

The Leader

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Rock Out For Cancer returns to raise money for St. Jude

JAMES LILLIN and COLIN PERRY Staff Writer and Editor in Chief

Fredonia for St. Jude's annual Rock Out for Cancer event is returning to campus on March 4. The event, slated for 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Williams Center MPR, is a benefit with all proceeds going to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Performing at this year's event are the Rangeclips, Johnny & the Man Kids, the Redwood Trio and the Fredonia Irish Dance Team. In addition to the minimum \$1 donation fee for entry, Fredonia for St. Jude will also be holding raffles and selling merchandise. According to group adviser Jennifer Wilkins, all donations made to the hospital benefit children and their families so that no family ever receives a bill.

"The motto of the hospital is about helping families to focus on their child's well-being and health care, not the pressure of medical costs, travel, food or housing," Wilkins said. St. Jude provides on-site and nearby housing for families and food options, including an ice cream bar.

"Rock Out for Cancer not only provides an opportunity for local bands to showcase their talent, but they are also affiliated with an opportunity to give back to a cause that extends to Memphis, Tennessee and throughout the world," Wilkins continued. "St. Jude fosters the free exchange of ideas among scientists and clinicians for creative, collaborative science."

Rock Out for Cancer is held in collaboration with the Music Industry Club, with additional support provided by Sound Services, Campus Life and the Odd Jobs Crew.

"We understand that there are many events and activities happening on campus and in the community, but this event is a quick, fun and exciting two-hour event to support Fredonia for St. Jude in their efforts to raise money for children with cancer," Wilkins said.



On the cover: Snowy scene between Nixon and Chautauqua Halls. Courtesy of Cassie Rubin

discrimination solely

related to the acts of

discrimination solely

by the pigment in

This past

February marks 49

began her exercise.

She has continued

reality of racism in

to educate about the

our nation ever since.

Fredonia, many were

eager to hear Elliott

speak while visiting

the campus. Her

popularity among

college students is

posted on social

largely due to videos

media, where Elliott

conducts her exercise

"I think what was

race, not the other way around," said

Victor Morales, a sophomore English

science double major, who attended the evening lecture. "It's a reminder that we

are not essentially different just because of our race. It doesn't make us smarter

While Elliott is widely recognized

for her "blue eye-brown eye" exercise, her time at SUNY Fredonia primarily

and even had students come up in front

teaches as superior among other people.

Elliott received a grand applause at the end of both the afternoon workshop and evening lecture. Her message about combating racism electrified many who had the opportunity to hear her speak.

of the audience to engage as a whole

to understand the differences society

consisted of her speaking. Her talk contained thought provoking questions,

adolescent education and political

with young adults.

most valuable was

Elliott's point about

how racism created

or more capable."

Here at SUNY

years since Elliott first

one's skin.

by the amount of

pigment in their

eyes, which she

Jane Elliott lectures on combating discrimination

JACOB SANTOS Special to The Leader

During the month of February, Fredonia's Black Student Union sponsored a number of events to celebrate Black History Month. Last Wednesday, BSU held two events featuring anti-racism activist and educator Jane Elliott as guest speaker.

She is widely known for her "blue eyes-brown eyes" exercise, where participants can experience discrimination based on the color of their eyes. While speaking at her afternoon workshop and evening lecture, Elliott expressed her dissatisfaction with the lack of white students attending to hear her speak.

"[SUNY Fredonia] has about 4,000 students, 5.6% is black. And you have me to discuss racism in the United States and the room is less than 5.6% white," said Elliott. "That makes me a little bit cross."

Elliott was born and raised in Riceville, Iowa, a small rural town with an overwhelmingly white and Christian population totaling less than 1,000 people.

She first began her "blue eyesbrown eyes" exercise with her third grade students in 1968, shortly after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Elliott told her students they'll be doing an activity throughout the day. She then designated blue eyed students as the superior group, saying they were smarter and better than their brown eyed peers. Students with brown eyes were made to wear collars in order to distinguish themselves, and were given less privileges while the blue eyed children received extra privileges.

It didn't take long for blue-eyed students to feel superiority, which became most evident in their name calling toward the other students. "Brown Eyes" became an offensive term in the classroom.

The tables were turned the following day, as Elliott reversed the exercise designating brown-eyed students as the superior group. By the end of the exercise, all students experienced



Jane Elliot lectures. Corey Maher/Photo Editor



Jane Elliot addresses a crowd in the MPR. Corey Maher/Photo Editor

"I am quite happy that the Black Student Union brought Jane Elliot, [as well as] the spectacular turnout," said Nalani Love-Harris, a senior television broadcasting major who also attended the evening lecture. "But it's still disheartening that the people that needed to be there the most were not actually there."

Elliott's talks were co-sponsored by the Office of the President, the Departments of History and Sociocultural and Justice Systems, the College of Education, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, the EDP program, the Ethnic Studies program, Latinos Unidos, Pride Alliance and Sister Circle.

March 1, 2017

Vanwesenbeeck ventures to Albania

Professor to lecture on Fulbright experience

CAMRY DEAN Staff Writer

For the past four months, Associate Professor of English Iclal Vanwesenbeeck has been living in Elbasan, Albania and teaching at Aleksander Xhuvani University.

In April of last year, Vanwesenbeeck was awarded the Teaching/Research Award for the U.S. Core Fulbright Scholarship Program. Fulbright is a competitive educational program in the U.S. that offers international opportunities to scholars and professionals to research, teach and learn.

J. William Fulbright, founder of the program, was a U.S. senator and was the longest serving member in the history of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It was his goal to create an international exchange program in order to offer scholars the opportunity to explore differing cultures and societies from all over the world.

The program, which is sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State, currently operates in over 160 countries.

At Xhuvani, Vanwesenbeeck taught three courses: Gender Studies, Research Methods and Thesis Supervision.

Initially, Vanwesenbeeck had planned to focus on American drama and American women writers.

Showing off a photo of her and her students flexing their muscles during a surprise party they had thrown for her on her last day, Vanwesenbeeck talked about the curriculum she ended up teaching.

"Before I left, I had some idea of what I would be doing and my proposal for Fulbright was based on what I would be willing to do, but the host institution in Albania has a set curriculum and they have their own semester-to-semester needs," Vanwesenbeeck said. "Because I really wanted to teach women writers, I asked if I could combine American Women Writers with Gender Studies and divide up the 15-week semester into two. The first seven weeks, teach theory, and the seven weeks at the end of the semester, do nothing but read literature."

When considering location for her scholarship, Vanwesenbeeck had very specific standards. In 1990, the communist regime in Albania collapsed, and the country entered a period of economic and social unrest.

"Before I had even started my application, I had two countries in mind: Mongolia and Albania," Vanwesenbeeck said. "Those two countries have similarities that I was looking for in a grant. [The countries are] radically isolated. In this case, they have a communist past and then they shed that communist skin in the 1990s and both start diplomatic relations with the U.S. In Albania's case, they see very quick integration into the Western culture, into capitalism and for me that was, by all means, one of the most important criteria when I made my selection.

"I wanted to be in a place where, in this case, was at the heart of Europe. Albania is 45 minutes away from Rome and if you're in a car, two hours away from Greece," she continued. "It's at the heart of Europe, and yet, it's not part of the European Union. Anomalies like that made Albania very attractive to me."

In addition to teaching at Xhuvani, Vanwesenbeeck also organized two roundtables on gender issues in her hometown of Elbasan.

One of the roundtables focused on women's health and was held during the Cervical Cancer Awareness Month of January. The discussion drew in a crowd from the community as cervical cancer is one of the primary causes of women's mortality in Albania.

While Albanian healthcare is still catching up, women often don't have the means for basic preventative care. Pap smears and breast cancer screenings are currently not routine for Albanian women. "I think my students were grateful that we took some time to educate ourselves," Vanwesenbeeck said. "To much of my surprise, most of my students did not know about the issues in their country."

The second discussion will coincide with International Women's Day on March 8 and will discuss justice relating to Albania's ongoing legal reforms.

Today, Vanwesenbeeck will be discussing her time in Albania during a campus-wide lecture at noon in Williams Center 204D.

"I really want to talk about my host institution and my classes and what I accomplished on my Fulbright," Vanwesenbeeck said. "But I also want to talk about the stories that I brought back with me. People I've met, some of their stories that stayed with me, and I hope, and I'll try really hard, not to give generic, textbook information about the country."

In an article written for the Dunkirk Observer, Vanwesenbeeck wrote about the appreciation she has for the small neighborhood she was fortunate enough to live in.

"I have come to appreciate the neighborhood vibe here," Vanwesenbeeck wrote. "I like seeing the same old couple take walks, hand in hand, at the same morning hours, or talking to the old lady on my street, who asks me for a big screen TV (she sells socks), my hairdresser who is a big Marilyn Monroe fan, my baker who remembers which bread I like and my supermarket vendor who always waves at me as I walk back from school in the afternoons.

"My starting point is that I had no way of knowing what the country is or what Albanians are like," Vanwesenbeeck said, "so I want to talk about my small street and all of the people that I talked to on a daily basis and what my life was like both in the classroom and on the streets in Albania."



Iclal Vanwesenbeeck. Courtesy of Iclal Vanwesenbeeck

No slush, no problem Ninth annual Slush Rush returns

ANGELINA DOHRE Staff Writer

Just before Spring Break gives students a chance to breathe, the Slush Rush will give them an opportunity to run until they're out of breath. Returning for its ninth year, Fredonia's annual 5K race will be held on March 5, beginning at 9 a.m.

The Slush Rush is held in remembrance of Xylia Peterson, an international student at Fredonia who graduated in 1985 and became a vital member of the community before she passed away in an automobile accident at the age of 45.

The race raises money to support the Xylia Peterson '85 Memorial Fund that provides international education scholarships to full-time students in their junior or senior year.

This event is open to the public and has a fee of \$25 and a reduced rate of \$15 for students. Included in the fee are door prizes, long sleeve shirts and a postrace party that will have food and a raffle.

Awards and prizes will be given to overall best male and female runners. Medals will be awarded to the top three runners in every five-year age group.

Running the event is Erin Willis, assistant director of study abroad and student exchange. Making this her third year as director of this program, Willis is in charge of reaching out to sponsors, coordinating with different organizations, such as timing services for the race, and advertising.

Along with Willis and the Office of International Education, various groups on campus, such as Facilities, Campus Life, University Police and the FSA all collaborate to help with the Slush Rush.

"We win a grant with the FSA every year, and we have two off-campus organizations, the Fredonia Beaver Club and the Rotary Club, who either are focused on international education

or on community issues," Willis said. "There are also people and groups who donate gifts. A running store in Orchard Park called Runner's Roost donates gift certificates."

According to Willis, there have been noticeable changes to the Slush Rush over the past few years. "I think participation has gone up, but I also think that's because we're doing a better job of marketing it to the students," she said. "We have a reduced rate for them to register because they're students and \$25 is a lot of money."

Freshman French adolescence education major Mark Grover is participating in the Slush Rush and appreciates the discount available for students. "I diligently attend classes, and I have a lot of work ethic, so I'm glad I can get rewarded in some way," he said.

Another change Willis has seen is better advertising of the Slush Rush to Western New York at large.

"Last year, one thing that was really cool was the former fitness center director held a 'Couch to 5K' program, so he actually helped people train for this race," Willis said. "That also helped participation go up even more, and we saw people out there who may not have thought they could do it."

According to freshman earth science adolescence education major Matthew Woleben, he signed up for the race to give back to the campus.

"I want to help other students out with their financial need since the money from this race goes to a scholarship fund," he said. "I think the discount also makes students feel recognized."

The course will be entirely on Fredonia's campus grounds, beginning and ending on Varsity Drive in front of Dods Hall. Registration, packet pick-up and the post-race party will all be held in the Williams Center on the day of the race.



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Work, work, work, work, work CDO to hold Job & Internship and Summer Job expos

MOLLY VANDENBERG Staff Writer

The Spring semester can bring about many mixed feelings. For underclassmen, this may feel like just another semester. But for seniors, one must begin to think about the future and about plans after graduation.

This is known to many as the task of finding their first job.

The Career Development Office will be holding a Job & Internship Expo on March 8 from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Williams Center where more than 70 employers will be present. They will be looking to hire for full-time, part-time and internship positions. Many of the representatives are Fredonia graduates, which provides a greater interest in connecting current and graduated students to employers.

"While so many employers today have online application systems and procedures, this is a great opportunity for students to make a personal connection and impression with employers that just isn't possible through online apps, and that will lead to interviews and job offers," said Associate Director of the CDO Christopher LaGrow.

A new event, the Summer Job Expo, will be taking place at the same time with 20 employers in Williams Center G103.

"We saw many summer employers attending our annual fair, and we wanted to have a separate but concurrent event to showcase them and hopefully attract not just the juniors and seniors that are immediately seeking jobs and internships but also the freshmen and sophomores that want a summer job," said LaGrow.

Some of the full-time and internship employees that are expected to attend include Time Warner Cable, the New York State Police and Pennsylvania State Police, Aspire of WNY, Paychex, the Walt Disney World College Program, BlueCross BlueShield, the FBI, GEICO and Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

"This is our seventh expo, and we've grown from 40 employers our first year to about 80, with the two events combined, this year," said LaGrow. If you can't attend the expos, there are still other ways to look and prepare for jobs and internships. Students can look at FREDnetwork, a job and internship database.

"At any given time it has about 300 to 400 jobs and more than 1000 internships listed. Everything we hear about gets listed there," said LaGrow.

The CDO will also look over resumes, cover letters, graduate school personal statements, and will conduct practice interviews and provide job search strategy advice.

All of these services are open to seniors even after they graduate. Alumni are eligible for all services and events.

Police Blotters

UNIVERSITY

Monday, Feb. 20, 2017

3:30 a.m. Samuel Hensel, age 18, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. He was issued an appearance ticket.

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017

7:25 p.m. Keys were found outside the Science Center.

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2017

11:48 a.m. A student filed a false report in Lot 4. A report was filed.

Thursday, Feb. 23, 2017

12:12 p.m. An individual was reportedly smearing deodorant on someone's vehicle. A report was filed.

Friday, Feb. 24, 2017

A person was dragging a chair down Temple Street. A report was filed.

12:50 p.m. The Coach bus reportedly went off road on Park Drive.

1:40 a.m. A backpack was stolen from the men's locker room. A report was filed and a statement was taken.

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017

11:30 p.m. An unknown individual reportedly left a used condom on vehicle handle. A report was filed.

A vehicle was damaged in Lot 26. The alleged vehicle fled the scene. A report was filed.

Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017

A suspicious person was allegedly inside a dumpster in the loading zone of Chautauqua Hall.

Glasses were found in a brown case. University Police filed a report.

FREDONIA

Saturday, Feb. 25, 2017

Tylon D. Lynch, age 22, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. He was issued an appearance ticket.

Sunday, Feb. 26, 2017

1:14 a.m. Matthew Lupkin was charged with violating the sewer ordinance. He was issued an appearance ticket.

Joseph A. Rosario, age 30, was charged with disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, second degree harassment and littering. 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.

Campus View: Recapping Oscars 2017

SHENECA SHARPE Staff Writer

The Academy Awards (otherwise known as the Oscars), an award show that is filled with jewelry and dresses that could easily pay for my tuition, occurred this week. With the coveted golden statues that actors and actresses strive to receive and that we common folk just watch each year, the ceremony was definitely more interesting than previous years. Hosted by the hilarious Jimmy Kimmel, his usual dry wit took over the stage, kept the audience engaged for over two hours and well-fed with Red Vines and Junior Mints that fell from the ceiling onto the celebrities' laps. The candy did help cushion the blow of "La La Land's" false win for Best Picture, but I'll get into that later.

History was made with Mahershala Ali, the first Muslim to win an Oscar for his role in "Moonlight," and Viola Davis for "Fences," becoming the first black woman to receive a Tony, Oscar and Golden Globe in acting. Davis now only needs a Grammy to be considered an Egot. "La La Land" had an outstanding 14 nominations and, winning 6 of them, could definitely be considered the big star of the night.

Last year's Oscars was riddled controversy with the popular hashtag "#OscarsSoWhite" because no people of color were nominated for films that year. This year, critical hits such as "Moonlight," "Fences," "Lion" and "Hidden Figures" were filled with people of color and were all nominated. "Moonlight" won three Oscars and "Fences" won one Oscar.

But the real drama could not be contained to the films being honored, as the ceremony itself made for events stranger than fiction.

It was the last award of the night and all Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway had to do was say "And the nominees for Best Motion Picture are..." then open the envelope and proceed to say "The winner is..." and continue on to say who the winner was. That didn't happen. Dunaway actually proceeded to say that "La La Land" was the winner and everyone who was a part of the film got on stage, congratulated each other and began giving acceptance speeches. But amid a chaotic flurry in the background, it was quickly announced that "Moonlight" had in fact won out, and that the wrong name was called.

With the initial shock first from the audience and then from the director of "Moonlight," Barry Jenkins, no one could believe what they heard. Something as prestigious as the Oscars could

never have a huge fumble like this, but alas. It was immediately the talk on all social media as a classic "Steve Harvey" moment, referring to Harvey announcing a wrongful winner at the 2015 Miss Universe contest.

Beatty had wrongly been given the card for Emma Stone's win for Best Actress for her role in "La La Land" which had been awarded moments just moments before. Reading the card,



Beatty was obviously confused before Dunaway read "La La Land," but it was a simple honest mistake which the cast and crew of the movie took very professionally.

At least with a fumble like that people are going to be watching and talking about the Oscars for a while, and this time it won't be about its lack of diversity.

Graphic by Alissa Salem/Staff Illustrator

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra to honor Mazzio Performances include Brahms Requiem and more

KARA CEKUTA Staff Writer

The Brahms Requiem "Ein Deutsches Requiem (A German Requiem)" will be playing on March 4 in King Concert Hall from 8 to 10 p.m. The concert will feature the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra in honor of the passing of School of Music instructor Carl Mazzio.

This event will be celebrating the life of Mazzio, born and raised in Portland, Oregon. The retired principal trombonist of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra conducted over 300 compositions and led an extraordinarily successful career both as a musician and an educator.

Mazzio received his bachelor's degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and his master's from the Juilliard School of Music. He impacted both his colleagues and students immensely during his time at Fredonia.

Paula Holcomb, the wind ensemble director of the Fredonia School of Music, spoke about what will be remembered about this enthusiastic and uplifting member of the Fredonia community. She described how over 160 musicians volunteered their time to the tribute and how it "demonstrates his influence, respect and admiration."

"He was a world class musician and a superb educator," she said. "A rare combination, as he was also very passionate about supporting and nurturing the students, not only in the bands and his studio, but all students."

David Rudge, a close colleague of Mazzio's and director of orchestras and opera, also commented on the upcoming event. He described its formal dedication to Mazzio as a piece of celebration, one celebrating a well-lived life and a positive influence on so many peers and students. The piece chosen for this performance refers to the future, with an ethereal, atmospheric sound. Inspired by stargazing, it represents the relationship between heaven and earth.

Tickets are \$8 for students and \$15 for general admission. They can be purchased at the Fredonia Ticket Office located in the Williams Center or online.

Students to hold concert benefiting refugees

AMBER MATTICE Life & Arts Editor

With all of the talent across majors on Fredonia's campus, there is always an event going on to showcase them. On March 5 at 1 p.m. in Diers Recital Hall, a concert will be held that stands out among the rest due to its purpose.

In response to the recent ban on immigration set into motion by the Trump administration, some of Fredonia's students are banding together to raise money and awareness to benefit refugees.

"I think with any career you kind of feel a sense of like 'Well, how can I do my best, how can I help,' and being a musician, it's so easy to stick to our ivory tower and not worry about the world, but this is just so important and with everything that is happening I think we have to," said senior music performance major Hannah Bleasdale.

Bleasdale, along with her quartet, pitched the idea to professors and the School of Music and decided that it wouldn't be too difficult to put together and felt that they didn't have a choice because it was something that needed to happen, one way or another.

The Refugee Benefit Concert will showcase a mix of jazz and classical music performed by approximately 22 students from a quartet, a jazz ensemble and a cello choir as well as various other groups within the School of Music.

All proceeds obtained from the concert will be split between the American Civil Liberties Union and the Jewish Community Center in Buffalo, which helped to relocate many of the refugees in Buffalo last year.

Bleasdale's own experience while studying abroad last year in Germany, which has taken in an incredibly large number of Syrian refugees, has played an important role in her inspiration to make this concert happen.

"I was on my way home in February for a short break, going to the Berlin airport and I found myself sitting next to a Syrian refugee on the train. His English was great and we started talking ... and he showed me his passport and it looks just like ours in a lot of ways," Bleasdale said. "He was going to see his brother who

lived in Berlin [and had] for a long time at this point and we started talking about my American heritage and I showed him my passport and he said, 'That's the dream.' That really spoke to me ... For the good or bad that America has done, his overall impression was just that we have it really good and we definitely do. So I think that is my biggest inspiration for wanting to protect their right to pursue that dream."

Another student who has played a large role organizing the concert is Andrea Velasquez, a senior music education and violin performance major. Velasquez's personal experiences also inspired her to make the event happen.

"I can't say I have direct experiences with refugees [but] both of my parents are immigrants from Colombia. They came to the U.S. looking for a way to escape the drug-war and violence that had taken place in Colombia at the time. They did this so that they could raise a family in a safe place. However, they didn't know how to speak any English, they didn't have any family members in the U.S. and nothing was familiar to them," Velasquez said. "Today, they have two steady jobs, two successful and healthy children and a comfortable lifestyle. My parents were able to take the opportunity of starting a new life because the U.S. helped provide that for them."

Bleasdale will be telling her story at the concert as well as giving information about Buffalo and its part in supporting refugees.

Many members of the administration have been very vocal about being against the immigration ban and it was the school's courage to speak out about this that encouraged Bleasdale and other students participating in the concert to make a political statement against the ban through music on campus.

"I think the powerful thing about music is not just that it speaks but that it gathers people," said Bleasdale.

The hope is that benefit concerts like this one can be held for other issues in society like the Dakota Access Pipeline and many others and that this will not be a one time thing at Fredonia.

The suggested donation amount is \$5 for students and \$10 for community members.

Second Annual Student Business Competition!

The Fredonia Technology Incubator welcomes you to the second annual Student Business Competition. The competition is designed to help students and their teams develop entrepreneurial skills and business ideas!

Upcoming Events

Information Session: March 9, 2017 from 4-6pm at FTI. (Pizza and refresments will be provided!)

Applications due March 24, 2017 Apply at http://home.fredonia.edu/incubator/competition

Timeline

CHNOLOGY INCUBA

Finalists Selected: March Final Pitch to Judge: April Winners Announced: April Move into office: May

CASH PRIZES

First Place: \$500 and one year rent free at FTI! Second Place: \$250 and six months

rent free at FTI!

Learn more about the business competition! Meet last year's winner, Virginia Croft of ArcAtlas, as well FTI staff, interns, mentors, advisory board, And Incubator clients. Fredonia students who attend will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a prize! Fredonia Technology Incubator 214 Central Ave, Dunkirk, NY 1404 FOLLOW US FOLLOW US

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A literary safe space

Writers' Ring gives students a place to workshop peers' writing

LERON WELLINGTON Staff Writer

What aspiring writer doesn't want a safe space to share their literary work? One of the many clubs on campus that allows for that is Writers' Ring, a club where writers come together to share and improve their writing.

Students can bring in a variety of work including spoken word, short stories, lengthier works and anything else they'd like to have workshopped.

Students not only get a chance to put their works out there but to read other works as well. They are able to have input in their peer's writing and continue the constant cycle of working on their crafts.

James Lillin, a senior acting, English and women and gender studies major, serves as the club's president. *(Editor's Note: James Lillin is a Staff Writer for The Leader.)*

"We started out as just a place for writers to workshop their poems, stories, songs, plays, screenplays or whatever they might be working on, meeting one day a week," said Lillin. "Since then we've grown to have weekly workshop meetings, additional long-works meetings for novel/ play/musical type work, round-table talks with local poets and professionals and semesterly Poetry Slams."

Devin Johnson, a freshman computer science and audio/radio major, has spent most of his first year working on his poetry and spoken word.

"At its core Writers' Ring is a club that works to improve the literary works of students on campus through weekly workshops and critique," Johnson said. "All GB and e-board members have a part in the critique process, each providing a unique perspective on what a piece may or may not need."

The club has many upcoming events that can be enjoyed by all students and

faculty. On March 1, with the help of Sigma Tau Delta, they will be holding an Open Mic at 21 East Bookstore in Dunkirk. There, you can enjoy students' works that will be shared in the quaint literary alcove. The local bookshop also sells used books for unbelievably cheap prices.

Joined by other clubs like Poetic Perspective, Writers' Ring will compete in a poetry slam, hosted by Pure Ink Poetry at University of Buffalo on March 4. There, the talented handful of poets will compete against other universities. Invitations are extended to the public.

Fredonia Opera Scenes features mix of traditional opera and modern musicals

NUNET CLITANDRE Special to The Leader

Fredonia Opera Scenes is an annual production produced by the Student Opera Theatre Association. SOTA has been producing Opera Scenes for more than 40 years every Spring semester at Fredonia.

SOTA this year will be presenting a mix of traditional opera and modern musicals: Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro," Donizetti's "L'Elisir D'Amore," Gilbert & Sullivan's "Trial by Jury" and Maury Yeston's "Nine."

"It's an honor for me to join a long line of previous producers," says Erik Rasmussen, a senior vocal performance major. Rasmussen has previously performed on stage with Fredonia Opera Scenes and is excited to be a producer for this year's show.

Producing Opera Scenes is a yearlong job. Taking place every Spring, production begins in the Fall with securing directors for each scene, an audition date and location, audition accompanists, securing rights to shows, posting cast lists, distributing scores to cast members, securing scenes



accompanists and more.

Production gets no less busy in the Spring. This is when all of the "behindthe-scenes" preparation takes place, including securing sets and props, buying or renting costumes, securing rehearsal times and locations for each scene, creating the tech week schedule and leading the transition from rehearsals in Mason Hall to tech week and performances in the Opera House basically, where all of the separate efforts come together to create the final product. Directors for Fredonia Opera Scenes this year include voice professor Lynne McMurtry, voice professor and SOTA adviser Robert Strauss, graduate voice student Amy Cohen and theatre professor Paul Mockovak. This team was also responsible for putting together last semester's successful TADA production of "Godspell."

For many of the students participating, Fredonia Opera scenes is their first large-scale operatic experience at Fredonia. This experience is described by many students as a major stepping stone in their performance repertoire.

"I'm playing a man in this production," said Christina Shaw, a sophomore music education major. "I think this has done wonders on improving my acting skills. It's a role that's far out of my norm, and it's a good challenge for me."

Shaw also explained that expectations for every person that is a part of the production are those of a professional opera company. Performers are expected to know their music as thoroughly as possible by themselves by first rehearsal. This instills the performers with a great sense of responsibility that will undoubtedly benefit and inspire many to continue developing their voices and climb the stepping stones of performing in the annual Hillman Opera and the annual Western New York Chamber Orchestra opera.

Performances will take place at the historic Fredonia Opera House on March 3 at 7 p.m. and March 4 and 5 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students, \$8 for senior citizens and \$10 for adults.



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Literary London brings literature alive

CLAIRE O'REILLY Assistant Life & Arts Editor

A major perk of attending Fredonia, or any other SUNY school, is students' access to international education through hundreds of different study abroad programs. Literary London is one of them.

"Literary London was launched 11 years ago by Dr. Adrienne McCormick, who was a professor in the English department," said David Kaplin, one of the professors leading the program. "Thanks to her hard work and creative planning, we enjoy established relationships with the University College in London, where we stay during the program, and several of London's premier museums."

Although students do have an array of programs to choose from at Fredonia, Kaplin believes Literary London stands out.

"Unlike any other study abroad program I know, Literary London brings the texts you study to life. It's much more than tourism or cultural exchange: we literally — and literarily! — inhabit the places that we'll be reading about. We spend four hours each morning in class discussing great books, and then we go to the places that inspired them," he said. "The connections are immediate and deep: we feel the spaces, the history, the moments of all that we read and talk about in class. We also get to go 'behind the scenes' and see museum collections and meet experts that one would not ordinarily encounter as a casual visitor."

Alumna and past participant in the program Cassandra Riggio has some advice for students who are on the fence about going. "Just go," she said. "If you're worried about the cost — that was my main concern about going — it turned out fine. It was so worth it."

Riggio joked that, if she could have, she would've stayed in England the whole six months she was granted on her passport.

Kaplin has similar advice for students who are indecisive.

"Every single Literary London alum I've spoken to says the same thing: it was the best thing I did during my undergraduate career," he said. "It is a lot of money, but it's also the most affordable way to experience an expensive city; traveling here after graduation, doing all that we will do on the program, would cost at least twice the current fee, so it's well worth it."

Students have the opportunity to discover and explore on their own while in London. In the past, one student found herself experiencing something pretty amazing after an interesting turn of events.

"One student planned a difficult trip up to Sherwood Forest on her free day to visit a castle-museum dedicated to the legends of Robin Hood. After some delays, she finally made it there just as the castle was closing for the day. Hearing all that she had done to get there, the curators of the castle gave her a private tour that evening, during which she got to see holdings that ordinary visitors never see," said Kaplin. "After she graduated, that student returned to England, married a Brit and now lives outside of London. As a program leader, I am thrilled every year by what students discover on their own, about London and about themselves."

Riggio also talked about one of her

own experiences while exploring around.

"I tell everyone about this pub we went to. We went on a Jack the Ripper tour, so that night we went to a pub they showed us where Jack the Ripper would pick up prostitutes that ended up being his victims. That was kind of crazy," she said.

Recently, an informational meeting for those interested in going to London on this summer's program was held. A few of the students described why Literary London is their program of choice.

"I love Dr. Kaplin," said junior English major Ian Wetzel. "He first showed me information about the trip last year, and I've been interested in it ever since."

"I've taken a couple Kaplin classes and I always heard someone talking about the trip," said junior English major Chris Jakubik. "That got me a little interested, but I realized I want to travel and explore the world. I want my first experience doing that to be London."

Kaplin further touched on what makes Literary London special and why studying abroad is so beneficial to students.

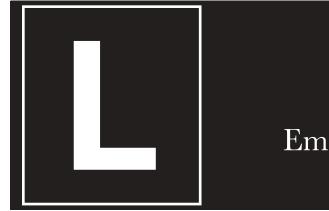
"In addition to the unique academic experience of the program, students get to experience real cross-cultural exchanges. When you travel as a tourist, you see sites and hopefully interact with a few folks while you're there, but our program encourages students to examine their own ideas and values through their experiences in another culture. London, in particular, offers many moments of



Leslie Martinez-Garcia/Staff Illustrator

connection and similarity but also real differences that ask us to reexamine what we value, about individuals, about art, about nation and politics and about our international community," he said.

"Study abroad opens your mind and your heart to the many different people, real people, that have much in common with us but also have many things to teach us. It teaches us to listen to voices other than those familiar to us, and that's the key to becoming an informed and responsible world citizen. Plus, after you travel once, you will want to travel more. And you'll have the confidence to do so."



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Men's hockey gets bounced at Buffalo State Successful season culminates in first-round SUNYAC exit

CURTIS HENRY Sports Editor

For the first time since the 2013-14 season, the Fredonia Blue Devils men's hockey team found themselves back in the SUNYAC tournament this February. Unfortunately for Fredonia, the Feb. 22 matchup with nationally ranked Buffalo State ended with a 2-1 defeat at the hands of their opponents.

"It was a good game. You had two good teams with two all-conference goaltenders. We expected a low scoring, tough hockey game, and that's exactly what we got," said Head Coach Jeff Meredith.

The defeat capped a season in which the Blue Devils won 13 games,

the highest total for the team since the 2010-2011 season. Additionally, the team had two players selected for the all-conference third team. Both junior forward Sam Wilbur and sophomore goalie Eric Bogart were given the honors, which were well deserved in the words of Meredith.

"If you're looking for a guy that really stepped up this season, the first that comes to mind is Sam Wilbur," said Meredith. "He took summer and made a 180-degree turnaround physically with his body. He came in this season and was basically a new player. He really stepped it up.

"As for Eric [Bogart], he shared the net a year ago and came back this season as a full-time starter and stepped it up to an all-conference level. He's done all we could ask," said Meredith.

All-conference honors have been hard to come by for Fredonia's hockey team as of late. Wilbur and Bogart are the first to receive the honors — in any estimation — since Steve Rizer made all-conference first team during his senior season of 2011.

With regard to future aspirations for the program, Meredith stressed that there is still work to be done in the 2017-18 season. The program is expecting to return all but five players who are graduating.

"I asked the guys who are coming back after the Buffalo State game, 'Okay, what do we do now? Are we satisfied with 13 wins?' I'd really hope not," said Meredith. "I'd hope we come in next year with sights on improving. Let's strive to top that 13 win mark, let's strive to get a home playoff game. Let's advance in SUNYACs."

Meredith's final thoughts on this particular team sang nothing of praise.

"It was a fun team to coach and to be around. I think our strength was in our sense of family, it was a really closeknit group of guys," said Meredith. "I really couldn't ask any more out of them. They are great players, great teammates. They're a great group of student athletes, but really, they're just great people and they've done a good job in returning this program to the high standards of the past."

Clouthier breaks SUNYAC records for 100 and 200 breaststroke

QUINTIN JAMES Staff Writer

Going into SUNYACs, senior Adam Clouthier knew this was his last chance to leave a mark for Fredonia in SUNYACs. After great times in his first two years, Clouthier finished with times that were rather disappointing by his standards this past year.

Last week, however, he ended his collegiate career with a bang, setting a school and conference record in both the 100-meter and 200-meter breaststroke races. He qualified first in the 100 meter with a time of 56.70 seconds, which barely set a record, then followed it up with a time of 56.31. That time was a NCAA Division III B-Cut qualifier.

His record preliminary time bested the late Jack Jakubek of Cortland in 2014, who was a friend of Clouthier and someone whom he strived to learn from. He said that Jakubek owned the 100-meter breaststroke and beating his record was a great feeling.

The next day, Clouthier broke another school and conference record, this time in the 200-meter breaststroke. His time of 2:04.06 bested previous conference record of Potsdam's Alexander Taylor, who scored a 2:05.48 in 2013. Clouthier beat that record in preliminaries and bested his own school record of 2:09.77, which was set in 2015.

Speaking with Clouthier, he wasn't focused on breaking the conference record but admits that was the goal for the race.

"That was kind of the overall goal. It wasn't the main goal, but I got close to the conference record my sophomore year, so I wanted to beat it," Clouthier said. He added that he did not expect to break the 100-meter record at first.

Clouthier said he didn't change his routine much in preparation for the race.

"It was pretty much the same routine for me. One thing I changed was warming up closer to my races," he said. "It helps your body adjust to the race, and my problem before was I wasn't warmed up enough before races."

After breaking the record, Clouthier said he was surprised he broke the record in preliminaries.

"I didn't expect it at all. The 100-meter race was surprising when I saw I was seeded No. 1. I changed my race strategy a bit and stopped overthinking and started relying on my technique," he said.

After preliminaries, Clouthier said he was nervous but was relaxed and ready to go for the nightcap of the race. He also mentioned that he likes to swim at night, which also helped him swim faster in the 100- and 200-meter race.

After strong times in his first two years at SUNYACs, Clouthier had a down year last year. He admitted that it was a humbling experience for him.

"It was tough. I worried about if I peaked my sophomore year. I told my coaches to be [patient] because I had a few slow starts but the times didn't reflect the work I put in," he said.

Clouthier added that he usually does better the closer SUNYACs are, and he knew he would be ready for SUNYACs.

Clouthier plans to continue swimming after college. He wants to stay active, and he wanted to leave his mark at Fredonia. He says he hopes this motivates other swimmers on the team to beat his record in the future.



Record-holder Adam Clouthier. Courtesy of Adam Clouthier

Five divers, two boards, one goal

Diving Devils head into Regionals, Nationals on the horizon

AVRIL KING Social Media Asst.

Five Blue Devils are making a splash in diving. After a stunning season and huge successes in SUNYACs, the athletes have made the trip to compete at the NCAA Division III Region 4 meet. All of this is done in the hopes of taking one of the six spots available for Nationals.

SUNYACs for men's and women's swimming and diving took place Feb. 15 through 18 at the customary setting of Erie County Community College's Flickinger Center. Seniors Meghan Bartlett, Jake Storms, Sam Kowalewski and Arron Carlson, along with freshman Christian Krasnek, were ready to take on the competition.

"SUNYACs is a fun meet. It is good practice for regionals and hopefully nationals," said Bartlett. "I look at it as a stress-free meet that I can have a little fun with."

And with wins on the one-meter and three-meter springboards, a new conference record, as well as the SUNYAC Female Diver of the Meet award, Bartlett's laid-back attitude certainly seemed to have paid off.

Also making leaps at SUNYACs was Carlson. He took first in the one-meter and three-meter, broke a conference record and received the award for Male Diver of the Meet.

"I don't cry often, but I was a little teared up after my last dive," said Carlson. "Because the score went right up and I saw everything and ... it was very heartfelt ... It was definitely a little heartfelt at the end between me and my coach." Storms was able to finish in the top eight, as well as break three personal records. Kowalewski took fifth, while Krasnek finished at 10th.

In the end, the five athletes were able to emerge from the competition, eager to move on. The Regional competition, held in Ithaca, New York, Feb. 24 and 25, decided who goes onto Nationals. Both Bartlett and Carlson have attended in years previous, each being named a 1-meter national runner-up in 2016. Both of them will be returning this year after taking the podium at regionals.

"Nationals is another animal. It is the most fun, exciting and stressful diving competition I have been to," said Bartlett. "Last year was an amazing experience, and I believe I have worked harder than ever to prepare."

When looking toward the future, most of the divers planned to continue in the sport.

"I'll do AAU, which is amateur ... I definitely want to coach at some point," said Storms.

Bartlett's plans are similar. She adds, "I don't think I could ever stay away from this sport."

As for Carlson, he is shooting for the Olympics. "If I can find someone to train, I'd love to train for Tokyo in 2020," he said. "And if I'm not in the pool, I'll be coaching."

Nationals will take place March 15 to 19 in Shenandoah, Texas. Fredonia will be proudly represented by two Blue Devils at this exclusive competition.



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Applications will be accepted from: **Feb. 20, 2017-Mar. 10, 2017** in the Student Association Office (located in the Williams Center).

Leaveusbe Tribe discovered on new continent

EMMA PATTERSON Staff Lampoonist

The whole world turned on the news last week and, for the first time in months, was not greeted with flames and screams of horror but with the announcement that a new continent has been discovered deep in the Pacific Ocean. The new continent was found to be the home of ridiculously good-looking merpeople who call themselves the "Leaveusbe tribe." In typical American fashion, we decided to pay the Leaveusbe tribe an abrupt and unexpected visit.

"Oh, hey, the Americans are here," was the welcoming greeting we received when we arrived. "We thought you guys were just like an urban legend or something."

The tribe was comprised of some of the most accommodating merpeople we've ever met. Everywhere we went, they were right behind us. It was like they were watching our every move!

"We totally trust you guys," one tribe member, who looked like a combination of Ryan Gosling and a ray of sunshine, said as he scanned us for potential weapons and diseases. "It's just that you guys don't exactly have the best track record with, like, not-ruining stuff." He



made us walk around the city in Hazmat suits as he continually sprayed us with Lysol.

We were mesmerized by the lack of dumpster fires and general panic on this new continent.

"As you can see, we're really

struggling to improve our cities," Ryan Sunshine said, waving sadly at the most spotless city street we've ever seen. "See? Our cities aren't that great, really. Trust us, you would NOT want to live here."

Nearby, we heard the unnatural sound of children laughing. Everyone

was gallivanting.

One particularly nervous-looking tribe member was quick to mention how things weren't always so great. "We, uh, had some problems with a powerhungry sea witch a few years back," he said. "It was horrible. She kept trying to manipulate us to support her own ego. You must not have any idea what that's like." He shuddered dramatically before adding that "it could happen again at any moment."

Ryan Sunshine agreed that the Leaveusbe tribe was not without its faults.

"We're especially bad when it comes to new people," he said as he pushed us towards the submarine. "We're really not that welcoming. In fact, I wouldn't come back here for a while, if I were you. We just can't handle your American-ness."

Flattered, we promised the Leaveusbe tribe that we would be sure to visit again soon and with some staples of American culture: the Constitution, Beyonce's "Lemonade" and cheesy tater tots.

In related news, NASA discovered seven new planets last week. Despite the giant signs reading "STAY AWAY USA," we can't wait to drop by soon.

Graphic by Madison Spear/Staff Illustrator



Drake's new album filled with tears Fans drown in Drake's rich melancholy

PATRICK BENNETT Staff Lampoonist

Before he was wheelchair Jimmy, Aubrey Drake Graham, or Drake, told his "Degrassi: The Next Generation" costars he would one day release an album that was literally filled with tears. That day came last Friday as Drake released "I'm Sad. Hear Me Out. Pass the Blunt. The First Chronicles" to rave reviews and massive confusion.

The 13-song opus was released with little-to-no press at all and received a perfect 10 out of 10 "best new music" by popular toxic tastemaking megahouse Pitchfork Media.

"I freaking love this album, man. The sentimental value of this record increased hella-fold knowing you open it up to Drake's very own tears. So post-ironic! I might try to inseminate my girlfriend with his tears to see if she'll pop out our own lil' baby Drake. What do I know about science? I love music!" said popular Pitchfork writer and guy you literally never wanna start a conversation with Alexander Ottoman.

Fans across America worldwide

couldn't fathom how much Drake actually cried in order to fill all of the one hundred million copies that were sold in its first week.

"I mean. It's kind of weird that the man not only tried to bring back the physical CD in mainstream culture but also filled every copy with his own tears. What a self-absorbed jackass. What's he crying over? Bad caviar? He needs to give me money now!" said cheapskate conspiracy theorist Ricky Jabroni.

Other fans were actually stoked to have one of their favorite artist's bodily fluids in their copy of the CD.

"It was so sexy! Drake is literally so sexy! I need a one dance if you know what I mean! Ugh. When I got my copy, I cried into his tears and we made our own little ocean of mutual tears and understanding. He's so sexy!" said middle-aged dad Enrique Azul while wearing a yellow cashmere dress.

The question remained: Why did Drake do this? The Lampoon sought answers from Drake's close circle, or the Drizzy squad. The first man to spill the beans was Drake's dad, who was painfully extra for his interview, dressed



as a biker in an R&B band.

"Woo! That joint is hot right? That's my boy. He told me he wanted to release something that people would cry about, be sad about, feel bad for him. That sort of stuff. He definitely succeeded. Soon as I heard it, I abandoned my 13th wife, bought a moped and hit the road!" Dennis Graham said.

The Lampoon finally got a chance to interview the real Drake about his melancholy decision.

"Imma be honest with you. The real

reason why I made the album is because I couldn't get any bud. Like I was tryna match and literally nobody had tree on them. I'm better now though. Like I'm all good. Just buy my album and stay fresh bro," Drake said as he ascended back into his pimped-out spaceship via ultralight beam.

The album continues to be the top selling of 2017.

Graphic by Ryan Jacobson/Special to The Leader

Amazon Echo calls your ex for you

JACLYN SPIEZIA Staff Lampoonist

As the exploding Samsung Galaxy S7 news has phased out, reports suggest that a new cellphone phenomenon has started to take place. The Amazon Echo, which is designed around voice control, has exhibited an originally unidentified feature. After hours of listening to you bitch about an annoying ex, the Amazon Echo can reportedly talk to your annoying ex for you.

"My ex-boyfriend, Peter, wouldn't

stop calling me, and I would call Aldous and complain about him to him. Then the next time he tried to call, my Amazon Echo answered the call for me with a recording of my voice. I didn't know how to feel when I got a text from Peter thanking me for finally answering his call," said Sarah Marshall, an owner of the Amazon Echo.

Marshall continued to express her feelings about the Echo.

"I asked him what he was talking about, and he said that I had told him that I struggled juggling both him and my career and that I hadn't meant to move on. The thing is, though, I hadn't said that to him. I had said that on the phone to Aldous," she said. "The Amazon Echo left out what I said after that, which was that I was happy to have moved on to Aldous and was excited for our trip to Hawaii. It was creepy to think my phone could know which words were the right ones to say, but after it did that, Peter stopped calling."

Although this feature could be useful as avoiding annoying exes can be difficult, other users think this feature has dangerous potential. Another Amazon Echo owner, Belle, had to hold back beastly anger while giving her testimony.

"I had told my father on the phone, when talking about Gaston's proposal, that I didn't think we should get together. When Gaston called, it said to him that we should get together. When Gaston showed up at my doorstep, I fled the town," she said.

Whether or not you think this is a helpful feature that you would like, or one that you would want to be improved or get rid of, Amazon is looking for feedback; they left a message saying they think it is a "great unexpected feature!"

'Pokémon Go' update includes 'Are you sure this is how you want to spend your life?' option

ALBERTO GONZALEZ Staff Lampoonist

Niantic's huge summer success "Pokémon Go" looked like it was on the verge of being left behind in the summer of 2016. The developers have had other ideas, however, trying to keep their monstrous cash cow alive as long as possible. In an attempt to do just that, Niantic has just recently released a big update in an effort to entice trainers back to the game.

This update included the arrival of Generation II Pokémon, new berries and items used for evolving. Another new feature that is starting to garnish attention from the Pokémon community was the inclusion of a new feature that, when turned on, periodically asks if you're sure using the app is how you want to be spending your time.

It uses your location in combination with your Google account to get a scarily accurate idea of your age and occupation. In doing this, the game is able to put forth hyper specific questions to the gamer in question.

I, for example, was asked if I was sure I wanted to keep playing "Pokémon Go" last night in the form of, "Don't you have an article due to your editor in 14 hours? In the time you have spent catching Pokémon you could have been halfway done by now." Other users have been reporting the same type of extremely specific questions being asked during gameplay. Perhaps even more perplexing than the implementation of such a feature in the first place is the universal praise that it is getting all around the world from all ages.



The company has been under fire, however, because of the almost transparent use of data mining. This seems to not matter to anyone; in fact, Niantic has gone on record as saying, "Yeah, who cares if we are data mining? It's funny, right? Besides, almost all governments are doing it to some extent, and no one seems to care about that, right? At least with us you get to play 'Pokémon Go' in return."

This was not the only narrowly avoided controversy for Niantic. It was discovered by some senior citizens in Portland, Oregon, who were partaking in a course titled "How to Do Fun Things

Before in This Century Before You Die," that anyone over the age of 55 gets reminders at two times the rate of anyone else younger. These reminders seem to only be focused on the player's own mortality.

This has been speculated to be due to the tiny-to-nonexistent digital footprint that senior citizens have. Examples of such notifications include, "Wow you walked a whole 600 feet! You probably just added about 15 minutes onto your lifespan. Good for you!" This seems encouraging, but if they continue walking and reach a half a mile within a two-hour window players are met with a notification reading "Slow down geezer! At this rate you will not be near anything familiar when you forget what it was you were doing," or "If you keep this up, pretty soon you will only have 15 minutes left, so how about you take a nap?"

These seemingly abhorrent remarks have been embraced by senior citizens everywhere and has caused Niantic's daily player base to jump a remarkable 15 percent. A spokesperson from AARP gave a statement regarding the popularity amongst its members.

"This is a great example of how, after a certain age, you simply stop fearing death and don't worry if it's right around the corner," spokesperson Gunther Schmunther said. "The majority of old people do not take their mortality seriously at all anymore, and it is rather refreshing to be able to have it be poked fun at instead of having it be an elephant in the room when it comes up in conversation."

College-aged students have also taken a liking to this new feature as there is an ongoing challenge on Twitter using #pokemongoanywherebuttoclass. Students from across the world are sharing screenshots of their reminders telling them exactly how much time or tuition has been wasted in not going to class. This ultimately means that "Pokémon Go" seems to not be going anywhere for the time being, and just as when it first was released, it is redefining which features make an app successful in today's age.

Graphic by Dan Salazar/Staff Illustrator





Maybe ...





SUNYAC and Fredonia record-holder Adam Clouthier competes. Courtesy of Adam Clouthier



Timothy Mitchum (right) performs at HAIL! Fredonia Record's Parti Gra, held at EBC on Saturday, Feb. 25. Andrew Camera/Staff Photographer



Iclal Vanwesenbeeck (center) participates in National Reading Day with a 3rd grade class. Courtesy of Iclal Vanwesenbeeck



Connor Bell hosts the radio show "ReBELL Scum" at Fredonia Radio Systems. Andrew Camera/Staff Photographer



Jane Elliott lectures in the MPR. Corey Maher/Photo Editor