Excelsior Scholarship Receives Lukewarm Sentiment

By ELISE COOMBS

Students from households earning less than $100,000 will receive free tuition at University at Albany this fall, but they will be bound by a set of requirements. The free tuition as part of the Excelsior Scholarship will require students receiving the money to take 30 credits a year and live in state after graduation. The scholarship is like a contract, according to SUNY Student Assembly President Marc Cohen. “I think students are going to look at it and recognize that they’re entering into something of a contract,” he said.

For instance, if students receiving the scholarship move out of state after graduation, they will have to pay back the scholarship in the form of a loan. Some say this requirement is reasonable, but others say it is unfair for students. Cohen is one who disagrees with the in-state requirement. “We need to be supporting students’ access to higher education without strings attached,” he said.

On the contrary, the chair of the university’s economic department said that the requirement is reasonable. “Entirely from a fiscal balance-of-the-budget perspective, it makes sense to do what they’re doing,” said Adrian Masters. Masters said that the in-state requirement creates the potential for students to remain in state after graduation.

“I also don’t plan on taking classes over the summer to meet the credit minimum because I plan on working on a consistent basis—COMMON SUCCE, freshwater economist major he said. Cohen believes that if students receive a job offer in another state, they should feel free to accept it. On the contrary, the chair of the university’s economic department said that the requirement is reasonable. “Entirely from a fiscal balance-of-the-budget perspective, it makes sense to do what they’re doing,” said Adrian Masters. Masters said that the in-state requirement creates the potential for students to remain in state after graduation.

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STELLAR

Continued from Page 1

by Mac Bullock

As part of the on-going effort to modernize campus, the University at Albany is in the process of replacing new doors.

The University’s Facilities Management team is replacing the exterior doors on the podium, which have a reputation for being heavy and difficult to open. “This project will replace sets of 1960’s-era steel exterior door systems on the Academic Podium,” reads the project’s initiative. “Replacing these doors is a core deferred maintenance need as they are in poor condition and continue to provide ongoing maintenance and operational challenges to the University.”

As well as being unattractive, the doors do not meet the accessibility standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The replacement doors will be “instilled in style and function” as the ones at the entrances to the Campus Center, the University at Albany Fine Arts building, and the Arts and Sciences building.

Podium buildings slated for the renovation include the Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Education, Social Sciences, and Humanities buildings, as well as the Performing Arts Center.

In addition to replacing the doors, the project will include “installation of motorized door operators at some locations,” as well as cosmetic upgrades to “the variances between the exterior and interior doors.”

Podium Door Upgrade Planned for Summer

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017
ALBANY STATE PRESS

however, there is speculation that the Ex-

CEO Scholarship plan, which will provide

free tuition for SUNY and CUNY students

whose families make under $25,000, will by 2019, will generate a newfound interest in

attending SUNY and increase enrollment num-

bers.

Regarding the scholarship program, John-

son said, “I think it’s very exciting one of

the reasons that really attracted me to the position, the ability to work towards mak-

ing higher education more affordable.”

She noted that estimated 40,000 students are eligible for the scholarship, with half currently pursuing aid under TAP.

“There could be an additional 40,000 students and I’m excited about these students having an opportunity to get a higher education,” she added.

The former under secretary takes office on the Academic Podium,” reads the project’s initiative. “Replacing these doors is a core deferred maintenance need as they are in poor condition and continue to provide ongoing maintenance and operational challenges to the University.”

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“The information that I’m getting is from her original appointment letter … I cannot confirm what her plans are,” he said.
New York State is the first state to have tuition-free public higher education for both colleges and universities. Exactly 76 percent of students statewide will qualify for the scholarship, which translates to over 940,000 families.

Masters said the university will face the question of where the money for tuition will continue to come from. Since the scholarship will be paid for out of state general funds, or revenues, Masters said that the scholarship could end up paying for itself when students pay taxes after graduation.

Even with this, the professor said the scholarship could take a while to benefit the state, but that the effectiveness may be hard to detect. “It’s very hard to monitor whether it’s paying for itself or not,” Masters said.

The university has been in contact with SUNY administration regarding the scholarship every week, according to Sandra Starke, vice provost and associate vice provost for enrollment management.

Starke said that the university will continue paying for tuition will continue to benefit the state, but that the effectiveness may be hard to detect. "It’s very hard to monitor whether it’s paying for itself or not," Masters said.

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Starke said that the university is still waiting for more information from the Higher Education Services Corporation.

In the meantime, the 30-credit requirement will “certainly help more students focus on graduating within four years,” Starke said. This coming year, the scholarship will cost $163 million, which is 0.1 percent of the state’s budget for fiscal year 2018. Approximately 76 percent of students statewide will qualify for the scholarship, which translates to over 940,000 families.

But with the requirements in place, senior Karman Lipscomb acknowledged that the scholarship must have passed as a result of some negotiations. Speaking to the requirements, Lipscomb said, “Unfortunately, that’s just how our government runs. They give you something, but they need something back.”
Pep and Marching Band are Part of the Sports Culture, Create Supportive Atmosphere

By ELENA POLLACK

The Albany Student Press, which decided to turn pep bands into a part of the Marching Band in 2006, is credited by many athletes for their spirited support.

“Band is one of the few places you get to interact with people from all walks of life and all different majors on this campus,” said junior Ben Shiller. “It’s a place where you get to share your passions with newfound friends. It’s a sense of the home crowd.” But what does it mean to be a part of the Marching or Pep Band?

From the band’s perspective, it’s another home. It’s a place where music lovers and athletes can gather together and share their passions with new friends. “I’ve never met anyone you wouldn’t want to get involved with our sports teams without having to be an athlete themselves,” according to Mackenzie Bimba, also known as Mestre Bimba, started a school to teach a variant of capoeira he called Luta Regional Baiana (regional light of battle). The cultural elite learned capoeira from Mestre Bimba, and capoeira lost its association with organized crime; it became legal in the 1940s.

Since capoeira is a broad worldwide phenomenon, it means you open yourself up to everyone’s liking. “Not only do they use their free time to practice for their performances, just like the musicians who put in hours and weeks of training to become strong enough to revolt and escape slavery. People practiced the language of their oppressors. People practiced their Capoeira lost its association with organized crime; it became legal in the 1940s.

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• ENJOY FREE COFFEE, DESSERTS, AND SNACKS!

5/14: Late Night Appetizers | 8:30p - 10:30p
DUTCH & STATE QUAD

5/15: Campus Center Sneak Peek | 8:30p - 10:30p
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“THE CIRCLE” IS EASILY 2017’s MOST DISAPPOINTING MOVIE

By DANIEL RUSSELL

Adapted from the 2013 novel of the same name, “The Circle” hit theaters this past weekend. Directed by James Ponsoldt, the film revolves around a young woman named Mae (Emma Watson) who starts working at the eponymous social media company, founded by the charismatic Eamon Bailey (Tom Hanks). As Mae gradually becomes acquainted with her colleagues and responsibilities, she finds herself questioning the moral standards regarding privacy in the digital age, as well as a possible cover-up by the company. The result here is easily one of the most disappointing movies of the year that drops the ball in almost every way, and may even be the worst film of the year so far.

One of the film’s most noticeable errors is in the direction and editing, both of which never really seem to make up their minds. There’s some interesting ideas brought up by the film regarding the intentions of the company, but the film shies away from this, focusing largely on subplots that Mae is always the center of. The subplots themselves are shoddily paced and edited as well, with long stretches of time placed between them and the main story that aren’t weaved together very well. This all culminates into a climax that occurs just for the sake of ending the film, and doesn’t focus very much on the scenes before and after its “big” ending. Another 15-20 minutes or so could’ve been added to the film to make its ending more effective, but it ends rather abruptly, leaving much to be desired.

Going along with the editing aspect, the performances here range from passable to poor. Thankfully, Emma Watson is passable as Mae, and Hanks is good as Eamon (is he ever not?). Unfortunately, most of supporting cast is either wasted, or turns in less than satisfactory performances. The most notorious of which is Ellar Coltrane as Mercer, a friend of Mae’s. He functions as someone who serves as an interesting opposite to the tech revolution going on, but Coltrane comes across as too angry and overdramatic at times.

Karen Gillan stars as Annie, one of Mae’s friends and coworkers. She appears in and out of the movie, and can’t seem to decide on whether or not she wants to do a Scottish or American accent (Watson’s accent is spotty here too, but it’s not as bad as Gillan’s). John Boyega and Patton Oswalt are both present as well, but the film doesn’t really give them much to do, and they feel wasted as a result.

While watching “The Circle,” one can’t help but get the feeling that the original script for the film had a lot of potential. But along the way, some aspects of the film didn’t carry over to the screen, or were carried over awkwardly. Although Watson and Hanks try their hardest with what they’re given, they can’t make up for all the film’s other failures. The result is a film that’s hugely disappointing, and may be one of the worst films of 2017. If it wasn’t clear already, you might wanna skip this film.
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<tr>
<th>Weekday</th>
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<tr>
<td>TUES</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Electropop Band</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m. English band Fenech-Soler performs at the Hollow Bar and Kitchen.</td>
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<td>WED</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Open Mic</td>
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<td>7:30-10:30 p.m. At Old Songs Community Arts Center in Voorheesville.</td>
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<td>THRS</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Evening at the Institute</td>
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<td>5:00-8:00 p.m. At the Albany Institute of History and Art. Free Admission.</td>
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<td>FRI</td>
<td>May 5</td>
<td>Cruise</td>
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<td>4:00 p.m. Cinco de Mayo Cruise at Dutch Apple Cruises and Tours. Tickets: $25.25 pre-sale, $30 day of. BBQ Dinner</td>
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<td>SAT</td>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Orchestra</td>
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<td>3:00-5:00 p.m. PROJECT Trio accompanies youth musicians from Empire State Youth Orchestra. Tickets $10-20.</td>
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<td>SUN</td>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Mayday Parade</td>
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<td>7:30 p.m. American pop punk band performs at Upstate Concert Hall. Tickets $25.</td>
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The Metropolitan Museum of Art has been digitizing over 300,000 works of art and has recently put them in the public domain. This photo was a gift of the Eilenberg-Rosen Partnership, 2001. **Title:** Earring with Wire and Granules **Date:** 9th-12th century **Culture:** Indonesia (Central Java)
Students lobbied University at Albany policymakers to ban the use of all tobacco products on campus grounds last week.

As part of the National Public Health Week initiative, the New York State Public Health Association’s undergraduate chapter at UAlbany worked to rally support from other students to prevent smoking on campus. In addition to cigarettes and cigars, the ban would include smokeless tobacco products and electronic vaporizers.

NYSPHA President and spokesman Michael Seserman has said the policy is meant to “improve the health of the campus community,” increase “respect for the campus environment,” and reduce tobacco-related litter campus-wide.

Seserman noted that nearly half of SUNY universities already have tobacco-free policies in place, and that UAlbany is the only university in the Capital Region that allows the use of tobacco products on campus grounds.

Pressed on whether the ban would decrease the number of students who currently use tobacco products, Seserman said he believes it would, though he noted that’s not the policy’s purpose.

“The aim is to reduce exposure to smoke for all students,” said Seserman, adding that the proposed ban would be more effective than the current policy of designating smoking areas, “as it’s clear those don’t work.

In regards to the inclusion of smokeless tobacco and electronic vaporizers, Seserman said he does not want to encourage students who smoke to switch to another form of tobacco use, but instead to quit altogether.

Student Association President-Elect Jerlisa Fontaine supports the policy, agreeing that tobacco use affects the whole of the student body, not only the user.

“It is important to allow people to practice their liberty and do things that make them happy,” Fontaine said. “However, tobacco doesn’t help anyone; it only harms them.”

Fontaine agreed with Seserman that the current policy of allowing tobacco use in designated areas is ineffective and often ignored, and concluded that the push for a tobacco-free campus was a “great initiative.”

SA Vice President Colin Manchester supports the effort to ban smoking on campus, but stops short of endorsing the NYSPHA initiative wholesale. However, he does not agree with the inclusion of smokeless tobacco and electronic vaporizers.

“No, I do not. These products are only harming the individual who chooses to use it,” Manchester said. “Though he is inclined to support the ban, Manchester said that designating areas for tobacco use could be effective in limiting exposure to smoke, but added that such policies would need to be “implemented properly and enforced heavily.”

Alec Vidiksis, a senior human biology major who smokes, supports the goal of creating a respectful environment for students who do not smoke, but only if the policies implemented are fair to those who do.

“You’re telling me if I want to smoke my e-cig or a cigarette I have to walk 5 minutes off campus to take a few puffs? That’s kind of ridiculous,” he said.

While Vidiksis intends to follow the policy if it is implemented, he noted that many students may not.

Shane Carrell, a junior Psychology major who does not smoke but uses an electronic vaporizer, understands the push to limit tobacco smoke on campus, but is unsure how smokeless tobacco and vaporizers are harmful to other students. He is also doubtful that the ban could be enforced successfully.

“Nicotine use is an addiction, people aren’t going to stop just because they make a rule stating it’s not permitted,” said Carrell. “The university is just going to waste more time and resources enforcing the policy that could be devoted to more important things.”

The NYSPHA effort is not the first attempt to restrict tobacco use at UAlbany. The SUNY Board of Trustees passed a resolution in June of 2012 to support tobacco-free policies at all SUNY schools. Former UAlbany President Dr. Robert Jones had previously explored efforts to ban tobacco use on campus, but did not push for their implementation.

By MAC BULLOCK

CRITICS STOMP VAPE BAN IN TOBACCO-FREE MOVEMENT

It is not enough for journalists to see themselves as mere messengers without understanding the hidden agendas of the message and the myths that surround it.”

— JOHN PILGER, HIDDEN AGENDAS
On Senior Night, Underclassmen Steal the Show

TROY FARKAS

After a February practice, the University at Albany seniors gathered their team together. They hadn’t practiced hard that day. They hadn’t played to their capabilities that day. So, they live up to UAlbany’s standards.

Over the past few months, the practice seems like a distant memory for the senior class, who played its final regular season game against Hartford on Saturday night. The seniors will square off against a team that has never made history for UAlbany, which has never won the America East Championship. Without a doubt, UAlbany will win the America East. For Marr and his team, hoisting the trophy on Saturday will quell any fears of missing the NCAA Tournament. It is safe to say that in 2018, UAlbany fans wouldn’t be surprised if Nanticoke scored a hat trick in SportsCenter’s famed “Top 10” again, which should give fans more hope and enthusiasm for the next four years.

It was only a matter of time before the Great Danes capitalized on farrier’s dominance. The freshmen finished 22-for-24 on the night, leading to UAlbany’s attempting of 58 shots. Ierlan even scored a goal of his own, which came four seconds after he won a face-off. McClancy led the team with five goals, while Justin Rich, Adam Osika, and Mitch Laflin scored two each. Connor Fields, the leading point scorer in the conference, finished with five points, four of them coming on assists. The win puts the extra-curricular season on another underdog season in conference play conference. Last week, UAlbany locked up home field advantage in the America East Tournament. The semifinals are set for Thursday, where No. 1 UAlbany will face No. 4 Stony Brook. No. 2 UMBC will play No. 3 UAlbany again for years to come.

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Over the past few months, the practice seems like a distant memory for the senior class, who played its final regular season game against Hartford on Saturday night. The seniors will square off against a team that has never made history for UAlbany, which has never won the America East Championship. Without a doubt, UAlbany will win the America East. For Marr and his team, hoisting the trophy on Saturday will quell any fears of missing the NCAA Tournament. It is safe to say that in 2018, UAlbany fans wouldn’t be surprised if Nanticoke scored a hat trick in SportsCenter’s famed “Top 10” again, which should give fans more hope and enthusiasm for the next four years.

It was only a matter of time before the Great Danes capitalized on farrier’s dominance. The freshmen finished 22-for-24 on the night, leading to UAlbany’s attempting of 58 shots. Ierlan even scored a goal of his own, which came four seconds after he won a face-off. McClancy led the team with five goals, while Justin Rich, Adam Osika, and Mitch Laflin scored two each. Connor Fields, the leading point scorer in the conference, finished with five points, four of them coming on assists. The win puts the extra-curricular season on another underdog season in conference play conference. Last week, UAlbany locked up home field advantage in the America East Tournament. The semifinals are set for Thursday, where No. 1 UAlbany will face No. 4 Stony Brook. No. 2 UMBC will play No. 3 UAlbany again for years to come.

On Senior Night, Underclassmen Steal the Show

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By ROBERT LEPELSTAT

Dakotah Savitcheff took a pass from Sarah Martin and scored a goal versus Vermont on Mar. 12, cementing her in the first half, just like the two have done so many times in the past four years.

Except, this goal was unlike any other. On Mar. 12, Savitcheff became the University at Albany at Albany women's lacrosse scoring record holder. Her 117th career point came following her 30th of the season, and it put her one point ahead of the record set by Tewaaraton Award nominee Sarah Martin, a senior forward for the Great Danes.

"I never thought from the start that I would accomplish something like this," Savitcheff said. "But once I started hearing I was this close and could possibly beat it, I just wanted to work as hard as I could and do my best."

From the moment she stepped on to John Fallin Field as a freshman, Savitcheff became a scoring machine for UAlbany's offense. After receiving America East All-Rookie honors in her first season, she set a scoring record in her second consecutive season and was given Tewaaraton Award nominee Sarah Martin, defender Siera McVey, and midfielder Emily Mine. "It's scary how fast this is all going so fast," Savitcheff said. "I'm just working with Dakotah on offense for so long now. We have a really great connection and I can always sense when she's going to open up. She catches anything I throw. She just makes my job so much easier.

"It's not just Savitcheff doing the scoring. Martin leads the Great Danes with 33 points this year (32 goals, 1 assist), including a 10 goal explosion in a 13-11 win over Vermont on Mar. 12. Lack of manpower and opposing defenses. The teammates who face her in practice every day certainly aren't afraid. "She's a wizard," McVey said. "You think you have her, or you think your stick is in front of hers, but somehow she'll move it or find a way to go through you."

But behind every great player, there's an even greater coach. John Battaglino, now in his 7th season at UAlbany, has nothing but love and admiration for his star attacker. "She's intimately competitive and she loves to play the game," Battaglino said. "She just loves to compete. She's hard on herself, but she's real humble. I think, she might get frustrated, but I can see she just keeps going at it and she doesn't give up."

As Savitcheff puts the finishing touches on a historic college career, she has one final goal in mind.

Savitcheff and her senior teammates have lost to Stony Brook in the final of the America East Tournament each of the last three seasons. Savitcheff is confident this will be a different outcome in 2017.

"I truly believe this is the year we can win an America East Conference Championship," Savitcheff said. "Because of all the hard work, effort and time we have put in all year long." When the future holds for Savitcheff, she'll never forget all of the amazing people she's met along the way and the memories she has spent representing everything it means to be a Great Dane. On and off the field.

Source: ualbanysports.com

Savitcheff and the Great Danes will have a chance to bring the conference title home beginning on May 5. They'll travel to Stony Brook to face UMBC in the semifinals on May 5 with the hope of advancing to face the winner of the championship game two days later.

From the Editor, Trey Farkas:

It’s funny how things work out.

I never wanted to go to the University at Albany. Not in the slightest. I had no interest in it. As a senior in high school, I knew I was capable of better.

But I left my decision for the last minute, which led me to “settle” on UAlbany, the university 20 minutes north of my hometown of Clifton Park.

Now here’s who I owe some thanks to:

Thank you to Autism Christa and Celia Sullivan for giving me chances when I was younger and for showing me the ropes. I tried to be the kind of leader to others that two you were to me.

Thank you to Stefan Lambo-Stolba, the ASP’s editor for this year, for allowing me to have this position and for working with me. I also appreciate you letting me decamp my semester abroad in the fall. I really enjoyed writing it and I know many of my friends loved reading it. It really meant a lot to me.

Thank you to the UAlbany sports information department, who has the most demanding job of any department here. It’s a ruthless life. They work nights and weekends and travel with several UAlbany teams every week. It’s an unwavering job and they don’t get out thanks enough. You wouldn’t think this, but Dave Vate is the hardest working man in Albany. He set up all of my interviews for WCDB and the ASP and always lent me a hand when I was a deer in the headlights. I’ll forever be grateful to how he helped me.

But what makes UAlbany is its athletes and coaches. I know basketball is the pride of UAlbany, (well, they say so. You wouldn’t know by the attendance numbers, but this is the University at Albany). But this is about the ASP. I want everyone to know I’ve poured a lot of time into it this semester. I’ve tried to help out those who are interested. I genuinely care about good journalism and good writing because too many people can’t write these days. How do you ever expect to be successful if you can’t write coherent sentences? No one will take you seriously.

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