

FRIDAY

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SAT. RAINY 65→46
SUN. CLOUDY 62→43
MON. CLOUDY 59→43

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news

5

Binghamton student to speak at National Equality March

The YouTube contest winner will give a speech in front of tens of thousands at a march in Washington, D.C.

release

Serving the students

Release goes behind the scenes to get the most outrageous stories from the other side of the bar

12

opinion

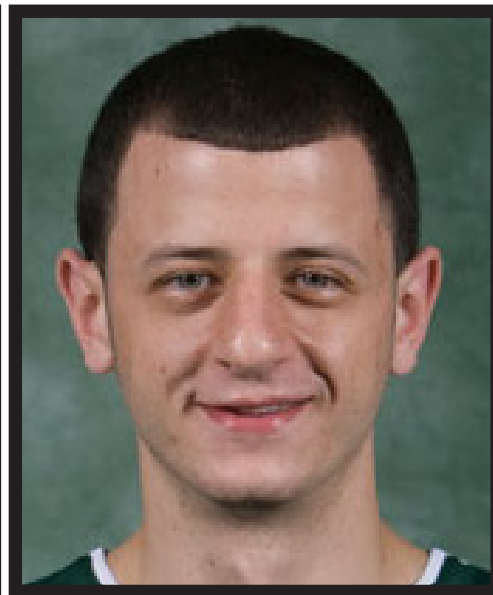
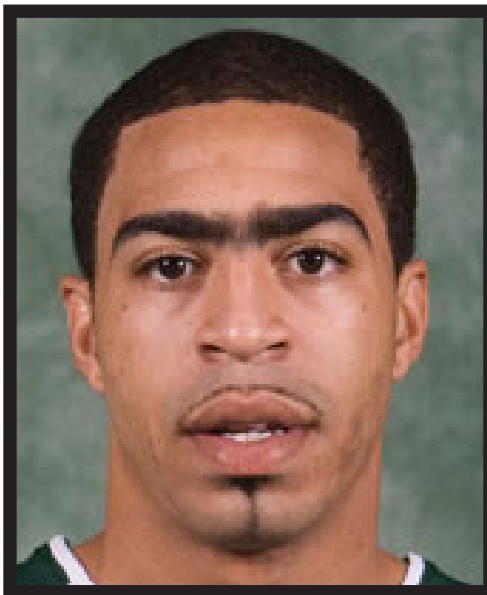
It's time to be honest

The basketball team doesn't need any more secrets

8



BASKETBALL BREAKDOWN



4 veterans, 2 transfers released from team

Ashley Tarr and Melissa Bykofsky*Pipe Dream News*

Over the past year and a half, Binghamton University's men's basketball team has been on a roller coaster of extreme highs and lows — so much so that it's garnered regular attention from national news agencies.

The latest of the lows came last week with the dismissal of six players, including leading scorers from last year's America East Conference champions. The aftermath of those dismissals continued this week, as President

Lois DeFleur announced Wednesday that Joel Thirer resigned from his position of athletic director after serving for more than 20 years.

During a press conference DeFleur announced that she is taking "additional actions" regarding BU's athletic program, and outlined four changes. The first was news of Thirer's resignation, followed by her second announcement: James Norris, senior associate athletic director, was appointed interim athletic director.

The third was her request to Kevin Broadus, men's basketball coach, for a "recruitment and

supervision plan" for the basketball program.

Her last announcement was that the University will bring in an "external consultant" to audit the athletic program as a whole in order to ensure that BU follows America East and NCAA policies and procedures.

DeFleur prefaced the news with compliments to the athletic

program at large.

"I am very very proud of our athletics programs, coaches, hundreds of student athletes," she said. "If you look at our successes they have been remarkable ... this year we had the second-highest GPA in America East."

Still, when it comes to the basketball team, DeFleur acknowledged that she had to

take coach Kevin Broadus at his word. University spokeswoman Gail Glover said Thursday that the specifics of the "action plan" laid out by DeFleur are still being finalized.

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher released a statement that day in which she said she supports DeFleur's actions.

When asked for comment on Thursday, Broadus said he "can't speak on it" and didn't want his emotions to interfere with a statement.

Check inside for more updates on BU's athletic department

See Page 4

See **BBALL** Page 5

Sprinkler system douses fire in Rockland Hall

Melissa Bykofsky*News Editor*

Residents of Hillside Community's Rockland Hall were evacuated Monday evening after a kitchen fire set off the building's fire alarms and sprinkler system.

"Officers responded to Rockland Hall for a fire alarm and sprinkler activation," said Investigator Matthew C. Rossie of Binghamton's New York State University Police. "On arrival they proceeded to the second floor and observed water gushing out from under the door of a suite. They confirmed that the fire was out and found that the kitchen stove vent and surrounding cabinets were burned and charred."

According to Douglas Rose, department chief of the Vestal Fire Department, the fire, which began at approximately 4:45 p.m., was ignited when a full pot of water and cooking oil on the stove boiled over onto the burner.

Police arrived within two minutes from when the fire alarm rang. Upon

the officers' arrival, students had already evacuated the building and the residents of the suite that caught fire were located and interviewed, Rossi said.

"The sprinkler system did a tremendous job," Rose said. "It pretty much put out the fire. We had to shut off the system and clear the smoke. After that we started allowing University officials inside to start to work with the water."

According to the members of both the police and fire departments, approximately two inches of water flooded the common rooms and bedrooms of the suite.

The students in the apartment, who requested to remain anonymous to avoid scrutiny from students, were allowed back into the apartment within a half hour of the police and fire departments' arrivals.

At that time they were told to collect enough belongings for one night, in terms of books and clothing. Five of the residents were in the apartment at the time of the fire, while the sixth was home for the weekend.

"The fire department and police were very helpful," said one of the residents. "They did everything they could to keep us calm and informed. The sprinklers gave off two inches of water and it was just sitting there. At least two of the bedrooms were consumed with water."

At 8 p.m., the residents were allowed back into their apartment once again to claim any other belongings they would need for the night. According to one of the residents, they were informed by Residential Life in a meeting on Tuesday that they would be relocated to Hinman Community for at least a week.

Residential Life could not be reached for comment.

"Residential Life, the fire department and police department were very friendly," the resident said. "Sodexo donated gift cards to all six of us so we could have money for our meal plans since we did not have any. That was very generous of them."

Although campus faculty and staff have been friendly to these temporarily relocated suitemates, students in both Rockland and their hall in Hinman

have been harassing them since the incident, according to the resident.

"It [the fire] could have happened to anybody, but the people who were inconvenienced and had to leave their rooms for a few hours have made sure to let us know," the resident said. "It was not intentional. We weren't lighting candles; we were cooking."

According to Rossie, the bulk of University police's fire-related calls are cooking incidents.

Rose agreed, stating that a majority of calls the fire department receives are cooking-related, with people either leaving food unattended, not cooking properly or burning popcorn.

The department, which currently responds to every alarm on campus, is called to campus five to 10 times a year on average for an actual fire, Rose said.

"Students should not be relying on the sprinkler system to put out the fire; something could be wrong with it," Rose said. "There are never guarantees. The only guarantee is if you are standing outside and watching it, then you are in a safe place."

BU adjunct dismissed

Ashley Tarr*Editor in Chief*

When Sally Dear spoke to a New York Times reporter last February about the pressure she felt from Binghamton University's athletic department to grant special privileges to athletes, she was nervous for her job.

On Tuesday, roughly eight months after the article ran, Dear received a letter notifying her that she would not return for the spring semester.

As an adjunct lecturer at Binghamton University, Dear does not have tenure. She said that the link between her speaking to The Times and being dismissed is "indisputably strong."

"I believe that I was expected to overlook certain things and give preferential treatment to student-athletes," she said Thursday. "That compromised my integrity and the integrity of other students in my

See **DEAR** Page 6