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NEWS

Rollbacks to Title IX cause concerns among Fredonians

JESSICA SERRANO

Special to The Leader

Big changes are coming to Title IX.

Betsy DeVos, the U.S. Secretary of Education, is making her propositions heard.

In a speech at George Mason University, she said, "The truth is that the system established by the prior administration has failed too many students. Survivors, victims of a lack of due process and campus administrators have all told me that the current approach does a disservice to everyone involved."

If the old rules are not working, could the new rules make it even worse?

On Fredonia's Title IX and Sexual Prevention webpage, you'll find the definition of what the Title IX policy is, "Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 is a federal civil rights law that prohibits sex discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs, including athletic programs or activities that receive federal funding . . . Under Title IX, discrimination on the basis of sex can include sexual harassment, rape and sexual assault."

According to the New York Times, "Colleges would be responsible for handling allegations of sexual misconduct that occurred on their campuses and in institutional programs, but not in settings like off-campus student apartments."

Students should feel safe, even when they are off campus. They still attend the school, so they should be protected by the school if something happens off campus. If not, then students will be frightened to step off campus.

According to the proposed rule of the Title IX amendment from the Department of Education, "Colleges would be held accountable only for responding to formal misconduct complaints filed through official

institutional channels, or allegations of which officials have actual knowledge."

With this new policy, students will be forced to tell University Police or an administrator, someone they may not feel that they can confide in. As a result, this will make it harder for students to speak out about the incident.

"I don't think victims and perpetrators should request information and cross-examine each other because it will be more traumatizing for the victim," said Alyssa Weber, a sophomore psychology and English major double major.

Weber expressed her concerns and showed her support by learning more about Title IX and being involved in the #MeToo Movement.

Student Association President Connor Aitcheson wants to let his fellow Fredonians know that they are not the only ones appalled by the new proposed policies regarding the definition of what sexual harassment would be.

"It's frustrating because if anyone feels victimized or violated, they should feel as if they're going to be taken seriously as they perceived the offense was. I don't think every time someone is violated they should have to evaluate whether or not it would meet a certain standard in order for action to be taken by certain institutions, law enforcement or any authority. I think if someone feels victimized, they should be supported and confident that action will be taken to ensure that this event doesn't happen again," said Aitcheson.

On Dec. 11, Student Association executives will have a conference call with U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand to ask questions and look at how the public views these regulations so they can either show support or opposition formally to the Department of Education.

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Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.



On the Cover:

The Leader gets into the spirit of winter.

Kristin Johnson/Assistant Photo Editor

Renowned professor resigns due to pay inequity within department



AMBER MATTICE
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: The names of professors in the 2015 email chain provided by Sherri Mason have been removed as per the request of Mason, in order to maintain the confidentiality of her colleagues.

"I've loved Fredonia. I came here [18 years ago and] this place has meant so much to me. It was painful, that's a part of my sadness, feeling that I was pushed to the point where the only kind of recourse I felt I had was to look for a job elsewhere," said Sherri "Sam" Mason. "When really I wanted to spend my entire career here."

Mason, whom has a PhD in chemistry, is the chair of the department of geology and natural sciences, is a professor of chemistry, has done groundbreaking research on plastic pollution in the Great Lakes and is the most recent recipient of the 25rd Annual Heinz award, is leaving Fredonia.

Mason is resigning from her positions due to pay inequity amongst her colleagues across the various science departments.

"I became aware that, [after just looking] at this institution and at colleagues who were comparable to me: they're in the natural sciences, have been here for the same length of time, got promoted [at the] same period of time, [that] I was making considerably less money," said Mason.

After this discovery, Mason filed a grievance with HR and was told that she would hear back sometime in September but when September came and went, she had still heard nothing. After sending several emails, she was eventually told that no pay inequity cases would be considered, full stop. After going to President Virginia Horvath, Mason was told to file a case of gender inequity through Fredonia's Office of Diversity.

That was three years ago. Mason had conversations and found data but heard nothing in return. She was not even told that it was not going to be pursued or given reason for inaction. All she got was silence and lack of closure.

"It would have made a huge difference if, four years ago when I raised this, they had simply acknowledged that it was true," said Mason.

Horvath, when asked for a statement regarding Mason's resignation or the issues of pay inequity among professors said, "I cannot comment on personnel issues, including salary, due to confidentiality."

Over the years, Mason has faced discrimination because of her gender and noticed inequalities

within her department, such as being negatively evaluated by a student at the end of semester for wearing a skirt that fell just above her knees.

Mason, an activist on many levels, recognized the differences in the expectations of herself versus her male colleagues.

In 2013, Mason sent an email to Michael Daley, the Human Resources Director, because she discovered the drastic differences in the salaries of her colleagues. After salaries were posted across the department, Mason realized that something did not quite add up. In her email she wrote, "I am writing to request a formal review/evaluation of my pay relative to my peers within related departments, rank and years of experience. After reviewing posted salary information I believe there is a salary inequity issue. For example, [a male professor] who was promoted to full professor the same year as me (though started later) is making more than \$5500 more than myself. [A male professor] who started the same year as myself, but reached full professor one year prior to me, is making more than \$11,000 more than myself (and his salary increased every year over the past 5, despite the fact that we were on a hiring and salary freeze). [A male professor] who is in my same department and reached full professor only a year before myself is making \$7,000 more than me. [A female professor] who does have more years of experience but is below my rank, is making \$15,000 more than myself."

Prior to the raise she received two and a half years ago, when she was promoted to her current position, Mason was making approximately \$68,000.

In an attempt to find answers, Mason has sent over 19 emails searching for a response from

someone that could help her but has still not received any acknowledgement or reasons for her case not being pursued.

As a result, Mason is resigning.

The university has known for several years that she was looking for a new job as a result of seeing no changes being made but officially announced her resignation on Nov. 9. She wanted to make sure that the university had enough time to find a replacement, especially because she advises all of the earth science majors that attend Fredonia.

She has heard from many students that they are concerned about who their new advisor would be but Mason does not have answers. She believes the administration is looking, however.

"We have a lot going on in our department right now. We have three different searches going on, we're doing an external review of the environmental sciences program and that's all happening in the Spring semester and I was leading those three searches," said Mason. "I wish that they could at least put out an email to reassure students that [they've] got this covered [and] have laid out some kind of a plan."

Earth science is also one of the undergraduate programs being considered for reductions through PEPRE.

Mason's official last day is Dec. 31 so she will not be returning for the Spring semester. She was offered a position at Penn State Behrend as the Sustainability Coordinator and accepted. At Penn State, she will be teaching students, working with paid students on her own research projects and working towards sustainability efforts.

"This was exciting to me because it is in the academics realm as opposed to other universities where you see it more in the facilities side and so therefore I'd have to give up teaching altogether,



Angelina Dohre/Photo Editor

SA executives to get a raise starting next semester, former execs say it's a long time coming

JOSH RANNEY

News Editor

In the last legislative week of the year for the Student Association, the surprising decision was made to increase the stipends for SA executives.

In a practically unanimous vote in the General Assembly on Thursday, (with Speaker Seth Meyer abstaining), the stipend was increased from \$80 per week to \$100 per week.

A decision that SA President Connor Aitcheson is very happy to end his tenure on.

"I was very pleased when the amendment was ratified by the General Assembly," said Aitcheson.

Aitcheson's main debate point in advocating for this raise was to bring up executive pay to meet with the current New York State minimum wage.

"This increase in stipend from \$80 to \$100 a week will compensate the executives for their nine weekly office hours at a rate approximate to the 2019 minimum wage of \$11.10 per hour," he said.

Aitcheson said what is really important about this change is that it removes a "barrier" that previously existed when pay was low compared to the time put in by each executive.

"Now, an individual's personal financial situation will play a lesser weighted role in deciding to serve as executive of the Student Association," Aitcheson said.

In a Rules Committee meeting this past Monday, Aitcheson explained to the board that under the current structure, students have to make a substantial time commitment for minimal financial compensation.

The executive's fee, as mandated in Statute F-5 of the Student Association constitution, has been set at \$80 since 1998.

According to the Consumer Price Index, \$80 in 1998 has the same buying power as \$127 today.

"[The] stipend remaining stagnant for years leaves students who are not financially privileged . . . excluded or denied the opportunity to serve as a chief executive and as a representative of the students of Fredonia," said Aitcheson on Monday.

Aitcheson said in addition to the office hours that each executive have to hold, executives are expected to be in various meetings, whether they



Class representatives debate increasing SA executive stipends at General Assembly on Dec. 6
Photo courtesy of Josh Ranney/News Editor

be SA related or pertaining to a campus committee, Fredonia administrators, village leadership and SUNYSA, along with others as needed or required.

The other obvious side of their service is to the students of Fredonia, hands-on.

"Executives are expected to meet with students and clubs outside of their office hours where necessary," said Aitcheson.

Current SA Comptroller, Jason Cheung said, "President Aitcheson did something really thoughtful to ensure not just a select group of students who can dedicate their time without getting enough financial support for their time but more students can have the opportunity to run for such positions."

Cheung intends to continue his time as comptroller into next semester with the incoming administration of Seth Meyer and Katie Battaglia pending his re-nomination by Meyer.

Since the stipend has been set at the same amount for the past two decades, *The Leader* reached out to former SA executives who have since graduated to see what they think of the change.

Former SA Chief Justice, Bill Bradley, who graduated in 2017 thinks the stipend raise is a good and reasonable move.

"Given the amount of time that executives put

into their positions, I think it's perfectly fair that they be paid a wage that's comparable to what they could be making at another job," said Bradley. "I remember there always being talk around the office last year about how it would inevitably have to be raised, so I'm not surprised that it passed."

Bradley said it would be a lot harder to find people who want to take on executive positions if working another job is more financially responsible.

Former President, Jason Burgos, who graduated in December of 2016 said this topic was discussed during his time in office, too.

"As executives, we spend a considerable amount of time in the office, in meetings, at events and in some cases more than our required office hours," Burgos said.

Burgos warned, though, that executives and representatives need to be aware of how this will impact the overall SA budget.

"I do support increasing stipends but what should be taken into account is how much to raise them, how this could affect a very tight SA budget and activity fee cap and the timing of an activity fee increase after a mandatory activity fee vote," said Burgos.

Former Speaker of the Assembly, Nathaniel Clark who served three consecutive terms said, "I

think this is a humbling endorsement of the hard work SA executives do to make Fredonia so special. I hope that SA and its executives continue to live up to the students' high expectations."

Clark said with the stipend being the same for so long, it's clear to see that previous casts of executives have been hesitant to give themselves a raise.

"The fact that the stipend has been stagnant for decades shows that this is always a delicate issue," said Clark. "I think it was time."

Rachel Ando, a former Comptroller, said some work done by executives behind the scenes can exceed their hours paid by huge amounts.

"When we did B&A week, we were working well over 40 hours and still getting \$80 that week," she said. "SA executives have always been very hard working, professional and definitely deserve the extra \$20."

Ando said she never would have thought executive pay increases would be approved when she was there.

"I did not think it was realistic because every time it was even brought up in conversation everyone was up in arms."

Finally, former President Jefferson Dedrick, joined many of his previous and successive colleagues in saying, "This should have happened a long time ago."

Dedrick said when the stipend was implemented it had to be called a stipend because if the wage was paid at an hourly rate it would've been illegal because it was under the state minimum wage.

"That's even more true today thanks to recent increases in the minimum wage, and of course no one in that office only works nine hours," said Dedrick.

Dedrick pointed out some other campus jobs where students are making more money than executives have.

"We pay our very hard-working pizza artisans in Willy-C more than we do our SA executives," said Dedrick. "And while our pizza is important to Fredonians, so are our clubs and campus governance."

Dedrick said what is important is that this was considered and approved by unpaid student leaders.

"Sometimes for clubs and students it's

hard to see the whole picture of what the executives do," Dedrick said.

"But the reps are the ones who see every facet of a job that supposedly comes second to school."

The 2017 graduate joked,

though, that there is still another option for those who need further insight.

"If any student really wants to know whether it's a good idea or not, I recommend they do what I used to do when I had such a question: ask Vince."

Vince Gugino is the Student Association General Manager.

The ratified amendment will become effective at the start of the new year and the SA president, vice president, speaker of the assembly, comptroller and chief justice will start being paid \$100 per week at the start of their terms next semester.

"I think this is a humbling endorsement of the hard work SA executives do to make Fredonia so special. I hope that SA and its executives continue to live up to the students' high expectations," said former Speaker of the Assembly, Nathaniel Clark."

Professor resigns cont'd . . .

and I really didn't want to do that," said Mason.

Mason will certainly be missed among the students who have had her as a teacher and also by those who have worked with her on various research projects.

"Working with Dr. Mason has been an amazing opportunity I never thought I'd have. Being able to work in a lab and do research is a dream come true and I am so grateful that Dr. Mason allowed me to work with her," said Florence LaPlaca, a senior earth science major. "From my experience, doing research with Dr. Mason is pretty 'chill,' so

to speak. She teaches you what you have to do, gives you the necessary background information as to why you're doing it and what it means to the study and then lets you be free to do it on your own. It made me feel like she trusted me to do a good job and that means a lot."

Mason has brought much to Fredonia's science departments and will continue to enlighten people of the need for plastic reduction through her research with Penn State.

In terms of pay inequity among professors, Mason said, "it is not unusual in academia,

especially in the natural sciences" but was surprised to find how subtly the discrimination happens though she does have faith in the abilities of her colleagues.

"Fredonia is going to be just fine without me. The thing that I love the most about Fredonia are my colleagues; I have great friends here and we continue to have really great professors here," said Mason. "It just would be to the benefit [of the university] if there was more appreciation of the incredible faculty that we do have."

Another PEPRE follow-up

-ANALYSIS-



VICTOR SCHMITT-BUSH
Assistant News Editor

Fredonia prides itself as being a diverse and welcoming campus. The community is known for working closely with one another to solve problems, moving towards student excellence and making positive change. But some major changes that are projected to be made over the next few years could have a detrimental effect on campus morale, according to Connor Aitcheson, President of the Student Association at Fredonia.

This is because, according to Aitcheson, a wide range of students, staff and campus leaders and officials are already in disagreement about what to do as far as Fredonia's budget crisis is concerned.

"I think the biggest problem is that we are becoming divided and thinking that we each have our own separate issues," said Aitcheson. "But when we come together and have dialogue, we are able to better understand the situation."

The escalating development of the PEPRE process, (which was a last ditch effort made by the Planning and Budget Advisory committee in 2012 to reduce the school's burgeoning structural deficit), has not helped with campus marketing and public relations. It has generated fear and uncertainty in the eyes of both students and faculty, and local communities surrounding the campus are acutely aware of this.

Local newspapers like the Dunkirk Observer and professional news blogs like DailyNous were quick to spread the word that Fredonia is "cutting programs" after President Horvath released her Nov. 15 Monday update which identified programs that Fredonia might cut.

This is not good for publicity, according to Ralph Blasting, the dean of Visual and Performing arts at Fredonia. He said that if Fredonia wants to minimize the damage that has already been done on a social level, campus leaders must be careful about how they communicate with students, staff, faculty and the public about these issues.

"This process is just as much about social dynamics as it is about money . . ." said Blasting. "[Correctly informing the people about what is happening] takes leadership and good communication and patience. This is really going to test all of those aspects on the campus."

Aitcheson agrees. Although Horvath has been very transparent about informing the public about this issue, this isn't enough.

". . . there is a lot of transparency with no two-way communication," said Aitcheson. "Members

of the community are just being told what's being done, and in some instances, are being told why this is being done. There doesn't seem to be any environment or avenue to have dialogue in order to get clarity."

But this is only true as far as public dialogue goes. Horvath assured that there are a number of avenues by which the community can ask questions, speak briskly about issues or voice their opposition to PEPRE.

"I welcome continued conversations with all of you and value your suggestions," said Horvath in her Nov. 26 Monday Update. "As someone who benefited from public investment in my learning and from talented teachers who inspired and challenged me, I do not want to let this generation of students down."

Horvath insisted that anyone is welcome to visit her during her office hours or to set up an appointment. Anyone can send her an email or speak with her over-the-phone.

The problem, however, is that there is a difference between inviting the community to speak privately about these issues, versus creating and actively encouraging a public platform

in which all members of the institution can come together and discuss the best course of action to tackling Fredonia's financial issues.

"[With active dialogue], we are better able to understand the different perspectives that people have when it comes to PEPRE," said

Aitcheson. "And [we can] try to find a solution or a way that we can come to terms with what's happening in order to reduce the negative impacts that this is going to have on this campus."

Aitcheson said that the less ideal yet inevitable alternative to this is protests and then there is voiced opposition. This is what the campus is seeing at the moment, according to Aitcheson. Whether or nor it will be of any use is a different story.

"Like I said, I don't know that voicing these

oppositions is going to result in any change, but it's better to voice opposition to no avail than to not voice your opposition at all," he said.

Perhaps among the most vocal critics of the way PEPRE is being used are Stephen Kershner and Neil Feit of the philosophy department, Dale Tuggy previously of the philosophy department, and Julia Wilson of the math department. Wilson was one of the main authors of PEPRE.

Kershner believes that Horvath could be making one of two claims about Fredonia's budget crisis and that it is important to distinguish them. The first claim, according to Kershner, is that Fredonia is in dire financial straits right now in part because it will use up all of its financial reserves.

He said that "There has not been a hiring freeze in the past few years. Nor is there one this year."

This is odd if the college were in such a desperate condition.

"Sabbaticals have not been canceled as has been done in the past," he said. "Even if there were a financial emergency, cutting the philosophy major and department would do little to solve it because

it is not scheduled to take place until the 2020-2021 academic year."

In response to this sentiment, Horvath assured that she is acutely aware of the fact that even if academic programs are deactivated, the savings would take several years.

"But seeking ways to avoid spreading finite resources so thin will allow the campus to invest in areas of high

demand and growth," she said.

The second claim Horvath could be making, according to Kershner, is that this process of looking at enrollment and programs differently is being pushed by Fredonia's structural deficit. He said the structural deficit does not justify the cuts being made to these programs.

"Very roughly, a structural deficit is the difference between what the college would like to spend and its actual revenue," said Kershner. "First, note that this is not a real deficit. This year, the

"This process is just as much about social dynamics as it is about money . . . [Correctly informing the people about what is happening] takes leadership and good communication and patience. This is really going to test all of those aspects on the campus," said Ralph Blasting."

structural deficit was in part handled by cutting unoccupied lines of employment.”

Kershner also said that we should be wary of taking the numbers of the structural deficit at face value.

“The estimates of the structural deficit vary from \$12 million to \$5 million and vary depending on the year and the administrator who is speaking,” he said. “If the actual deficit were this large, far more drastic measures would be required than cutting majors and departments when doing so will not eliminate a single tenure-track position, at least in the near future.”

Kershner is not saying that Fredonia’s financial issues are nonexistent. The question that he, among many others, is asking is, “Why insist on cutting these programs when the negative effects of doing so would far outweigh the positive effects?”

Perhaps of interest to campus leaders is that students, staff and faculty have collectively made these three main claims. The first claim, made by Kershner, is that eliminating programs based off on low enrollment could actually cause more harm than good. This is in part because, via the second claim made by Blasting and Aitcheson, the immediate social costs of even mentioning the

possibility of cutting these programs could far outweigh the financial gains projected to be made as far back as 2021.

The third claim is that students and staff need more dialogue and more agency as far as having an impact on the major decisions made on this campus. According to Aitcheson, we should not settle simply to be told what’s going to happen to us. We all have a vested interest in the future of this campus, so let’s have this much needed discussion together.

POLICE BLOTTERS

FREDONIA

Monday, Dec. 3, 2018

Connor J. Heenan, age 21 was charged with failure to yield the right of way to a pedestrian. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018

Nicole A. Armentrout was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Marcus Feagin was charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 2018

Timothy Branden, age 34, was arrested under the ruling of a bench warrant. Bail was set at \$100.

Meaghan N. Cappa, age 38, was charged with driving 49 miles per hour in a 30 miles per hour zone and unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. Two uniform traffic tickets were issued.

Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018

Emani L. Bethel, age 20, was charged with violating the noise ordinance. An appearance ticket was issued.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018

Dante J. Lasting, age 18, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. Two appearance tickets were issued.

Like University Police on Facebook for updates and info at "New York State University Police at Fredonia."

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.

Life & Arts

Licensing issue with Fredonia's Performing Arts Company

LEAH GRAZIANO

Special to The Leader

One of the most interesting aspects about Fredonia is that it has such a strong theatre presence.

There are multiple clubs that showcase theatre performance.

One of them is Fredonia's Performing Arts Company, or PAC.

It was founded nearly 10 years ago and has become a well-established group on campus. It is completely student-run.

Anyone, regardless of major, can join PAC.

Every season, it puts on four to five shows.

PAC's shows tend to be ones that aren't performed often.

Unfortunately, PAC couldn't perform one of its shows this season.

The student run company planned on performing a play called "Indecent" by Paula Vogel earlier this semester.

However, a regional company in Rochester wanted to perform the same show and had purchased the rights.

To put on a performance, you have to obtain the rights to the show. PAC also purchased the rights from a company called Dramatists.

"If another theatre wants to put on the show, usually within a one to two hour radius, they pick which company is allowed to do the show, so the company that lends the rights thought that. If we did it as well, they would lose audiences and make less money over in Rochester," said Hannah Lee Hernandez, a senior BFA musical theatre major who serves as the vice president of PAC.

This is the first time this has happened to PAC.

"Our director, Jack Levenberg, had spent a lot of really important work and a lot of well thought out time in putting together this production and [was] ready to cast and unfortunately we found out within the first week of the semester that the show was not going to be happening because the rights have not been cleared because there was another company," said Hernandez.

"Indecent" is about the retelling of the controversial play "God of Vengeance" written by Sholem Asch.

"We tend to pick shows which are off the beaten path and 'Indecent' falls into that category but in this political climate, you see a lot more people doing more diverse theatre," she said.

Normally, when there isn't a licensing issue, PAC goes through a long process of preparing for a show.

After all of the rights and scripts are purchased, then begins casting, two months of rehearsals and setting up the stage filled with props from PAC's prop closet.

PAC also does independent projects.

These are for people who want to do their own show. Independent projects are planned during the school year which differ from PAC's mainstage series. Its mainstage series is planned in May and those productions are performed the following academic year.

However, PAC will only pay for the rights to the show but not for anything else.

Some of the independent projects that PAC has in store for this year include the following: "Measure for Measure," "Next To Normal," "Almost Made," and "Melancholy," which just closed.

The reason that PAC is putting on so many independent projects this year is because it couldn't perform "Indecent."

"Usually we do one or maybe two. But because we have that extra budget, we have been able to distribute it between four different [independent] shows. We are putting up eight shows this year, which is a lot, but it is very exciting," Hernandez said.

PAC's shows differ from the Walter Gloor Mainstage series, which is part of Fredonia's Theatre and Dance Department.

Every year, the Walter Gloor Mainstage Series puts on more well known productions. This year, the musical "Anything Goes" will be playing in the Spring at Marvel Theatre.

Through the past ten years, this series has put on well-known Broadway shows such as "Victor Victoria" in 2008, "The Sound of Music" in 2011 and "Cabaret" in 2013.

These shows are open to students and the general public.

Preparation for these larger-scale shows take up most of the academic year.

Auditions for the Gloor shows begin in August, rehearsals begin in February and the show is normally performed during April.

Theatre majors and minors are able to obtain credit for being a part of the Walter Gloor mainstage production.

"So, for those of us who are majors, [it] actually counts as a one-credit class. So, if you're cast, you get one credit working on that for however many months you spend preparing for that [show]. If you're not cast, then you'll work backstage at one production a semester," said Hernandez.

Becoming a theatre major at Fredonia is not like any other college application.

To apply to the BFA programs in acting and in musical theatre at Fredonia, prospective students have to audition in person.

For BFA applicants, they need to go through a pre-screening process through Acceptd. This is an admissions portal for the Fine Arts. It is one of the largest admission portals in the country.

After this pre-screening process, those who advance are invited to Fredonia for an in-person audition.

Those who want to become part of the BA theatre arts program apply just as they would apply normally to the university. They don't need an audition.

There are other student-run groups that you can join if you are interested in the arts.

One of them is Play on Words.

This group on campus reads plays and discusses them.

"Everyone gets together and you sit down and talk about the play and you analyze it. The things you liked, the things you didn't like, if you were to see this on stage, how would you want things to be portrayed," said Hernandez.

Another group on campus is Artist Alliance. This one is less focused on theatre and is open for those who want to showcase various artforms, whether it be sculptures, spoken word or stand-up comedy.

"It is more about celebrating life as an artist and looking through the lense of someone who creates art," said Hernandez.



Photo courtesy of The Tins Facebook page @thetins

The Tins play debut show at BJ's



ELYSE GRIECO
Life & Arts Editor

Buffalo's own indie rock band, The Tins, will be performing this Wednesday, Dec. 12, at BJ's.

The band is made up of Adam Putzer on guitar and vocals, Mike Santillo on the keyboard and vocals, Dave Muntner on drums and vocals and Justin Smith on the bass.

The group has been playing together for almost 10 years.

After meeting in college, Putzer and Santillo started playing acoustic guitar and piano together.

As their band started to form, the two realized they needed a drummer.

"We met Dave at the on-campus practice space and because drummers were in high demand, we snatched him up quickly," said Putzer.

The newest member to the band is Smith who just joined this past year.

Smith was a long time friend of the band and even co-owns Mammoth Recording Studio with Santillo.

"When we decided we wanted to bolster our live show with some low end, he was the only person that we felt would fit well with our dynamic," said Putzer.

The band describes their sound as indie rock with aspects from all different kinds of music.

"It's indie rock in essence, but we pull from various

places like folk and psychedelic rock, art and chamber pop, and classic rock, too," said Putzer. "It's often always moving in the direction of whatever each of us is into at that moment."

Putzer's own passion for music has significantly impacted the band and the music he makes.

"I have always been a bit of a music obsessive, reading up and learning about anything that catches my ear," he said. "When there's exciting stuff going on in the music world, I make sure to check it out. I find that always keeping an open mind and set of ears will benefit you greatly."

While the band has played in Fredonia many times, they have never performed at BJ's.

But the venue's ability to make a name for itself has The Tins eager to perform.

"It's got a great reputation among our musician friends, so we're really excited about that," said Putzer.

The group dropped two new singles, "Saksaywaman" and "Open Minded," this past November. They also plan to release a few new covers for the holiday season, and will be announcing tour dates this Thursday, Dec. 14.

Tickets for the show are available online at www.songkick.com.

The doors open at 10 p.m.

For more information on the band and their music, visit www.thetinsmusic.com or follow them on Twitter.

Club Spotlight: Sister Circle

ERIKETA COST

Staff Writer

Building friendships and making a difference through community is one way to create empowerment for women.

Sister Circle is a club on the Fredonia campus that does just that, in a safe and open environment.

With an emphasis on women empowerment, the group's primary goal is to empower members by creating an open environment for them to discuss, participate in volunteer service and learn about relevant issues that affect women of different ethnic backgrounds.

The group was founded 15 years ago by advisor Joyce Smith.

"This is an empowerment group, where students can have bonding experiences to share ideas, build positive relationships and give back and make a difference in community," said Smith.

Junior music performance major Xzaya Ivy joined the group this semester.

She mentioned some of the topics that are based upon personal experiences of the group.

"I remember one meeting the topic was, 'Don't Drop Your Crown,' and we were talking about the women in our life that inspire and lift us up," said Ivy. "We also discussed double standards among

men and women in regards to relationships, in the workplace, etc."

Other topics have included gender roles, interracial relationships, civic-minded matters and more.

Volunteer service is another aspect of the group that Smith emphasized in the club's mission statement.

Just last week, Sister Circle held a carnival at the Boys and Girls Club of Chautauqua County, a place that offers hope and opportunities for youth.

"Some other volunteer events were 'Soaked,' a fundraiser for women's health, and 'For our Daughters,' an event to assist and provide for cancer patients," said Smith.

With all of these events and opportunities, the group aims to motivate, inspire, build and grow.

"This is my first semester being a part of the group, and the meetings we have really open our eyes to other people's perspectives and opinions,



The Sister Circle eboard and general body members join for a group photo
Justin Saylee/Assistant Photo Editor

and it's a great learning experience overall. I intend on going to the meetings next semester and on," said Ivy.

Sister Circle meets Mondays at 8 p.m. in Williams Center S204.

If you have any questions or would like to join the club, contact Joyce Smith at Joyce.Smith@fredonia.edu.

I'd App That: StudyBlue

ELIZABETH SUSKI

Special to the Leader

'Tis the season for finals. This means cramming for papers, doing group projects and trying our best to not fall asleep in class. It's the one thing that none of us look forward to, but the idea of the holidays keeps us going.

Besides apps like "Quizlet" and "Evernote" that help with studying, there are even more helpful apps that you can download. One of these many apps is called "StudyBlue."

The app was created in 2006 by Chris Klundt who, "envisioned a platform in which students could easily study better together," said the "StudyBlue" official website.

The app can be accessed by logging into Facebook or your Google Account. You can create different stacks of flashcards, and the size of the deck can be anywhere from 10 to 60 cards.

The app asks you what school you go

to and you can add what class you are looking for. When you find the one you want, it tells you the professor and gives you a whole bunch of study materials that you can use for the class. And you can even look at homework questions that were previously asked.

"StudyBlue" is a part of Chegg. Chegg is mostly known for the fact that you can buy or rent books and even sell them back.

"StudyBlue" has been used by over 16 million students worldwide. We've helped overachievers, struggling students, procrastinators, athletes and many more study better, together," said the StudyBlue website.

The app is for quick use before a test or quiz. It is perfect for when you need to add in a little bit of extra studying for that upcoming final.

"StudyBlue" can be found for free download on iTunes and the Google Play store.



Alissa Salem/Staff Illustrator

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VERBATIM

"What is your favorite Christmas movie?"



**Kayla Rose Makosiej, freshman
early childhood education major**
"How the Grinch Stole Christmas."



**Cassie Koch, freshman
music education major**
"Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer."



**Brian Zabrycki, junior
video production major**
"A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas."



Mattéa Guldy/Art Director

SPORTS

A Few of Fredonia's Women's Sports

CASSIDY HERMAN

Special to The Leader

Although Fredonia may not be known for women's sports, it has a number of women's sports teams including basketball, tennis, softball and more. Those three sports are extra special this season.

Women's basketball team member Jenna Einink hit her 1000th point late last year. The 5'10" senior just began her last year as a Fredonia basketball player.

"The whole dynamic is different. Having a new coach and seven new freshmen has changed the dynamic of the team. We are definitely more energetic and as a whole we work a lot harder," said Einink. "The expectations are higher as well compared to my freshman year. We are expected to train more in the pre and off seasons."

During the 2015-2016 season, Einink was named Fredonia Athlete of the Week for the weeks of Nov. 25, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, and Feb. 15. She was named SUNYAC Women's Basketball Player of the Week Feb. 15 and 2015-16 SUNYAC Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year. She was also Fredonia Athletics Female Rookie of the Year, May 2016.

"I have always loved basketball. I have always made sacrifices to play because I enjoy playing and learning about the sport. Playing basketball is more than a game to me. It has become a passion," said Einink. "I enjoy being there at practices, games, film session and I especially being around the team. Making the memories, laughing with one another and playing a game that we all love. It's a pretty great feeling."

Einink was recognized as part of the second Team All SUNYAC during the 2016-2017 season. She was fourth in SUNYAC scoring with 15.7 points per game and fifth in field-goal accuracy at 45.6 percent, second in blocked shots (59) and fifth in total rebounds (193) and rebounding average (7.8) and was named SUNYAC Player of the Week on Dec. 5.

Last year, Einink was part of the second Team All SUNYAC. She joined the 1,000-Point Club in the team's final game and led the team with 14.5 points per game and 7.0 rebounds per contest. She was ranked third in the conference in scoring and ninth in rebounding. She was the SUNYAC Player of the Week on Jan. 8.

Through all of these accomplishments, Einink

is excited for this season. She and the team are working hard in the gym and on the court.

"The expectations that we have are working. We just started the challenges with Ryan, Fredonia's strength and conditioning coach, but I think they have already made a difference for us. Without those, I don't think our team would be in as good of shape or as strong. They made us disciplined in working out and getting stronger before the season. If our team keeps doing those throughout the seasons, I think they will see the differences," she said.

"Our team definitely needs to just keep getting stronger and keep in shape. If our team buys into this, they will see a major change in their games," said Einink.

The women's season has just begun and would love to see many faces at their games. They are looking forward to a great season. One team that has already had a great season was the women's tennis team.

Mallory Mecca is one of the tennis team's seniors. The team finished their season with a record of 12-4. The addition of new coach, Matthew Johnson, could have played a part in that.

"Transitioning from high school to college tennis, Coach Catalano definitely helped me improve. My second year, Coach Dave joined as an assistant coach, being a competitive player himself, he helped me improve my skill even more. Finally, having Matt as head coach and Dave as assistant, the two of them together improved us all more than we would have thought possible before," said Mecca.

In years prior, the team had records that were just breaking even or losing. In 2011 the team was 4-8, the following two years they were 8-5. In 2014 the team was 8-5 and the year after they were 6-7. The previous two seasons before this year they were 10-5.

"We have done nothing but improve since I've joined the team, but we haven't actually competed with other teams in our conference until this year. I think that's because we have more players this year that care about the team and are more competitive and want to get better," said Mecca.

The girls and their coaches are hopeful for the future of Fredonia women's tennis.

Another Fredonia team that is hopeful for this upcoming season and future is women's softball. The softball team is made up of seven freshmen, six sophomores, two juniors and two seniors. Out

of those players, only one has participated in all four seasons: me. I am the only four year.

It has been a pleasure playing on the team all the years and one of the best things this team has given me is my best friend, Samantha Seegar, a sophomore.

"Softball has given me some of my best friends for life. I keep playing because I love making new connections, being competitive, learning and getting better," said Seegar.

The softball team has had some standout athletes. I was able to play with some of them. In 2015, Alyssa Morgan, shortstop, led the Blue Devils and was third in the SUNYAC with a .421 batting average. She had the third highest single-season average in program history. She was a Blue Devil Athlete of the Week of April 1 and April 8. She was also Fredonia's rookie athlete of the year in 2015 and second team All-SUNYAC.

In 2014, outfielder, Erin Mushtare was a Fredonia Female Rookie of the Year nominee. She made the Dean's List Spring 2014 and the SUNYAC All-Academic Team.

Last year, Katelyn Dennis, first baseman, graduated. She received the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American Scholar-Athlete, SUNYAC Commissioner's List and All-Academic, Dean's List, Delta Mu Delta Honor Society. She hit seven home runs as a junior, second most ever by a Blue Devil in a single season. She has 14 career homers and is tied for the most in program history.

Katie Yudin, a junior pitcher, received Fredonia's rookie athlete of the year last year and I was the year before.

In terms of collective play, the team has not too well in the past but they are hopeful this year and years to come.

"I think the fact that we all share the same team goals as well as the same team struggles is a big reason that we all want to work together," said Seegar. "I think we need to learn to work together more. We need to understand that not all of us need to be best friends, but when we're playing we have to give our absolute best effort for the team and not just for ourselves. We need to support each other."

"College sports can be interesting. They just need the right attention," said Seegar.

Even though some women's teams don't have the best records or the most wins, they have some standout athletes and some great seasons.

Fredonia Sports Round Up

ANTHONY GETTINO

Special to The Leader

The girls basketball team did very well this week, keeping their win streak going all the way to five straight. They went 5-0 this week, starting with Tuesday's 76-58 win over Alfred State at home. The Blue Devils shot 45 percent from the field and 51 percent from three point, led in scoring by Jenna Einink with 15 points and Anna Chiacchia with 12 points.

On Friday night in Dods Hall, it was a defensive showing for Fredonia, indicated by the 58-45 win against Cortland. Leading the charge for the Blue Devils were Anna Chiacchia's 15 points, Katie Pitcher's 12 points and Jenna Einink's 10 points. The total shooting percentage from the floor for the Devils was 56.6 percent, and 25.1 percent from deep.

Saturday had a similar result as Friday, with Fredonia beating Oswego in a score of 60-46 at home in Dods.

The next games for the girls basketball team are Dec. 28 and 29 in Bexley, Ohio, in the Capital University Tournament.

While the girls basketball team has started to hit their stride as of late, the Boys team is still trying to figure things out. Tuesday at Medaille, the result was a 82-59 loss. There was a balance of the scoring duties, with 9 points coming from Tyler Roberts, and 8 coming from Cody Johnson, Bediako Nyasa and Mark Morgan. The overall field goal percentage for the Blue Devils was 51.5 percent, with a 55.5 percent clip from three point range.

Friday night at home, the Blue Devils fell to Cortland 78-65. Bediako Nyasa led the scoring with 15 points, while Kadeem Riddick logged 10 points of his own. Fredonia shot 41.5 percent from the field and just 29 percent from deep.

Saturday, Fredonia had the tall task of taking on an undefeated Oswego team in Dods Hall. The result was a 77-45 loss. Mark Morgan put up 15 points. The team shot 28.8 percent from the field overall and 15 percent from the three point line.

The next games for the men's basketball team are Dec. 29 and 30 in Utica, N.Y., in the Utica College Basketball Classic.

The ice hockey team went to Canton, New York to play SUNY Canton on both Friday and Saturday this weekend. This resulted in a 2-4 loss and a 1-1 tie in overtime.

Friday night, the Blue Devils fell to SUNY Canton 2-4. Both of Fredonia's goals were scored off of power plays. The first one, scored in the first period, was scored by Luke Rivera and assisted by both Mike Freeman and Tommy Martyn. As for the other goal in the second period, it was scored by Jimmy Morgan and assisted by Ryan Dunner.

The Blue Devils led the power play advantage 6-5, but that could only take them so far, as they were able to tie it 2-2 early in the second period, but fail to score again for the remainder of the game.

Saturday came with a better result than Friday, but it was still not what the team was exactly hoping for with a 1-1 tie.

Both the boys and the girls track and field teams traveled to Houghton on Friday for the Houghton December Classic. For the boys team, there was a slew of PR's and two first place finishes. Dan Sudyn took home the victory in the triple jump with a personal record of 45 feet, 775 inches, while the other first place was a 4x200 meter relay that had Michael Salvati, Tyler Pinnock, Alec Wright and Ivan Torres, running a total time of 1:54.06.

Other personal records included Matthew McCarthy in the weight throw, with a distance of 50 feet, 75 inches and Aaron Cember in the shot put with a distance of 45 feet, 5.25 inches.

As for the girls team, Morgan Ashton placed first in the 400 meter race in a time of 64.7 seconds. Other personal records for the team included Ayana Bursie in the 200 meter, with a time of 26.51 seconds and Kayla Murray in the pole vault, vaulting 10 feet.

The boys swim team came in 5rd of five teams in the annual home Swimming & Diving Invitational in Steele Hall. They did well in the finals of each event swim, finishing with faster times than they did in the preliminaries.

As for the girls swim team, they also hosted the annual Swimming & Diving Invitational in Steele Hall, also finishing 5rd out of five teams.

What's going right in Fredonia hockey?

AIDAN POLLARD

Sports Editor

"It's hard to know," said Fredonia Strength and Conditioning Coach Jon-Ryan Maloney.

The Blue Devils are 8-2-2 after their two-game weekend at SUNY Canton.

They are 3-1 in The SUNYAC conference, having suffered their only loss to the No. 2 ranked Geneseo.

"I think it starts with [head coach] Jeff Meredith. I think Jeff's been around a long time, he knows what it's like to be ranked, he knows what it's like to win, he knows what it's like to go to the NCAA finals. So he's been there before. So it's nothing new to him," said Maloney.

The Devils' style of play this season has led them to an upset victory over the No. 8 ranked Oswego as well as a No. 14 ranking themselves.

"It's really nice," said Meredith about being nationally ranked. "It's great recognition for the program, for the hard work [by] the guys, and everything that they've put into it to get to this point. It's nice for Fredonia and our athletic department."

But Meredith does not want the team to rely, or even focus on the fact that they were ranked.

"At the same time, it's just kind of window dressing," said Meredith. "If we get too focused on that, it'll disappear like that."

The SUNYAC is becoming extremely competitive, and Fredonia has helped keep it that way throughout this season.

None of this is to say that Fredonia hasn't been good before. On the contrary, the Blue

Devils were the runner up to Geneseo in the SUNYAC finals after another upset win against Oswego.

Last season springboarded Fredonia into this one, and it's looking like the culture that the team and Coach Meredith created has paid off.

"I think it's coming from a couple of areas," said Meredith. "It's coming from our players, and it's coming from their leadership and their culture."

Meredith went on to say how the leaders of the current Blue Devil team were recruited to a four-win program, and how the fact that those players took a chance and bought into the program paved the way for the program to be what it has become.

The Fredonia hockey culture over the past couple of years hasn't gone unnoticed, either.

Last year, a pre-game chant from the Blue Devils made its way onto ESPN.

The culture that Fredonia has developed lives off of the ice as well.

In February, Blue Devil forward Luke Rivera donated

\$20,000 to the Gates Vascular Institute Stroke Center.

The team also participates, alongside the rest of the athletic department, in "Celebrate Mondays," which are days where teams greet students from Fredonia and Dunkirk elementary schools as they walk into school to start their weeks.

Even in seemingly small things like lifting practices with Maloney, Blue Devil culture reigns supreme.

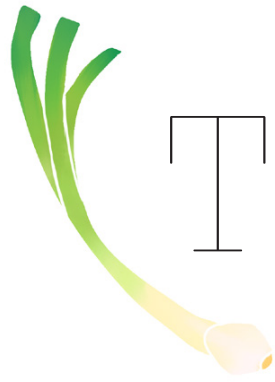
"When I came into the program, they were at a low-point," said Maloney. "They were at the bottom of the SUNYAC; they didn't win a single SUNYAC game."

"I often am wowed by the fact that they have no problem athletes on the team," said Maloney. "They don't have anybody who has an attitude, they don't have anybody who doesn't work hard, they don't have anybody who doesn't want to be here. And I think things can always get better in that regard. But there's not a single guy on the team who I wonder if they're gonna come in and work hard or not today. There's not a single kid who I wonder if they're gonna be on time."

In the case of Fredonia hockey, culture really is key.

The team has been doing things the right way for the past couple of years, and it seems like the culture they've created has no intention of dying anytime soon.





THE SCALLION

Attendance rates skyrocket week before exams *Fredonia adopts new exam policy*

JOSEPH MARCINIAK
Staff Scallywag

Recent news announced that an astonishing new curriculum is sweeping the country, and has now arrived at Fredonia after recent news from a Yale study. The curriculum involves weekly exams, so students constantly have to prepare and study. According to the study, massive amounts of students who has never been in the class before would suddenly show up at the final week.

Jeb Crandinker, Yale researcher, recently stated “We noticed a clear pattern between the week before exams and the attendance rates of students. When students are aware of exams coming up, they tend to actually attend the classes they’re paying for.”

This led to several colleges taking the first monumental step of ensuring the attendance of students through constant exams.

“Our attendance rate skyrockets before the start of exams. This is no coincidence. We must act upon it, by bringing constant stress to ALL of our students,” said President Virginia Horvath.

Professors are reportedly jumping for joy after hearing the news.

“I’ve put minimal effort into my hole

digging class,” Professor Dirtboy said, “I’ve been a hole digging professor for years here. If you know someone who’s dug a hole, they probably learned it from me. But nothing angers me more than when some dirtbag skips my lectures. Little bastards will never learn how to properly dig holes.”

Unfortunately, due to the recent VANM cuts, this hole digging course is being removed, and Professor Dirtboy will be terminated from his position.

Some students have come to accept this new curriculum, while others, such as Brad Protest-questionmark-more-like-no-test-exclamationpoint, are extremely outspoken. Mr. Protest-questionmark-more-like-no-test-exclamationpoint legally changed his name in protest.

“I felt changing my name to a really long name that is a play on the word ‘protest’ would make my point clear. It was totally worth the hassle.” Mr. Protest-questionmark-more-like . . . yeah you get the point.



Mattéa Guldý/Art Director

Letter to Santa found on Reed Library floor

DOM MAGISTRO

Special to The Scallion

Here at The Scallion, we strive to make sure everyone is filled with holiday cheer. From demanding our Starbucks baristas write “Merry Christmas” on our cups (in lieu of that horrible, godless corporation printing it on for us) to baking cookies, watching Hallmark movies and cuddling under blankets, we ensure that everyone gets just the right amount of Christ in their Yule.

But even we participate in that pagan tradition of receiving gifts from a strange man in a red costume. Unfortunately for one of the students here at Fredonia, letters don't always make it to the North Pole at all, let alone on time.

While walking through the Reed Library, one of our elves among the shelves came across a lost letter to Santa. We are looking for the author of said letter so that they could pick it up and mail it properly this time. Here is a transcription of that letter:

Dear Santa:

You've obviously got my name on your list, so despite my English professor's obsession with proper greetings in my correspondences both electronic and physical, I will spare you the awkward introduction.

I've been so good. Well, I've been good enough. I tipped the guy I usually pay to do my homework. I did the projects that I got extensions on. I turned down my music after 10 p.m. I even made sure not to bring any food from Cranston out of Cranston.

That said, I only have a few requests for Christmas this year:

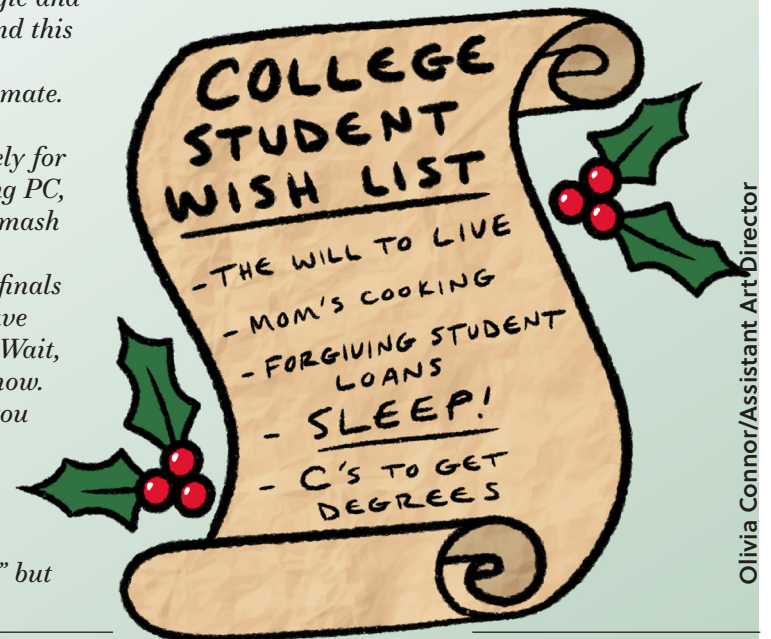
Number one: good grades. I know, I didn't like study or try, or even do my own homework, but if you could work your polar vortex magic and give me like, I don't know, a B+ all around this semester, that'd be dope.

Number two: Super Smash Bros. Ultimate. I know I already downloaded an illegal emulator for it on my PC that is definitely for schoolwork and not in any way a gaming PC, but it would be so much better to play Smash Ultimate and main the Piranha Plant.

Number three: the will to live. Dude, finals have been kicking my ass. I just don't have the time for self care. Or food. Or sleep. Wait, does sleep fall under self care? I don't know. Anyway, I haven't slept for days and if you could maybe make me like Sleeping Beauty or something, minus the whole consent nightmare, that'd be appreciated. Granted, sleeping for like a decade isn't really a valid “will to live,” but like, one or the other.

Number four: A job after graduation. I know it's a little ways out, but I've been keeping an eye on the job market, and oh boy, if I'm not extremely lucky, I'll wind up living in a cardboard box on the street corner and I can not afford the new homeless rent of getting fined for sleeping anywhere in public.

Thank you so much, Santa. I just know you'll pull through for me.



Olivia Connor/Assistant Art Director

Life pro tips for studying and preparing for your finals

JOSEPH MARCINIAK

Staff Scallywag

With finals week so soon, many of us students can feel overworked, exhausted and unprepared for exams. This week is a stressful one, but here at the Scallion, we've got some great tips on how to relax and ace all of your final exams. Follow these five pieces of advice very carefully, and we can guarantee you'll succeed.

1. Feeling stressed while studying? Not sure if you'll pass and getting more and more worried? Drink a Pepsi™, and you'll instantly feel like a million bucks. With 50 grams of sugar pulsing through your veins, that stress will immediately go away!

2. Not sure what to study? Unsure of what exactly will be on the exam? No worries! Just go and buy your professor a delicious cup of Pepsi™, and they'll tell you all the secrets of the exams.

After a hearty sip your professor is sure to tell you all the dark secrets and answers to ensure you pass the exam.

3. Unable to sleep because you're too stressed from the exam? Mind racing with possible failures? Crack open a cold Pepsi™ and instantly feel relieved knowing you've been blessed by the delicious and energetic taste of an ice cold Pepsi™.

4. Have you ever had a moment where you realize your scantron doesn't line up with the answers, and you have to completely restart the quiz? Don't bother! Instead, grab an ice cold bottle of Pepsi™ and pour that bad boy all over the exam. When the professor glances at you, they'll notice the ice cold Pepsi™ covering your exam and give you an instant A.

5. Want to go to your exam but realize the ground is covered in ice and you are unable to go to your class because you'd slip and hurt yourself?

Well, easy fix! Grab a warm two liter bottle of Pepsi™ and pour the pepsi in front of you as you walk, effectively melting the ice and keeping you safe on your walk to your exam!

Finals can be scary, but following these simple pieces of advice will guarantee you ace your exams, and drink a nice cold Pepsi™ along the way. Don't fret dear reader, your prayers have been answered by The Scallion.

*The Scallion is not sponsored by Pepsi™

**Please give us a sponsorship

Ask Fairy Godmother



Your place to bippity boppity bitch

Dear Fairy Godmother,

Another story in this week's issue of The Leader is about pay-inequity and gender discrimination. Don't you think it's a little overdramatic to be talking about this in a school newspaper? I come here to read funny anecdotes and find out about campus events, not to have feminism and equality shoved in my face. What can I do to prevent having to read anything else about this?

Please Help,
Average Joe

Dear Average Joe,


Although I would rather rip my wings off than pander to your stupidity, I think I owe this one an answer. No, I do not think it's overdramatic to talk about the incredible professor who is, unfortunately, ending her time here at Fredonia. Her resignation and the situation surrounding it is important to everyone who attends and pays this school because it is, quite frankly, appalling. This newspaper is for the campus, and therefore when an act of injustice happens, it is the duty of these writers and editors to tell the truth that no one else will. I'm sorry that I took a break from your "funny anecdotes" this week, but consider yourself a little more educated after reading this.

It is not the salary alone that has us pissed, Average Joe. It's the fact that no one did anything! Radio silence for years until she finally had to choose her dignity and career over her current job. This is a faculty member who has brought research and awards to campus. She without a doubt was responsible for dozens of enrollments. Yet, when she had questions about her own worth in the eyes of the school: silence. This surpasses being a question of feminism or equality, it boils down to how Fredonia treats staff members who ask questions. If a decorated, lauded faculty member can't get questions about her own pay answered, then what hope is there? It's the duty of the administration to treat our faculty like people, not just numbers. The gender-gap is, in this fairy's opinion, the root cause of this, but it cannot be blamed alone.

So to Dr. Sherri Mason, although I doubt you'll read this little humor column, thank you. Thank you for your years of service to our campus and to the environment. Let this fairy assure you that you have left your mark, in your department and beyond. Please keep fighting the good fight and remember that you are paving the way for strong women. I hope all of your future endeavors serve you well.

Sincerely,
Fairy Godmother

COMICS

CANNED

PEACHES

by
Alissa
Salem



HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Be careful on skiing trips over break. The Yeti hunts you still.

TAURUS

Prepare for crying: your mom's only gift to your dad this year is divorce papers.

GEMINI

Learn to say no, else you'll be stuck wrapping gifts until New Year's.

CANCER

Spend some quality time with your family and try not to think about that test you forgot.

LEO

Happy holidays, you're spending them helping grandma.

VIRGO

You may be poor and alone this holiday season, but at least you're alive, right?

LIBRA

Stop buying gifts, your bank account is screaming.

SCORPIO

Don't be so worried and stressed, this month only decides the happiness of next year.

SAGITTARIUS

That gift under the tree isn't what you think it is.

CAPRICORN

Coal in your stocking would be nice at this point.

AQUARIUS

Expensive gifts aren't for everyone, but we know they're for you.

PISCES

Someone is missing at Christmas this year; you wouldn't happen to know anything about that?