swanson said.

The fact that ParkFest is an exclusive event made the demand for tickets that much greater. As of Thursday, event management was already beginning to manage the line.

Registration begins March 21, 2016 and is ongoing. albany.edu/summer

Summer Sessions

Sessions begin May 23, 2016 and run throughout the summer

Flexible 4 and 6-week sessions

Online course options available

Hippie Sabotage, Jeremih, and headliner Future. As of Thursday, event management was already beginning to manage the line.

Payment options available

Future.

Snack Attack

Dutch & state quad

5/10: Late Night Desserts | 8:30p - 10:30p
Dutch & state quad

albany.edu/summer

LATE NIGHT SUSHI

8:30p - 10:30p

5/8: Late Night Cookhouse A | 8:30p - 10:30p
CAMPUS CENTER EAST ADDITION

5/9: Late Night Snacks | 8:30p - 10:30p
Dutch & state quad

5/10: Late Night Desserts | 8:30p - 10:30p
Dutch & state quad

Food for Finals Events (free for all students) with student ID!

Academic Podium [small fountain]

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PARKFEST OR PASSOVER

By AMANDA ZIEGLER-IANNOTTI

I’m sure many are familiar with the Jewish holiday of Passover. Many may have seen the “Rugrats” episode with Grandpa Boris talking about the Jewish exodus from slavery in Egypt. There is a chance most people have a Jewish friend who celebrates the holiday and has spoken about their Seder with them.

Passover this year was celebrated from April 22 to April 30, beginning Friday night at sundown and ending Sunday night at sundown. It is customary for this holiday in particular to be spent with family. Many Jewish kids want to go home and many Jewish families expect them home. For many Jewish students at the University at Albany, it is not an option to stay on campus in order to attend a concert instead of celebrating Passover.

“Jewish people are not supposed to drive or travel by public transit within the first two days of Passover, also the two more widely celebrated days,” said Hil Black, wife of Rabbi Jeremy Block of Ausp. Jewish students would have likely gone home on Thursday or Friday and come back up to school some time late Sunday or Monday. Parkfest was Sunday, April 24, with doors opening at 1 p.m.

In my case, I don’t particularly care for Future, the headlining artist. I am not so serious about my religion that if Parkfest were to feature an artist I did want to see, I would travel during the hours many others wouldn’t. However, I am not the only Jewish student on campus, and I personally know plenty of Jewish people who both celebrate Passover and would have liked to see Future.

One such student is Bryan Nichols, who said he originally planned on going home for Passover, but decided to stay on campus due to his Passion for Future. He had been unable to attend previous years because of finals and end-of-semester papers. He’ll be celebrating Passover at Rabbi Black’s home Friday night, and Rabbi Gavriel Horan’s home on Saturday night.

There is a chance many are familiar with the Jewish exodus from slavery in Egypt. The Jewish holiday, Passover, consists of a ceremonial dinner known as a Seder.

Jennifer Perlman went home on Saturday night. She said she didn’t feel like it was really a choice, because for her it was like choosing between God and a concert. Perlman feels it’s disrespectful to have the concert scheduled this weekend, when it could have been held any other weekend that didn’t fall on a religious holiday. So then why, with Passover being a well-known Jewish holiday and UAlbany having a large Jewish population, would Parkfest be held during a weekend when many Jewish students could not be in Albany? Was the university unaware of the holiday, or did they not care that Jewish students would have to miss the yearly concert? Whatever the case, plenty of Jewish students are feeling overlooked.

The Jewish holiday, Passover, consists of a ceremonial dinner
Get your ASP writing for our last issue of the semester.

Email opinions.asp@gmail.com for more info.

Two Summer Sessions

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer Session I</th>
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<tr>
<td>Open Registration on May 12</td>
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<td>Non-matriculated students can register in person.</td>
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Money vs. College

By Daniel Pinzon

College is the official practice of life. And one of life’s many instructional tasks includes being in charge of your own money. As the youth enters young adulthood, we have been taught that money is important, and that it is a part of current living. With this in mind, we either take money seriously or treat it as a joke. Regardless of the way you view money, as a college student we are either overextended in its practice or underextended in its potential. We don’t work to add on to this established debt.

I have experienced the life of the extreme sides of prioritizing money. I didn’t spend a single penny in the fall semester, however when the spring semester came around, I spent $1500. This is clearly the ideal money spending habit is somewhere in the middle.

I have gotten to the point that I would think twice before buying a pack of potato chips. I would save it and I would save so much money if I didn’t buy anything. That is most definitely not the case. As much as a person would think that this dollar will stack up into millions, spending a dollar will not drown you in debt. By spending money, you are investing in the potential of living. It’s good to save money, but it’s even better to live a little if all that you have is saved.

You may be able to afford one expensive object or experience, however the little experiences and expenses matter. Depriving oneself from buying snacks or buying new clothes is not experiencing all of life. It’s important to point out that a student is able to buy a cup of coffee every now and then, and that won’t kill them financially.

What tops it off is she was replaced with someone from the university’s public relations team.

“It’s a clear conflict of interest for a university public relations professional to advise a college newspaper,” said College Media Association President Rachele Kanigel.

Wheeler asked in his article, “In an era of tight budgets, and universities, stand. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the ASP.”

Albany administration were fortunately able to recover the papers and get them back on stands fairly quickly, which is good news for the ASP. But, the ASP is certainly not the first paper plagued with censorship.

According to David R. Whelker in an article for The Atlantic, Lori McKown was an advisor for the school paper at Butler University in Indianapolis. This past September, she was relieved from her position.

According to the article, “Her most recent employee evaluation, signed on April 12, 2016, had listed a string of ‘above expectations,’ assuming that she ‘consistently performs at a level that meets, and often exceeds, the institution’s expectations.’

It was later revealed that McKown had sent a private email which spurred her release from the adviser position. September, she was relieved from her position.

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As reported in Parisi’s article, UAlbany Provost James Stellar responded to the incident, saying, “The decision was an inappropriate judgment call, and inconsistent with our values as a University. The free and open exchange of ideas and debate is a principle on which we, and all universities, stand. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the ASP.”

And realistically, I don’t think a lot of these students would have stepped up to look at the paper, especially during a walking tour. Even if they did, I’m sure they would have had the common decency to actually read at least the first paragraph or so.

The ASP is another student paper that was silenced.
# LITERATURE

## UAlbany professor hosts ‘An Evening of Poetry’

**BY JOE MILLER**

April is National Poetry Month, a time for both established and aspiring writers to celebrate the work of some of the greatest poets the genre has to offer.

In coordination with National Poetry Month, the University at Albany’s own Leonard A. Slade, Jr. held “An Evening of Poetry” on Tuesday, April 19 to read and discuss his works.

Slade is a professor in African Studies and English and the director of the Doctor of Arts in Humanities Studies Program and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program. An accomplished poet, essayist, and literary critic, he is also a renowned writer with several published books of poetry. Slade read some of his best work taken from his books “Sweet Solitude,” “Tied Put a Rainbow in the Sky” and his most recent book, “Nobody Knows.” In between each poem, Slade referenced quotes from a diverse group of poets. Some of the quotes from the mentioned poems included: “Poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings: it takes its origin from emotions released in tranquility” by William Wordsworth, and Slade’s personal favorite, “Poetry is the human soul, entire, squared like a lemon or lime, deep by drop into atomic words” by famed African American poet Langston Hughes.

Beginning the night with a reading of “Acquaintances,” much of Slade’s work deals both in his experiences as well as the people that he considers valuable to his life and work. Acknowledging those who inspired his work, he noted that many of his poems are dedicated to them. His wife, Roberta Hall Slade, to whom he dedicated his book “Sweet Solitude,” was also the inspiration for one of Slade’s poems in “God Put a Rainbow in the Sky.”

George Hendrick, who donated to the African Studies scholarships that Slade is very much associated with, also influenced Slade’s poem, “My Professor.” The poem is a tribute to someone that Slade considered a mentor and true inspiration when he was trying to not hold back. And that was the first time we had ever done that where we weren’t trying to label ourselves or brand ourselves into any certain genre or genre, just kind of having fun.

ASP: Did you feel any kind of pressure with that follow-up album?

ZB: I’m not sure… we just tried to really work as hard as we could and write the best songs that we could. And it was a lot more important to us to enjoy the process and not just feel like “Okay, we have some songs that are pretty good and stop.” — We’re still writing because you never know where something great is going to come from.

ASP: What is your writing process like?

ZB: It’s all super collaborative. You might get an initial idea, that’ll come from a certain person, but then we all bring it in and all of us work on it together and make it into what the final product ends up being.

ASP: You were the Blue Pages, before you were American Authors, what prompted that name change?

ZB: We had just been a band for so long that we had been performing for so long under one name and our music had changed so much since the first day playing together. We were in a new city, we had moved from Boston to Brooklyn, and it was a new time and it seemed like the right move for a new chapter in our lives as musicians.

ASP: Do you feel that your experience going to Berklee College of Music helped you to develop your skills?

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ASP: It’s all super collaborative. You might get an initial idea, that’ll come from a certain person, but then we all bring it in and all of us work on it together and make it into what the final product ends up being.

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ASP: As you mentioned going to Berklee College of Music, that was huge for you, that you were able to meet each other. Without Berklee, we wouldn’t know each other. Without Berklee, we wouldn’t have knew each other and we wouldn’t have be in this band at all. That’s not necessarily a bad thing, but it’s nice to know that your experience going to Berklee gives you a better understanding of music.

ASP: Do you have any advice for aspiring musicians?

ZB: Practice and have an open attitude about things. I know so many people who just stay in their own bubble and they’re not trying to try new things and they are not open to doing things maybe a little differently. Music is changing so much nowadays, that you really need to have a good attitude and be open to always experimenting and always being willing to write with new people or experiment with new genres or try something that might be a little scary and a little different because without that you’re really just limiting yourself.

ASP: Who is your biggest musical influence?

ZB: I love being able to listen to classic rock, which is a huge part [like] The Beatles and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. That was always so huge. And then nowadays I’m always looking for new stuff. Our most collective influence is probably Coldplay. They’re just so great — We’re taking so many influences from so many different places — while also staying true to who we are.

ASP: We can follow American Authors on Facebook, Twitter, and on www.americanauthors.com for additional information on “What We Live For” and their current tour “What We Live For” hits shelves on May 13.
Laura van den Berg visited the Writers Institute at the University at Albany to give a seminar for students last Thursday, April 21. As an excellent writer, van den Berg was bound to give the audience a treat, and that she did. Held in the Standish Room in the Science Library, the seminar started off with a spokesperson from the Writers Institute, who gave a short bio and started the discussion with a few questions.

The real treat came when the floor was opened up to the audience. Many students asked questions about everything from her writing process to more personal questions, such as how to work with struggles in writing, and how to get ideas to work. Throughout, Van den Berg answered with few questions.

She has written two short story collections: “What the World Will Look Like When All the Water Leaves Us” (2009) and “The Isle of Youth” (2013). “Find Me” is her first novel, released in 2015, and she revealed that she has a new novel in the works as well as some new short stories.

As a child, she did not enjoy school and eventually completed high school by obtaining a GED. While attending night school, the idea of writing fiction never crossed her mind until she realized she didn’t enjoy her first major, philosophy, and decided to try a fiction workshop. Van den Berg also talked about her writing process. To her, she said, struggles and insecurities were things to embrace about the writing process, not a sign of weakness or insufficient talent or worth. While short stories are the format in which she enjoys to work with, she finds this out through epic animal encounters many jungle creatures.

For Van den Berg, a novel is a story that a child who has been raised by wolves but finds out he has too much to offer and a short story would have an ending sooner or insufficient talent or worth. While short stories are the format in which she enjoys to work with, she finds this out through epic animal encounters many jungle creatures.

Some of the characters also offer a comfort that we’re used to from many Disney characters. The visuals are pretty mind-blowing to see the last. The animals look very tangible, down to every last strand of fur. Their facial expressions are captured in a way that’s extremely realistic for animation. The entire movie was shot using motion capture and then the scenes were cut together. Using that footage, the effects team then filmed the scenes on real animals.

Despite being created this way, similar to the methods used in “Avatar” (2009) and “Gravity” (2013), “The Jungle Book” appeared as if it was actually shot in the jungle with real animals. It never seemed to be fake, only as stupid or irrelevant.

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The movie, which cost roughly $175 million to make, continues the Hollywood tradition that footage, the effects team then filmed the scenes on real animals. It never seemed to be fake, only as stupid or irrelevant.

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in the parking lot to show differentiation between the two areas. Parking tickets at UAlbany are a big deal for college students who are often frustrated when a small piece of paper is left on their windshield with an amount they have to pay. To help students avoid tickets, Mass Transit offers a variety of source tables throughout campus with information as well as information on Uptown and Downtown campus parking through social media and its website. Jones said it is the student’s responsibility to understand the rules and regulations, although he understands that the information is not broadcasted properly and the department hopes to adjust signs. Appeal citations are available for students online through MyUAlbany. Most students who appeal tickets at the beginning of the semester have a high chance of succeeding, according to Jones. Appeals for tickets from Colonial Quad also have high success rates, since the signs are unclear. According to Jones, 90 percent of their customers enjoy the parking services, while the other 10 percent are dissatisfied due to tickets. It is common for vehicles to be parked closest to Washington Avenue because that is where the majority of traffic flows. “The goal is to issue less citations, but if we didn’t do our job the way we do now, campus would be a mess,” Jones said.

renter to share a profile. With its “outstanding” reputation – roughly two million active listings – and a well-designed interface, Luca said that Airbnb is paving the way for room renting, generating over $25 billion since its creation in 2008. Amanda Flood, a senior majoring in psychology, used Airbnb during her trip to Canada in March 2016. She said that her experience with the service was successful, but feels that with the results of Luca’s study, the potential discrimination between hosts and renters is a problem for the service’s customers. “If I got denied, I’d be upset because Airbnb is so affordable,” Flood said.

“This is in college, and we like Airbnb’s lower prices.” Online marketplaces are changing the way in which customers buy services. One of Luca’s suggestions to reduce potential discrimination on Airbnb is to label discrimination illegal in the service’s terms and conditions. “My hope is that this paper will shed light on the implications of the choices market designers make,” Luca said. “My goal is to help online businesses to create a better and fairer society.” Luca is currently an assistant professor of business administration at the Harvard Business School. According to the Harvard Business School’s website, he works closely with companies and cities, including Yelp, Facebook and the U.K., to help them become more data-driven. "My hope is that this paper will shed light on the implications of the choices market designers make," Luca said. "My goal is to help online businesses to create a better and fairer society." Luca is currently an assistant professor of business administration at the Harvard Business School. According to the Harvard Business School’s website, he works closely with companies and cities, including Yelp, Facebook and the U.K., to help them become more data-driven.

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LACROSSE

DANES DEFEAT YALE

By BENNETT DRAKE

This past week the men’s lacrosse team was lucky enough to play on Bob Ford Field at Tom and Mary Casey Stadium during the school’s annual “Spring Stomp.” The team always looks forward to these opportunities because of the atmosphere that comes with it, especially the 7 p.m. face-off under the lights. It seemed like Binghamton caught some of that big game energy as well and came out and matched us punch for punch all night long. On paper we knew we were the better team, but Binghamton made us prove it by not backing down at all.

I think this was good for us because we had been playing just okay lacrosse up to this week and we needed a team to wake us up heading into Yale week. As much fun as the atmosphere in Casey Stadium was last week, nothing can compare to the on-field energy at Reese Stadium during our top 10 matchup with the Yale Bulldogs this past Saturday in New Haven.

We were able to outlast this game out in a farmer’s field and I think it would have had the same energy and excitement that was brought by both teams. It was a game we have had circled on our schedule for a few weeks now because of the NCAA tournament implications that it holds for both teams. The win gave us what is called a “significant win” to add to our resume. This is the type of win that we were desperately in need of all year. The energy was present right from the pre-game as both teams were being vocal to each other in a classic SUNY versus Ivy way. There always seems to be an edge between us two for some strange reason. The game itself was best described as a “slugfest” with both teams going on mini scoring runs throughout the game. I thought it really showed how well we can play under pressure by not panicking during their runs and being able to answer right back with goals of our own. They carried all of the momentum into overtime because of their late goal, however the mood on the sideline never changed.

I never felt like we were going to lose that game, and I believe the other 46 yrs felt the same way. We got two huge stops from Flies in over time and one crazy outside shot from Seth, and that is all we needed to get the victory. Tuesday we are back in Casey Stadium to face our cross-town rival Siena. This game is always a fun one to play in because of how close both of the teams are together. Even though the teams aren’t having their best season you cannot overlook them. Both teams know that this is a special game on the schedule. I am looking forward to getting back into the big stadium and playing in front of our fans for the last regular season home game of the year.

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SOCCER

Amazing Abby teams up with Great Danes to battle Saints

By KIANA RUGER

Last Friday, the University at Albany women’s soccer team had a game under the lights in Tom and Mary Casey Stadium against in-city rivals Siena College. Normally we would tackle this game as any other game against the Saints — eager to play, anticipating a fight and expecting a win. Except, today, something was different. There was this new feeling — a new drive in all of us that we never had before.

As we waited for the first whistle to blow, we heard a 5-year-old girl cheering her heart out among our fans. It was at that very moment that playing this game meant so much more.

Her name is Abby. We like to call her Amazing Abby, since it’s more fitting. Last year UAlbany women’s soccer proudly became a part of the program Friends of Jaclyn. The program allows sports teams across the nation to “adopt” a child who is suffering from a chronic disease. This adoption allows the child to experience what it’s like to be a part of a sport and more importantly, part of a team.

Last year we got the privilege of meeting Jaclyn, the inspiration for the foundation. This past week at our banquet we got to adopt Abby.

As soon as we met her there was an instant connection. Abby is battling leukemia. You’d think all the therapy, hospital visits and battles she’s faced would bring her down, but Abby is quite the opposite. You would never be able to guess what this girl is going through. She has a bright, loving, carefree personality and is a stunning person on the outside as well. In fact, she’s way more of a people person than most of us, so we’re learning from her each day.

Abby surprised us at our game and when we found out she was there, we all ran to her and gave her a big hug. She then made me race her. I could hardly get my legs to go after a long game, however I couldn’t turn down a race against Abby. Abby beat me in several full field races.

Sure we had fitness testing all week and were going into this game in a new formation, but Abby was there supporting us with a smile on her face as she’s battling leukemia. If she can do that, playing a 90 minute soccer game should be pretty easy.

Unfortunately we didn’t get the result we were hoping for. We settled with a 1-1 tie with our lone goal coming from Cait Paltsios in the first five minutes and Siena’s goal coming in the last 10 minutes. On top of how awful it felt to not come out with a win, I was also concerned with how Abby would feel after the game.

Sure enough her sparkling face came running to me and gave me a hug. She then made me race her. I could hardly get my legs to go after a long game, however I couldn’t turn down a race against Abby. Abby beat me in several full field races.

The team couldn’t have asked for a more special person to adopt as a Great Dane.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

SENIOR SEND OFF: TRACK AND FIELD

 Jonathan Peters, Brittany Gregory / Albany Student Press
(Left) Junior Matthew Campbell placed sixth in the long jump and second in the high jump. (Top) Freshman Calvin Butlak won the men’s 3,000--steeplechase. (Bottom) Senior thrower Lauren Lopano placed second placed second in hammer throws.

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