

THE LEADER

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The Leader

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Cuomo proposes free tuition at state schools

JORDAN PATTERSON

News Editor

While you were on break from college classes, Gov. Andrew Cuomo announced his plan for free tuition at state universities.

On Jan. 3, 2017, Cuomo stood in front of a podium at LaGuardia Community College with none other than Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders seated behind him as he announced his plan.

"A college education is not a luxury — it is an absolute necessity for any chance at economic mobility, and with these first-in-the-nation Excelsior Scholarships, we're providing the opportunity for New Yorkers to succeed, no matter what zip code they come from and without the anchor of student debt weighing them down," Cuomo said via the ny.gov website.

Under the name of the Excelsior Scholarship, Cuomo plans to make SUNY and CUNY two to four year colleges tuition-free. Families that make up to \$125,000 a year would qualify for this program according to ny.gov.

"If the United States is to succeed in a highly competitive global economy, we need the best educated workforce in the world," Sanders said according to ny.gov. "With exploding technology, and with most of the good paying jobs requiring more and more education, we need to make certain that every New Yorker, every Vermonter and every

American gets all the education they need regardless of family income.

"In other words, we must make public colleges and universities tuition free for the middle class and working families of our country. That is what Governor Cuomo is fighting for here in New York and it's something I strongly support. I urge New York legislators to pass this enormously important proposal, and become a model for the rest of the nation."

This plan would include Fredonia in its tuition-free umbrella. President Virginia Horvath released an official statement upon hearing of Cuomo's plan.

"I'm glad to see New York recognizing the need to make college more affordable for middle-class families," Horvath said. "Public education should be affordable for everyone, and this proposed legislation addresses the fact that 'need' is for the middle class as well. I am supportive of Governor Cuomo's commitment to encouraging and supporting student enrollment and success at public universities in the state. This investment in closing the gap between tuition cost and family need is an investment in families and in workforce development for New York."



A work called "Urban Blooms" made with clay, clay slips, dixie cups, and wire.
Andrew Camera/Staff Photographer

Fredonia marches for women's rights

DAN ORZECOWSKI

Staff Writer



Protesters march through campus the day after Trump's inauguration.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor

A crowd speckled with pink huddled in front of Mason Hall the day after President Donald Trump was sworn in. These people were protesters.

Participants bearing signs and flags marched as one throughout Fredonia's campus. While chanting "women's rights are human rights," the parade made its way to downtown's Barker Commons. There, speakers called for unity and shared their reasons for marching. As more and more people spoke, more and more reasons were given.

Although the parade was dubbed a "women's march," the crowd — consisting of both women and men — quickly revealed that they were marching for much more beyond rights for women. Participants demonstrated their concerns for the environment, healthcare and discrimination of all sorts.

Among the crowd was Judy Parsons, a native to Jamestown, New York. Like many of the marchers present, this wasn't Parsons' first march. Parsons had

marched in protest of the Vietnam War and again decades later against the war in Iraq.

When it was her turn to speak, she told the rest of the crowd of her recent travels to Germany and Switzerland. Parsons compared Trump's rise in power to Adolf Hitler's. "The people are scared there," she said. "They know how fear is the best weapon for mass control."

This wasn't the first march for freshman Tyler Wood either. The dual major in vocal performance and English had also marched in a Slut Walk, an event which protested the idea that a person's clothing can imply sexual consent.

When Wood found out about the women's march online, he was compelled to demonstrate his disagreement with Trump's agenda.

Despite their amplitude of concern, the marchers admitted that this particular walk will not bring immediate change. However, they also

acknowledged that any kind of change requires time.

"It organizes concern. When people notice that so many others feel the same way, it shows that it's okay to take a risk and do this," Wood said.

Fredonia's march was just a tiny sample of what happened elsewhere. According to ABC News, an estimated 500,000 people marched in the nation's capital, making it the largest demonstration in Washington's history.

More than 600 sister marches were found throughout the country and even overseas. ABC News announced that "crowd estimates from police and organizers around the globe added up to well over a million."

In response to the marches, Trump tweeted a day later with "Why didn't these people vote? Celebs hurt cause badly."

Hours later another tweet was posted.

"Peaceful protests are a hallmark of our democracy. Even though I don't always agree, I recognize the rights of people to express their views."

Despite the hundreds of thousands of marchers protesting for abortions rights, according to NPR, Trump already signed an executive order which restored

President Ronald Reagan's "Mexico City policy." This action eliminates federal funding to international charities who provide any information on abortion procedures.

For many Fredonia marchers, to receive Trump's recognition would be considered a victory. Joe McMaster, a local grape grower who marched with the crowd, believes the new administration will change everything.

"He's the president of the whole country. He should keep everyone in mind," he said.

McMaster doesn't agree with Trump's agenda, but he does see a silver lining. "Even though I'm not happy about the election, Trump has caused a lot of people to speak up," McMaster said.

Though many are still frustrated with the election results, Parsons said that "it's important to respond without anger and with peace."

Marchers assured that this would not be the last event to protest the new president, although future events have not yet been scheduled on Fredonia's campus.



Protesters meet at the Peace Pole near Mason Hall & the Williams Center.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor

Carl V. Mazzio, 1963 - 2017

JORDAN PATTERSON

News Editor

Fredonia lost one of its stars with the death of Carl V. Mazzio, but his legacy will continue to shine.

The former principal trombonist of the Buffalo Philharmonic and Fredonia music lecturer died on Jan. 17 at the age of 53. He is survived by his son Clark Mazzio and his longtime partner Julie Robinson.

Mazzio left an everlasting impact on Fredonia's School of Music, having taught at Fredonia for 16 years. He conducted the trombone choir and two bands, the Wind Symphony and the All College Band. He also had a private studio in Buffalo where he gave lessons in his spare time. In addition to all of this, he also taught a jazz band at Williamsville East High School.

"Carl Mazzio was, first of all, a person of integrity and class and an artist," Wind Ensemble Director and music professor Paula Holcomb said, "so, he was an artist in the musical sense."

Before he ever taught, Mazzio received his Master's Degree from the Juilliard School of Music, which, according to Holcomb, is the best music conservatory in the country. Mazzio also received a Bachelor of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.

While at Juilliard, Mazzio was trained by Joseph Alessi who flew to Buffalo for Mazzio's memorial service. One of Mazzio's students, junior education major Andrew Pacht, referred to Alessi as the greatest trombone player alive.

"Carl came out of that lineage," Holcomb said, referring to Alessi's teaching.

While playing for the Buffalo Philharmonic, he developed a medical condition called focal dystonia that limited him from being able to play the trombone.

"It was a tragedy," Holcomb said. "But the integrity of Carl is demonstrated by his ability to remake himself."

Instead of chasing music's equivalent to numerous Olympic gold medals, as Holcomb put it, he was now on his way to become a music director. He went the University of Buffalo for music education and began teaching in Buffalo. At this time, Fredonia was in need of a conductor. For Holcomb, his addition to the music department would be incredible just by browsing through his accomplishments, but she just had one question.

"Carl Mazzio is a world class musician; the question is, can he become a conductor?" Holcomb asked.

She knew Mazzio had all of the



Mazzio surrounded by trombonists.
Courtesy of fredonia.edu

talent one could hope for but was unsure if he could transition from an all-star player to a superstar coach. After seeing him conduct a 5th grade band, she knew Mazzio had what it takes, but admitted it took him a few years to get into the swing of things.

But the end result was more than Holcomb could have ever hoped for. On top of choosing quality music for the students to play, no matter what skill level, he also had a certain way of teaching that was unmatched.

"He had the ability to touch and connect the students and audiences souls and hearts," Holcomb said.

Holcomb referenced the many Facebook posts that exploded online after his passing as a way to show how much he had connected with his students.

Professor of music and Assistant Director of the School of Music Barry Kilpatrick didn't fully understand the impact he had until he saw the numerous Facebook posts. Kilpatrick spoke highly of Mazzio and recognized his work ethic and his drive.

"He made my job much easier," Kilpatrick said.

When Mazzio came to Fredonia, Kilpatrick was able to focus on other things. Mazzio's sense of humor and ambition to work much longer than he was required is what continues to stand out for Kilpatrick.

"He had a great sense of humor, and it was fun to work with him," Kilpatrick said.

Mazzio was only an adjunct teacher and was only paid to do a certain number of hours. But according to Kilpatrick, Mazzio regularly worked much more than he was getting paid for.

"He believed in it. He wanted to do it," Kilpatrick said. "That's the kind of guy he was. The willingness to, kind of, go above and beyond because the job was worth it [and] the students were worth it."

Former Director of Music Education Karl Boelter also commented on his work ethic via email. "Even though he was an adjunct, he was able to recruit great student musicians to his studio," Boelter wrote. "The students clearly adored him; they appreciated the results he demanded and the commitment to them he demonstrated."

Holcomb continued to describe her admiration of Mazzio and how his connection with Fredonia students.

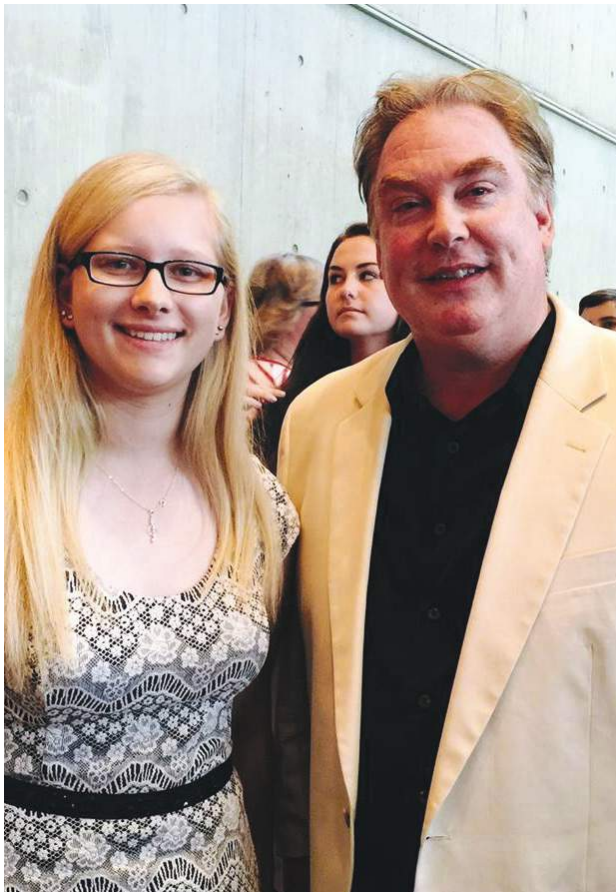
"He reached them [at a certain] level and inspired them [and] was a role model for the ... " Holcomb said, trailing off as she became choked up. "I don't have words."

She did find her words and explained that Mazzio was a mentor for these students, whether or not they were in his ensemble or not.

Holcomb also mentioned that



Mazzio practicing his craft in high school.
Courtesy of Mike Teskey



Mazzio, right, with student Madelyn Stencel.
Courtesy of Madelyn Stencel

Mazzio had an eye for talent and knew which students “had the goods.” But despite skill level or career path, he always supported the students’ decisions.

Pacht and another of Mazzio’s students, sophomore sound recording major Jon Fridmann, attested to his teaching style. The pair both played trombone under Mazzio and took lessons from him.

Fridmann changed majors once and Mazzio was incredibly supportive of him.

“Who is this guy?” Fridmann asked when he was taken aback by Mazzio’s unique personality.

“He’s an incredible musician,” Pacht added.

Pacht also mentioned that if Mazzio never developed his medical condition, they probably would’ve never met. But he also mentioned, without disrespect, that they would be referring to Carl V. Mazzio as the greatest trombone player in the country and Alessi.

“He just made me think in a totally different way about music,” Fridmann said.

Both students also talked about Mazzio’s tendency to tell a story for every occasion.

One story, as random as getting a brain freeze from drinking a slurpee and passing out, left Fridmann confused but apparently that’s just who “Mazz” was, “Mazz” being Mazzio’s nickname. According to Holcomb, the students never called him “Mazz” with any form of disrespect but with “honor.” The students

also told stories of his obsession with butterflies and his tendency to mistakenly take students tuners. But they didn’t mind, because that was “Mazz.”

“Everything he does, just has a one-of-a-kind delivery,” Pacht said.

According to the two, Mazzio’s knowledge of music was uncanny. Listening to them play, he would frequently list off composers it reminded him of.

Another notable Mazzio quote was “it’s a secret.”

The two students could barely describe what it meant because only “Mazz” could explain it thoroughly.

Apparently, it was so the students would play mysteriously or soft, just so they wouldn’t come in too hard. Instead of just saying “play soft”, he said “it’s a secret,” and the students understood immediately. Pacht and Fridmann both admitted that it might sound crazy to non-musicians but assured that all of Mazzio’s students understood, and that’s all that mattered.

A memorial service to honor Mazzio’s life was held last Saturday, with over 50 trombone players signed up to perform. People from all over the country were flying in to celebrate Mazzio’s life.

Mazzio’s career was completely over after he developed his medical condition, but he found a new life at Fredonia. How he did it is unknown, but a good guess would be that it was probably a secret.

Virtual tour brings Fredonia to prospective students

JAMES LILLIN

Staff Writer

The Fredonia website has gone through a major overhaul over the past two years, with a new logo, a cleaner blue-white color palette, and a shifting set of photos and videos being added to help the school stand out. The latest addition to Fredonia’s web presence is the virtual tour, a simulated tour through campus incorporating high definition videos, photography, and 360-degree panorama shots of spaces on campus.

“The virtual tour was something I proposed for Fredonia from the time I started my position this summer,” said Director of Marketing and Communications Jeffrey Woodard. “Our campus is tucked away in the southwest corner of New York, and with the changing demographics of high school students in Western New York, it is more important to show prospective students and parents who are not close enough to come to campus just how beautiful Fredonia is.”

The tour was created by a team

from YouVisit, a New York City-based virtual reality company that has also constructed online tours with Yale and Columbia.

“Other schools have similar tours, so not having one for Fredonia put us at a disadvantage,” Woodard said. “We can now be more competitive by showing students exactly what Fredonia looks and feels like while they are making their college choice.”

One of Fredonia’s main assets as a school is the unique architecture, as well as the sprawling trees and greenery. Unfortunately, this is not always properly encapsulated by still photographs.

“For some students and parents who live several hours away from campus, or who don’t have the means to travel long distances, this tour allows us to put them at Fredonia virtually,” Woodard said. “The colorful walking tour gives you an accurate look at the grounds, the buildings, and the features that make Fredonia special. They can see and hear everything they would if they were to take a tour with the admissions team.”

The new tour is also using new technologies to deeply immerse prospective students, whether at home or visiting a local college recruitment fair.

“In addition to the virtual tour, the platform also comes with VR integration,” said Director of Admissions Cory Bezek, “so prospective students can utilize the VR headset, such as Samsung Gear, to experience Fredonia.”

Beyond initial discovery of the school, the virtual tour is shaping up to be a tool for getting more than just students invested in Fredonia.

“We are also seeing students who have visited us in person use the virtual tour to show their extended family who may of not been able to visit what we have to offer,” said Bezek.

Another benefit of the virtual tour is the elimination of travel distances, and the ability to show off every part of the college, including ones not on the main campus.

“It has been cool to meet with families in NYC and give them a headset

and watch them look around in King, or see what it is like to stand in the middle of University Stadium,” said Bezek. “It is a much more immersive experience than in the past. We also have tour stops on the virtual tour that we are not able to show on the in-person tour, such as the SRT studios or the College Lodge.”

Although the virtual tour opens up many exciting new possibilities for recruitment, there is certainly no substitute for experiencing Fredonia in person, and Woodard hopes that it is used to supplement, rather than supplant tours of the campus.

“We hope students and parents are so inspired by what they see they will schedule a tour to see for themselves,” said Woodard. “That’s why one of the links at the top of the tour is ‘Schedule a Visit.’ This is a tool to entice prospective students and parents to find out more about Fredonia. We are confident that once we get their attention, we can convince them that Fredonia is the right choice for them.”

Black History Month kicks off in February

JACOB SANTOS

Special to The Leader

Since the presidency of Gerald Ford, the U.S. has federally recognized the month of February as Black History Month. At Fredonia, the Black Student Union will be sponsoring a number of events, open to all students and faculty, highlighting the history, achievements and current issues within the black community.

“Black History Month is the celebration of our past, present and future,” said Jelissa Samuel, a junior history and political science double major, who serves as BSU’s treasurer. “It’s the celebration of people who have paved the way for blacks in the U.S. and abroad,” she added.

The precursor to Black History Month was a week long observance beginning in 1926, falling on the second or third week of February to coincide with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. Its purpose was to emphasize the history of African-Americans, which has often been excluded from the overall history of the U.S.

During the 1960s and 1970s, proposals were made to expand the week long celebration to an entire month. Black History Month was federally recognized in 1976, as part of the national celebration of the U.S. bicentennial.

Here at Fredonia, the theme for Black History Month is “Black: One Race, Many Cultures.” One of the key aspects BSU wishes to emphasize is acknowledging the various black identities around the world, and here at the college campus.

Within the past decade there has been an increase of black students enrolled at the college, many of which are of Afro-Caribbean descent. Many within and outside of the black community may find it puzzling when they meet a black student who says they are not African-American.

One of the key discussions within Fredonia’s black community today is understanding the difference between black and African-American. While the two terms are often used interchangeably, the term “black” is used to describe the race, while “African-American” is most

often used to describe the descendants of African slaves in the U.S..

While Afro-Caribbean students greatly recognize their African ancestry, there are numerous cultural and historical differences, and they will often identify as Afro-Caribbean, Caribbean American or specific demonyms, such as Jamaican and Bajan, among many other Caribbean identities.

BSU initiated their history month this past Sunday with an opening ceremony called “Coming to America.”

There are a number of upcoming events hosted by BSU throughout the month of February that include guest speakers and student-led events for the broader campus community.

One of the main events many students and faculty are eager for is Jane Elliott, who will be speaking on Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 7 p.m. Elliot is an anti-racism activist and diversity educator most known for her exercises that focus on how it feels to be racially discriminated. Her most known activity is based on doing an exercise based on eye color, rather than skin color.

Patrice Douglas, a senior social work major serving as BSU’s co-event chair, had the opportunity to speak to Elliot over the phone when coordinating to see if she could guest speak at Fredonia.

“I’m really excited for her [to visit],” said Douglas, “because a lot of people in this area need a wake up call. Things that sound like ignorance to us, is just a regular day for others.”

While on the phone, Elliot emphasized that while she will be part of Fredonia’s Black History Month, it is crucial that people beyond the black community come for the event. All students are greatly encouraged to hear her speak.

There will be a number of other events throughout the month of February, such as Leon Ford, who will be speaking on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. in McEwen Hall 202. Ford is a motivational speaker who is paralyzed due to police brutality in Pittsburgh.

For the first time, BSU will be sponsoring an event called Still I Rise. This event allows students to openly speak to an audience about their



Members of the Black Student Union pose at Activities Night. Angelina Dohre/Special to The Leader

personal conflicts with racism and discrimination. The concept of the event is based off of Fredonia Feminists’ Take Back the Night which allows people to speak about sexual abuse and violence. Still I Rise will take place Tuesday, Feb. 7 in McEwen Hall 202.

The third week of February has been declared as Melanin Week. “It is a time for students to showcase what it means to black and proud,” said Mondyna Prevot, a junior biology major serving as BSU’s public relations chair.

Each day of the week will have a particular theme for students to participate in. Monday, Feb. 13 is Black Out, a day where all students are encouraged to dress in black.

Tuesday, Feb. 14 is Afrocentric Day, where students are to wear African-style clothing. This coincides with the African Dance Company event happening later that day at 7 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room.

Wednesday, Feb. 15 is ‘Fro Day, devoted to styling one’s hair as an afro.

Lastly, Thursday, Feb. 16 is Black Excellence Day, which encourages students of color to dress in professional attire. An open mic/poetry slam co-sponsored with Brother 2 Brother will occur later that day in Fenton Hall 105 at 7 p.m.

Nearing the end of the month, BSU will be co-hosting an event with Latinos Unidos, Caribbean Student Association and African Student Union in an event called “Black and Brown All Around.”

The purpose of this event is to come together on what it means to be a person of color. It will take place Monday, Feb. 20 in the Multi-purpose Room at 7 p.m.

Lastly, BSU will host a “Unity Dinner” for their closing ceremony. The event will take place Sunday, Feb. 26 in the Multi-purpose Room at 7 p.m.

Throughout the month of February, artwork will be on display next to the FSA Cafe in McEwen Hall called Memory Lane. “[The artwork] will have important leaders in black history” said Sabrina Irby, a senior political science major serving as BSU’s event coordinator, “as well as people who have contributed to black history in Fredonia, like faculty and staff.”

Black History Month is sponsored annually by BSU. Their intended goal is to spread awareness on the black identity and the history and issues of the black community. “[BSU] gives a sense of togetherness,” said Tonya Preddie, a sophomore video production major serving as BSU’s secretary, “showing that students of color on this campus are not alone in the certain struggles they go through.”

Throughout the year, BSU has general body meetings for all students to come together to hold a shared sense of community. All are welcome to attend their general body meetings, as well as this month’s events celebrating black history.

Police Blotters

UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017

1:45 p.m. A suspicious letter was received at RAC. A report was filed.

9:47 p.m. A caller reported that they were almost hit by a vehicle. A report was filed.

11:33 p.m. Keita M. Ibraheem was arrested for possession of marijuana and was issued an appearance ticket.

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017

8:59 p.m. Ryan T. Neith was reportedly charged with unlawful possession of alcohol.

8:59 p.m. Jack T. Bottita was reportedly charged with possession of marijuana.

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017

A large fight was reported to have happened inside of the Field House.

Sunday, Jan. 29, 2017

3:34 p.m. A vehicle reportedly struck another vehicle at Starbucks and left the scene. A report was filed.

FREDONIA

Friday, Jan. 27, 2017

1:08 a.m. Jacob J. Giacobello, age 20, was reportedly charged with disorderly conduct and unlawful possession of marijuana. He was released on bail and issued an appearance ticket.

Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017

1:30 a.m. Alex J. Mooreland, age 21, was issued an appearance ticket for disorderly conduct.

2:25 a.m. Daniel E. Goodbread, age 26, was issued an appearance ticket for violating the sewer ordinance.

All information printed in The Leader's police blotter is a matter of open public record. No retractions or corrections will be made unless a factual error is shown. Anyone who is cleared of charges has the right to have so printed. It is the responsibility of the accused to provide notice and proof of the dropped charges.



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Rescue dogs take Fredonia by storm

'Mutts Gone Nuts!' comes to Fredonia

CLAIRE O'REILLY

Staff Writer

If you like dogs, a good laugh and some good old-fashioned fun, "Mutts Gone Nuts!" is the show for you.

"It's fun, it's a lot of fun, and if anybody has ever owned a dog, they will especially enjoy it," said Rockefeller Arts Center Director Jefferson Westwood.

"Mutts Gone Nuts!" will be a treat for every audience member.

"It's kind of a nice all-ages show. The families will enjoy it, but anyone who loves dogs or any animals in general would enjoy the show," said public relations assistant for Rockefeller Arts Center Douglas Osborne-Coy.

"Mutts Gone Nuts!" is part of the Kaleidoscope Family Series and, according to the Fredonia Campus Report, "includes incredible high-flying frisbee dogs, tightwire dogs, dancing dogs, magic dogs and, of course, the one and only 'Sammie the Talking Dog.'"

The Kaleidoscope Family Series has been a part of Fredonia for many years. The series allows kids and adults to join in on live entertainment and fun. "Mutts Gone Nuts!" is a new type of entertainment for the annual Fredonia series.

"This show has traveled to other universities, [but] this is the first time

we've done anything like [this] in Fredonia ever probably," said Westwood.

"I mean it's more of a throwback in the type of humor, more of a physical comedy and things along those lines. It's a little different than anything we have done before in the series," said Osborne-Coy.

While "Mutts Gone Nuts!" will be a silly, fun and adorable experience, there's also community service and aid for animals in the local area tied into the event.

"We're partnering with two local animal shelters, the Northern Chautauqua K-9 Rescue out of Westfield and Lakeshore Humane Society in Dunkirk," said Westwood. "I'm excited to be partnering with both of them. They're helping to sell tickets and to make people aware of [the event], and they're, by doing so, earning a portion of the ticket sales. So it's working as a fundraiser for them and an audience building thing for Rockefeller."

Each organization will have a table set up in the lobby providing information about who they are and what they do so that they can build a greater core of volunteers.

The show ties into the fundraiser for the shelters in Fredonia because each of dogs performing circus-like tricks was adopted from a shelter or rescued.

Osborne-Coy loves the idea of helping out area animal shelters through the show. "In 'Mutts Gone Nuts!' they are all rescue dogs so [the owners have] gone to these types of agencies to get the animals, so they support [the] effort too," said Osborne-Coy. "It's nice that we can do something and we've included information on the program about the agencies just so that people have some more information about what they're doing in the community."

There is one particular part of the

show that will please the children in the audience.

"They'll ask the dog to come over and the dog will come up and lift its leg in the same manner one would at a fire hydrant, if you know what I mean," said Westwood. "The little kids will think that's very, very funny."

Even though the show is nationally known, some locals might recognize it.

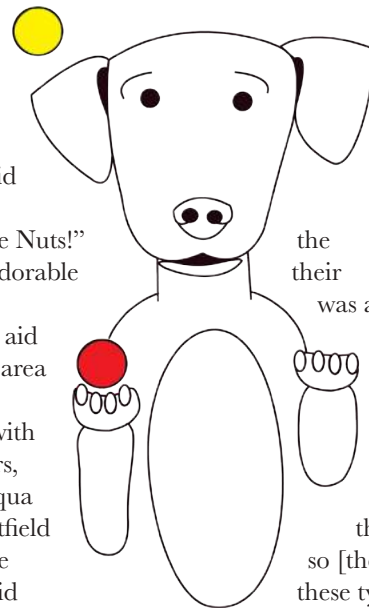
"Somebody had mentioned that they'd been to Darien Lake and had seen them there, and we're looking forward to seeing them again here," said Osborne-Coy.

Westwood believes that the audience will walk away from the show with something special and intangible.

"We are creating bonding experiences for parents and children, so the kids aren't just playing with a Game Boy or a Nintendo, but they're having a special event with the [person they come with]," he said. "We are giving people something to look forward to, and we are giving them memories to take home."

"Mutts Gone Nuts!" will be on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in Marvel Theatre.

Kara Cekuta/Special to The Leader



A classic tale with a musical twist

Alcott's 'Little Women' adapted as opera

LERON WELLINGTON

Staff Writer

There is nothing better than a revamped classic. A story that is beloved for many reasons, Louisa May Alcott's "Little Women" comes to Fredonia in a contemporary opera adaptation.

The novel, which was originally published in 1868, has been transformed into a two-act opera by American composer Mark Adamo. The story of four sisters journeying into womanhood in post-Civil War New England is told by an ensemble of vocalists and the Western New York Chamber

Orchestra (WNYCO).

WNYCO continues its tradition to perform annual operas from the 20th and 21st century with this story of family, love and strength.

The opera, which was originally produced in 1998, has been performed around the world and has been called "a poly-stylistic quilt of atonal melodies [and] sweeping Romantic arias" by the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.

The cast is led by guest artist Rebecca Schuessler in the role of Jo March. The ensemble cast is comprised of a mix of undergraduate and graduate students with wide ranges of music

and expertise. With only three weeks of official rehearsals, the cast and orchestra are rehearsing to bring this masterpiece to life.

Lucia Helgren, a senior vocal performance and arts administrator major, plays the role of Amy. She said, "I love the story of 'Little Women,' as so many do. It has been adapted for the screen, as well as made into a musical, so it is only natural for it to be an opera as well."

Students are anticipating the concert production. Nia Drummond, a senior vocal performance major said, "I am excited to see this opera because it is a

new work, and that is always something fun to watch."

So if you are in the mood for a classical tale with a musical twist, check out the WNYCO concert. The performance will be held on Feb. 4 at 4 p.m. in King Concert Hall. Tickets are free for students and \$20 for non-students. They can be purchased at the ticket office and at the door.

Q&A: Rachael Smith

Junior creates book and score for original musical

ZOE KIRIAZIS

Staff Writer

For visual and performing arts students, Fredonia provides many opportunities to display their artwork and perform independent projects. Many students produce work from established playwrights; however, the creation of original work is becoming more popular.

On Jan. 20 at the Lanford House, the musical “Dollhouse” premiered with book and score by junior composition and viola performance major Rachael Smith, and was produced by the Performing Arts Company.

Q: What led to you writing and composing “Dollhouse”?

A: A few things. The first thing is kind of a personal anecdote. I was dating this guy, and he was talking to this mutual friend of ours and said, “A good thing, you know, Rachael is pretty because she’s not going to make it as a composer. That’s a stupid idea.” It was the first time that I felt like people didn’t believe in me, and my only value was as a thing to look at. That sat out with me for a little bit. Then I took this class, Post-Humanism, and we talked about what it meant to be a person and how that can be a confining thing. It was then I thought, “OK, let’s take all these different pieces of my life right now, form it together and make a show.”

Q: For those who couldn’t attend the performances, what is “Dollhouse” about?

A: “Dollhouse” is about this girl named Kara who comes into the dollhouse, but she’s been mispackaged. While all the other dolls have this preset experience that all girls like pink, all girls like things that are sparkly and all girls want to be beautiful. That’s it. Kara was packaged in what would be considered as male accessories. She has a different idea of what it means to be a person.

She enters the dollhouse where all the other dolls see her and think, “Oh no! This is against the manual that we are given. This is against the expectation of what we are supposed to be like.” The dolls try to change her and fit her into this mold. The show is Kara trying to

figure out whether it’s better to take the path of least resistance to try and fit into their way of life or if it’s better to go off and do her own thing.

Q: How was the process for you from start to finish?

A: Being the person who wrote both the music and the book for the show, it was a lot of work. I found that one of the most difficult things was that it was hard to first get down everything that was in my head. You can think, “Yeah, what I wrote down matches what I have in my head,” but at the same time you don’t necessarily fill in everything that you are thinking because you’re the one reading it. When you pass the show off to someone else there are holes in it. Trying to connect the book of the show and the music of the show took a very long time to write.

From there, the editing process took a very long time. I had three different composition professors, my Post-Humanism professor and some people from home look at it. I wasn’t even going to submit to PAC. I thought that this was what it is, maybe an exercise for something bigger. I didn’t know what to do with it.

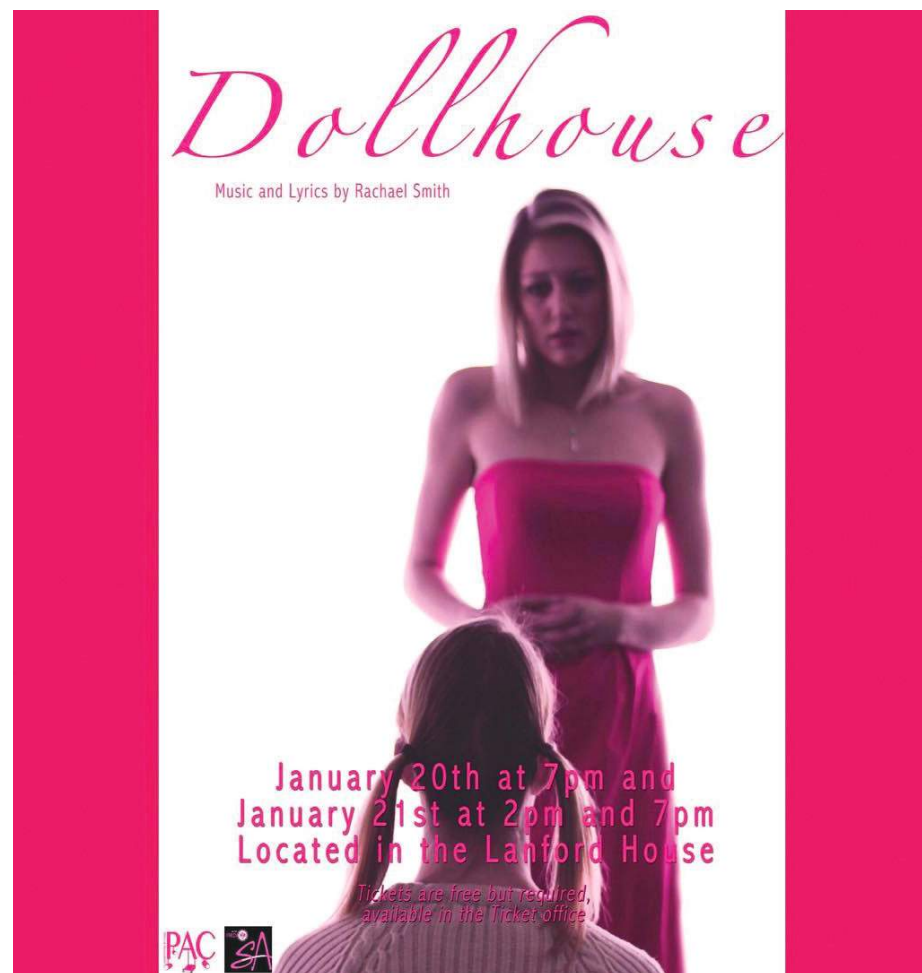
I went to a conference, and the question I got a lot was, “Who’s going to perform this? This needs to be performed.” And now here we are.

Q: The premiere of your show was the first weekend of school. How was that experience?

A: It was overwhelming from start to finish. I believe in what I’ve created and what I wanted people to see, but to see how the show resonated with them and having them come to me and say, “You know, what you said really changed me” was exciting to experience. It’s not very often that we really get to see how what we do affects other people. I’m still star-struck by everything that has happened. I’m still on cloud-nine about it.

Q: Did the reactions meet or go beyond your expectations?

A: Very much beyond my expectations. The cool thing about



being a writer is that you really make the blueprint. It is up to the actor to really take it and make it their own. I was blown away by how they took some words on paper that really don’t mean anything in their form and made into something memorable.

Q: Do you see changes being made now that it’s been premiered with reactions?

A: Not any major changes. There are a few things that after seeing it performed I might tweak, but nothing all that extreme. Another cool thing about being a playwright and composer is that usually shows are workshopped before being performed. There wasn’t a lot of time for workshopping, but getting to see it performed is a good way to assess what works, what doesn’t, any holes in the plot or anything redundant. There are just a few things that I want to see change.

Q: What do you see for the future and “Dollhouse”?

A: In terms of “Dollhouse,” I

am going to submit it to a few writing competitions and some scholarship competitions. Just recently I was looking at a submission calling for plays and musicals that were about feminist subjects. I’m going to try to get a few more performances of the show so it gets out there a little more. I’ve started working on other projects, so now I can let “Dollhouse” breathe a little bit.

Q: What would you tell your fellow composers trying to put their work out there?

A: Think big while you have the opportunity here. There are so many resources and people on campus who are willing to work on student-made work. They’re willing to be a part of something else. It’s such an amazing opportunity to be on such a great campus for that. As a composer, it’s important to make friends, connections and take advantages of all the wonderful people that are here.

'Alice in Slasherland' draws blood and laughs

MOLLY VANDENBERG

Staff Writer

Over this past weekend, the production "Alice in Slasherland" provided the perfect amount of cheesy slasher-flick inspired entertainment to a very enthusiastic crowd. The play was originally created by Qui Nguyen and was presented by Fredonia's student-run Performing Arts Company, known commonly as PAC.

The storyline consists of a nerdy teenage boy named Lewis, played by sophomore musical theatre major Tyler Hecht, accidentally releasing a "literal hell on earth" at a party when he unknowingly resurrects the soul of a teenage girl named Alice, played by senior musical theatre major Sarah Moebius. Lewis, his friend Margaret, played by senior musical theatre major Stevie Jackson, and Alice must attempt to save their classmates from the demons and killer that are running rampant around town. They also get some help from Alice's hilarious demonic talking teddy bear, Edgar, played by Jacob Badding.

There were a fair amount of gory

special effects used but the humor helped balance out all the blood. It was very reminiscent of the "Scary Movie" franchise in how it was poking fun at the horror genre.

The dialogue in the play subtly noted that the only thing it has in common with "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" is the fact that they both have characters or people involved named Alice and Lewis, though the adventure could compare as well with several scenes utilizing music, fight choreography and lighting changes to enhance the scene and often to draw laughs from the audience.

"There are various amounts of stage combat throughout the play, fake blood, props, costumes, projections, sound and lighting elements, really there is a lot that goes into this play, especially because we had to create it all between the eight of us," said Nick Cahill, a senior BFA acting major and director of the production.

The fight choreographers consisted of senior musical theatre major Marisa



Pizzuto and Moebius.

"Sarah ... and I are big fighters. We love doing stage combat. We wanted to do a show that we could fight choreograph. Something that had three females because myself, Sarah and Stevie ... really enjoy working together," said Pizzuto, who also played a number of roles in the play, including Tina and a few different types of devils.

"I have loved doing fight choreography, but this was the first time

I've ever gotten to create it myself ... so that's been fun, having something in my head and seeing it become fully realized on the stage is very cool," she continued.

"We figure out what they're going to do and teach them how to do it safely," said Moebius.

Fredonia's Performing Arts Company puts on Alice in Slasherland in McEwen 209.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor

Constellation Concert Series premieres to praise

SHENECA SHARPE

Staff Writer

Rosch Recital Hall has begun the annual Constellation Concert Series during which students and community members alike could enjoy Fredonia's own performing special classical pieces.

With instruments ranging from the piano to the bowed vibraphone, the performances showcased the range of skill these students possess. It was not just the students who performed but also their professors, who gave the audience a special treat working alongside their students.

"Everyone was phenomenal. It's really hard to single out anything because all of the performances blended

together really well," said Kimberly Gernatt, a junior economics major.

Even though the pieces were completely different from each other and were performed with completely separate instruments, there was a sense of harmony and flow throughout the evening.

"My favorite pieces were the sax ensemble and the silent movie piece. The sax ensemble always brings their best to every performance," said Gernatt.

The Charlie Chaplin "silent movie piece" was a surprise, with professor Roderick MacDonald performing on cornet and professor James Welch on the

piano alongside the film "The Circus."

It was an amazing decision to perform live music to a silent film because usually in classical music performances, there are certain unwritten rules that you have to follow, and one of those rules is to not speak during a performance. During this specific performance everybody could not help but laugh at Charlie Chaplin's silly, troublemaking antics. Rules were broken that night in the spirit of fun, and the live music just made it so much better.

"I liked all of the variety of the pieces that they performed, and they were all extremely talented. My favorite

performance would have to be 'Sonata in G minor.' I'm a huge fan of Bach, and the person who performed the piece, David Rose, is my professor," said Tess Kremer, a freshman music education major with a concentration in viola.

It gives testament on how talented not only the professors are, but the students as well. Most of the students are not even graduating yet, and the skill set that they showed that night was inspiring.

Visiting Artist: Sharbani Das Gupta

BETHANY CLANCY

Staff Writer

On Jan. 26 an inspiring artist from India, Sharbani Das Gupta, spoke to Visual Arts and New Media students for the Visiting Artists program. She got her start by completing school in Kolkata, India and then college at the National Institute of Design in Gujarat. Even though she has a graphic design degree, working with clay is what she really loves.

In 2000, she moved from the bustling city of Bengal, India to New Mexico, and then to Houston, Texas in 2006.

A lot of her work is based on the sky, clouds, sand and water and specifically the distribution of water. Besides the nature that inspires her work, she did pieces about the Iraq War and her feelings about war in general. When Hurricane Rita hit, she made installations based off of that. Throughout her lecture she kept getting at how important it is to take care of the earth by comparing it to taking care of ourselves and our own bodies.

“The comparison of our cells and nature put everything into a new perspective,” said one student attending the lecture.

Even though she does a lot of

travelling, Das Gupta never loses sight of her roots. While visiting back home during a trip, she made statues for a festival going on in her village. She explained the process that went into the design, painting, and the finishing of these intricate statues. These statues are white washed, painted, and then put on display for five days. At the end of the festival the creations are placed in the river for traditional reasons.

In New Mexico, the river is very important to everyone residing there. She even called it a “lifeline,” inspiring a piece which made the river look like a human lifeline.

After her lecture, sophomore graphic design major Rey Kelleher talked about how much she loved the original pieces the artist showed. She mentioned how interesting the artist was and loved that the art program was finally starting to bring in diverse artists.

Karissa Lubberts, a junior visual arts and new media major with a concentration in sculpture, had a lot to say about the artist.



“I believe that Das Gupta is an important artist conveying important messages. Her lecture Thursday night, her catalog and the messages in her art seem well-timed for our current political state. She emphasizes the intersections between ourselves and the earth in a way that really resonates with your heart,” said Lubberts. “My favorite piece is ‘In Hindsight,’ where clouds are projected onto unfired ceramic columns. It has a soothing and nostalgic quality about it which I deeply appreciate.”

She further commented on the program’s overall diversity which has been a continuing focus as it changes. Lubberts says that “last year there was a big push from the students for diversity in [the program], and rightly so. The Visiting Artists Program typically invites

artists who are white and male. By doing so ... our predominantly white institution is then only exposed to artists that look like us. I am especially pleased to see not only a female artist, but a female artist of color who was not born in the United States. I hope that this program continues to invite a diverse array of artists - not for tokenism, but simply because they are great artists.”

Das Gupta has installations all over the world including the United Kingdom, a permanent exhibit in China, Greece, Israel, and the United States. Her latest project, “Out of Step,” will be at the Marion Art Gallery until Feb. 26.

Artist Sharbani Das Gupta presents to a crowded lecture hall, discussing her work.
Andrew Camera/Staff Photographer

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Notes from the Women's March on Washington

CAMRY DEAN

Staff Writer

The day after Donald Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States, millions of people came together. These people not only marched and protested his victory in Washington, D.C. but in solidarity all over the world.

On Jan. 21, I drove the seven hours from Fredonia to Washington, D.C. to join a million others in a sea of hot pink pussycat hats for the Women's March on Washington.

With sister marches all over the United States, including in Buffalo and Rochester, the Women's March on Washington was established almost immediately after Nov. 9, 2016 when Trump became our president-elect over former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

Women all over the country, as well as the world, felt Trump also had a long history of objectifying women with multiple accusations of sexual assault and harassment, as well as being heard bragging about his assaults in a 2005 recording with television host Billy Bush.

Former Gov. of Indiana, Mike Pence, who is now vice president, is what most marchers called "anti-women" for his controversial anti-abortion laws as governor. Indiana State Legislature introduced House Bill 1337, which, if passed, would have forced women to hold burials for their fetus, whether they had an abortion or they naturally miscarried. Doctors who performed these abortions could also be sued for "wrongful death."

The march also stood in support of Planned Parenthood, which has been under constant attack by Republicans due to the fact that the organization performs abortions. The organization offers low-cost reproductive health and preventative care for both men and women, and absolutely no federal funds are used on abortions, which make up about 3 percent of what Planned Parenthood offers, despite right-wing efforts to discredit them.

While the march did focus a lot of its attention on women's rights and equality for women, I and many other groups stood in solidarity against the Trump administration.

Pence also has a very long history

of being anti-LGBTQ. Pence also believes in conversation therapy, or the discredited method to "change" one's sexual orientation. The practice is often deemed inhumane. Along with this, Pence stated in 2000 that he believed the funding for the Ryan White Care Act, which provides federal funding for HIV and AIDS patients should be used for conversation therapy, which isn't supported by any major mental health professionals or organizations.

His victory, which came as a surprise to most, left other minorities and marginalized groups feeling unsafe due to his comments on Mexican immigrants, the Islamic faith and refugees, and individuals with disabilities during his campaign.

Trump ran his campaign on the idea of "building a wall" between Mexico and the United States to try and combat illegal immigration, promising Mexico would pay for it, after calling Mexican immigrants "criminals and rapists."

The then-proposed wall was set in action by Executive Order on Jan. 25, with American taxpayers now footing the bill.

Trump also ran the idea of a "Muslim ban," which would keep Muslim refugees fleeing danger from coming to the United States in hope of preventing domestic terrorism, although according to the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security, terrorism by radicals makes up one-third of 1 percent of deaths in the United States. This idea was also signed by Executive Order on Jan. 27, the same day Pence attended the March for Life in D.C. The very controversial ban was made even more controversial when Trump failed to ban refugees from Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Turkey — countries Trump has business relations in. The ban has also been affecting green card holders and dual citizens.

Scientists, indigenous groups and those who believe in climate change also marched against Trump and his administration's views on science. Since the march, the once-halted Dakota Access Pipeline was again signed into action by Executive Order on Jan. 24. Trump also tweeted in 2012 that climate change was "made up by China" and has appointed climate change deniers to his cabinet. In addition, Trump has

also silenced the Environmental Protection Agency and has frozen all new grants.

Because of all of these issues, people marched on all seven continents, including Antarctica. While many say the march was a success and the start of a resistance against the Trump administration, not everyone felt the same way.

When I returned home to Fredonia, still buzzing from being a part of something so incredible, I checked social media to see nothing but negativity. Women all over the United States voiced their concerns for women in the East and how they felt seeing millions of women march for basic human rights and equality in the West while simultaneously ignoring Trump's anti-immigrant and Muslim rhetoric. I also saw women complain that we are just as equal as men while ignoring the wage gap, attacks on reproductive rights, slut-shaming and victim blaming, and all-around double standards. Whether they want to discredit the movement or not, feminism is still working for them.

While these conversations left me feeling uneasy, there were complaints coming from other groups that affected me more.

Women of color, specifically black women, felt they still weren't being heard, despite the attempted intersectionality of the marches. I saw a picture of a man holding a poster that read "I'm going to see all of you nice white ladies at the next Black Lives Matter march, right?" and I realized, despite my own Black Lives Matter poster that I was sporting at the march and being surrounded by all of the women fighting for their reproductive rights, that feeling scared for the first time in 2016 was a privilege.

Tamika D. Mallory, national co-chair for the march and activist and advocate for civil rights issues, equal rights for women and police misconduct, said during her speech that black women have always been scared and that black women have always been fighting,



especially when feminism focused solely on the rights of white women.

Trump has always been controversial when it has come to race. He was sued by the federal government for housing discrimination, the comments he's made about the Black Lives Matter movement and police brutality. He was also at the forefront of the "birther movement," which claimed former President Barack Obama was born in Kenya, claims based solely on the color of his skin.

I also saw people praising the fact that there weren't any arrests at the marches to further discredit the Black Lives Matter movement, but I have reason to believe that this was because it was a planned event with the majority of marchers being white women.

I believe that if your feminism isn't intersectional, then it's only damaging. Despite my own efforts to be as inclusive as possible, the march only reassured me that I have to continue to do better. I'm grateful to have stood with so many people and activists such as Angela Davis, Janet Mock, Carmen Perez, Linda Sarsour and Gloria Steinem, but I'm also grateful it reminded me of my privilege and that white women have to continue being there for women of color.

Photo courtesy of Camry Dean.



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From the Desk of Amber Mattice, Life & Arts Editor

AMBER MATTICE

Life & Arts Editor

Okay. Okay. I'm not here to push an agenda or force my opinions on anyone but I would really like to know why the frick-frack anybody would say in the 21st century that feminism isn't needed anymore.

In lieu of the recent election and the ignorance displayed by both the president and vice president, I would like to formally introduce the idea that feminism is still incredibly important in today's society.

It's important to remember that feminism means equality between everyone regardless of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity and everything else that adds to a person's character. It's also important to realize that it is called feminism because it is the feminine traits in human beings that people often criticize and undervalue.

After the Women's March on Washington, among the incredible amount of support from individuals across the globe, people began to demean feminists and call out feminism as a radical ideal that people should push to the side and give up. We cannot allow this to happen.

There's a reason people are marching and standing up against the patriarchy. And it's the fact that it still exists. So when I go on Facebook or Twitter and see articles being shared about why so and so is a female that is "so over feminism" or why women need to shut up about feminism because it's the 21st century, I just shake my head.

Because it is the 21st century and I don't understand why feminists still need to justify what they're fighting for and I don't understand how people still think that feminism is a movement against

men or that feminism doesn't include everyone. I can tell you right now that feminism is not feminism unless it is intersectional, so why is it so hard for people to see that all we want is equality? We don't want to be content with having more rights than we did in the late nineteenth century when first wave feminism was a thing. We want equality. Plain and simple.

Don't get me wrong, I know that there are radical feminists out there who demean men for being men and disclude other races and nationalities from their feminism, but that isn't what the movement is about. I know this rant is nothing that hasn't been said before but I'm going to keep spewing these definitions and radical notions until people finally get it.

So I'm writing this for the girls who don't think they are more than their pretty faces.

For the boys who don't think they can be both boys and beautiful.

For the girls whose voices are soft like flowers but are as powerful as a hurricane.

For the boys whose bones are made of steel but whose hearts play the softest song.

For the people who don't feel comfortable being perfectly themselves.

And I will keep writing this over and over again for the people who tried to write this before me and were silenced and, with shaking hands, were forced to give up.

Until people read this and actually listen.

Until there is total equality. Plain and simple.

Letter to the Editor

Over the years, quite a few once popular and engaged student groups have disbanded, including Amnesty International, Bike Club, Campus Climate Challenge, Campus Greens, ENACTUS (entrepreneurial action), Lucid Dreamers, Philosophical Society, Project Environment, Students Against Destructive Decisions, and Students for Peace.

Is it possible that one of the reasons, possibly minor, that these once vital groups did not survive is the lack of an easily-accessible directory of student groups, since the FSU4U website was removed 17 months ago — a directory which would show new and other students the breadth of activities and interests on campus?

I envision our capable Communication Studies, Computer Information Systems, Computer Science, and Graphic Design students designing and implementing an

accessible, inclusive, low-cost, open, secure, user-friendly, web-based directory of our 177 campus clubs that might go a long way to building a sense of community and promoting participation in the myriad of groups.

I wonder if there is interest in such a project?

J. David Swift
Adjunct Lecturer
Physics Department

Verbatim

What do you think of President Trump's first week in office?



**Chris Rowley, senior audio/
radio production**

"It's been the worst hell that I've ever had to experience."

Jeremy Bari, sophomore marketing

"I think he needs to settle down a little bit. He's still got four years to go. He can do a lot in those four years, he doesn't have to do it all right now."



Dakota Wicker, freshman computer science

"I don't really follow politics. It may affect me, but I don't think I can do too much about it myself."



Christopher Toland, junior video production

"I don't think it's going to be very promising ... I can only hope that Congress becomes Democratically controlled so that none of his ideas go through."



Sydney Younger, freshman biology and business

"The way he has affected immigrants, it has had an effect on me. I think the protesting is a positive way to move forward."



The art of playing like a girl

Fredonia celebrates National Girls and Women in Sports Day

AVRIL KING

Social Media Asst.

For the seventh year in a row, Fredonia State Athletics recognized female athletes for their determination and commitment to sports. This past Saturday, Jan. 28, Fredonia hosted several sporting events to mark the athletic achievements of women worldwide.

National Girls and Women in Sports Day (NGWSD) is a nationally recognized event, celebrated on the first Wednesday of February. It was originally created in 1987 to honor the Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman. Today, her accomplishments continue to be observed, as do the accomplishments of all women in sports, and the fight for equality in athletics.

Fredonia celebrated on Saturday by hosting Brockport and Allegheny College in the men's and women's swimming and diving competition, a double-header in men's and women's basketball against Buffalo State, as well as a scrimmage for the Westfield and Brocton basketball teams.

Behind these events is Fredonia Associate Director of Athletics and Recreation and Senior Woman Administrator Megan Valentine.

"This is ... a cause that is near and

dear to my heart," said Valentine. "I really do think that there's a great power in the opportunity to participate in athletics."

And power there is.

Research conducted by the Women's Sports Foundation has proven that participation in athletics in middle and high school helps girls achieve higher self esteem, as well as improve their leadership skills.

However, equality in men's and women's sports has still not been established. Although many courageous women have worked to prove that they are just as worthy of recognition as men, many of these achievements are still lost to the general public. Anna Chiacchia, a freshman member of Fredonia's women's tennis and basketball teams, has personally faced adversity in athletics.

"You can really tell the difference between men's and women's [sports,] and men's always seems to be more important," said Chiacchia.

Still, this has not stopped women from pushing forward and trying to help the next generation of female athletes. Every year that Fredonia has celebrated NGWSD, they have provided local girls' basketball teams with the chance



to participate in a scrimmage during halftime of the women's game.

"We're showing young kids and providing them with an opportunity to see what it might be like to play on a college basketball court and get them excited," said Valentine.

Judging by the excitement and enthusiasm exhibited by the Westfield and Brocton basketball teams on Saturday, it would seem that this event has been met with success.

When giving advice to any girls having difficulty with participation in sports, Chiacchia encouraged them to simply not be afraid. "That's always been my problem," she admitted. "It's good to be confident in your abilities and to be constantly working hard."

At the end of the day, the men's swimming and diving team took first place in the 200-yard medley relay. Senior Aaron Carlson remained

undefeated after winning the 1-meter and 3-meter boards. The men also took second place in the 100 free, 500 free, 1,000 free and the 200 free relay.

The women's swimming and diving team was able to clinch first in the 200 breaststroke and 200 individual medley. Meghan Bartlett, another senior, took first in both boards as well.

The men's basketball team was upset by the Buffalo State Bengals with a final score of 83-75. The women's basketball team was able to pull out a win against Buffalo State, finishing the game 81-60. Fredonia is proud of the determination that the Westfield and Brocton basketball teams expressed and hopes to see them again in Steele Hall.

From left: Katelyn Dennis, Maddy Stavish, Lauren Pixley, & Emily Shellenberger hand out free t-shirts.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor

Women's basketball gets back on track

Blue Devils rout Buffalo State 81-60

COLIN HART

Special to The Leader

The women's basketball team began this season on absolute fire, boasting an 11-1 record at one point. A recent slump, however, saw the Blue Devils drop four out of five games. But after Saturday night's blowout victory over rival Buffalo State in Steele Hall, it's safe to say that the Blue Devils are back on track.

The Blue Devils shot the lights

out, hitting 51 percent of their shots on the night, and easily handled the visiting Bengals en route to an 81-60 victory. The win brings them to 14-5 overall and 9-4 in the conference. Senior guard Alexis Cheatham led the way with 21 points, while also splashing in five three-pointers. She also had five three-pointers in Fredonia's previous game, a key overtime win against Brockport.

As a team, the Blue Devils hit a total of 10 threes against Buffalo State,

making it the second game in a row that they've reached that mark. Their hot perimeter shooting wasn't the only thing that ultimately doomed their conference rivals. The Blue Devils outplayed the Bengals in all facets of the game: winning the rebounding battle, consistently getting to the free throw line, forcing turnovers and passing up good shots for great shots.

The Blue Devils opened the game on a 9-2 run, but Buffalo State wouldn't

go away quietly as Fredonia led by only four after the first quarter. Buffalo State wouldn't hang around for long, though, as Fredonia's advantage ballooned to sixteen after the third quarter, with Cheatham and senior Jamie Curry each hitting a pair of threes in the period. After that, it was smooth sailing.

A balanced scoring effort and a focus on rebounding was key for the Blue Devils.

Sophomore forward Jenna Einink and senior guard Khee Nance had 13 points and 10 points, respectively. Senior forward Kathryn Halloran contributed with eight rebounds.

“We controlled their inside game and we outrebounded them,” said assistant coach Rich Norton. “Buff State is the leading rebounding team in the conference, so we did a good job on their bigs inside.”

“I think we need to just focus on ourselves and what we do best,” said Cheatham, regarding the team’s recent losses. “I thought we were too

caught up with what the other teams were doing and we lost track of what we do best.” She acknowledged that they must take things one game at a time.

Sometimes a midseason slump can derail a team. The Blue Devils have responded with two straight wins and this is exactly what Norton wants to see.

“It just shows how tough this conference is. You can’t take anyone for granted. It was a good wake-up call for us and we know we have enough time left in the conference

to push ourselves and get the highest seeding possible. But we just have to take it one game at a time,” he said.

The women’s basketball team opens up February with back-to-back road games against New Paltz and Oneonta, a chance to exact some revenge against teams that beat the Blue Devils at home a couple weeks ago.

#32 Jenna Einink blocks #10 of Buff State.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor



Men’s hockey stays in the hunt for a playoff spot

Team scores 29 goals in historic weekend versus Post

QUINTIN JAMES

Staff Writer

Two weeks ago, the Fredonia men’s hockey team had won two games in a row and were feeling very confident heading into annual Pink the Rink weekend in Steele Hall. Being on the fringe of a playoff spot, the Blue Devils knew they had to come out and defend home ice.

Pink the Rink weekend is always an important event because of the meaning of the game. The event is for cancer awareness and the score isn’t normally the most important thing in the game, but year’s event was all Blue Devils.

The opponent for the weekend was Post University, a DII school, who were looking to rain on the weekend parade. In the game prior to the Pink the Rink game, the Blue Devils beat Post by a score of 14-0.

The first game was dominated by the underclassmen. Sophomore forward Luke Rivera finished the game with a hat trick and an assist. Sophomore Kyle Jelinski added two goals and two assists as well to lead the attack.

River said the key to his good game was just sticking to it.

“I tried to be level-headed the whole game. I also had a lot of help from my linemates,” said Rivera. On what it means to the team for the underclassmen to step up and play well later in the season he said, “This is very

big for the team. We had a big incoming class this year and we need everyone to produce.”

In his third career start, junior goalie Nick Harper recorded only seven saves for a shootout. The Blue Devils outshot Post by a whopping 71 shots (78-7) and the 14 goals scored by the Blue Devils was the first time that mark has been hit since 2010.

The next day was the annual Pink the Rink game with Fredonia wearing their custom pink jerseys. The Blue Devils, in front of a packed house, made sure to put on a show for the large crowd. Fredonia cruised to a 15-1 win against Post, outshooting them 71-14.

Sophomore forward Jimmy Morgan equalized his season goal total on the night, scoring four goals in the game and leading the team. Senior Marcus Ortiz had a hat trick of his own.

Fredonia ended up raising an estimate of \$8,000, which now brings the total to an estimate of \$75,000 in 11 years of the Pink the Rink at Fredonia. The proceeds of the event go to the American Cancer Society of Western New York. Money was made in part from the pink jerseys the players and referees wore during the game.

Head coach Jeff Meredith said the team just played their game and the results showed. “We worked hard and didn’t take any shortcuts. We got off to quick starts and won the special teams game. We also stayed out of the penalty

book as well,” he said.

The defense during the weekend was amazing, only allowing one goal. Goalie coach John Cullen said the team has always had a defense-first mindset.

“We did a great job of making turnovers, breaking out, and keeping the puck in the offensive zone. We won the battles in the crease and made life hard for their goalie by putting puck on the net,” said Cullen.

After scoring 29 goals in one weekend, the Blue Devils last week went on the road to play two crucial conference games against Potsdam and Plattsburgh State.

Going into the Potsdam game, the Blue Devils were favored to win the game. With one conference win on the season, Potsdam looked to play the spoiler role in getting a death blow to the Blue Devils playoff hopes.

Unfortunately for Potsdam, the Blue Devils were riding a five-game winning streak and won the game 3-1. Freshman forward had a goal and an assist while sophomore goalie Eric Bogart stopped 36 out of 37 shots as Fredonia keep the good times rolling.

The Blue Devils jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the first period and extended that lead to three in the second and Potsdam just couldn’t solve the mystery that was Bogart. The Blue Devils were outshot 37-31 and lost the faceoff battle 38-34.

With the win, the Blue Devils moved into a three-way tie for third place with

Buffalo State and Plattsburgh with a 5-5-1 conference record.

Trying to go 2-0 during the weekend, the Blue Devils played Plattsburgh on the second night of a back to back. The Blue Devils were punched in the mouth out the gate by Plattsburgh and missed a huge opportunity to stay in the third seed for playoff contention.

Senior Hunter Long was the only person to score a goal for Fredonia, and that came in the third period. Plattsburgh had jumped out to a 1-0 lead in the first, and then added two in the second period to extend the lead to 3-0.

Plattsburgh temporarily jumped ahead of Fredonia in the standings as these two teams and Buffalo State have been fighting for the third spot in the standings for a while.

When talking about the mood of the team, Cullen was adamant when saying how the chemistry has been extremely high. “The mood is good right now. We know that there’s a job to be done and we all keep each other accountable,” he said.

He said that winning four out of the last six games would be ideal, but with four of the last six games against conference teams and five out of the last six on the road, the Blue Devils will need to be on their game to secure a playoff spot.

Biden letter leak goes viral

Ex-vice president leaves not-so heartfelt message for Pence

PATRICK BENNETT

Staff Lamponist

“Dear Mr. Penis, I mean Mr. Pence, I would like to leave you some encouraging thoughts and wisdom as you take over my position as Vice President of the United States,” were the first words written in a confidential letter written by Joe Biden to Mike Pence. The letter was leaked by a bearded wine-drunk BuzzFeed employee this past Friday.

Over the past couple of months, the 2016 presidential election stimulated meme creationists to synthesize the Holy Grail of political memes: the Biden memes. These memes (pronounced “me-me’s” by middle-aged moms) showcased Biden as a mischievous troll who had literally no chill in his mannerisms. The letter indeed confirmed that Biden had no chill.

“As you assume the position I once

held with such great honor, I’d like you to understand a couple of things right off the get-go. The first of which is that when you go to use the presidential lavatory and, by chance, happen to clog the toilet, there will be no plunger available for you to use. This is because I’ve exhausted the use of every plunger in the White House. So, you better bring your own plunger (BYOP) or get lost,” the letter continued.

After hearing of the bathroom talk Biden wrote to Pence over the letter, the militia found in Middle America, known as the Pence Militia, were majorly outraged. The militia has been gaining a steady following over the last couple of months.

“Well, we like to call ourselves Pence O’ Plenty, the Pence Police, or the most widely known name is the Pence Militia,” the group’s leader, Shovel Wilkinson, said in between monstrous spits of chewing tobacco into a can of

Cherry Coke.

“Our whole cause is to protect Mike and everything he stands for. He came to visit our stronghold at the local Shoney’s one time. He impregnated my wife! I named him Mike Jr. He already hates musicals and Barbara Streisand, so I know those genes are strong,” Wilkinson added.

Biden didn’t flush the rest of what he had to say to Pence down the toilet after the bathroom talk. He continued to tell Pence stories of him and ex-President Barack Obama or, as Biden referred to him, “Barry from the block.”

“I don’t know what kind of excursions you and that sack of dung plan to go on, but Barry and I would traditionally visit Burning Man and lick loads of tabs. I’d be so lit that I’d give him a totally bro-mantic backrub as he wrote the most morose prose I’ve ever read on a piece of papyrus, hand-crafted by a jeweler named Destiny,”

Biden continued.

Ex-second lady, Jill Biden, expressed her thoughts on Biden’s words in his letter with a simple sentence: “I’m probably going to cancel his Xbox Live subscription.”

Staff from major journalism outlets around the world were appalled at some of the things Biden had stated. The New York Times deemed the situation “Biden-gate,” while other major publications such as BuzzFeed held an all-you-can-drink wine fest and continued to make adorable and quick videos on how to make “scrambler bombs.”

After a couple diatribes about the White House’s cooking staff and the way the security guards would approach his pranks, Biden opted to end the letter with a quick and simple “you better watch your back. Love, Joe,” with a hand drawn winky face.

The Statue of Liberty flees back to France

EMMA PATTERSON

Staff Lamponist

It seems that those Obama/Biden memes are not the only national treasures we’ll be missing over the next four years. The iconic symbol of freedom herself — the Statue of Liberty — apparently fled the country late last night, according to a confused yet unsurprised eye-witnesses.

“She kinda just lost it,” one witness said, his bald head shining in the January sun. “One second she was standing there like she’s supposed to, and the next second she was, like, randomly freaking out,” he said, shaking his bald, privileged head with privilege. “Maybe she’s PMS-ing or something.”

Although this single encounter made Lady Liberty’s reasons for escape much more clear, she nevertheless left behind a letter explaining her motives, intended most likely for those whose smallish brains can’t comprehend the concept of equality.

“Listen,” the letter begins. “I’m tired. I’m poor. I’m yearning to breathe free. This hasn’t only been a terrifying dumpster-fire of a year for all you huddled masses, you know.”

The letter continues in a similar exasperated fashion.

“The New Guy is trying to undermine all my hard work by closing up borders and building walls. I mean, why does he think I’ve been holding this torch for so long? For my health!?”

Across the nation, one fear (amid thousands of other fears in this newly Cheeto-dusted country) sticks out to those who actually care about things other than barbeque sauce and crown-sizes: where is Lady Liberty, and what if she never comes back?

“As I’ve been feeling a little antagonized lately, I’ll be back in France, home of good cheese and my brother, the Eiffel Tower,” her letter continued.

The Statue of Liberty did not confirm nor deny if she would be visiting other countries during her absence, except for writing how she’s “heard a lot of great things about Canada lately.” Obviously, the abrupt departure of the Statue of Liberty has resulted in many terrified citizens, as proven by the recently trending hashtags, #saveladyliberty, #isrushmorenext and #freedomwhereyouat. Despite these desperate pleas for her return, The Statue of Liberty ended her letter on a decidedly formal note: “For the next four years, I’d very much like to be excluded from this narrative.”

However, not all hope is lost. A P.S. at the bottom of the letter proves that, though her torch may currently be extinguished, she sure can spit fire: “If I would be permitted to wear one of those pink hats, well, maybe we’ll talk.”



Daniel Salazar/Staff Illustrator

Nation exhausted by one week of Trump presidency

ALBERTO GONZALEZ

Special to the Lampoon

How long has Donald Trump really been in office, one week or one year? Honestly, it is hard to tell.

It seems impossible that in one measly week he could already have made such a mess, but he did it. In an effort to prove everyone wrong who told him he was not going to get things done, he has already managed to sign more executive actions than citizens can keep track of. As to whether or not any of those actions will benefit literally anyone other than himself and big corporations is debatable.

When President Barack Obama was still in office, he halted the Keystone XL pipeline. On Tuesday, Trump resurrected that pipeline, as well as gave the go-ahead on a pipeline through the Dakotas that has been fiercely denounced by Native American activists. Trump, we

understand you thought Obama was a part of ISIS, but he wasn't.

It's contradictory that Trump thinks the best first steps of action are to undo what Obama has done, and he wants to work on areas that don't need fixing. That is how the tiny-handed man works though. A perfectly good building is not complete unless he adds his asinine touch to it; it seems probable that Trump would say, "This needs my name in giant huge letters so I know it's mine."

The employment rate is at an all time high, yet Trump wants to make more jobs because it's a "problem." The Dakota pipeline will create more jobs, he claims. He is not wrong, but a closer look at the types of jobs created shows that there will be a huge influx of temporary jobs and only 50 permanent jobs. Wow! That's totally worth all of the environmental damage and the destruction of what little Native

American land remains!

There has been a cancelled meeting with the president of Mexico because he seemed to use common sense and realizes that his country shouldn't pay for the U.S. putting on a giant, racist-fueled art project in the form of an overpriced, underthought, non-effective wall.

The best news that has come out of the White House in the past week has come in the form of leaks. All of the leaks that have already accumulated in the first full week would be enough for months — if not a year's worth — of leaks from any other administration.

The leaks have to do with staff complaining like a mother who has a child who has just learned to say no. Constantly telling of all of the times they have to tell Trump to stop watching TV, don't tweet, pay more attention, stick to the topic. What better thing to hear about the leader of the free world?

Get back to work, and stop being so lazy! One story tells of a staff member requesting an office on the second floor, knowing the probability of Trump walking up the stairs to be very slim.

Also, everybody in the country has to get used to the hearing and speaking the phrase "President Donald Trump," which is not normal and may never feel totally okay.

The first week seems to have packed into it all of the horrible worst case scenarios that many of us have imagined, and he crammed them all into one week. What does this mean for next week? Who knows, but if we are lucky, maybe by then Trump will get bored, miss his mansion with all his big boy gloves and he will resign, leaving us to a horrible few years with President Mike Pence.

Police Notter

JACLYN SPIEZIA & ALBERTO GONZALEZ

Staff Lampoonist and Special to the Lampoon

UNIVERSITY

Sunday, Jan. 22, 2017

A student reported a laptop was stolen from a dorm room. A report was filed after the laptop found under their bed two hours later.

Monday, Jan. 23, 2017

University Police received a report that a couple was arguing inside the library. The situation was diffused upon arrival. According to a witness report, the librarian sternly shushed them whist pointing to a "silence in the library" sign.

Students were reportedly found drunk in the Amphitheater singing Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You." They were issued an appearance ticket and lectured on how crack isn't the only thing that's whack.

University Police received a noise complaint about a couple reportedly having loud sex in a dorm room. Upon further investigation, it was apparent that the couple in question was actually just watching National Geographic.

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017

A R.A. called in reports of an underaged drinking party in McGinnies Hall. Authorities arrived on the scene with enough time to "hit the quan." A report was filed.

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2017

Vandalism that read "Trump has tiny hands" was found on routine patrol in University Commons. A report was filed and "Trump" was corrected to "Drumpf."

A car was reportedly stolen from near Starbucks. The car was found near Tim Hortons with the thief inside after hearing that "Roll Up the Rim" came back.

Thursday, Jan. 26, 2017

Marijuana was found growing in the greenhouse in the Science Center. The marijuana was burned on site and the officers had trouble escaping from the greenhouse for three hours.

A naked student was reportedly seen engaging in lewd behavior with the "Cutter" sculpture near the Science Center. A report was filed stating that, yeah, it looks like a penis from some angles, but not all of them, okay?

Friday, Jan. 27, 2017

A drunk male was reported passed out in the fountain near the Williams Center. Officers on site gave him a pillow and read him a bedtime story.





Fredonia's Performing Arts Company puts on Alice in Slasherland in McEwen 209.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor



#23 Jacque Law and #32 Jenna Einink defend against Buffalo State.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor



"Fool's Gold", two clay sails displayed in the middle of Marion Art Gallery.
Andrew Camera/Staff Photographer



Alum Jessamine Daly-Griffen speaks before the beginning of the march.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor



Sean Duggan opens the concert with J. S. Bach's Chromatic Fantasia & Fugue, BWV 903 on piano.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor