



A Knight of MADNESS

See Photo Spread B7

Poverty Simulation Raises Awareness

By DANNI EPTING
Contributing Writer

A live experience to help promote a deeper understanding of the conditions of poverty was offered for the third year in a row.

Participants played the roles of individuals in a hard working family. These roles ranged from a 9-year-old daughter, to a dis-

abled grandfather who could no longer work. Some were even given the harrowing task of the parent who must provide for the entire family.

"I want to get a better understanding of how other people live, so I will know how to better help them in the future," said Malcolm Brownell, a junior participating in the simulation for the first time.

The event was held on Tuesday, Nov 7 in the Hubbard Interfaith Sanctuary and was sponsored by The Center for Community Insight Inc. Around 70 people in total attended the event, all eager to take part in the experience.

In its entirety, the simulation was meant to represent a month in the life of a low-income family. There were four sessions of 15 minutes each, meant to represent a week. Additionally, there were three-minute weekends at the end of each simulated week. The beginning and end of each session was indicated by a loud whistle.

As the month progressed, the participants became more anxious to pay their bills, care for their children, and deal with any surprises that may have risen in the week before.

During the week, student participants were caught off guard by a "luck of the draw card," which brought good or bad conditions to the family. Regardless of what the card said, the students had to follow the

SEE RAISE /A2

PB and Jam Out

By MARK O'CALLAGHAN
Contributing Writer

As the holidays approach, the season of giving is in the air. The Student Association is doing its part with their annual "PB& Jams" to give back to those in need around the Albany area.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov 14 volunteers can set up at tables making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to donate to various drop in shelters and after school programs.

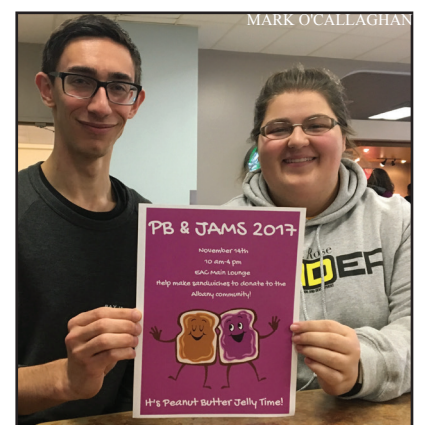
Students who want to show up for the whole event or just 10 minutes are welcome as all the help is appreciated. Each volunteer will have their own gloves and start making sandwiches.

"The most appealing aspect of this event is the fact that everyone can be involved," said Allison Hansen, a volunteer for the event.

It doesn't matter which method you do whether in an assembly line with other people or making PB&Js on your own. These sandwiches will be placed in a plastic bag and placed in a

box for delivery.

Regarding the actual sandwich materials, Student Association is partnering up with



Matt Eisner and Theresa Belfance are organizers for the PB and Jams service event.

Freihofer to get all of the bread. They will be getting 450 loaves of white bread, 30 jars of peanut butter 64 oz each, and around 120 jars of jelly.

Matthew Eisner and Theresa Belfance the co-chairs of the Student Association will do the shopping as they try to find the most cost-effective items.

SEE PB&J /A2



Students attending the Poverty Simulation were able to act out situations involving lack of time, money, shelter, and other resources.

It's a Wash

New Laundromat Opens on Madison Ave

By CHEYENNE BIRMINGHAM
Contributing Writer

A new laundromat has made the Pine Hills area its home.

The Supreme Wash Laundromat located on 849 Madison Ave is another investment in the student neighborhood, where the owner of Madison's Pizza has had a presence for over 15 years.

It is only laundromat in the area that has 24 state of the art washers and dryers in three different sizes, that also offers the lowest prices compared to other local laundromats.

Ayoub Seraj, owner of the laundromat, has been doing business in the neighborhood since 1992. He also operates the successful Madison's Pizza across the street on the corner of Madison and Ontario.

One of Seraj's main goals in opening up the laundromat is to bring a community friendly and reliable business to the area. This includes the hours of the laundromat, which is open seven days week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.

"There are a lot of students

in the area with no clean or nice laundromats that stay open late," said Seraj. "I wanted to provide that to the community."

The Supreme Wash Laundromat doesn't have any employees because Seraj is there everyday splitting his time between the pizza shop and the laundromat.

Madison Pizza employee Zimon Anmadzan, who has been working at the shop for six months, has seen the laundromat's business pick up in the last few weeks, despite construction on the sidewalk blocking the laundromat and other business on Madison and Ontario.

"It was kind of slow at first because of the construction that has been taking place but locals seem to really like the place," said Anmadzan. "It's has been really busy in the last few weeks."

Local residents have taken a liking to the place for its clean, reliable atmosphere and inexpensive prices. It costs \$2.75 to wash a pound of laundry and 25 cents every 7 minutes to dry.

SEE WASH /A2

Litter Me Not:

Pine Hills Neighborhood Cleanup

By JANELLE BECK
Contributing Writer

Litter didn't stand a chance against more than 500 college students who gathered for the Pine Hills neighborhood cleanup.

The Pine Hills Neighborhood Association teamed up

with the University of Albany and held its biannual cleanup event for the eighth consecutive year. Students and residents were encouraged to volunteer in order to tidy up the streets in the neighborhood. People first gathered together in Ridgefield Park in order to receive their assignments and borrow tools for the

project. Organizers of the event, Dan and Julia Healy, handed out the assignments that sent the volunteers throughout Pine Hills.

The event "reflects so well on the positive impact college students can have on the community," said Julia Healy, who serves as a member of PHNA.

Healy discussed the importance of the event and stated that litter is an ongoing concern in the neighborhood. From candy wrappers to plates, trash is frequently spread across the neighborhood, Healy said.

"Litter is really a problem," said Carolyn Keefe, a resident and homeowner in Pine Hills as well as coordinator of Pine Hills Improvement Group run by the neighborhood association.

Keefe described the litter she frequently sees scattered throughout the neighborhood.

SEE LITTER /A2



Students living in the community helped with the neighborhood cleanup event to take care of litter.

LITTER cont.

From plastic bags, packaging, to bottles and cans, trash is frequently blowing into her and her neighbor's properties.

Residents frequently suggest placing more trash cans on street corners to address the problem. More receptacles would help with the litter, but the city has encountered complications with public trash cans. Albany city's landfill is rapidly filling up, and they are having to move commercial trash outside the city.

To combat the landfill overload, landlords with four or more renters are required to pay for private contractors to remove trash. To avoid an extra expense, landlords have urged their tenants to throw their household trash in public trash cans. This is problematic as these overflowing trash cans require manpower and public funding to empty.

In response to this issue, the city has installed a few Big Belly solar compactors and recycling units in order to prevent overloading. The solar units operate by compacting the trash inside the containers and may be a solution to help litter in the neighborhood, said Healy.

Trash that can easily be swept up in storms is a concern, said Peter Beck, stormwater program manager of the Department of Water and Water Supply. Litter can easily flow into storm drains and it can then eventually end up in local rivers and lakes. Albany does use a vacuum to clean out storm drains but educating people about where trash belongs is the key to taking care of this issue, said Beck.

One resident who also agrees that people need to be educated on the issue is Deanne Webster. After moving into her home in 2010, Webster realized that litter is a significant problem and often brought a trash bag with her on neighborhood walks. Discouraged by the magnitude of the problem, she now devotes her time to keeping her property clean.

"People just don't care anymore about the neighborhood or

properties they are renting and living in," said Webster.

Even as she is caring for her own yard Webster witnesses people regularly dropping trash on their walks or throwing it out of their cars. For many residents in the Pine Hills picking up litter has become a daily chore.

Webster's concern about educating the public regarding litter was echoed by Keefe, who said she hopes "residents care enough about their surroundings." Keefe is also encouraged by

Albany's robust recycling program and believes that litter can be reduced if people are educated on what can be recycled. She credits the recycling program for helping her to throw away only one bag of waste each week for a family of four.

Keefe sees opportunities to manage it better by suggesting street sweepers come through the day after trash pickup. Some residents are quick to blame college students for the litter, but Keefe sees this as an issue that extends beyond the temporary status of students. She is hopeful that the efforts made by the students, including the Pine Hills Neighborhood Clean up, will help remedy the problem.

Many people are thankful for the clean-up event, including Department of General Services employees Douglas Clark and Kent Koonce.

The event helps keep the city clean and helps DGS employees stay on top of the issue. Koonce suggests that educating people to clean up after themselves is key to addressing the problem.

The cleanup event brought awareness to the issue of litter in Pine Hills while simultaneously improving the appearance of the neighborhood.

Litter is a concern to many people in the community and while many steps still need to be taken, the efforts of many volunteers in Pine Hills hope that their contribution will encourage others to do the same.

"I wish they would do this every week," said Clark.

RAISE cont.

instructions exactly.

The simulation is, "both compelling and involving," said Joan Horgan, director of campus ministry. Horgan describes feeling the pressure to make ends meet and developing a better understanding of the reality many people live with.

Participants were encouraged to play the role they were given. When playing the role of a child, they had to become fussy during the week, and if given the role of the parent, they could become frustrated with their children.

Some of the participants who were not given a role in a family instead represented the different organizations that were scattered around the sanctuary. They acted as a social service worker, school teacher, supermarket clerk, police officer, and employer. These students also faced a difficult task.

Sophomore Lana Torrens played the role of a childcare worker. This marks her second year of participating in the poverty simulation. For her first year, she played an old woman who had to support herself. Torrens loves the atmosphere of the sanctuary and returned for another year to participate in

the simulation because she, "enjoyed the challenge of trying to beat the system."

At the station next to Torrens', school was in session. Participants playing the role of parents had to be sure to bring their children to school on time. Students were given quizzes on poverty during the mandatory eight minutes they spent at school, out of the 15-minute week.

Children who skipped school were reported to the police officer, who then proceeded to put them in juvenile detention, and parents had to scramble for bail money to retrieve their children.

Other incidents occurred during the weeks, causing students to experience the stress of making ends meet. The mortgage office closed for unexpected holidays, or for lunch when families needed to pay their bills. Families then had to face eviction if they did not pay on time.

Participants also had to work during the 15-minute weeks. On the whistle, families rushed to get in line at the employer station to begin their tasks, which took varying amounts of time.

"You get to see why it takes people so long to get their feet back under them once they

fall," said senior Rachel May. She manned the doctor station during the simulation.

Even a task such as going to the grocery store became difficult for the participants when they realized the supermarket clerk only spoke Spanish.

The Center for Community Insight Inc. is a nonprofit organization focused on helping people better understand poverty. Nicole Rangel, co-founder and co-director of the organization, spoke of how the organization aims to not only transform the way people think about poverty, but to provide services to the community in an empathetic way.

The Center books poverty simulations at colleges or with any group willing to participate. They provide all the materials necessary for the simulation. The organization is run by a group of attorneys and holds poverty focused legal education courses and training in addition to their poverty simulations.

The simulation ended with a debriefing of any thoughts and reflections students had on their experience.

"The simulation lets people get a peek into the life of experiencing poverty. It changes any assumptions or stereotypes we had," said Rangel.



The Poverty Simulation forces participants to make decisions that help to portray difficult and necessary struggles that people who live in poverty experience everyday.

*Want to write for News?
Contact News Editor
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piercek966@strose.edu.*

WASH cont.

Laqueeta Saunders, who has been using the laundromat since it opened, is extremely happy with the service. She likes the relaxing atmosphere and the cleanliness of the laundromat.

"I think it's resourceful for the college area and the prices seem a lot cheaper than any other laundromat I've been to," said Laqueeta Sanders. "I travel from North Albany and it's the best hands down for me."

Albany locals like Erica Kneeland use the 80 pound washers the laundromat offers because she has very little time and needs to get out quickly.

"I've never seen 80 pound washer and dryers in a laundromat in this area before and I have a lot of clothes, so living around the corner is definitely an asset," said Kneeland.

Besides local Albany residents, college students occupy a high percentage of the Pine

Hills area. College students especially who live off campus are welcoming the new laundromat with open arms.

Shaina Watson, a senior at the University at Albany senior, also lives close to the business is excited to have a clean and accessible laundromat. She believes the lower prices plays a huge role in determining if college students will be coming to the laundromat.

"I don't know about other college students but I know I don't have a lot of money so I need things more on the inexpensive side but still be able to provide me with the service I need," said Watson.

Seraj is hoping to have the same success with the Supreme Wash Laundromat that he has had with Madison Pizza.

"I have no doubt that customers will keep coming back, I haven't heard any complaints and I intend to keep it like that," said Seraj.

PB & J cont.

There's an objective to get a certain number of sandwiches made. Last year, 3,800 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were made. The target this year will be 4,000 sandwiches by the end of the event.

"I don't care if I make two or 200 sandwiches," said Belfance. "The thought in mind is who needs the sandwiches."

Boxes will continually get filled until the end of the event for the benefit of people in need. Once the sandwich making stops, the boxes will be stored in the Student Association office. Either someone from the organization will pick up a box or someone from the association

will drop it off.

To prevent any people who have peanut allergies to be in contact, the doors in the EAC lounge will be shut until the event is done and everything is cleaned up. This being just in case someone has a severe allergy and it becomes airborne.

The volunteers will also be selling t-shirts at the event. Around 100 t-shirts with the "PB&Jams" logo will be for sale at \$3 a piece.

Posters are all around campus with ads being posted on the walls and a promo running on the Saint Rose television. This year they're being more creative with the Association generating their own geofilter on Snapchat for this event. Snapchat is very

popular social media app that can appeal to wide range of students.

"Many people use snapchat so we thought to be more creative this year with promoting PB&Jams" said Belfance. The geofilter will have the "PB&Jams logo" when a student takes the snap.

Just because this event is happening around the holiday times doesn't mean the goodwill should come once a season. The Student Associations stresses that the goodwill should be all year long.

"We shouldn't do this because it's the holidays, we should be doing this because volunteering for the great good is all year round" said Eisner

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ANY student can join The Saint Rose Chronicle!

The Chronicle is published weekly on Tuesdays during the academic year and once during the summer months. It is printed at the facilities of New England Newspapers in Pittsfield, MA.

Official E-mail Address
Chronicle@strose.edu

Submissions
All articles, advertisements, and Letters to the Editor are due by midnight the Friday prior to publication.

Mailing Address
The Saint Rose Chronicle
432 Western Avenue
Albany, NY 12203

Advertising
All advertising inquiries should be sent to Tiernan Foley at foley964@strose.edu.

Meetings
Meetings are held every Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in Hearst 119.

Policies
The Chronicle accepts Letters to the Editor from any party. We recommend that submissions not exceed 1000 words. Letters, columns, and cartoons published in this newspaper represent the opinion of the author, not necessarily that of The Chronicle.

In Brief

What's happening in the community

Journalism Award

On Thursday, November 16 from 6:00-8:30 p.m., there will be a celebration honoring Susanne Craig, the winner of the first ever Nellie Bly Award for Investigative Reporting. It will take place at The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Albany.

The award was presented by the Museum of Political Corruption back in May of this year and included a \$1,250 prize—the same amount Bly falsely promised a legislator as part of her muckraking work in Albany in 1888. The reception will entail a roundtable discussion moderated by Susan Arbetter, host of Capitol Pressroom, featuring Craig along with William K. Rashbaum of The New York Times, Rex Smith of The

Times Union, and John M. Caher of the NYS Unified Court System.

Early in her career, Craig worked with The Wall Street Journal and Canada's major paper, The Globe and Mail. She started out her work with The New York Times with some muckraking on Wall Street. As a part of the Albany bureau of The Times, she was on the team investigating Governor Cuomo's Moreland Commission to Investigate Public Corruption. Now, Craig has dedicated herself to covering President Trump, recently looking into his 1995 tax returns.

Tickets to the event are free for Saint Rose Students with a college ID.

Professional Development

The Council for Exceptional Children is proud to present their next and final professional development event for the semester, "Stories of a Classroom" presented by Jon Gilroy. Jon Gilroy is a SUNY Albany graduate, passionate individual and advocate for all. Jon is also a member of the LGBTQ+ community and is also an individual with a

disability known as Cerebral Palsy. Join CEC in hearing the stories of Jon's classroom experience and so much more. The event begins at 7:00 p.m. in the Lally Touhey Forum on Tuesday, Nov 14, 2017. Professional Development certificates will be provided for those that need them; all are welcome.

Networking with Alumni

By KATE PIERCE
News/Managing Editor

While registering for classes and taking exams, it's easy to forget what students are working towards. This weekend, alumni who have once been in students' shoes will come back to share their experiences with networking in the Communications field.

"If you look at your career as a wheel with spokes, networking is one of the spokes that keeps the wheel moving," said Annie Delano, a freelance video producer. "Every conversation you have is networking, but it is how you follow up to conversations that matter most."

Delano graduated from Saint Rose in 2012 with a double concentration in Public Relations and Film and New Media. She will be one of six alumni presenting at the panel from 1 to 3 p.m. on Nov 18, in the Saint Joseph Hall Auditorium.

This year marks the third that the Alumni-Student Networking Event is has been hosted by the Public Relations and Advertising Club at Saint Rose. Light refreshments will be provided, and attendees are encouraged to dress professionally and bring business cards.

"Students will get to see how graduates from the Communication Department are using their degrees," said Jessica Holde, the president of the club. "It's inspiring for students because they're exposed to the opportunities that will open up to them after graduation."

Holden discovered the club at their first alumni-student event when she was a freshman.

"Aside from networking with alumni, I learned about a club that I eventually grew to

love and be heavily involved in," she said. After meeting an alum at the event, Holden was able to work with him later on a production set.

Marissa Salzone, marketing director at Grey Castle Security in Troy, is also a graduate speaking at the event. She will speak about networking as well as what students can expect when they first enter into careers.

"Hiring managers don't want to train someone on the foundations," said Salzone. "For example, if you're looking to get into a PR agency, they're already expecting that you know how to write a press release."

Between the Communications and Business departments a lot of concepts crossover, which Holden thinks many students don't realize

"There's a lot of overlap between these two programs and our club made a venn-diagram style poster that highlights the similarities between the two," said Holden. "We hope this inspires some business students to come to our event and make connections with professionals that could possibly land them a job or internship."

Salzone said that her internship was one of the most helpful experiences at Saint Rose to transition into a career.

"Take every moment as a learning opportunity," said Salzone. "Also, constantly look for opportunities to create something that no one asked you to do. It'll show you're thinking one step ahead."

When Salzone was interning at a healthcare online courseware company she voluntarily took her personal point and shoot camera, and asked clients to do some testimonials. After

editing the footage she showed the finished product to the Vice President of the company.

"He was blown away," she said "They hired me when I graduated."

Delano said that her independent study at Saint Rose was critical in helping her transition into her career.

"The faculty also were extremely helpful in wanting me to succeed in video production," said Delano. "When I am networking I always say that I went to Saint Rose, and end up having the best conversations and gaining work from fellow graduates."

As a freelancer, Delano says that every job is very different.

"One day you may be location scouting, the next day you're casting Saint Bernard dogs, and the following day making props."

Delano's advice for current students is to find ways to stand out as individuals

"Find a way to stand out and be an individual," said Delano. "Hand written notes go a long way, as well as being on time and having a positive attitude. A lot of people don't take the time to follow up after meeting someone, which makes those who do and show interest stand out."

From simple beginnings, networking opportunities are something that students should look out for to take advantage of as they develop their careers.

"Be willing to do whatever is needed, even if it means taking coffee orders, to follow the steps to the career of your dreams," said Delano. "If you can take proper coffee orders, people will notice and eventually someone will be taking your coffee order."

Game Corner

Take a break to solve some puzzles!

Answers posted online at strosecronicle.com

90s Cartoons

Across

- Hometown of Doug Funnie.
- Didi Pickles' favorite doctor, who she often turns to for advice.
- Ever wonder what your dog is thinking? Eliza, from this show, can tell you.
- Jimmy Neutron's Eureka moment.
- This variety show is famous for its 'Nations of the World' song.
- First name of Songebob Squarepants' boss.

Down

- Norb's love interest in The Angry Beavers
- Helga's nickname for her love in 'Hey Arnold!'
- Giant snake, birthday cake, large fries, _____.
- Name of Rocko's dog in Rocko's Modern Life

*Due to a printing error, last week's crossword has been reprinted. The Chronicle regrets and apologizes for the error

Possible Replacement For Playdium

Bowling Alley Property May Become Multi-Million Dollar Apartment Complex

By **CODY MOONEY**
Contributing Writer

A plan to build a four story apartment complex at 363 Ontario St. at the Playdium Bowling Alley is tabled once again.

With the Playdium Bowling Center having been up for sale for the past 10 years, the bowling business is potentially out and a newcomer wants in. The project was tabled after Jankow Companies, a potential buyer, requested exceptions to the current building code.

"The code calls for three-and-a-half stories, and they want four," said planner Martin Daley, who is on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Neil Luther, current owner of Playdium Bowling Center, first posted the property for sale 10 years ago. At the beginning of this month, Pine Hills neighborhood residents were able to hear about the proposed plan for the property.

Jankow Companies, an Albany real estate company, presented its proposal for a modernized apartment complex before the Board of Zoning Appeals at Albany City Hall.

The company was seeking permission to exceed the allowed number of stories for a building, and wants to build a



An artist's rendering of proposed complex at the intersection of Ontario and Warren streets that would replace the Playdium Bowling Alley.

four-story building, rather than the 3.5 stories permitted in the city code, Daley said.

The topic of concern for the height of the building was brought about by many in attendance in the council chambers. Five Pine Hills residents weighed in against the proposal for the higher building, which would include 110 different apartment units.

David Phaff, who appeared on behalf of Jankow, said the additional half floor was a necessary component of the entire project.

"We wouldn't have to be at the planning board meeting at all if we didn't need that half story," said Phaff. "The half story will allow for the contractor to add a parking garage underneath and free up parking on the road."

The modern apartment complex will offer green space, a proposed quality laundromat, a cafe, a rooftop area on top of the buildings where dogs can run around and play, along with a store or two.

Richard Berkley, chair of

the city's Zoning Appeals for the City, didn't think the proposal was quite ready.

"We didn't take action on it tonight because the applicants didn't provide additional data for the record which was requested at the workshop two weeks ago," Berkley said. "We requested financials from the last meeting, which wasn't present tonight."

The original application did not include a narrative by Jankow Companies, which residents were unaware of before

the meeting.

"Now, every neighbor is affected by the project essentially," said Berkley. "It's unfair, and inequitable for them to not see the narrative before they come here to speak about the project."

The narrative addressed concerns such as height and mass of buildings, water runoff, traffic patterns, parking, alternative design, and the impact of the variance.

What the board will be seeking in the next hearing is not only exact numbers on financials, but also word back from the city's safety and traffic engineer, and the city sewage and waste companies.

The Board also considered a number of additional requests from Spectrum News and Somerset Associates.

Spectrum News located, on 104 Watervliet Avenue Ext., was seeking permission to put a "wall sign" along the Watervliet Avenue Extension frontage. This request was approved.

Somerset Associates is looking to occupy the 11,000 sq ft. commercial plaza on 900 Central Ave. This company is looking to build a center for donation/collection center for blood. They will reappear at a later date in front of the board.

What's Holding You Back From Studying Abroad?

By **JULIE BARDIN**
Contributing Writer

Have you ever eaten crêpes in a café in Paris? Marveled at the historical architecture in Florence? Stepped into the land that appears ageless from ancient cultures and inspired folklore? Many Saint Rose students have. And apparently, it was the best decision they've ever made. How can we make the most out of our time and money here at Saint Rose? How can we use the resources that Saint Rose offers? Consider study abroad.

When students first think of study abroad, many assume that it is too expensive. But most students are not aware that it could turn out to be cheaper to study abroad than living at Saint Rose, even including airfare.

Based on information from the International Study Abroad (ISA) website, the price listed in most countries include tuition, excursions, insurance, housing, laundry, and for some countries, meals. All of these things often add up to less than the cost here at Saint Rose. The cost can decrease even more if you opt for independent housing or choose to live in a homestay. Independent housing gives you the freedom to live as a local and choose your location, and a homestay can provide an in-depth cultural experience as well as a family abroad to visit in the future.

The next concern that comes up is airfare. There are many ways around paying more than \$500 for a plane ticket abroad. One strategy is looking in the right place. Diana Apon-

te, Global Ambassador for ISA at the Center for International Programs, recommends Google Flights to show you the cheapest airlines. By using Google Flights to investigate and consider other airports, it is possible to find a reasonable plane ticket. Note that most of the time, international tickets from John F. Kennedy (JFK), Lagaardia (LGA), Stewart-International (SWF), and Newark (EWR) are far cheaper than Albany International. For example, if you're flying to Scandinavia, Great Britain, or Ireland, Stewart-International offers tickets for less than \$200 round-trip.

Also of note is that Dublin, Ireland is the airport hub for the airline Ryanair which flies to and from most countries in Europe for reasonable prices. Robyn Shapiro, a student from the University of Miami, traveled to over thirteen different countries and many more cities through Ryanair. According to a UK fare comparison study by Ryanair, in 2016, the average price of a ticket was £56.39, and an article in the Travel section of Independent claims that "sale fares are currently available from €9.99." Though a low price is not always guaranteed, it is certainly attainable.

One thing that study abroad always guarantees is new experiences. Carolyn Gregoire from the Huffington Post said in her article, 6 Reasons to Step Outside Your Comfort Zone, that "stepping outside one's comfort zone is an important, and almost universal, factor in personal growth."

Aponte recalls struggling through Greece and the Czech Republic (among the nine

countries she visited while abroad) and mentioned that "it is important to not rely on your phone, especially in foreign countries."

Not only did she make memories by interacting with locals, but she learned how to read a map; a small skill that can take you far. By using this skill, she was able to experience Greek opa dancing on a cruise

discussions and avoid ignorant, prejudice comments. Cultural sensitivity is especially important when dealing with foreign business partners or friends who may have different cultural norms and experiences. Exposing ourselves to new cultures gives us insight to how we live our lives and how we understand the lives of others.

Keith Roscoe, Administra-

er culture, we can understand what is going on in the world and how other people might be affected. We are able to communicate better and network relationships that could be beneficial in the future. This also makes us competitive job applicants and well-cultured individuals.

Yes, studying abroad is great for intellectual purposes



Keith Roscoe pictured at Château de Fontainebleau, the historical landmark where Napoleon gave his abdication speech

and navigate through Greek islands too small to support cars. These experiences are key elements for personal growth and leadership development.

A particularly important element in leadership is cultural sensitivity, and this is best gained through experience. We live in a globalizing world, and it is important to understand international issues and conflicts in order to promote meaningful

and personal development, but an important thing to mention is how fun it actually is. Many cultures are excited to teach visitors their norms, or to showcase what is so great about their country.

"Don't wait for friends to plan trips," said Roscoe. "Go when you're ready, make the initiative."

If the world awaits, what are you waiting for?

By becoming part of another

Tuesday November 14, 2017

A Little Bit of Blues in a Sea of Rock 'n' Roll

By TAYLOR
FARNSWORTH
Opinion Editor

The blues may not be at the forefront of the music scene in the Albany area, but that doesn't mean they are forgotten. With the help of the Capital Region Blues Network, blues artists have a platform to reach the public. Between monthly Monday night blues jam at Pauly's Hotel and Sunday night blues jam at McGeary's, residents of Albany have more options than just the Cardi-B rap verses that blast from all nearby student housing.

The network has been around for at least 20 years, according to Linda Knapik, treasurer of CRBN, but has only been hosting Sunday night blues jam at McGeary's for two. Knapik said the network promotes blues-related events around the region even those they don't sponsor. Monday night blues jam at Pauly's Hotel is not associated with the network, but is still advertised on their website under the calendar of events.

Sunday night blues jam at McGeary's hosts a blues band for about an hour and then its open mic, allowing musicians to get up on stage and jam as well. The event is free of charge but Knapik said they do accept donations. All donations go to the band hosting the event that evening.

John Mancini, owner of Pauly's Hotel on Central Avenue, holds blues jam nights every first Monday of the month as opposed to once a week, which he had been doing for the last five years. Deciding to change from having a weekly blues jam to only once a month had to do with consistency and financial reasons.

"It costs me money for the bands to come in and if people aren't coming it isn't worth it," said Mancini.

The blues genre attracts an older crowd that doesn't consume as much alcohol as younger crowds, meaning there is less money spent at the bar, said Joe Lowry, a local blues musician in the Joe Lowry and the Second Mile Blues band. Since younger crowds tend to drink more, he said that venues are more likely to hire bands that appeal to millennials versus older generations.

Both Mancini and Knapik said that their events are usually 18 and up in hopes to draw in new faces and a younger crowd. Mancini said that he tries to accommodate the student population and trusts that those who come out are there for the music, not to sneak drinks in the corner. But since Mancini does not have a cover for blues jam nights, making a profit from the event is mainly based on alcohol consumption.

"For certain venues it's all about the dollar that's coming in, not the music that's going out," said Lowry.

It also isn't easy getting people to come out on a Monday night as opposed to the weekend said Scotty Mac, a blues musician who hosts the blues jam at Pauly's Hotel.

"Monday is always a tough day for nine to five folks who have to get up early," he said.

"It's always a crap shoot as to how many folks you're going to be able to bring in."

Mac has been hosting blues jam at Pauly's since his friend, Buck Malen, who used to host the jam, passed away about a year ago. When Malen was diagnosed with cancer, he asked Mac to take over.

"I wasn't particularly interested in doing another open mic as I have hosted several in the past, but given the gravity of the situation I was compelled to give it 100 percent if anything for my friend," said Mac.

Eric Erkkinen, a local blues musician in the three-piece cover band, In the Era, said that being a blues musician in Albany can be challenging. Both Lowry and Mac agreed with Erkkinen,

tain businesses to have entertainment, and those lucky enough to be licensed could only play live music until 2 a.m. The only businesses licensed in the Albany area are on North Pearl Street and Broadway said Erkkinen.

As a business owner, Mancini said that the law doesn't really affect Pauly's Hotel because most sets are done by 12 p.m. and crowds usually start to die down by 11 p.m. It is very rare that Pauly's Hotel has a band performing past midnight.

The old Bogies, a bar and club on Ontario Street that was known for its live music, permanently closed back in 2015. Mike Valente, manager and partner of Bogies, said it closed due to the owner not paying his taxes and had nothing to do with the

mid to late 80's until around the mid 2000's, there was tons of places to play and room enough for everyone," said Mac. "Now, not so much."

Erkkinen said that local bars tend to host blues bands only on special occasions now. McGeary's, Pauly's Hotel, and sometimes The Barrel, are often used as venues for blues bands. Valente also said Pauly's Hotel is the place to go for blues in Albany.

The upcoming Sunday night blues jam at McGeary's will feature The Amy Ryan band performing at 8 p.m. There will be no Sunday night blues jam the following Sunday during the weekend of Thanksgiving.

The network tries to book as many blues musicians for

slightly selfish atmosphere.

"Cordial compliments are given and it's more of a social club of friends that could all go show up anywhere," said Erkkinen. "The musicians are more into what they are going to play versus how can they reach out to the community."

Lowry had a different impression of blues jam nights, and said he has seen a lot of young musicians attend the network's events at McGeary's.

"These young musicians are welcomed with open arms and they get to play with some of the top musicians in the area," said Lowry. "It's like a huge family that gets together, jams, eats and has a few."

The Capital Region Blues Network works hard to promote the blues and makes sure residents are aware of upcoming blues events in the area by listing them on their website and Facebook page.

Erkkinen said that interest in the genre has been steadily declining since the early-mid 90s back when it was most popular. Lowry and Mac agree that the blues do not have as strong of a following in the Albany area as other genres do.

"I feel like the blues is appreciated by a small group of blues loyalist in this area," said Lowry. "I feel like I am appreciated when I go out here and play blues, but blues as a genre is not appreciated in this area."

In an effort to change this, the network works on introducing the blues to students in schools through the program, Blues in the schools. The program has a professional blues player teach a couple of music classes in elementary schools to help the younger generation gain an appreciation for the genre and bring back a stronger blues following.

Lowry said that venues are needed that will commit to the blues genre and suggested that more mixed genre shows could help keep the genre alive.

Mancini said that businesses need to be willing to adapt and the crowds that were coming out back in the 80's and 90's may no longer feel empowered to come out as much anymore. But music still plays an important role in Albany's culture.

"Music has always been strong in Albany," said Valente.

Music may have a strong presence in Albany, but the blues doesn't compare in popularity to being as appreciated as rock 'n' roll. It may not be as popular in the area, but no other genre is as influential as blues said Mac. It is the base for jazz and rock n roll.

"We work hard at trying to keep it [blues] alive in this area," said Knapik.



"Blues Jam Nights" are held every first Monday night of the month at Pauly's Hotel on Central Ave.

and said that the Albany area is mostly rock 'n' roll based.

"Blues is just a musical art that often takes a back seat to rock bands in this area," said Lowry.

Lowry could play in a rock or tribute band and get plenty of gigs in the area, he said, but he would rather stay true to his passion – the blues. Since it is harder for blues musicians to get bookings in the area, he said that sticking to his passion makes finding a gig difficult. It is unfortunate he said, but it is a reality.

"I don't really even consider myself an Albany musician any longer," said Mac. "I'm just a musician."

Since the passing of the Cabaret Law passed in 2012, Erkkinen said that the music scene in Albany has plummeted.

"It ended any music scene that Albany had enjoyed previously," said Erkkinen. "Now musicians have to hide out or play acoustic as the final nail in the coffin for a lot of music in Albany."

The law allowed only cer-

Cabaret Law. Valente said Bogies primarily featured metal, hardcore, and hip hop bands.

Before the law was passed, east of the Pine Hills, Lark Street, was full of live music. Erkkinen said that bands such as U2, Joan Jett, The Clash, and the Ramones all played on Lark Street, including the "jazz greats from the 20's" that would come visit from the City to jam and take a mini-vacation. Since the city common council has final say as to whether or not a business can have a license to play live music, and they take into consideration a building's surroundings, Lark Street businesses are typically not granted a license because they are in close proximity to residential areas.

"The music scene before the 2000's on Lark Street was outstanding," said Erkkinen. "Lots of music happened, and it's missed."

Mac said that these days he rarely finds himself playing in Albany.

"From when I started in the

the area as possible, but Knapik said since they are nonprofit, they have to be mindful of their spending.

Although the Albany area may be rock-based, an interest in the blues community appears to increase as the network attracts new membership. Knapik said that compared to when she first started, the network had about half the current number of members it has today.

"The Capital Region Blues Network has done a wonderful job with educating and spreading blues awareness to musicians and fans in this area," said Lowry.

As a young blues lover herself, Knapik said that the crowds gathering at the blues jams are blues lovers of all ages. Mac agreed, and said usually the crowd at Pauly's during blues jam is filled with die hard blues fans. But Erkkinen with an outsider's perspective who has attended the jams, said that the people at the events are usually just the musicians creating a

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Marilyn Manson in Gun Conversation Again

By ELIZABETH VALENTIN
Arts Editor

It is not unlike Marilyn Manson to create controversy, but his most recent actions at a concert in San Bernardino were taken negatively. During a concert in this city, Manson pointed a fake gun at the audience.

The actions taken by Manson on stage in San Bernardino came two years after there was a mass shooting in the city and only hours after the most recent mass shooting in Texas.

Manson released a statement regarding his decision to make this move on stage, which said: "In an era where mass shootings have become a nearly daily occurrence, this was an act of theater in an attempt to make a statement about how easily accessible semi-automatic weapons are and how seeing them has become normalized."

The statement went on to explain that his music and performances have always been a reaction to pop culture and that his goal has always been to make people think about the atrocities that happen in the world. He explained that he did not mean to disrespect anyone by this and sent out empathy to those affected by a "real guns." He also explained that he did receive permission from police officers to use the fake gun on stage.

This is not the first time that Manson has been brought into the conversation surrounding mass shootings. When the Columbine school shooting took place, he was involuntarily

brought into the conversation when people began to make connections between his music and the shootings. He was accused of influencing these shooters through his violent music.

In "Bowling for Columbine," a documentary by Michael Moore, Manson spoke about the blame that he and his music were being given. "I definitely can see why they picked me, because it's easy to throw my face on a TV because I'm, in the end, a poster boy for fear."

In this documentary he also talked about the fact that after the Columbine shooting, there were two topics of conversation, which were gun control and entertainment. He didn't find it surprising that entertainment would be the focal point following the shooting because no one wanted to talk about gun control.

While he was unwillingly brought into the conversation after the Columbine shooting, he willingly entered the conversation through his actions on stage in San Bernardino.

While most people have shown negative reactions to Manson's most recent performance, there is also an argument made that people have become more outraged by this performance that the growing number of mass shootings and acts of gun violence.

This may yet again be an example of the way in which people are more outraged and willing to demonize entertainers than they are to talk about gun control, which was pointed out by Manson in the 1990s.

What's the Deal with Kiwis?

By KAYLA DEMICCO
Staff Writer

Harry Styles started teasing fans for his "Kiwi" video by posting a picture of himself standing with a diverse group of elementary school children. In the picture, a few kids are wearing Gucci suits that look like the ones that Styles himself would wear on stage. The next photo he posted was a portrait of a girl with long brown hair (similar style to what he had prior to cutting it) named Beau, who is the main focus of the video. The day the video dropped, Styles had cupcakes passed out to the fans waiting in line for his concert in Amsterdam.

A disclaimer in the beginning states: "no children or animals were harmed during the making of this film," and the song starts. While walking into a school building, Beau wears a customized, floral blue, Gucci suit and carries a container full of cupcakes through the hall. The next scene shows the kids from the picture competitively staring each other down with cupcakes in their hands. In the room that these kids are in, there is a huge pile of various baked good and sweets in the center of them all. The kids look as if they are shouting at each other and crushing the cupcakes in their hand. Beau walks into the room, takes two cupcakes out of the container, and throws one at a kid in a floral yellow suit.

All the kids start throwing

their cupcakes at each other and using the icing as "war paint" on their faces. Beau realizes that she doesn't have anymore cupcakes in her container and in slow motion, runs to the pile of sweets while the other kids continue to throw their cupcakes. She takes from the pile and crawls away with cake in her hand and the other kids head to the pile to stock up. After the bridge of the song, Harry then walks in wearing the same suit as Beau and a golden lab puppy in his arms and leads more puppies in the room. Harry and Beau take shelter from the food fight behind some chairs and desk and share a cupcake. The video ends with everyone after the food fight standing with each other as if they were going to take a group photo. Harry and Beau stand in the center of the group and the camera zooms in on the two of them and he does a quick smirk before it cuts off.

Fans took to social media after watching the video with confusion and trying to figure out the connection between the lyrics and the video. When the song first came out, it was speculated that the song was about a hook-up because of the line, "I'm having your baby, it's none of your business," but the video just doesn't seem to tie with lyrics. Despite not knowing the connection, fans are grateful that Styles didn't make the video raunchy and sexual like the song and instead took a cute and playful turn on it. They joked that the



Former One Direction member, Harry Styles, has released the new video for his song "Kiwi"

video was a combination of the World War II movie, Dunkirk, which he acted in and was released over the summer, and the fact that he used to work in bakery before 1D.

Because of this song, fans have been bringing Kiwis to his shows and throwing them at him. Before he performed on Saturday Night Live back in April, fans were passing out Kiwis to people in line because of the suspicion he would be performing that song. A UK supermarket, called ASDA, has banned people under the age of 25 from purchasing kiwis after the incident of Styles almost slipping on a kiwi slice on stage.

Styles has always been about promoting positivity and equality and his motto for his merch is "Treat People With Kindness" and encourages fans to bring rainbow flags.

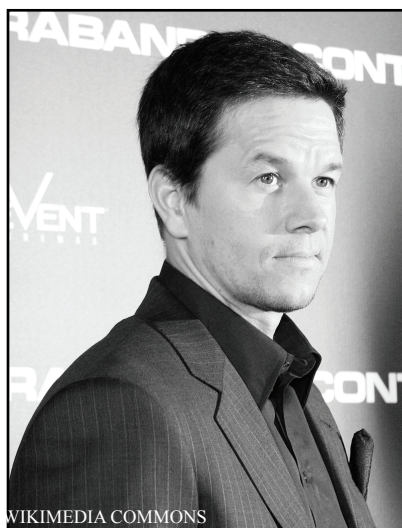
"Daddy's Home 2" A Sequel Miracle

By JACKSON MURPHY
Staff Writer

"Daddy's Home" was released in 2015 was a pleasant surprise: some great one-liners, hilarious gags (Will Ferrell's half court shot is a classic), and he and Mark Wahlberg were terrific together. Since sequels often underwhelm or completely fail in comparison to the original. I went into "Daddy's Home 2" with rather low expectations. I'd already sat through four or five different trailers over the past six months, showing (what I thought would be) practically the entire movie and the material wasn't strong.

Well, it's a Christmas Movie Miracle that a studio finally decided to save all the good stuff for the actual film. "Daddy's Home 2" is smarter and funnier than its predecessor and one of the best times I've had at the movies all year. Yes, it's way over-the-top and often just plain ludicrous. But, bottom-line: I laughed, a lot. Credit goes to returning director Sean Anders (who also co-wrote the script) and the all-star ensemble.

Brad (Ferrell) and Dusty (Wahlberg) are still doing the "co-dad" thing, and it's all going pretty smoothly. That is until their own dads visit for Christmas. Brad's father Don (played by John Lithgow) is the fun-loving Pop Pop. Dusty's dad (who he hasn't seen in



Mark Wahlberg and Will Ferrell star in "Daddy's Home 2"

five years) is the feisty Grandpa Kurt (Mel Gibson). Gibson landed the role just after he earned a Best Director Oscar nomination for his WWII drama "Hacksaw Ridge." He may not seem like the right fit for a holiday family comedy, but you can tell he's having a blast and his firecracker energy is infectious.

"Daddy's Home 2" is basically a series of vignettes involving the three blended families, all together in a vacation home, the week leading-up to Christmas. This is almost the exact same structure as the current "A Bad Moms Christmas." That sequel relies on being raunchy to generate laughs, lacking any level of genuine humor. "Daddy's Home 2" has just enough of an edge and while it does go overboard, the writing is so much sharper. The quick, sarcastic, understated, straightforward deliv-

eries very much present in the first "Daddy's Home" are even more of a gift here, as Lithgow, Gibson and John Cena (who only had a cameo last time) are right at "home" with comic vets Ferrell and Wahlberg.

There are about two dozen separate set-ups, and most of them hit the mark. A few highlights: putting up the outdoor Christmas decorations (Ferrell gives Clark Griswold a run for his money), the kids meeting Santa, a night out bowling and the families participating in a live Nativity scene.

Holiday movies typically end with a song or a "true meaning of Christmas" speech, and here we get both, in a unique setting that, well, just makes perfect sense. We're still a few weeks from Thanksgiving, so consider "Daddy's Home 2" your first gift of the holiday season.

Led Zeppelin IV turns 46

By ETHAN HERZINGER
Staff Writer

British hall of famers Led Zeppelin celebrated the release of their monumental 1971 LP "Led Zeppelin IV," commonly referred to as "IV."

Zeppelin wanted to strike back with full force like they did previously with their debut and "Led Zeppelin II," back in 1969. They wanted to prove the critics wrong since they released "Led Zeppelin III," which got lukewarm reviews but has overtime aged like fine wine, and is ranked up in most fans lists as their great albums.

Recording sessions took place in December of 1970 at Basing Street Studios in London, the same studio that Jethro Tull was recording Aqualung. Upon the recommendation of Fleetwood Mac, the band moved production to Headley Grange, an estate in East Hampshire, England to record additional songs. The estate's structure is famous for helping drummer John Bonham get the signature kick drum in the masterful closing track "When The Levee Breaks."

The album has gone on to receive massive praise and legacy, and is regarded as the band's most recognizable album. The album also spawned the band's most well known songs including "Black Dog," "Rock and Roll," and "Going to California." The LP also

features a duet titled "The Battle Of Evermore" which has singer Sandy Denny sharing vocals.

After 46 years since its release, the album still holds strong. Mojo magazine ranked it number 24 on their list of the greatest albums of all time, and that was back in 1996. It ranks 69th on Rolling Stone's greatest albums of all time as of 2012.

There will never be a band like Led Zeppelin again. With Robert Plant's god like vocals, Jimmy Page's masterful guitar work, John Paul Jones on Bass, and, may he rest in peace, John Bonham on drums, the band was a force to be reckoned with and should not be taken lightly. It may have been a long and lonely time since it's been released, but Led Zeppelin IV will be talked about by music lovers forever.

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“Orient Express” An Uneven Ride

BY JACKSON MURPHY
Staff Writer

“Murder on the Orient Express” is based on the iconic Agatha Christie novel, which was turned into a film in 1974 that earned six Oscar nominations and a Best Supporting Actress win for Ingrid Bergman. The best chance this new adaptation has for an Oscar nom may be for Makeup and Hairstyling - simply for the incredible mustache worn by Kenneth Branagh’s Detective Poirot.

Branagh not only has the starring role, as “probably the greatest detective in the world” - a title Poirot gives to himself - but he’s also the director of this remake. He incorporates some cool camera angles in the cramped quarters of the train - peering down into tight spaces from overhead, playing with mirrors, and keeping you locked-in on Poirot’s searing blue eyes.

Outside of those elements, there isn’t a whole lot of intrigue attached to this “Orient Express” journey, which is a shame considering this is a “who-done-it” with a highly accomplished all-star cast. The set-up is simple: It’s the mid-



Penelope Cruz is one of the stars of “Orient Express”

1930s. A random group of 13 passengers board a train traveling from Turkey to France. Early in the trip one of them is murdered in his cabin. And it’s up to Poirot to solve the crime.

Unfortunately the murder doesn’t take place before a long, early exchange between Branagh and Johnny Depp (who plays Mr. Ratchett, the victim). This scene is so low-key I felt like needed to find a sleeper car.

And things don’t get much better once the investigation begins. At one point Poirot

abruptly reveals a fact that comes from so far out of left field that it destroys any fun the audience might have in playing along with clues - and confusion lingers throughout the rest of the film.

Each of the suspects gets his/her interrogation scene, giving Michelle Pfeiffer, Judi Dench, Willem Dafoe, Penelope Cruz, Josh Gad and Daisy Ridley obligatory screen time. None stand-out and provide no inspiration to make you care which one is the murderer. And as for the big reveal at the end, it not only leaves you dry, but with a huge question thanks to a major flaw in the script.

This is a good looking film: costumes, majestic mountain scenery (though it’s mostly digital) and Pfeiffer sings a song during the end credits. But as a compelling murder mystery, this express is way off track.

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Taylor Swift’s Damaged “Reputation”

By ELIZABETH VALENTIN
Arts Editor

After a story was released on PopFront, an online political magazine, claiming that Taylor Swift and her music promote white supremacy, Swift’s legal team sent the magazine’s editor, Meghan Herning, a cease and desist letter, which threatened a lawsuit if the article was not taken down. The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) then sent Swift and her team a letter, which said that the article would not be taken down and that Swift and her team were infringing upon PopFront’s freedom of speech.

Now, let’s break this down. The story on PopFront titled “Swiftly to the alt-right: Taylor subtly gets the lower case kkk in formation” provides criticism of Swift through its political commentary. The article suggests that white supremacists are influenced by Swift.

The article in part reads “the idea that Taylor Swift is an icon of white supremacists, nationalists, and other fringe groups, seems to finally be getting mainstream attention.” The article compares Swift to Adolf Hitler and calls her a Trump supporter.

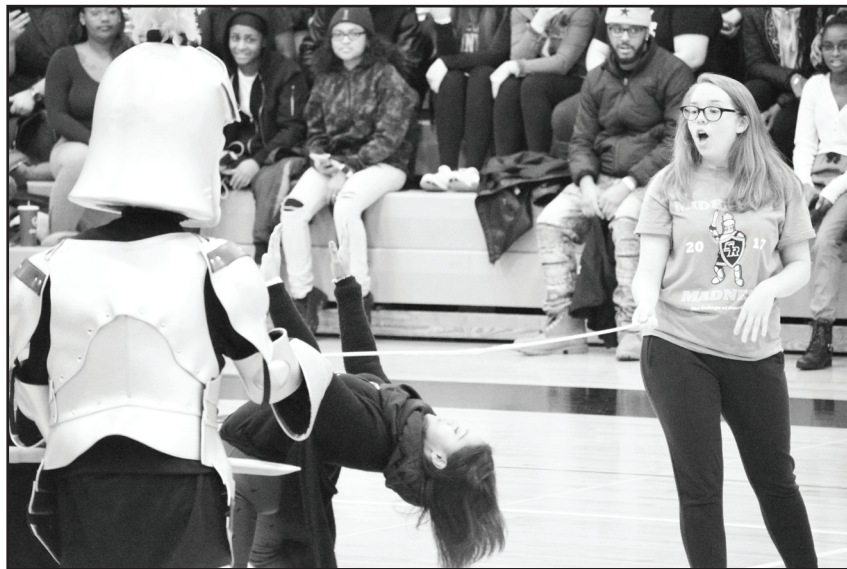
It also analyzes some of her song lyrics in a way that can be used as argument that connect and resonate with whites. The article goes on to argue that Swift’s lyrics validate the opinions and stances of “angry white people about a black

president” and that “these lyrics became the voice of the lower case kkk.”

A month after this story was posted, Herning received the cease and desist letter from Swift and her legal team demanded “that PopFront immediately issue a retraction of a provably false and defamatory story about Ms. Swift.” The letter explained all the falsehoods that Swift and her team alleged were imbedded in the story posted, explaining that the story was responsible for the defamation of Swift’s reputation.

The letter threatened PopFront with a lawsuit if the story was not removed. It provided a list of steps that the online magazine needed to take in order to meet their requests. The letter said, “Should PopFront not immediately take these steps, Ms. Swift is prepared to proceed with litigation.”

When Herning received this letter, she reached out to the ACLU, who then sent a letter to Swift and her team. “Ms. Herning and PopFront will not in any way accede to your attempt to suppress their constitutionally protected speech,” the letter stated. It went on to say that the story commented on current politics and the rise of white supremacy. The letter went on to say “Criticism is never pleasant, but a celebrity has to shake it off, even if the critique may damage her reputation.” It still unclear if legal action will be taken on either side.



Midnight Madness

Photos by Kate Pierce



The Complexities of a Constitutional Convention

By **BRIANA SPINA**
Staff Writer

Anyone who voted in New York State last Tuesday had the option to vote on a ballot measure known as Proposition One—whether or not to hold a constitutional convention. A yes vote would open up our state constitution to amendments via a convention that would take place in 2019. Voters would elect a total of 204 delegates to attend the convention. A no vote assures business as usual.

The vote for a constitutional convention only comes every 20 years, and the national political climate had an influence on voters' decisions. For once, however, this was not a partisan issue. There was opposition from Planned Parenthood, and well as anti-abortion organizations. There was support from the Republican minority leader of the state assembly, Brian Kolb, and Evan Davis, a counsel to former Democratic governor Mario Cuomo.

Still not sure why this is such a big deal? Don't worry: I wasn't sure for a while either. But through research, I have learned that the risks and benefits of a constitutional convention are weighty, making for a tough decision. Though we will not have another chance to vote on this for another two decades, it is vital to understand what New Yorkers have secured and avoided by voting it down.

A major concern of the constitutional convention came from labor unions. They worried that this could be an opportunity to weaken their rights to collective bargaining and restrict pensions. The unions formed a group called New

Yorkers Against Corruption, and their website details what else could have potentially been left vulnerable if the constitutional convention passed, such as public education funding and environmental regulations. With a conservative and unpredictable White House, unions did not want to put at risk the rights that have been established in our state constitution since the 1930s.

They along with all of the other anti-constitutional convention forces spent millions of dollars to spread the word. Their concerns over their rights were valid; however, they used Trump-esque scare tactics to get support. Regardless of whether voters fell for Trump's unfounded populist rhetoric last year, they were swayed to vote against the constitutional convention in a similar way. Conservatives feared that a constitutional convention would swing the state farther left, and liberals feared the opposite. Where are the facts in this, though? Essentially anyone could be elected as a delegate for the convention, and in turn, voters will have the final say of whether or not the proposed changes to the constitution will pass. It is the unsubstantiated 'what ifs' that caused people across the political spectrum to collectively vote against it, for they deemed it easier to deal with the status quo than disrupt it and allow for changes they don't want.

Supporters of the constitutional convention argue that this disruption is exactly what New York needs. Corruption scandals have become commonplace in Albany, and the convention could have been a chance for constituents to effect rapid reform. By voting

no, New York may have missed a chance to attack the core of government corruption. It was an opportunity to enact term limits for politicians, campaign finance regulations, and implement other ethics laws that would combat the "three men in a room" style of governing that has been hindering progress.

This, however, was not a guarantee. Though voters would have a hand in the process of electing delegates, it would be entirely possible that big money and lobbyists could weasel their people into the convention and shut down reform efforts. Establishment insiders and political families could also gain influence and take selfish advantage of this rare occasion. As Andrew Cuomo, Governor of New York, said earlier this month, "If we're going to have a convention of the current elected officials to rewrite the Constitution, that defeats the purpose." In addition, New York's notorious gerrymandering could lead to a panel of delegates who don't actually represent what the majority of constituents want (see: 2016 presidential election). Would it be wise, then, for New Yorkers to lay their founding document on the operating table when the surgeons may very well be uninformed organ harvesters?

Further, the convention panel could have lumped all of the propositions together on the ballot, meaning that voters would have to decide on all of them at once, regardless of how the propositions were or were not related to one another. Such is what happened during the last convention, held in 1967: a ban on gerrymandering was paired with a repeal of the ban

on taxpayer dollars funding religious schools. The former was a progressive, anti-corruption strategy, and the latter was a violation of the separation between church and state. It ended up being voted down because voters were faced with one issue that they just could not endorse; therefore, the convention was a waste of time and taxpayer money.

A constitutional convention in 2019 would have cost anywhere from \$50 million to \$100 million out of our pockets. There is no secure way to tell whether or not this money will be going to people who genuinely want what is best for our state, or going to the Albany goons who New Yorkers feel have taken advantage of them enough already.

A constitutional convention also is not the only way for constitutional reform to happen in New York. The process already in place is much slower than a convention would be, which has its pros and cons. The time it takes, two successive legislatures, allows for more careful deliberation, but the long grueling process can be frustrating to constituents who want immediate action. This year, there were two amendments up for vote that were brought about using this process, and over 200 total amendments have been proposed in the same way.

Despite the success, there are certain issues that require immediate attention and cannot exactly wait four years to go through the legislative process. For example, access to affordable higher education could have potentially been secured in the New York constitution had there been a convention. The student loan bub-

ble is widely considered to be the next one to pop. To put this into context, recall the housing bubble pop of the late 2010s. I say "late 2010s" instead of "2008" because it was not just that one year that lead America into a recession: the housing bubble was years in the making, and when the pop began, it was a mere two years before the situation became a full-blown crisis. With the increasing number of Americans attending college—and thus the increasing number of Americans taking out student loans—on top of the fact that a bachelor's degree takes four years to complete, this pop is going to be a big one. A constitutional convention could have allowed quicker action to soften the impact of this impending financial crisis on New Yorkers. The regular amendment process could start now, but would not be completed until current and future students have four years' worth of student loans on their plates, and the bubble may already have popped by then.

To reiterate, New Yorkers have decided against the constitutional convention, which has left our basic rights secure, but also avoided the possibility for a reform that legislators would not pass otherwise. It was a complex issue, one we will not be able to vote on for another two decades. My hope is that people who voted against the convention will find ways to enact just change, and that people who voted for the convention will be by their side. Convention or no convention, we won't get anything done if we stick to divisive tactics.

Free Meek Mill

By **BRIANNA ROBLES**
Staff Writer

Well-known rapper, Meek Mill, has recently been sentenced to two to four years in Philadelphia's state prison for violating probation. There is the argument that this sentence is unjustified. In 2008, the rapper was arrested for drug and gun possession and was put on probation for these charges.

This year, however, he was caught popping wheelies on his dirt bike to impress some young children and "getting into a fight," which led Philadelphia's judge to bestow upon him these charges. He was processed at the Pennsylvania State Correctional Institute in Montgomery County and was pictured in his mugshot wearing a yellow jumpsuit, which is worn by new inmates at the jail.

Many celebrities have spoken publicly about Mill's sentencing and it has brought about discussion and uproar about criminal justice reform. On Nov 6, Jay-Z, tweeted, "The sentence handed down by the Judge -- against the recommendation of the Assistant District



Mill and Nicki Minaj, at Minaj's "Pinkprint" tour in Paris

Attorney and Probation Officer -- is unjust and heavy handed. We will always stand by and support Meek Mill, both as he attempts to right this wrongful

sentence and then in returning to his musical career." He even took to one of his shows to publicly express his disgust for the case.

Kevin Hart, famous comedian, also took to Instagram to speak on the topic and bring attention to the situation. He argues that the sentencing given to Mill was "personal" and "not fair." He believes the judge used this as a payback method because he has countless asked for shoutouts and to be featured on one of Mill's records and Mill declined. A petition was created in order to get the case reevaluated by the judge while the hashtags #FreeMeekMill and #Justice4Meek continue to trend on social media outlets.

I personally, have never been a fan of the judicial system in America. I never understood how young black boys can do years in jail for misdemeanors, but rapists and cops who kill these young black boys, can cheat the system and get off with "paid leave." Growing up in America and knowing people who were wrongfully sentenced for years, I saw firsthand how the system tries to work against people of color; not only black men, but black women as well.

Mill has been on probation for about 11 years for misdemeanors. The case needs to

be looked into because breaking probation three times in 11 years by doing minor things is actually not bad. As far as I know, the three times he broke his probation shouldn't even be considered. The fight that he was supposedly involved in was a misunderstanding, he was actually breaking up a fight, but of course the judge decided to use that against him.

This man literally cannot do anything without someone being on his back. What makes it worse is the fact that he is a celebrity. All of Mill's mistakes and failures are highlighted in the media and therefore, he does not get a break. Someone always has an opinion on how he lives his life. Also, his mistakes are constantly brought up in order for media outlets to profit.

When I think about it, I question if these media outlets are really rooting for Mill to be released from jail. If you think about it, why would someone want a source of income to stop? I am rooting for Mill and I hope everything works in his favor because he doesn't deserve to be treated like this.

Votes for Diversity are Votes for Progress

By **BRIANA SPINA**
Staff Writer

The day after Election Day 2016 was crushing. The day after Election Day 2017 was invigorating.

All across the United States, historic victories were achieved, proving that the people want progress and will mobilize to enact change. The voters have spoken, and in doing so, they have disrupted the same old white, cisgender, heterosexual, male images that have been so predominant in government, especially now on Capitol Hill.

Victory #1: Andrea Jenkins, the first black transgender woman elected to public office in America, won a seat on the Minneapolis City Council. Jenkins has been an advocate for transgender equality, and believes that the blind hatred of some is outweighed by the strength and support of others.

“As an African-American trans-identified woman, I know firsthand the feeling of being marginalized, left out, thrown under the bus,” said Jenkins in her acceptance speech. “Those days are over. We don’t just want a seat at the table, we want to set the table.”

Victory #2: Danica Roem, a transgender woman, was elected to Virginia’s House of Delegates. She is the first ever openly trans person to hold a position in a United States statehouse. What makes this even better is that she beat out Robert G. Marshall, a long-time incumbent and self-declared “chief homophobe.” Marshall had also proposed a bill earlier this year to restrict the rights of transgender individuals using the bathroom of their choice, and he also refused to use Roem’s proper pronouns. In the wake of her victory, Roem declared “Discrimination is a disqualifier,” and that her constituents have shown Marshall what the consequences of bigotry are.

Victory #3: Many communities have elected their first African-American women in

specific leadership positions: Sheila Oliver, lieutenant governor of New Jersey, Vi Lyles, mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina, Yvonne Spicer, first ever mayor of the newly declared city of Framingham, Massachusetts, Mary Parham Cope-lan, mayor of Milledgeville, Georgia, and Mazahir Salih, the first Sudanese-American of the Iowa City Council.

Victory #4: African-American men enjoyed several historic victories as well. Justin Fairfax, lieutenant governor of Virginia and the second African-American to win a statewide election there. Several cities have elected their first black mayors: Melvin Carter of St. Paul, Minnesota, Jonathan McCollar of Statesboro, Georgia, Booker Gainor of Cairo, Georgia, and Brendon Barber of Georgetown, South Carolina.

Victory #5: Two winners from last week’s elections were refugees. Wilmot Collins of Helena, Montana came to America 23 years ago from Liberia. He will become the second ever black mayor of both the city as well as the state of Montana. Kathy Tran became the first Asian American woman elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, and she came to America as a Vietnamese refugee when she was a baby.

Victory #6: Four Latina women became the firsts for their respective positions. Elizabeth Guzman and Hala Ayala, Virginia House of Delegates. Janet Diaz, city council member in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Cathy Murillo, mayor of Santa Barbara, California.

Victory #7: More victories for the LGBTQ+ community. Lisa Middleton was elected to the city council of Palm Springs, and she is the first transgender person in California to be elected to a non-judicial office. Tyler Titus became the first transgender person ever elected in the state of Pennsylvania. He was elected to the Erie School Board. Jenny Durkan of Seattle, Washington will become the city’s first openly lesbian mayor. Further,



Last week, Andrea Jenkins became the first black transgender woman ever elected to public office.

she will be the first female mayor in almost a century.

Victory #8: More shattering of the glass ceiling. Though the city of Manchester in New Hampshire has been around for 266 years and is the largest city in the state, there has never been a female mayor until this year when Joyce Craig won the election. Also, Nassau County, New York has elected Laura Curran, its first female county executive.

Victory #9: Hoboken, New Jersey elected Ravinder Bhalla, its first Sikh mayor. His opponents used darkly prejudiced flyers against him that accused him of being a terrorist.

On Nov 8 of last year, many Americans felt a deep sense of dread when they saw the headline of who would be our next president. Nov 8 of this year is proof that progress has not died in spite of the troubling words that continuously pop up in our *New York Times* notifications.

Diverse voices in politics are what this country desperately needs right now, and these elections have brought us closer to that goal. There is

not much we can do about the homogenous nature of the extreme White House at the moment, but bringing diversity to a local level is vital and will be beneficial. It proves that America is not an oligarchy, and that Washington DC only has so much influence. Just look back at how many local judges blocked Trump’s Muslim ban, which proved that a community’s opinions do not have to conform to those of the President. If he will not support diversity, then we, the voters, can, as we proved last week.

We need teams of diverse people, not one token minority in a room of majorities.

Americans need representatives who actually represent who we are. The majority of us aren’t upper class, able-bodied, cisgender, heterosexual white men. Why should they be the majority of the ones who make decisions for us when they’ve never seen half of what we have seen? This is not to suggest that we overthrow every member of the government who falls under that category. But it’s time we take action to vary it up. Diverse voices will bring new issues to light in the government and provide new insight on old issues.

When cisgender people talk about bathroom rights, they don’t have that first-hand experience of being denied access and therefore cannot fully grasp the significance of allowing or forbidding transgender individuals to exist freely in a public space. With representatives like Jenkins and Roem in the discussion, more depth will be added to the topic and ideally, more progress will be made. White politicians don’t have the proper agency to discuss racism and come up with policies among themselves: people of color must lead those conversations, and now that many cities have elected more nonwhite officials, these discussions can take place and be more productive.

Outside of productivity, though, diversity in politics gives underrepresented people hope. Finally, communities see themselves reflected in the government. The power dynamics of whiteness and maleness in control over non-whiteness and non-maleness cannot survive when the roles are reversed.

Even in local areas, minority figures in power sends a message that power can also look like this. Power can be black. Power can be gay. Power can be Latina. Power can be transgender. Power can be female. Power can be any combination of these and more.

A little over a year ago, when Hillary Clinton became the first female candidate of a major political party, I cried because someone like me was fighting the patriarchy in the biggest way possible. Even so, she did not represent all of me. She was still a heterosexual, upper class person. Furthermore, she didn’t represent my fellow Americans in the transgender community, women of color, non-Christians, or people with disabilities. This does not make her an inherently bad person or a threat to progress, but it is vital to remember that one status-quo-breaking quality does not equal the solution to the lack of diversity. We need teams of diverse people, not one token minority in a room of majorities, and we need people who fall under multiple minority categories to foster an intersectional approach to government.

Tuesday’s election results should be undoubtedly celebrated, but as landmark as these victories were, they are not yet enough. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was once asked when she believed that there would be enough female Supreme Court Justices, an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, to which she responded, “When there are nine.” She emphasized that there have been nine male justices and no one batted an eye, so the shock value rendered by her answer proves the double standard. Opening this up to all minorities, there will only be “enough” of them represented in office when they are on truly equitable ground with the non-minority representatives.

As much as the firsts of this election have proved that Americans are ready for change, it also proves how dreadfully long we have operated under sameness. Let’s continue to challenge the norms, but let’s try harder than we ever had before so the majority figures will have no choice but to accept the beautiful diversity that comprises our country.



Ravinder Bhalla became the first Sikh mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey.

Saint Rose Stays Perfect in Win Over Molloy

By **LOGAN RIPLEY**
Sports Editor

The Saint Rose men's basketball team used a strong run in the first half to regain the lead from Molloy and never looked back.

The Golden Knight defeated the lions 86-75 on Sunday, behind senior Julian Lipinski's 22 points on 8-for-10 shooting from the floor. Lipinski also grabbed career high 12 boards, two coming at the offensive end.

Down 8-0 early in the first Saint Rose was getting beat in all areas.

One glaring issue was the fifty-fifty balls, which allowed Molloy more possessions to score.

But quick thinking by the veteran coaching staff for Saint Rose turned the tides of the game.

After a made basket Saint Rose switched to full court press that confused the Lions for multiple possessions.

Turning the ball over and taking rushed shots fell right into the game plan for the Golden Knights, allowing them to capitalize on the sloppy play by their counterparts.

"When we changed to our trapping zone I thought that really energized us," said Interim Head Coach Mike Perno. "Once we started attacking them defensively and figured out what they were trying to do, our offense fed off it."

Fed they did, as the Golden Knights couldn't be stopped for a 6 minute span toward the end of the first half.

A flurry of threes from the Australian seniors Lipinski and Jack Jones led the charge.

A few seconds later Lipinski would convert a three point play followed by another Jones triple.

Lipinski called his teammate with another deep three putting Molloy on their heels.

A missed shot by the Lions allowed freshman guard Adam Anderson to get down the court quick to convert a layup.

The drought continued for Molloy and the threes kept raining for Saint Rose when senior guard Jamal Greenwood capped the 24-3 run with a triple of his own around three minutes left in the first half, then up 39-24.

At the break up 43-31, Lipinski led the way with 17 points and 9 rebounds, while Jones contributed 8 points off the bench in 16 minutes.

"I just wanted to be aggressive and be the guy that is the problem for them," said Lipinski. "I was trying to be relentless and I think it helps with scoring when you're getting a lot of rebounds. That was the mentality, just attack them."

In the second half Saint Rose looked more like themselves with a balanced scoring attack and team defense that kept the lead comfortable

throughout the end phases of the game.

"Balance has always been something that we've been successful with in the past," said Perno. "And I thought that we had some break out performances by some of the younger guys, who we need lifts from, and having balance makes you that much more difficult to guard."

After only playing five minutes in the first half due to foul trouble, senior Matt Cerutti tripled his minutes in the second. Scoring 11 points and going 5-for-6 from the floor, Cerutti showed a keen ability to put the ball on the floor and get to the basket.

"He scores the ball in a variety of ways, he can shoot it, can get to the rim, he gets to the foul line," said Perno. "So I thought he really picked us up in the second half."

Cerutti also added 7 rebounds in the second, leading Saint Rose.

Another strong performer in the second half was Anderson, who logged 13 minutes.

He showcased poise at the guard position which translated to 4-for-6 from the floor and 11 points in the second alone.

"He makes his freshman mistakes but he's just so talented," said Lipinski. "He makes plays on his own and he makes shots."

There's a reason why he starts as a freshman, because we trust in his talent."

Anderson wound up with 15 points for the game to go along with 6 rebounds.

Other key performers were junior guard Shane Herrity, who had 13 points on 4-for-8 shooting and 4 assists.

Sophomore guard Michael Wearne added 11 points on 4-for-6 shooting and 4 assists for Saint Rose.

On the other side, sophomore guard Nolan Kelly scored 20 points and junior guard Curtis Jenkins put in 18 points for Molloy.

After playing back to back games Perno said his team will take the time to rest before their quick turnaround.

They will do a lot of non-contact practices before

their matchup Wednesday away against Southern Connecticut State, November 15 at 7:30 p.m.

"We'll do a lot of film study as a staff to try and get ready for Wednesday's game," said Perno. "Thursday will be a light one as well, mostly classroom sessions with some shooting and a little bit of sweating."

The Saint Rose Golden Knights improve to 2-0 on the season while the Molloy Lions drop to 0-2.

Saint Rose first win came against Caldwell University, Saturday Nov. 11, downing them 74-56 behind Herrity's 20 points and Lipinski's 17.



Lipinski scored 17 of his 22 points in the first half.

Golden Knights Rundown

By **DAVID MEISTER**
Staff Writer

Wrapping up the regular season was the women's volleyball team. Last Friday they had a match against the Southern New Hampshire Penmen. They were defeated three sets to two (26-24, 25-20, 18-25, 21-25, 9-15). The Golden Knights staked out a commanding two sets to nothing lead but the Penmen didn't back down and managed to come back to take the win. Leading the way for Saint Rose was senior middle hitter Maddy Halverson with 12 kills. They looked to close out the season with a win against the Franklin Pierce Ravens but were upended, losing three sets to one (25-16, 21-25, 18-25, 29-31). Three members of the team had a strong outing in the season finale, recording double digit kill totals. Leading the way was sophomore outside hitter Stevie Schweitzer with 14 kills, followed by junior middle hitter Shayna Webber with 11 and freshman outside hitter Graciela Cruz with 10. The team finishes the season with a record of 12-17 and will look to better that mark next fall.

Next up is the kickoff to the men's basketball regular season. The Golden Knights were competing in the Saint Rose Tip-Off Tournament. It began last Saturday against the Caldwell Cougars where the Knights came out victorious 74-56. The scoring department was led by junior guard Shane Herrity with

a career high 20 points. Saint Rose dictated play for most of the match, as the Cougars led at only one point in the game until the Golden Knights went on a 17-2 run to close it out. They looked to ride that momentum into Sunday against the Molloy Lions where they took the win 86-75. Senior forward Julian Lipinski led Saint Rose with a double-double, scoring 22 points and grabbing 12 rebounds. Saint Rose will look to extend their start to 3-0 when they take on the Southern Connecticut State Owls on Wednesday in New Haven.

Also kicking off their regular season was the women's basketball team who were competing in the Georgian Court Invitational in Lakewood, New Jersey over

the weekend. On Saturday they took on the Concordia Clippers where they won 61-43. Sophomore guard Courtney Clasen had a strong outing with 23 points on the day. The team had an all around productive day, shooting 40 percent from the floor. They looked to start the season 2-0 against the host Georgian Court Lions on Sunday which they did in dramatic fashion, winning 76-74. The Golden Knights came back from 10 points down with four minutes to go in the fourth-quarter to take the win. Sophomore forward Leah Dollard led Saint Rose with 16 points and nine rebounds for the game. The team will now enter conference action, and will also travel to take on the Southern Connecticut State Owls on Wednesday.

Upcoming Sporting Events

Wednesday, Nov. 15 -

- 5:30 p.m.: Women's Basketball @ Southern Connecticut State
- 7:30 p.m.: Men's Basketball @ Southern Connecticut State

Friday, Nov. 17 -

- 8 p.m.: Men's Basketball @ Dominican

Saturday, Nov. 18 -

- 1:30 p.m.: Women's Basketball vs American International
- 1:30 p.m.: Women's Swimming & Diving vs Le Moyne
- 1:30 p.m.: Men's Swimming & Diving vs Le Moyne
- 6 p.m.: Men's Basketball vs Caldwell

Tuesday, Nov. 21 -





- 5:30 p.m.: Women's Basketball vs Pace
- 7:30 p.m.: Men's Basketball vs Pace

The College of Saint Rose

CAREER CENTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Employer Information Tables

Events and Athletics Center, Outside of the Camelot Room | 11am-2pm

<p>Monday, October 30</p> <p>FedEx</p>  <p>Hiring for warehouse positions including package handlers</p>	<p>Tuesday, October 31</p> <p>Center for Disability Services</p>  <p>Where people get better at life</p> <p>Hiring for Teacher Assistants and Direct Support Professionals</p>	<p>Wednesday, November 1</p> <p>The Boys and Girls Club of Albany</p>  <p>BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF ALBANY</p> <p>Hiring for a Youth Development Professional as well as volunteer positions</p>	<p>Thursday, November 2</p> <p>Huntington Learning Center</p>  <p>Huntington LEARNING CENTER</p> <p>Hiring for part-time teachers (especially for math & science)</p>
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