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Top Story > Albany Progressives Mobilize for Upcoming Elections



Amid Sleepy Election Year, Albany Progressive Group Aims to Be A Force in Capital Region Politics for Future

BY LEDGER STAFF – ALBANY BUREAU - ALBANY
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As candidates gear up for the September 13 primary in New York State, Albany progressives are gearing up to become a political force for years to come.

The Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Democratic Club, formed originally in response to the election of Gov. George E. Pataki over liberal icon Mario M. Cuomo and the rise of the Republican U.S. House majority, has been a voice for Albany's progressive community since 1995. This summer, the group has seen a resurgence led by co-chairs Maureen O'Brien and Matthew Peter.

Peter just completed two year-long terms as President of the Albany County Young Democrats, in which he instrumental in the turnaround of the organization into being a sought-after mobilized force for Democratic campaigns across the county.

Their meetings – having taken place at McGeary's and the Midtown Tap and Tea Room – generally have been attended by 50 or more attendees, where speakers have included Albany City Treasurer Katherine M. Sheehan, State Assemblymember Jack McEnery (D-Albany), Albany County Legislator Sandy Gordon (D-Berne), State Senator Neil D. Breslin (D-Delmar), and labor activist Bill Ritchie. It's not a singular Democratic coalition, with Republican candidate Nathan Lebron attending their July meeting, praising the group.

The use of the term, "progressive," is sometimes used as a replacement for "liberal," – even though to be a progressive is not necessarily being a liberal. Progressive politics typically embraces good government, social justice, environmental protections, and ethics in public service.

"The key to good government is proper ethics legislation, without such there is no public trust. County Legislator Horstmyer is absolutely correct in proposing more stringent ethics legislation in order to bring more trust to government," the group said.

An oft-heard criticism of the city's progressive movement is its inability to come together, which was seen in the 2009 mayoral race between Albany Common Council President Shawn Morris and Councilmember Corey Ellis, who were both vying for the same voters to compete against incumbent Gerald D. Jennings. Albany's own version of "Hillary/Obama" damaged Ellis's chances to oust Jennings that year, even though he came within an earshot of winning the Democratic primary.

"While it is still too early for the RFK Democrats to take a position on a potential candidate for Albany mayor in 2013, the situation, which divided the progressive movement in 2009, will not occur again," said the group.

Validation of such a statement comes from O'Brien herself, who stepped aside for her own candidacy in June to allow Noelle Kinsch to challenge Janis Gonzalez and incumbent Brian Scavo in Albany's newly redrawn seventh district. O'Brien had hoped to succeed retiring legislator George Infante, but had been put into the same district as Kinsch, Scavo, and Gonzalez due to the county's redistricting commission's new lines.

The group plans to endorse candidates this fall with particular criteria in respect to being pro-choice, pro-marriage equality, pro-labor, public education, and in support of ethics and campaign finance reform as requirements. •KL

FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

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Fashion – Five Fall Fashion Trends in Five Days
Music – The Best Band You've Never Heard Of



SCREENPRINTING AND EMBROIDERY – PRINTZANDPATTERNZ.COM

Music > Albany

The Best Band You've Never Heard Of

BY RANDY ROSE – ALBANY
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"These guys are fantastic. I'm actually going to pay for their music." That's a direct quote shouted over the loud, complex art rock sounds of Austin, Texas-based indie band The Black and White Years. The four musicians, along with their friend Benny, drove up to perform for their upstate New York fan base, a fan base that grew because of local independent rock station WEQX's support. Booking stops along the way to help pay for the trip, the band, and WEQX, were able to keep the show at Saratoga's Putnam Den free for fans 21 and up, as part of the EQX Coors Light Concert Series. And the boys didn't disappoint.

From the moment they took the stage till the last sweat-drenched note escaped singer Scott Butler's lips, The Black and White Years brought a sound to Saratoga Springs that we didn't know we were missing. With a sound that doesn't easily fit into any convenient descriptive box, the band's music ran the gamut from 70's disco pop to 80's synth-pop to early 90's groove to post-pop indie experimental noise. The live set was louder and more energetic than their studio offerings without sacrificing the balance and complexity of tracks like "Power to Change," "Up!", and "To Modern Science."

To read the rest of Randy Rose's article, visit knickledger.com and more arts and entertainment news. •KL

RENT RETURNS AUGUST 12-14 & 19-21

Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC) Presents "RENT" – SLOCtheater.org – 427 Franklin Street

Business > Technology

No Longer Scrappy, Apple Briefly Becomes Nation's Most Valued Company

BY LEDGER STAFF – ALBANY BUREAU - ALBANY
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A decade of the iPod and four years of the iPhone have made computer manufacturer Apple Inc. (NASDAQ: AAPL) the largest publicly traded company in the United States on Tuesday briefly.

The title, most recently held by energy conglomerate Exxon Mobil (NYSE:XOM), stands to put Apple devotees now officially in the mainstream – whereas Microsoft (NASDAQ:MSFT), which has saw declining share

... due to nearly a decade of missteps by CEO Steve Ballmer, has been steadily trading for approximately \$24 a share with a market capitalization of about \$204 billion.

Apple is currently valued at \$341 billion, compared to Exxon Mobil's \$340 billion. A prime difference between the two companies is the actual amount of revenue. Apple earns roughly \$100 billion annually compared to Exxon Mobil's \$440 billion.

Apple, formed in 1976 in California by now-CEO Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, is currently building a new world headquarters in Cupertino, Calif. to replace its 1993 complex. •KL

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OVER THE EDGE

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9.16.11

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Special Olympics New York

Business > Telecommunications

Can They Hear You Now? Verizon Workers Go On Strike



BY LEDGER STAFF – ALBANY BUREAU - ALBANY
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45,000 Communications Workers of America (CWA) union workers are on strike nationwide after negotiations with telecommunications giant Verizon Communications fell through Saturday evening.

As protesters start rallying up Sunday evening outside Verizon facilities across the nation, CWA workers in Albany, N.Y. – aligned with pro-labor groups such as Capital District Next Generation United – hope that one of the nation’s largest telecom companies will agree with union demands.

Bargaining started in mid June and continued throughout the summer, moving at a snail’s pace until Saturday’s breakdown. The unionized workforce comprises of nearly a quarter of Verizon’s nearly 200,000 employees.

“Verizon is sitting on big assets – it has \$100 billion in revenue and net profits of \$6 billion. Verizon Wireless just paid its parent company and Vodaphone a \$10 billion dividend. Verizon’s executive compensation is sky-high, and Chairman Ivan Seidenberg is paid 300 times what an average worker earns. The top five company executives were paid more than a quarter of a billion dollars over the past four years,” said Candice Johnson, the CWA’s communications director.

Seidenberg, 64, just stepped down as CEO days ago and has been succeeded by Lowell McAdam, the company’s chief operating officer and then-CEO of Verizon Wireless, the unit that – as of late – has brought the fastest growing amount of profit to the company. Seidenberg was known for being one of the few CEOs of a Fortune 500 company to have started from entry-level to become its chief executive.

Verizon, in response to the CWA’s claims, assures customers should not see an impact in service.

“It’s regrettable for our employees and our customers that the Communications Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers have decided to walk away from the table instead of continuing to work through the issues. We will continue to do our part to reach a new contract that reflects today’s economic realities in our wireline business and addresses the needs of all parties. It’s also our intent that under a new contract, Verizon employees will continue to receive competitive pay and benefit programs,” said Marc Reed, Verizon’s vice president for human resources.

If the strike is short, this shouldn’t impact Verizon’s third quarter or new FiOS installations. However, many analysts agree if the strikes goes on for months, it would be detrimental to the company’s finances. • KL



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Stephanie Zlotnick > Fashion

Five Fall Fashion Trends in Five Days



BY STEPHANIE ZLOTNICK – NEW YORK
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While shielding myself from the rainy outdoors and failing to make a dent in my summer reading, I put together some thoughts regarding the upcoming season’s fashion trends...

Last week, I spent about two hours a day walking around New York City for a fashion class. The assignment was to wander around four major NYC neighborhoods and make a photo journal displaying at least five of the trends we notice in stores and on the streets. This is what I saw in Midtown, Soho, the Lower East Side, and the Meatpacking district...

Bows. This season, bows have made a huge impression on the public. Though this playful knot tends to be child-oriented, it has taken over women’s fashion. Bows are all over apparel, hair accessories, and especially shoes. High end brands such as Valentino, Miu Miu, and Fendi have contributed greatly to this trend, but for those of us who are looking for a less expensive shopping experience, stores including American Apparel and various vintage shops also carry beautiful bow-bearing items.

Next, you’ve probably been seeing this trend for quite some time now: lace. The thin, floral material has been all over women’s clothing of any age. Some brands stick to simple, neutral tones, but others including Free People incorporate brighter colors such as yellows and reds for their lace tops, skirts, and dresses. Some designers even incorporate lace into their shoes and accessories, something we haven’t seen much of before.

From a graphic standpoint, stripes are clearly the way to go. Every year, probably since Tommy Hilfiger’s nautical stripes hit stores, stripes make their way into the fashion industry; however, the volume of their presence varies season to season. This season, stripes are HUGE. Figuratively speaking, though, because most stripes on the racks are thin horizontal lines, typically black and white, but sometimes you’ll see another color paired with white. Men, women, and children of all ages are sporting this look on shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, accessories, and even shoes.

Despite the recent intense summer weather (the humidity is killing me), designers are putting forth their innovative fur styles for Fall 2011. Some designers simply include small fur trims in their garments, maybe on a collar or sleeve, while others make entire garments out of fur. Either way, this trend is becoming more and more popular with adult women as we get closer to the fall season. Something new that designers are doing with their fur: color. Though some stick to the fur’s original tint (often various shades of browns), many designers are branching out and dyeing furs of different textures and lengths vibrant reds, blacks, and whites.

Lastly, the color that’s been in our hearts for so long once again finds its way to the stores: nude. Originally, nude popped up in shoe departments in the shape of a pump, but now it’s expanded into the world of jeans, slacks, jackets, tops, dresses, and accessories for men and women of any age. And boy am I glad to know I’m not the only one buying nude pumps and a nude handbag while wearing a nude sundress and nude sandals! (Yes, I did that last week at TJ Maxx – they had a great selection, by the way.)

So, if you really wanna be stylish this fall, go out and get yourself a nude, striped dress with lace and fur trims and a bow on top. Except, maybe don’t do that exact thing. • KL

Ledger Life > Movie Schedule

Aug. 12 – Aug. 18 for Albany Theaters

M – Madison Theater; X – Crossgates; C – Colonie
Parentheses = Matinee. Matinees end at 3 p.m. X, C; 6 p.m. at M, S

- Final Destination 5 (R)**
M – (1215 220 425) 700 935
X – (1200 100 220) 320 500
600 650 830 910 950 1050
1130 1210
C – (100) 330 430 550 700
820 930 1050
- 30 Minutes or Less (R)**
M – (1210 215 420) 710 930
X – (1240 200 300) 420 520
640 740 900 1120
C – (1230 300) 530 800 1030
- Rise / Planet of the Apes (PG13)**
M – (1200 215 430) 705 930
X – (1220 1250 150 300) 440
610 700 750 850 1030 1140
C – (1140 120 220) 410 500
710 750 1040
- Captain America (PG13)**
M – 705 935
X – (1245) 345 645 945
C – (130) 440 810
- Harry Potter 7 (PG13)**
X – (110 210) 400 510 810
1100
C – (1210 300) 340 650 940
1010
- Transformers 3 (PG-13)**
X – (340 940)
- The Smurfs (PG)**
M – (1200 215 430) 700 915
X – (140) 410 710 930 1200
C – (1130 210) 450 730
- Winnie the Pooh (G)**
M – (1215 215 415)
- Horrible Bosses (R)**
M – 700 930
C – (110) 740
- Glee (PG)**
X – (1210 230) 450 710 930
1150
C – (1210 240) 510 740 1010
- The Help (PG-13)**
X – (1200 120) 310 440 630
800 940 1110
C – (1200) 320 640 1000
- Friends with Benefits (R)**
X – 1000
C – 950
- Cowboys & Aliens (PG13)**
M – (135 405) 705 935
X – (130 250) 550 720 840
1130
C – (1220) 310 620 920
- Crazy, Stupid, Love (PG-13)**
C – (1250) 350 720 1020
X – (1230) 330 620 920 1200
- Friends with Benefits (R)**
C – (140) 430 720 1020
- Zookeeper (PG)**
M – (1205 220 435)
C – (1100)
- The Change-Up (R)**
X – (240) 430 530 820 1010
1110
C – (1240) 400 650 94

Lifestyle > The Hollywood Review

The Change-Up



BY CRITIC AT LARGE - GUILDERLAND
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Rated PG-13

It’s an old formula. Trade places with someone. See what their life is really like. And in the process gain a better respect for them and for your own life.

Mark Twain wrote about it in “The Prince and The Pauper”. Mary Rodgers wrote about a mom and daughter who switch bodies magically in “Freaky Friday”. Disney adapted Rodgers book into 2 films and a TV version. Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy even did it oddly enough in a movie called “Trading Places”.

Now its time for a more adult version in “The Change-Up”. Dave Lockwood (Jason Bateman) is a straight-laced lawyer and family man married to Jamie (Leslie Mann). His lifelong friend Mitch Planko (Ryan Reynolds) is a single, sometimes employed man-child. At the end of a boys night out they make the mistake of wishing they had each others life while peeing into a fountain. In the morning, guess what has happened? (Note: the Surgeon General warns that it never pays to make errant wishes near a fountain.)

Overnight Dave and Mitch have switched bodies and lives. Now single – Mitch (in Jason Bateman’s body) must live the family man, lawyer life of Dave. And poor, poor married Dave (in Ryan Reynolds’s body) must live the accursed life of being single after years of marriage while looking like Mitch. What a shame!

Naturally misadventures and misunderstandings ensue. And like any good switch up movie there is obligatory paperwork and a waiting period until the switch can be unwatched (Think “Big” when they had to find a “Zoltar” machine). Will Dave and Mitch succeed in playing each other or will they completely screw-up each others’ lives? Will public fountains ever be safe to pee in? For the answers to some of these and other questions see The Change-Up.

Be aware, however, that The Change-Up contains some frontal nudity and some explicit strong language. • KL

Ledger Life > Featured Events in Albany

Friday, August 12, 2011
Friday Night Live w/ The City Never Sleeps
Red Square – Broadway – 7:30 p.m.
\$5 / advance

Friday, August 12, 2011
Jonathan Larsen’s RENT
SLOC Theater – Downtown Schenectady – 8 p.m.
\$18 / \$38 / advance at sloctheater.org

Saturday, August 13, 2011
MIRK at Graney’s Stout
Graney’s Stout – Broadway – 10:30 p.m.
Free

Sunday, August 14, 2011
The Producers (Last Performance)
Park Playhouse – Washington Park – 8 p.m.
Free

