

THE LEADER

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The Leader

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Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

Correction:

In a Letter to the Editor last week, one reader wrote that Enactus was among student groups which had recently disbanded. Enactus continues to meet and maintain a presence at Fredonia. We regret the error.

Chamberlain receives Lanford Prize

DAN ORZECOWSKI
Staff Writer

Each year the Lanford Prize is given to a member of the graduating class who has displayed all-around achievement while representing Fredonia's values. Sarah Rose Chamberlain has been named this year's recipient of the prize from the Oscar and Esther Lanford Endowment of the Fredonia College Foundation.

Chamberlain's leadership roles on campus and in the community are extensive, including:

- President, Engineering and Physics Society
- Vice President, Math Club
- Tutor, Learning Center
- Instructor, Aerobic Center
- Participant, Fredonia Fall Sweep
- Participant, Mini Maker Faire
- Member, Honor Society
- Member, Golden Key International Honour Society
- Member, Sigma Pi Sigma
- Member, Pi Mu Epsilon

Chamberlain is a dual major in applied math and theoretical physics and works as an instructor at the aerobics center and as a tutor. And yet somehow she still has enough time to breathe. Chamberlain uses her gig as an aerobics instructor as a source of stress relief.

"I enjoy having students come [to the aerobics center] and being able to give them the opportunity to forget all of their stress like I do," Chamberlain said.

The Grand Island, New York native recognized her passion for math back in her junior year of high school when she first discovered trigonometry. By senior year, Chamberlain found herself taking AP classes and eventually reached 10th in her class.

When it came time to deciding



which college to attend, Chamberlain had narrowed her choices down to Geneseo and Fredonia.

To help her with her decision, she spoke to the math department chairs of both schools.

"The math chair at Fredonia sat with me for an hour. He talked to me about anything and everything. Things like playing the flute in high school, things that didn't even relate to math. I don't even think he talked to me about math once," explained Chamberlain.

She believes that moment spoke for Fredonia's faculty. "I think that moment was the beacon that told me to come to Fredonia," Chamberlain said.

Chamberlain has applied to graduate school, but has not yet made a decision as to where. Depending on her route, she will either study biophysics or medical physics.

The Lanford Prize will be presented to Chamberlain at Fredonia's Commencement on May 13.

Sarah Chamberlain.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor



Jack Steger of Pier Pressure performs at BJ's.
Courtney Cutter/Special to The Leader

SUNY reacts to immigration executive order

CAMRY DEAN

Staff Writer

On Dec. 7, 2015, then-presidential candidate Donald Trump called for the U.S. to bar all Muslims from entering the country.

“Donald J. Trump is calling for a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on,” he said during a press conference on the campaign trail.

As the candidate that previously recommended the surveillance of mosques and a Muslim registry, one of the first executive orders as president was a 120 day ban of refugees coming from the Muslim-majority countries of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, which was signed into action on Jan. 27. The ban on refugees from Syria is indefinite.

As of Feb. 4, Trump's ban was blocked by Federal Judge James Robart from Seattle.

After the national block, the Department of Justice filed an appeal to reinstate and put an emergency stay on the ban but was denied on Feb. 5.

Though the administration insists it isn't a “Muslim ban,” Trump said that Christian refugees would be a priority in a Jan. 27 interview with David Brody of the Christian Broadcasting Network.

Soon after the order was signed, fear and confusion struck thousands of people across the United States as the order was affecting those with valid visas and green cards, as well as dual citizens and legal residents. Countless individuals and families were being detained in airports and barred from re-entering their home country.

On Feb. 4, the Department of Homeland Security announced that it had suspended “any and all actions” related to Trump's executive order, according to The Hill.

The U.S. already has one of the most rigorous vetting process for refugees that takes 18 to 24 months. According to the U.N., 800 refugees, who had already gone through the process, were banned

from entering the U.S. under the order by Feb. 4.

State Universities of New York accept 22,140 international students from 180 countries, including 600 students from the seven counties included in the ban.

Professor Czerton Lim of the Theatre and Dance Department has been wearing his “identity” around his neck in response to the ban, hoping to put a face to refugees and to humanize the problem.

“As an immigrant, I am fully aware of what it takes to enter this country legally and the privilege of becoming a U.S citizen,” Lim wrote in a campus-wide email. “This takes time, energy and patience, so I speak for those who waited in line, who filled out the paperwork, who put in the time, who were 'vetted,' who sacrificed to get in line, who are fleeing horrendous conditions to apply to enter this country only to be denied due process with the flick of a pen.

“I am speaking for those who have no voice because I have mine.”

Wearing a laminated poster around his neck that reads “I am an (legal) immigrant,” Lim hopes to encourage conversation about refugees, immigrants and diversity as a whole.

“My intention was never to turn it into a campaign,” Lim said in an interview. “This is a personal statement from my part, just making sense of what has happened. My intention was to express my dissent with those decisions and a way to personalize the issue in terms of making it less abstract and making it about real people, i.e. me.”

Students of Professor Lim have already started “wearing their identities” in his classes to further the conversation about immigration and inclusivity.

Over the past week, a countless number of stories have flooded the media of people with green cards, valid visas and dual-citizenship not being able to return back to the U.S. after being out of the country.

A Ph.D student at Stony Brook University, a SUNY school, was detained at John F. Kennedy Airport



on her way back to school and was held for almost 24 hours. According to BBC Correspondent Bahmen Kalbasi, Vahideh Rasekhi was set to be deported to Istanbul, Turkey after spending winter break in Iran but, with the help of lawyers, was not deported and spent hours in detention.

In an email from the SUNY Student Association, student leaders from all SUNY campuses voiced their opposition to the executive order and their support to the students affected.

“The President's Executive Order halting the legal immigration and free movement of refugees and citizens of several Muslim-majority countries to enter our own, a country of immigrants, is discriminatory and wrong,” the email wrote. “We, the elected leaders from across the 64 campuses of largest system of public colleges and universities in the country, stand united in our shame of this hateful decision.”

President Virginia Horvath has been encouraging dialogue and offering support for students, faculty and staff who are discouraged or scared about how the ban will affect them, one example being the peaceful gathering held on Feb. 2 in Reed Library.

“We want to emphasize the importance in our institutions of diversity to support our international

students and to keep on top of details so we know exactly how it will affect people,” Horvath said. “That's really all we can say at this point because we don't have many details and what we knew originally has changed. It's a confusing time for a lot of people.”

The Office of International Education and Human Resources are available on campus for students who are concerned about what the ban means for them and their travels. The Provost and Vice President for Student Affairs are currently working on ways to open a dialogue about diversity at Fredonia and the executive order.

“Don't withdraw. Don't assume you're alone,” Horvath said. “Reach out to each other. Don't stay up all night reading the news. If you have a visa status and you're worried, there are people on campus to talk to. There are people to reach out to to talk about this, even if we don't much information. Just keep talking to each other.”

Erin Willis speaks at the peaceful gathering in Reed Library.

Andrew Camera/Staff Photographer

Houghton Hall closed for renovations

JAMES LILLIN
Staff Writer

As Fredonia struggles with decreased enrollment, it has become more and more common to see empty facilities like Hendrix and Erie Hall close down in part or in whole due to lack of demand. Houghton Hall, although not boarded up, has been closed until further notice with little fanfare from the administration.

“I thought it was strange that there was this building filled with classes and displaced theatre faculty [from the new Rockefeller Arts Center renovations], and now the building is suddenly dead,” said senior acting major Angelo Heimowitz.

What may not be clear to students is that Houghton’s closing was not a result of downsizing, but of future renovations that are planned to bring Houghton up to the same level as the newly built Science Center.

“Houghton is not currently in use,” said Director of Facilities Services Kevin

Cloos. “Houghton is scheduled to be renovated as part of the opening of [the] Science Center.”

Part of the motivation to renovate Houghton started when Director of Facilities Planning Markus Kessler overheard a prospective student talking to her mother during a visit to Houghton.

“I heard a young girl say to her mother, ‘Mom, why would I come here when my high school’s science labs look a hundred times better than this,’” said Kessler. “Even though we have absolutely fantastic programs here, sometimes the facilities outweigh the program because visiting students can see and walk around the facilities, but can’t know how fantastic a teacher is just by looking at them.”

The Houghton renovations began as a plan to revitalize the building, with high aspirations of gathering all STEM programs on campus together.

“The first floor and the basement level would have been [the Departments of] Physics, Geosciences, an animal colony, and the Jewett Museum,” said

Kessler. “Mathematics and Computer Sciences would be on the second floor, and along with the Science Center would form a complete, consolidated home for STEM fields on campus.”

Unfortunately, harsh financial realities struck and forced Facilities Planning to reevaluate the scope of the project.

“When we took a look at Houghton and started designing, there was a belief that the budget would always allow us to have \$14 million to \$16 million a year to complete critical maintenance,” said Kessler. “Soon, instead of getting \$16 million, we were getting \$4 million.”

Since that initial cut, Fredonia is getting even less funding to a new formula introduced by Gov. Andrew Cuomo that ties funding directly to student enrolment. Eventually, a new fund was made available for “shovel-ready” projects like the Houghton renovation, although even the new funding was not without limitations.

“[The current plan] is a watered-down version, and won’t be completely

like what we originally designed,” Kessler said.

The current plan will still consist of renovations to the facilities, but will also focus on making sure that Houghton remains a safe a stable building.

“We’re going to meet with the Construction Fund in the middle of February to talk about Houghton,” Kessler said. “We want to replace the windows and a lot of the masonry, and then get going on some of the other construction and development.”

Once funding is secured and the project has been “value-engineered” to an acceptable price, then a timetable will be made to carry out the renovations.

“What many don’t realize is that the Science Center, for me, started in 2001,” Kessler said. “We started design on the new part of RAC in 2010. What many students don’t realize is that this can be a very long, very difficult process.”

If all goes well, Kessler hopes that the renovations on the exterior of Houghton can begin by the summer of 2018, with internal renovations

Police Blotters

UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017

11:23 p.m. Iaysha M. Washington, age 18, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana.

11:23 p.m. Destiny E. Smith, age 18, was charged with criminal tampering after reportedly covering up a campus smoke detector.

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017

3 a.m. Matthew M. Spaulding was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana and possession of a fictitious driver’s license.

3 a.m. Patrice Snowden was charged with possession of a fictitious driver’s license.

Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017.

5:58 p.m. Ronald J. Harris, age 18, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana.

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017

9:18 p.m. University Police was contacted by a caller who reportedly heard a woman screaming. A report was filed.

FREDONIA

Saturday, Feb. 4.

2:11 a.m. Lucas D. Trombley, age 22, was charged with violating the sewer ordinance. He was issued an appearance ticket.

2:38 a.m. Leroy C.H. Gilbert, age 20, was charged with unlawful possession of alcohol and open container. He was issued an appearance ticket.

Brenna J. Snyder, age 19, was charged with unlawful possession of alcohol and open container. She was issued an appearance ticket.

Sunday, Feb. 5, 2017

Erick A. Alemestica-Ayalay, age 25, was charged with harassment in the 2nd degree and attempted robbery in the 3rd degree. He was held.

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.

Gordon, Eklum and Hartling nominated for Chancellor's Award

JAMES LILLIN
Staff Writer

The Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence is one of the highest academic honors that can be received by a student attending a SUNY institution. This year, Fredonia has nominated three students to receive the award: senior biology major Zachary Eklum, senior public relations and Spanish major Maria Gordon and senior molecular genetics and psychology major Rebecca Hartling.

"The awards are SUNY-wide," said President Virginia Horvath, "and when looking for nominees we value a high GPA, but it's also important that they demonstrate leadership in many other areas."

Although the three nominees are virtually guaranteed to receive the award, they do first need to be approved by the Chancellor after looking over their records and accomplishments.

"In all the years I've been here we've never had somebody turned down at the SUNY level," said Horvath, "but it's not official until SUNY approves it."

All three nominees represent different facets of Fredonia, and have remarkable achievements in many different fields.

"It was a huge honor to be nominated for the award," said Gordon. "I've been very busy over the past four



years. There have been moments when it just seems like there isn't enough time in the day, but it's ultimately been a good challenge for me."

Gordon is currently an intern with the Study Abroad office, and has been the captain of the varsity women's soccer team for two years, but places her time studying abroad as most important to her.

"When looking back at my time on Fredonia I think my biggest accomplishment was my time studying abroad in Chile," said Gordon. "Traveling on my own, living with a host family, and being surrounded by Spanish all the time was amazing, and I made some great personal discoveries there."

Zachary Eklum looks forward to spending his next few years at SUNY's Upstate Medical University, and hopes to continue to pursue medicine.

"I plan on practicing medicine in a rural area like Chautauqua County after graduating medical school and completing a medical residency," said Eklum.

Eklum has many fond memories at Fredonia, particularly meeting Bill Nye, but is especially grateful to the faculty that helped him get to where he is today.

"My academic advisor, Dr. [Theodore] Lee, has offered superb guidance along my path to acceptance into medical school," said Eklum. "Drs.

[Scott] Medler and [Catherine] Creeley were very helpful to my lab skills by allowing me to tackle interesting research questions in their research labs. Many other faculty members have assisted me in various disciplines as well. I truly appreciate their assistance to me in my endeavors."

Rebecca Hartling was surprised to find out she had been nominated, but was also very grateful.

"I was honestly shocked at first because I never thought I would be nominated," said Hartling. "I'm very humbled for even being considered."

Hartling is particularly fond of her time working with the National Biological Honors Society, Tri Beta.

"I'm definitely proudest of the scientific writing workshops I helped to create through Tri Beta," said Hartling. "I got the chance to work with some amazing people and it was great to see that the work we were doing was really actually helping the students."

Hartling will also be attending medical school after graduation, although she has not decided on where yet.

All three nominees, if confirmed, will be given a special medal to wear during graduation, and will be asked to stand in recognition of their accomplishments.

From left: Hartling, Eklum and Gordon.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor

The Trident accepting submissions

The Trident, Fredonia's annual, campus-based literary magazine, is now accepting submissions for this year's edition. Edited and published by the students of Literary Publishing, The Trident features Fredonia's writers of original poetry, fiction and nonfiction.

Interested students are encouraged to submit poetry (1-3 poems), fiction (100-2000 words) or creative nonfiction (100-2000 words). The class is also accepting digital photography and artwork to be considered for cover art.

Please send submissions and questions to thetridenteditors@gmail.com by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13. Please include your name and genre in the subject of the email and your work title(s) in the body of the email.

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M.A.G.S, northernstate make for a memorable night

BETHANY CLANCY

Staff Writer

Another successful Wednesday night show at BJ's happened on Feb. 1. Despite the frigid temperature and blowing snow, the room was packed right as the clock struck 10 p.m. As an unofficial dress code for the night, almost everyone had Hawaiian shirts on and was ready to jam.

The first band on the bill was the Music Industry Club's Battle of the New Bands winner, Pier Pressure. The group formed in the Fall of 2016 with all members being Fredonia students. With the new year, lineup changes had to be made, still making it Fredonia-oriented with Michael Earle on vocals, Jorian Holka and Jack Steger on guitar, John Vaughan on bass and Matt Edwards on bass.

To describe their sound, Holka, a senior exercise science major, said, "We say that we're a dad-core band that combines the elements of hard rock with the crashing of the sea. Numerous genres can be identified in our original music, some pop-punk, to alternative, to blues/funk and hard rock. This is a lot

different from my other projects that I've been in. It's more fun, relaxed and experimental. We all bring our own musical influences to the table."

Their set at BJ's was full of upbeat songs and a cover of Blink-182's "First Date" along with Cage the Elephant's "In One Ear" — two very different styles of songs, but each sounding right coming from this band.

Next up was northernstate, another Fredonia-based band whose members all originate from Long Island. The band also formed in Fall of 2016 in the basement of drummer Rob Brennan. "We knew each other for quite sometime, all played music and had very similar music tastes. We knew that once the opportunity arose, we all wanted to start writing songs and playing shows together," Brennan, a junior music industry major said.

When describing the band's genre, Brennan said, "I usually let the listener decide. Right now I see us as a pop-punk/emo group." Some of their inspirations include bigger bands like



Four Year Strong, Every Time I Die and The Story So Far, along with local bands, Rescue Dawn and Kill the Clock.

With this show being their second at BJ's, they blew it out of the water. From start to finish fans were jumping around, starting mosh pits and finger pointing lyrics back into vocalist Tom Brennan's face. They played all originals and had such a high energy throughout the night. Dan McCormick of Kill The Clock even did guest vocals for a song.

There was also a special appearance by the band Super American (and their pineapple), who will be playing a show at BJ's on Feb. 15. Those who were there Wednesday night got an exclusive listen to their new single, which the crowd went nuts over.

Closing out the show was M.A.G.S, an indie punk band from Buffalo, New York. "I tend to draw from a lot of different sources when I'm writing so from my perspective it's tricky to pin down one genre," frontman Elliot Douglas said. The band started off as a solo project done by Douglas in 2014, but last summer, he recruited Andy Wesner for bass and Tyler Mendola of

Deadwolf for drums.

As far as musical influences, Douglas says that he "tends to be influenced by a vibe or an attitude more so than musicality ... Thomas Erak from The Fall of Troy, the band PUP and Jimi Hendrix are a few of my biggest influences."

Fredonia was one of his most memorable shows, so to be playing back at BJ's was very exciting for him and the other two members. Their set was toned down compared to the punk rockers in northernstate, but that did not stop anyone from dancing and jumping the night away. One mention that a song had been written for his wife was met with a chorus of "aww" from the crowd.

Everybody at the show left with tired feet and as fans of great new music.



Bottom left: Tyler Mendola of northernstate performs. Top right: Jake Loreface (left) and Tom Brennan of northernstate perform. Courtney Cutter/Special to The Leader

Reed Library displays Women's March on Washington

ZOE KIRIAZIS
Staff Writer

The Women's March on Washington, held as a protest the day after President Donald Trump's inauguration, was the largest single-day demonstration in U.S. history — and many Fredonians who attended are now sharing their stories through a new display in Reed Library.

Dawn Eckenrode, director of professional development and associate librarian at Fredonia, was among the 500,000 people who marched in Washington D.C. Eckenrode explained how marching was meaningful not only for “advocating for basic human rights” but for her 9-year-old daughter.

“She really wanted to go with me, and the night before I was packing my bag and she's like, ‘I made you this sign,’” Eckenrode said. The sign read “Woman Matter. It doesn't matter what color or what size or what they look like they need respect! Its not hard.”

As a March attendee and a librarian, Eckenrode could see the historic significance of the march. “Having that digital presence, the photos and videos ... I thought the physical artifacts were so meaningful, and I saw the meaning to preserve these artifacts for future generations,” she said. People were giving her their shirts, pink “pussy-hats” which many marchers wore, signs, pins and one woman even gave Eckenrode her wedding dress filled with statements signed by protestors at the march. Reed Library's display will showcase these artifacts from Washington throughout the month of February.

Fredonia students and faculty have shared their stories about marching and have also donated to the Reed Library display.

English graduate coordinator Jeanette McVicker marched in Washington, D.C. She believes that “marches are one important way that people have communicated that something is unjust, unfair, discriminatory or harmful.” She marched with two of her colleagues, and

importance of the marches around the world by connecting what is being discussed in academic classes, but “beyond the walls of the university.” She said via email, “When we are able to have one-on-one conversations ... we recognize each other as complex caring human beings.”

who cannot, in hopes that someday their voices will be heard too,” she said. Some people don't find importance in the women's marches around the world, but Sapia said that “change is not going to happen” if there aren't protests and various events being held.

Wagner not only attended the March on Washington, but recently also protested in Buffalo against Trump's plans for a wall along the Mexican border. “I was able to show that I don't condone what he stands for, and I will do everything in my power to express that.” Wagner described that change can only happen when we are together. She said that if there are people who don't want to understand what is happening or don't want things to change, that it's fine. “I'll just move onto the next person,” Wagner said.

Local Fredonia community member Francine Rondenell refuses to be silenced. “I marched in Washington because I am afraid,” she said. Rondenell said the marches are about the rights of Americans and potential national security risks. “The administration is targeting women, the LGBTQ+ community, minorities and the poor,” she said, explaining that “no one has the right to take away the freedoms of any American, regardless of race, sexual orientation, a culture of origin or disability.”

“To LISTEN” said McVicker via email, when asked what she would say to Trump about the March on Washington and around the world.

“Every bill he passes, every executive order he issues, we will be there. And if we don't agree, we'll be sure to let him know,” said Wagner.

Sapia said, “We aren't going anywhere. The Women's March on Washington was just a warm-up.”



McVicker said that once they knew other marches were happening around the globe, they knew they were part of “a larger expression of concern around the world about the state of affairs ushered in by this election.”

English professor Susan McGee commented how “intensely supportive” the march was with its “inclusive dedication.” McGee discussed the

Juniors Chiara Sapia and Hannah Wagner attended the march together with friends on Washington. Sapia said that marching and being one of the 500,000 people in Washington “restored my faith in humanity.” She felt empowered walking alongside people who shared the same passions and interests. “I marched because I can march, and I marched for all the women

Rachel Barbato/Special to The Leader

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Art in the Trump Era

Artists across mediums are 'questioning the status quo'

**KRIS HARRIS and
LERON WELLINGTON**
Staff Writers

"Take your broken heart. Make it into art." As a closing for her Golden Globe acceptance speech, Meryl Streep referenced her late friend Carrie Fisher to express the importance of the arts and diversity.

In times of political turbulence, the film industry and other media outlets have been striking back in many ways. Only a year after #OscarsSoWhite, we are seeing an immense growth in the kinds of people and stories on screen.

Popular picks include Golden Globe winners for Best Motion Picture "Moonlight" and "La La Land," two very different films that are both receiving accolades for being avant garde. "Moonlight" chronicles three stages in a poor black man's life as he struggles with his sexuality, while "La La Land" is a revamped version of the classic musical movie about two young artists falling in love.

Movies and television series featuring cast mainly made of minorities have gotten major recognitions. Notable mentions are "Orange is the New Black" for its third consecutive SAG award and Viola Davis and Denzel Washington's SAG Awards for the film adaptation of August Wilson's "Fences."

President Trump's immigration ban has sparked major opposition around the world and that, of course, includes Hollywood. This year's SAG Awards was filled with political pointed speeches from Ashton Kutcher's opening monologue to

Julia Louis-Dreyfus' acceptance speech where she told the story of her father's immigration to America from Nazi-occupied France.

Davis Harbour's acceptance speech on behalf of the "Stranger Things" cast has gone viral for its parallel between the show's fictional world and the reality that we are living in today. "We are united, in that we are all human beings and we are all together on this horrible, painful, joyous, exciting, and mysterious ride that is being alive," he said. "Now, as we act in the continuing narrative of 'Stranger

a politician because art is political," said senior acting and dance major Ilana Lieberman.

Kordell Hammond, a freshman musical theatre major, said, "If there are young minorities watching the media and they don't see themselves ... It leaves them not being inspired or creative."

There are still many ceremonies left within awards season with the BAFTAs, Academy Awards, and the Grammy's. And it could be expected that artists during these high profile events will use these platforms.

I literally wept for a very very long time. I went to Mason, the School of Music, and I sat at a piano and cried and I wrote ... the simplest of words, but they were so filled [with] emotion and created something that I actually really really liked out of that experience, as horrible as it was," said Kate Gratson, a senior music composition major.

"I'm doing an experimental video film right about the general feeling I've been having with 2016/2017," added freshman studio art and art therapy major Shayla James, another student drawing on recent time for inspiration. As a young black woman who also has family that identify as Muslim, much of today's controversies now strike a major chord with James. "It's gonna be some dope art ... but right now [the world's] not the best," she added.

Art, in any medium, can be seen as a channel of catharsis for both the artist and the audience, and to see those accomplished in their medium giving words of wisdom is simply inspiring for those who are just

starting to develop their skills. Within the upcoming years, and hopefully beyond that, creatives across different practices will be able to express themselves and achieve what they desire.

For all that is going on, concerning art and politics, it can be summed in a quote said by visual artist Roxanne Jackson in an interview with the Huffington Post: "I think the role of an artist in general, and especially during this time, is to question the status quo."

Kara Cekuta/Special to The Leader



Things,' we 1983 Midwesterners will repel bullies, we will shelter freaks and outcasts, those who have no home. "

Actors have always used their platforms to address social and political issues, but this year has already seen something of a resurgence in artists involving themselves in social issues. While some would argue that entertainers should not inject themselves into politics, many students recognize the importance of using the platform of fame.

"Being an artist is [the same as] being

It will be particularly exciting to see what will happen during the Grammy Awards, with performances being done by Beyonce, John Legend and Chance the Rapper, all whom have been vocal about several current social issues and strong supporters of former President Barack Obama.

Even within the Fredonia community, artists are feeling compelled to create in midst of the current socio-political climate.

"It's definitely impacted me recently. The day after Donald Trump was elected

Conservative Corner: Trump the Violator

CONNOR HOFFMAN
Managing Editor

President Donald Trump promised on the campaign trail that he would enact a ban on Muslims entering the U.S., and with a recent executive order he has made that promise a reality. Some will claim that this isn't a "Muslim ban" but don't be fooled—this order is quite that.

This recent executive order banned entry of citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen, while indefinitely halting the Syrian refugee acceptance program. This order is intended to apparently create stricter vetting procedure for the refugees, despite the fact that it already almost takes up to two years for a refugee to be vetted.

This executive order even resulted in the detention of some green card holders from the banned countries at airports.

The acting attorney general Sally

Yates even refused to assign the Justice Department lawyers to defend the executive order in court, and this led to her immediate firing by Trump. He replaced Yates with Dana Boente, who served in the Eastern District of Virginia.

The order was immediately challenged in court, and we have already seen several rulings that have been made against the executive order.

In one of the first rulings, Judge Ann Donnelly blocked part of the executive order ruling that the authorities could not remove individuals from the banned countries who had arrived in the U.S. airports after the order was put into effect, according to CNN. She also felt that the petitioners, the individuals in the airports, had a "strong likelihood of success" in proving their due process rights were violated.

In one of the most recent rulings, a Seattle judge issued a nationwide restraining order on the executive order. The White House has said that they will challenge this ruling in court, according

to The Hill.

This order is unconstitutional and the courts should immediately strike this order down. This order is specifically targeted to stop Muslim refugees and to give priority status to Christian refugees, and that goes against our American beliefs of freedom of religion.

Also, this order is not really that effective in curbing future terrorist attacks. Saudi Arabia, the country where 14 of the 19 9/11 bombers were from, is not including in this ban. I wonder if that's because Trump has business concerns in Saudi Arabia?

Trump must follow the ruling of these courts because if he does not, it challenges our government's checks and balances. There has never been a president that has went against the ruling of federal courts and Trump must not

do that.

If Trump does decide to go too far that swift action or in other words impeachment should be taken. Don't let the Trump administration sway you into a false sense of safety. Trump is in violation of the Constitution and this order must be overturned.

I really don't know how this country is going to survive the next four years.

Edward Gallivan/Staff Illustrator



Verbatim

What did you think of the Super Bowl?



Calvin Wong,
senior exercise science
"I didn't care about the Super Bowl."

Brooke Birner, sophomore biology

"I thought the Falcons had it in the beginning, and I was actually completely surprised by the ending of it. It was a nail-biter at the end."



Meghan Gallivan, sophomore medical technology

"It was really aggravating. It was nice at first, but it just got really aggravating towards the end there."

Harper Horton, senior audio/
radio production

"I thought Twitter was really funny, but I did not watch it."



Op-Ed: In a time of peril, SUNY must stand up

ZACH BEAUDOIN
Special to The Leader

Following the election, many student leaders started petitions calling on their campus administrators and SUNY to make their campuses “sanctuary campuses,” offering protections to undocumented students or employees or others who may be facing deportation. They explained what it meant to be a sanctuary campus, outline the valuable parts of campus that could be impacted without action, and strongly called on their leaders to act.

The students saw the writing on the wall.

The thing about our generation is that we’re learning not to take anything for granted in this hostile environment that some call politics. We know that there might not be student loan relief, we are aware that we probably won’t have decent healthcare, and we took the words of Donald Trump for truth.

Within the first two hours of my petition being online, it had generated hundreds of signatures from students, parents, faculty, and community members. It had comments pleading with the campus to take action, students talking about people who might be impacted if nothing was done, and community members who were fearing the worst.

We were reassured that SUNY was “working” on it, and we pushed it into the back of our minds with a sigh of relief.

Fast-forwarding three months and we’re now facing the very real reality of a Trump presidency and what that might mean for immigrants, green card holders and people with complex citizenships.

We’re confronting the very reality that we were assured by our leaders was

being taken care of, to now discover that it was not.

In these uncertain times, I would generally reassure my colleagues to wait for the Chancellor’s statement and see what happens, but I cannot in good faith lie.

The Chancellor’s statement was a lukewarm toeing of the line. It didn’t assure students that SUNY is going to protect them but told them that the Chancellor lacks the courage and will to stand up for their students in a time of need.

I’ve attended many SUNY Student Assembly Conferences, and we’ve always been parroted the talking points about diversity, equality, and inclusion. We’re told about SUNY’s mission, their values, and told these are the vital parts that make SUNY so great, but her actions speak louder than words.

The Chancellor’s statement showed us that they care more about money than diversity. It proved to us that in times of adversity, they will and do drag their feet just like they’ve done over the past three months with the sanctuary campuses.

We’ve seen more from the University Faculty Senate and the Student Assembly than we’ve seen from our paid leaders. Even the City University of New York vowed to fight for their students.

We’ve seen campus presidents from all over the country stand up and denounce this very blatant attack on our democracy that is destroying the lives of many.

We’ve seen who stands up, and we’ve seen who sits down.

Zach Beaudoin is a senior English and international studies major, a former Student Association class representative and the former chair of the SUNY SA Sustainability Committee.



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The Good, the Bad, and the Cully

The improbable way John Cullen found his way to Fredonia

CURTIS HENRY

Sports Editor

“Yeah, the [NHL] lockout really couldn’t have f***ed me any worse.”

Blunt and explicit. Those are the only ways that John Cullen knows how to go about things. These are exactly the words that he used to describe the 2012 NHL lockout that essentially ended his hockey playing career and any thought he had entertained of becoming a professional goalie.

Cullen’s road to playing competitive hockey began at the age of four when his dad taught him how to skate. He instantly fell in love with being on the ice, and has been involved with hockey as either a player or a coach over the past 21 years. He associates his rise and success in the sport entirely to his father and brother, who played involved roles in his development as both a player and a person.

“I owe so much to my parents and my family for always supporting me,” Cullen said. “They’ve always been there for me and I really can’t say enough about them.”

Growing up in Hamburg, Cullen is directly a product of the hockey culture in Western New York. He’s seen ice time in different arenas all over the U.S., in Canada and even as a part of the Team USA Juniors squad that took the ice in Slovakia and the Czech Republic as a part of the 2008 under-18 Memorial of Ivan Hlinka tournament. He has spent ice time under the the instruction of Sabres legend Lindy Ruff. He’s even been featured as a player in EA Sports’ NHL ‘11 video game.

Yet, none of it came easily for Cullen.

Cullen’s first adversity came in high school when trying out for the St. Francis junior varsity team. The school was noted for their hockey program, and carried five squads for each tier of ability. The best of the best played first team, next tier played for the second team, and so on. During Cullen’s first season, he was assigned to the fifth team at St. Francis.

“That was my first wakeup call,

basically being cut from the JV teams in high school and put on that fifth team,” said Cullen. “My brother had set the standard before me, having played [division I hockey] at Quinnipiac. I had big shoes to fill and I didn’t get off to the best start.”

Even Cullen himself couldn’t have

an afterthought at St. Francis had just become regarded as one of the best two youth goalies in the nation. Not a bad turnaround.

The next stop after his first international bout was, of all places, Cleveland.

En route to Chicago to start working



written a better script for the next few seasons of his hockey career. Within two years, no one would recognize him as the struggling 14-year-old who had been relegated to the bottom of his high school’s hockey totem pole.

By the end of his junior year of high school, Cullen had been named player of the year for the Rochester Empire Junior B league. He had received an invitation to the U-18 national team tryouts in Minnesota, as a part of the top 200 prospects nationally. It was there that he was extended an invite to play with the top 21 prospects in Europe a few weeks later.

The kid who was tossed aside as

out and practicing for the Chicago Steel, a member of the United States Hockey League (USHL), Cullen received what he says is the most important call of his life.

“I was on my way to Chicago with my parents to pursue the USHL, which is a big deal. It’s about the best you can do in the United States in a non-professional league,” explained Cullen. “But we’re on the I-90 about to pass Cleveland and I get a call from the Niagara Icedogs. They want me to come play for them, and I just didn’t know what I was going to do.

“Me and my parents pull off the 90 right there in Cleveland and we sit down at this little diner right off the interstate.

We sat and talked about my future playing hockey and what was best for me. It’s crazy how much that hour talking with them changed the course of my life.”

It was at that point that the Cullens decided to reverse course and start the journey back to Niagara for John to begin his Ontario Hockey League career.

His OHL career began with a few hiccups, but despite his lack of traditional size as a goaltender (he measured about 5’11 and weighed in at about 175 for the duration of his time in the OHL), his aggression in net saw him become one of the best goaltenders in the OHL. His approach, described by scouts as “stop the puck at all costs,” was simple — but effective.

Cullen was traded three times in his first three full seasons in the OHL, bouncing around between Niagara, Kingston and Sarnia. It was in 2010 that Cullen’s career would take a turn for the worse.

“The first time I hurt my knee ... It was nothing terrible. I tweaked it. It was sore, ya know? I didn’t think much of it,” said Cullen.

That tweak was actually a slight tear in Cullen’s left meniscus, an injury that is by no means a career ender. However, due to the timing of the injury, it went undiagnosed for months.

The tweak had occurred just as Cullen was being shopped from Kingston to Sarnia. Upon his arrival to Sarnia, he had foregone an MRI in lieu of having the team administer cortisone shots.

“I got to Sarnia and they gave me a cortisone shot, and I was like ‘Woah! I feel really good.’ Of course I wasn’t really good, and my knee just slowly got worse and worse. In hindsight, I would’ve had my knee scoped and taken a few weeks to make sure I was 100 percent. Who knows, maybe I’d still be playing,” Cullen said.

Instead, he kept playing. And rather than having his play suffer from the growing severity of the meniscus tear, Cullen began playing the best hockey of his life.

Months after suffering the initial injury, Cullen was traded to the Windsor Spitfires to essentially back-up first-round



NHL prospect Jack Campbell. What ensued was a competition for ice time in net, a competition that saw Cullen quickly seize the lead. His 11-game stretch at the end of the 2010-11 season while playing for Windsor was easily the best of his life. A .924 save percentage and a 2.17 goals allowed per game average in Windsor both would have ranked at the top of the OHL league leaders in 2010-11 for Cullen, and his dominant performance had him in position to start for the Spitfires in the first round of the upcoming playoffs, a series that would be played against the Erie Otters.

Just before playoffs were set to begin, Cullen reached a breaking point during preparation for one of the team's final regular season games.

"I remember it like it was yesterday. We were warming up against Plymouth, and I went down into a butterfly for just a routine save. Nothing out of the ordinary... and it was just this horrific snap that I felt in my knee," he said. "It wasn't just the pain. It was the fact that my knee was stuck in this bent position. It was locked at an angle and I couldn't move it."

Teammates would help him off the ice, but the outlook wasn't good for

Cullen. Countless months and cortisone shots after the initial tweak to his knee, Cullen's meniscus had finally given out; in spectacular fashion, nonetheless.

That led to the first of three surgeries. The first was to remove the medial half of Cullen's meniscus; the damage was so severe that it was no longer salvageable. Despite the severity of the injury and the surgery, Cullen's recovery was quick enough to get him into a position to accept an invite to the Sabres' summer camp less than four months later.

Although still competent in goal, it was obvious that the injury was a huge bludgeon to Cullen's potential and ability to succeed on the ice.

"It was frustrating. That's all I can say," said Cullen. "Having to get back on the ice and match up with NHL prospects in the immediate aftermath of that injury — it's frustrating."

Immediately after the Sabres camp, Cullen would undergo his second surgery on the same knee in less than six months. It was becoming apparent that the window of opportunity to play the game he loves at the highest level was closing. Though he would stay and play for Windsor for the entirety of the 2011-2012 season, a dip in his save percentage (.892) and spike in goals allowed per game average (3.89) indicated that he was no longer the force he had been a season prior.

The lockout of 2012 — and a third surgery on the same knee — effectively ended Cullen's career. The lockout was the toughest pill to swallow, as for the start of 2012 there was a huge turnover in where people were playing. NHL players, out of work and unable to stay away from the game, took to playing overseas in different leagues in Europe. Some played in the AHL as well,

meaning that different players shuffled into different leagues. Cullen was among those affected by the mass shuffling of talent.

"It was tough. I wanted to go out on my own terms, but I kind of got forced out," he said.

The third surgery to his battered knee was the nail in the coffin for his playing days.

"I had a doctor say to me, 'Hey. Do you want to be able to walk your kids to the end of the driveway to get them on the school bus?' And that was really confusing to me, I didn't have kids. I didn't have a thought of kids at that point, in 2012 or 2013," Cullen said. "But they just sat me down and said 'Well, if you ever want to have kids and plan on walking them to get on the bus, you need to stop playing hockey.' And that was really tough."

Cullen's love for the game led him to Fredonia, where he has spent chunks of time as the team's goaltending coach ever since 2013.

Under the wing of coach Jeff Meredith, "Cully" has found his new niche as a coach for the Blue Devils. In an interview done last year, Meredith emphasized the importance of having a guy like Cullen in the locker room.

"Cully's energy is unmatched and it's so good for our team," said Meredith. "I'm pretty sure the guy wakes up in the morning and brushes his teeth with Red Bull."

Cullen's admiration for Meredith is obvious as well. He says the hockey culture in Fredonia, despite being a D-III program, is unlike anything he has been around prior.

"Coach Meredith is like a father figure to me, in a lot of ways," said Cullen. "The cliché of a team being a family is thrown around a lot and it sounds dumb, but one thing I can say with certainty is that coach [Meredith] has created a family here. It's a great group, and everyone in the world stresses so much about wins and losses.

That's what we're all here to do: win games. But at the end of the day, we're a family here, and that's just as important"

Cullen has recently begun a family of his own, as well. His daughter, Hadley Harper Cullen, will be enjoying her first birthday later on in the week.

"I never understood it before, when people say that their kids are their whole world," said Cullen. "But the day she was born I got it. My world was no longer about me. It wasn't about hockey. It was her. She's the best thing to have ever happened to me."

What Hadley's future holds is far from decided, but Cullen was quick to laugh and add "I just hope she likes hockey, that'd be great."

Cullen intends to graduate this year with a major in journalism and a minor in athletic coaching. On the campus that he's come to know and love, he sang high praises.

"I'm where I'm at today because of all the people that have helped me at Fredonia," said Cullen. "Guys like coach Meredith and Elmer [Ploetz]. They've helped me so much, along with fellow students here and people in the athletic program. I just can't thank everyone I have to, or thank them all enough."



Photos courtesy of John Cullen

Feldman breaks 31-year-old school record

QUINTIN JAMES

Staff Writer

At the Brockport Golden Eagle Invitational track meet last week, junior Brittany Feldman broke a school record for fastest time in the 500-meter race. The record was held for 31 years and she set a meet record with a time of 1:18.14.

That was her first time running the 500-meter race and she earned 10 points for the Blue Devils, who finished 3rd out of 12 teams in the invitational.

The previous record was held by Laura Meier, who set the record in March of 1986. Head coach Thomas Wilson was not surprised about Feldman's performance.

"I had high expectations for her coming into this race. She's a strong athlete and I wanted her to have the demeanor so could break a school

record," said Wilson.

He says this will serve as motivation for the rest of the team. "Players want to break the record. Her voice is heard on the team and after coming back from fracturing her foot, she is a good role model for the other players to follow," he said.

Feldman, even though it was her first time competing in the 500-meter race, was going with the mindset of breaking the school record.

"I went into the meet with the goal of breaking the school record. Since I've never ran it before, I had no idea what to expect. In the middle of the race I saw the clock going and knew that if I went all out on the last lap that I could do it. So, that's what I did and when I saw my time I was extremely excited and very proud of myself," she said.

She went on to add that she was

very nervous before the race because she hadn't raced anything longer than 400 meters before, but once she got on the starting lineup then the nerves went away quickly.

When asked how she prepped for the race, Feldman explained that she had to modify her normal routine because she was running a longer race. "The day before the race I prepped by doing starts without starting blocks. Since it was a longer race than I'm used to I didn't need to go out as fast. So, I did probably 4 starts at a slower pace than I'm used to, to get me used to running slower at the start."

The track team competes next on the Feb. 11, when they will travel to Tiffin University in Ohio for the Tiger Invite.

Photo courtesy of Brittany Feldman



Why it pays to play

Graduation rates for athletes higher than non-athletes

AVRIL KING

Social Media Asst.

Clearer skin, improved mood, weight maintenance: these are just a few of the benefits that come from regular exercise through a sport. And now, according to research conducted by Fredonia's Office of Institutional Research and Planning, athletes are more likely to graduate.

These studies (which are based on graduation six years after enrollment) have shown that from 2005 to 2009, the average college graduation rate

for student athletes was around 75.8%. This is 11% higher than the graduation average computed for non-athletes.

That is no coincidence.

In fact, since 1992 (at the earliest), athletes at Fredonia have consistently maintained a higher graduation rate than their non-athletic peers.

According to Greg Prechtl, Fredonia's director of athletics, there are multiple reasons for this trend to persist.

"I think that one of the [benefits] with athletes is that they tend to be part of a group," said Prechtl. "They tend to, perhaps, persist longer than their non-

athletic cohorts."

He also mentioned that athletes are required to hold a specific GPA in order to participate, which in turn behooves coaches to monitor their players so that they are able to compete.

As it has been depicted in the SUNY Fredonia Factbook (the most recent of which is from Fall 2015), overall student enrollment has been dropping since around 2011. However, the Athletics Department has not felt this decline.

Prechtl shared that the number of students participating in sports has remained consistent at around 325 to

350 athletes competing each year. This can largely be attributed to recruitment.

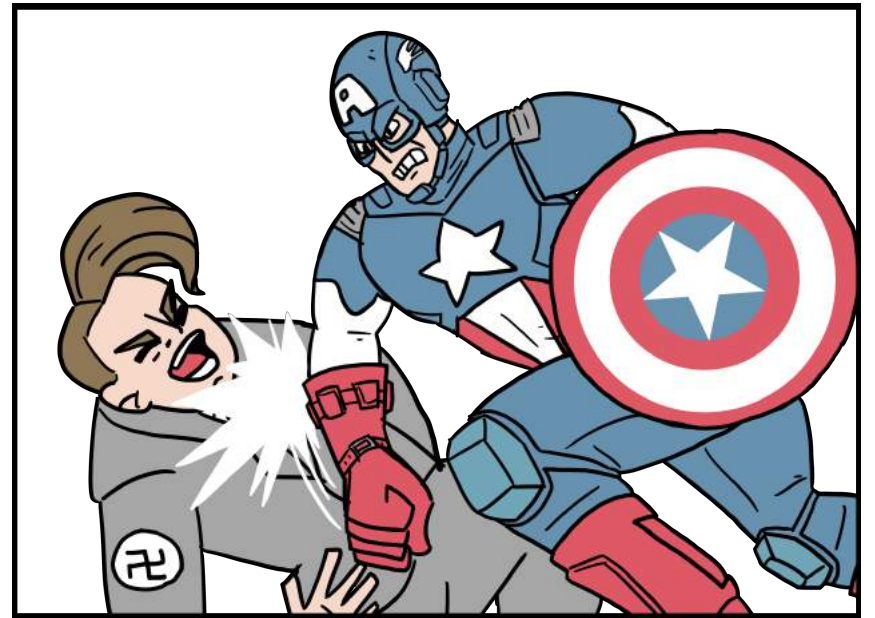
"Probably 315 to 320 [athletes] were actively recruited here," said Prechtl. "They came because they felt they had the best opportunity to play at Fredonia."

The advantages of partaking in a sport are numerous. The academic successes of athletes are undeniable. And the athletes themselves? At least in this regard, it seems they are unstoppable.

Is it okay to punch a Nazi?

TRAVIS LEFEVRE
Lampoon Editor

Yes.



Daniel Salazar/Staff Illustrator

Exclusive: Trump's upcoming executive orders for next week President flexes a little too hardcore?

PATRICK BENNETT
Staff Lampoonist

A drunk uncle flipped the beer pong table at his niece's graduation party this past summer. He was flexing his testosterone and booze-fueled strength by exerting maximum force on the table. Now, President Donald Trump is flexing maximum force on the people of the U.S. by establishing new executive orders starting next week. Media outlets confirmed these orders weren't on fleek.

The first order Trump aims to establish is the Yo Quiero Taco Bell Act. This act stems from Trump's personal hatred for the Chihuahua population (sources say the hatred might be due to the canine's link to Mexico). Citizens won't be allowed to shelter, nurture or even think about Chihuahuas any longer. A small town in Iowa was devastated to hear the news.

"My first puppy was a Chihuahua named Isabella. I just don't understand what gives, man. We used to throw birthday parties for Isabella. I baked her a cake for a particular birthday bash, and she bit my left pinky finger off. I miss

her," Chihuahua enthusiast Whiskers Wheaton said.

The American people will have to brace for longer hours in the cubicle as Trump is set to establish the Put Your Thing Down Flip It and Reverse It Act, which aims to establish a 12-hour work day with no breaks or lavatory visits. The order, inspired by the hit Missy Elliott song "Work It," immediately caused grief for people with families and frustration for people trying to catch up with "Shameless" on Netflix.

"I hate work, but I could use the extra money. The bathroom situation isn't much of a problem because I spend half the time pissing in an Arizona can as it is. Between you and me though, how do you, you know, go number two with minimum smell and mess at your desk? Should I use, like, a plastic bag or maybe a two-liter bottle?" asked JJ Locke, a notable typist for a small bank.

Tension grew in the Oval Office as counselor to Trump Kellyanne Conway showcased anamorphic abilities. Conway morphed into Pinhead from the popular "Hellraiser" movie series and demanded an executive order stating U.S. citizens

can only watch movies starring Vin Diesel and Jennifer Grey (post-nose job). The order is set to be devastating to those who enjoy literally any other movies.

"Paul Walker is sexy! I love his smile and those chiseled arms. But Vin Diesel? He looks like potato salad or something. I could give a rat's ass if he perished in a hang glider accident," Maria Spizza, a "The Fast and the Furious" viewer, said.

Protests erupted throughout the entire country. Older folks, younger folks and Shia LaBeouf all came together to shine light on the acts that aimed to darken the spirits of U.S. citizens.

"I love to protest. I protested Michael [Bay] when he told me to use less tongue on Megan Fox during the 'Transformers' movies, I protested my celebrity status by wearing that brown paper bag and now I'll protest this nasty jail food they feed me," LaBeouf said, protesting the new executive orders via Skype chat from county jail.

Psychology aficionados believe the true reason Trump is rapidly

issuing executive orders is due to a compensation complex referring to his own hair or, perhaps, his bathing suit area. The world may never know (unless a sex tape is leaked).

Meanwhile, citizens like Wheaton, Locke, Spizza and LaBeouf will continue to protest these heinous orders.



Mitchell Paddy/Staff Illustrator

Mexico unveils plans for border staircase

EMMA PATTERSON

Staff Lamponist

In a shocking turn of events last week, President Donald Trump claimed that he would actually start to move forward with what the general public thought was just a really dumb, horrifying joke: the construction of the U.S.-Mexico border wall. Obviously, this announcement has received a less-than-thrilled response from pretty much everyone with a working knowledge of the world history of border walls. However, just when you thought modern politics couldn't get any weirder, Mexico retaliated to Trump's announcement with an amount of pettiness that would make Taylor Swift proud.

"In light of recent, nightmare-worthy events, we have decided that the only way to combat Trump's Wall of Ego and Pettiness is to build an equally petty staircase," Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto announced. "If Trump wants to act like a 6-year-old bully on the playground, then we'll all act like 6-year-olds," he concluded, unintentionally summing up 2016 in one phrase.

Mexico's response to Trump's wall has resulted in — what else? — protests both in support of and against Mexico's staircase popping up all over the country. Unable to fully process this astronomical level of pettiness, the Lampon spoke with protesters in the hopes that someone, anyone, would step up and talk some sense.

"I'm in support of the staircase because Taco Tuesday is damn sacred to me," one teary-eyed man said, his voice shaking slightly. "Without Taco Tuesdays, I wouldn't consider myself a proper American."

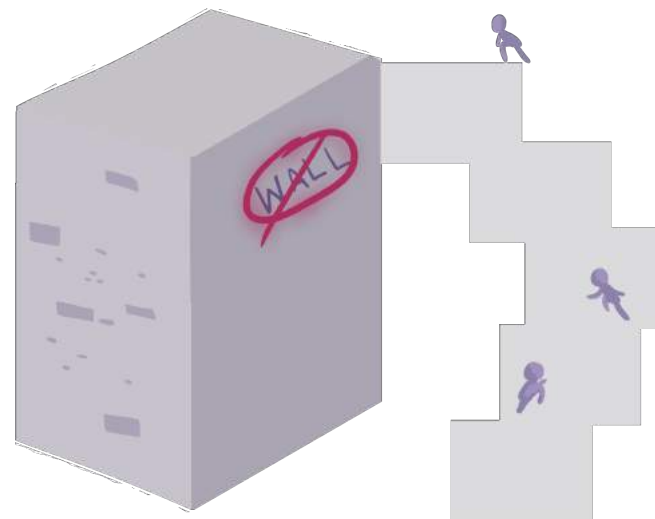
Taco Guy wasn't the only American whose main concern seemed to center primarily on delicious Mexican food. "Wait," one woman said, a "Make America Great Again" hat perched precariously on her heavily-highlighted hair. "Would a wall mean that Taco Bell gets more expensive? 'Cause if it does, then I want to take back my vote."

The majority of protesters, both American and Mexican, have congregated at the site where Trump's Wall of Stupidity and Nieto's Staircase of Pettiness are believed to be built.

Unsurprisingly, many of the staircase protesters are Americans. However, their messages to the people of Mexico are surprising: "Do not climb the staircase. We repeat: DO NOT CLIMB THE STAIRCASE!" one woman yelled.

"AMERICA IS A MESS! GET OUT WHILE YOU CAN!"

Trump, however, has not shown concern in the face of mass protest or Mexico's staircase. "Don't believe a word that comes out of that guy's mouth," Trump said to a rousing cheer from his tens of Twitter followers. "It's unfortunate how some guys have to make stuff up just so people like them. Sad! One day soon, he'll be expected to



deliver on that staircase, and then what will he do?" Trump held a mirror up to his face and continued talking. "We're gonna build the biggest, bestest wall he ever saw. It's gonna be yuge."

In response to Trump's ramblings, Nieto simply shrugged and said that "an Elevator of Pettiness would be pretty awesome, too."

Alissa Salem/Staff Illustrator

ALONE Day replaces Valentine's Day

Nothing good will ever happen again, sources say

ALBERTO GONZALEZ

Special to the Lampon

Valentine's Day is upon us! BEWARE!!

Any year prior to this one, this would have been a pretty typical sentence that could've summed up February 14th pretty nicely. Now, however, this is not the case.

Due to the wide-reaching social effects of the great snafu of 2016, the overall psyche of the country has undergone an evolution of epic proportions. The pillars of optimism, promise and the pursuit of happiness that this country was founded on have imploded, and left in its wake is a new foundation consisting of purely nihilistic views.

It is with this new country-wide conviction that the day formerly known as Valentine's Day has been changed, with overwhelming approval from the masses, to national All Love Only Nurtures Evil Day or, ALONE Day.

ALONE Day is now a day devoted to self reflection about how nothing really matters and how no matter what we do, we will all meet our demise in the end. Death is inescapable, and now there is finally a national holiday to embrace that thought — a thought everyone normally devotes their whole lives to avoiding.

Love and emotion hold no purpose whatsoever, and finally a day has been created to do absolutely nothing about it. Festivities that many can now enjoy over the holiday include doing nothing, avoiding all human interaction, buying

a really expensive gift and immediately throwing it away, burning all of your most cherished possessions and, of course, doing nothing at all.

So where will you find yourself on ALONE Day?

We asked a few students on campus to see what they planned on this first new holiday. Here are their responses:

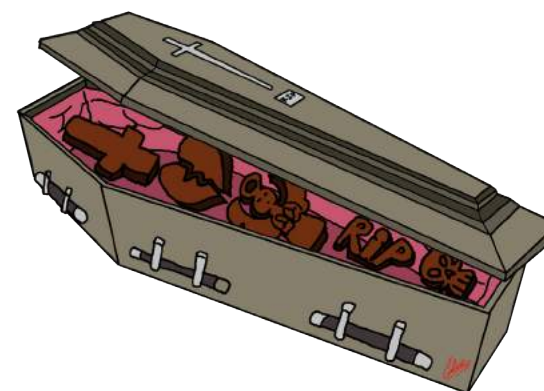
"Who cares?" said one.

"Who is even to say I will live that long?" said another.

"I plan on going out and having a nice lunch. Afterwards, I might go see a movie," said a third. Actually, nobody said that. Nice lunches are over.

So mark your calendars, and make

sure to have Peggy Lee's timeless classic "Is That All There Is?" ready to play on repeat all day.



Edward Gullivan/Staff Illustrator

Miss Universe opens pageant up to extra-terrestrial competitors

JACLYN SPIEZIA

Staff Lamponist

In what appears to be an effort to be more inclusive, the Miss Universe pageant will now accept competitors from other star systems. Don't be alarmed, though. A Donald Trump-owned organization was not trying to be inclusive. The decision was made by current president, Paula Shugart, and came in response to a tweet from Trump.

After a previous contestant was accused of being an undocumented person, Trump, owner of the Miss Universe contest, tweeted, "I'd rather have aliens from other star systems as possible contestants than undocumented aliens."

As lately it has been getting hard to tell apart seemingly identical, thin, dark-haired contestants, Shugart saw this as a chance to take initiative. She immediately went to Trump and asked him to legally allow aliens from other star systems into the pageant.

At first Trump said "No way!" but then he retracted his statement and reportedly said, "If they give me money, then they'll love me, and we can have them help us with their future war technology," and so it was settled.

As of yesterday, Shugart officially released the star systems that are invited to the event, which include, and are limited to, Polaris, Sirius, Vega and Antares. The star systems were handpicked by Trump, as he said their names sounded beautiful and exotic.

The message was sent out Saturday via satellite, welcoming the aliens to come join the pageant. Shugart is expecting a decent turnout, as just yesterday morning, during a press conference, it was confirmed that aliens from Vega have "heard our message, and are interested in Earth showing what we've got."

Some people are concerned that the message sent out by Trump, which said "Come to Earth, and take over our pageant! Thanks so much!" may have been misinterpreted as "Come to Earth and take over our planet!"

This morning Trump tweeted, "I don't see why people are so concerned about us reaching out to aliens for our Miss Universe Pageant! Get with it people!" When asked to further comment, he said, "Aliens aren't like illegal immigrants. They aren't here to take our jobs or terrorize us. You can't just stereotype them like that! It's ridiculous to just put them in a box when they are here to join and enhance our society. THIS PAGEANT IS GOING TO BE THE BEST EVER, TRUST ME! THE BEST!"

Not everyone is in favor of the decision, but we suppose that everyone will find out eventually whether or not aliens will in fact come to Earth. If that does happen, I just want to say, "thatekawfiopewa kflwfioew akl;ads ioewa l;ae sdfi22 o33o HeLlo eArHLiNgS HEheHE."



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Horoscopes

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After days of moping around, you're back to feeling like your old self again: charming, bristling with energy and viciously debating anybody and everybody who asserts that the Puppy Bowl is not rigged by corporate America.

Aries



You've been feeling impulsive lately. On one hand, your better angels would say to play things safe. But at this point, does it matter if it's six McDonald's Dinner Boxes or seven?

Taurus



Do you ever have the feeling where you read something in a newspaper, perhaps a vaguely worded piece of advice, and it seems to relate exactly to your life and your present circumstances? Yeah, me neither.

Gemini



You've been spending too much time in the house, Cancer. It's time to get out and be social. The homeless man who has been living in your cupboards for the last six months would also really like some time alone, too.

Cancer



The weekend is calling your name. Call up some friends, buy a few brewskis and contact your human organs guy early, because you know how hard it is to get a hold of him at 2 a.m. on a Saturday.

Leo



You may entertain some unexpected company later in the week. Of course, there will be some confusion when the FBI, CIA, DEA, University Police and Maria's Pizza get to your door at the same time, so remember to be polite.

Virgo



You have a difficult choice to make, and the stars really wish they could help you out. But we're just a parody of a metaphoric illustration which a bored college student is utilizing to fill space in the paper, so why are you asking us?

Libra



Sleep is for the weak, cleanliness is close to Godliness and beauty is in the eye of the beholder. We're really hoping one of these random aphorisms sticks and you'll stop bugging us soon.

Scorpio



So many people have been asking you to help take care of their problems that you have started to neglect your own — although, to the confusion of doctors everywhere, how you've been ignoring those tentacles coming back is beyond anyone's guess.

Sagittarius



Lately it feels like all you do is work, work, work, and your job isn't getting any more rewarding. Live a little for a change, let your hair down and introduce the world to the real Sean Spicer!

Capricorn



Take heed of the wisdom you can gather at Professional Development Day. Also, take heed that while there is no official dress code, just because classes aren't in session doesn't mean the campus is suddenly "clothing optional."

Aquarius



Valentine's Day is almost here, and you're ready to make some moves. We don't really mean anything that ends up in the Blotter, but whatever happens between consenting adults on top of Maytum is none of our concern.

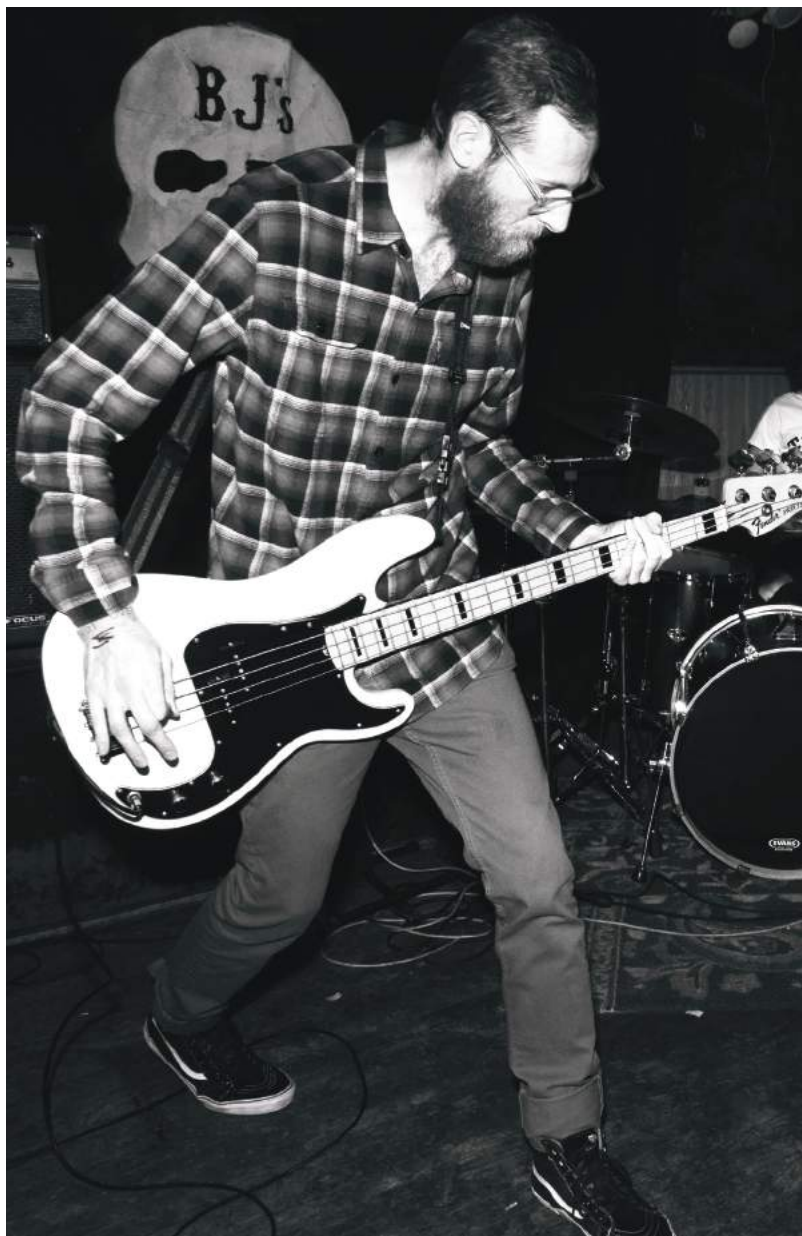
Pisces



Houghton Hall has been closed almost entirely this semester.
Gabe LaVine/Special to The Leader



Jake Lorefice of northernstate belts one out at BJ's.
Courtney Cutter/Special to The Leader



Andy Wesner of M.A.G.S. performs at BJ's.
Courtney Cutter/Special to The Leader



Professor Mike Igoe catches up on some reading with a friend in between classes.
Corey Maher/Photo Editor



Members of the community gather for a peaceful gathering in Reed Library in response to the executive order on immigration.
Andrew Camera/Staff Photographer