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# THE LEADER

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# The Leader

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Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

# NEWS

## SA wraps up year by discussing future changes

### HOPE WINTER

Special to The Leader

With the sun finally peeking out behind the clouds and final assignments breaking students' backs, one could tell that the school year is finally coming to an end. But sooner than we know it the Fall Semester will be creepin' upon us, and what will the new school year bring?

In talking to the Student Association Vice President, Kaitlin Battaglia, the most recent SA meeting took a total of six minutes to wrap up.

However, in the General Assembly meeting prior to the final one, the committee discussed new changes for next year as well as many activities for the representatives.

Trying to decrease the number of paper products next semester, the Student Association is going digital.

According to Battaglia, "Signature cards and contracts will be online to help diminish our paper trail and carbon footprint."

For next year, student clubs and organizations will be filling out those yellow signature cards online. This will help the campus become more green,

and it will create an easier way for clubs to turn in important paperwork on time. The website will be available through the Fredonia's Blue News section located on the Fredonia website.

Some resolutions were also discussed at the GA meeting.

The general assembly discussed important goals they want

to work toward for next year. One of these was

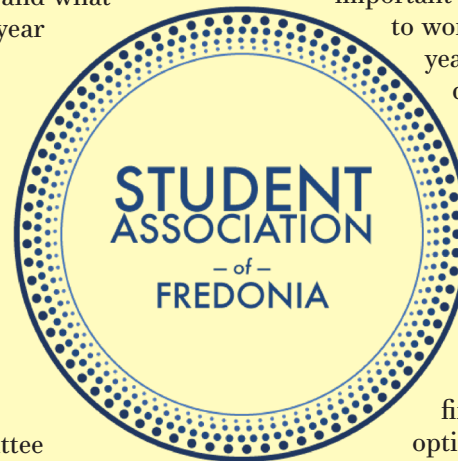
decreasing the amount of plastic used by food facilities on campus, especially Centre Pointe.

With the amount of plastic that food from Centre Pointe is packaged in, SA wants to take action finding alternative options.

Another topic they debated was the possible idea for the University Police to wear body cameras. Especially after the recent art project placed in University Commons a couple of weeks ago, students are beginning to question the involvement of police on campus.

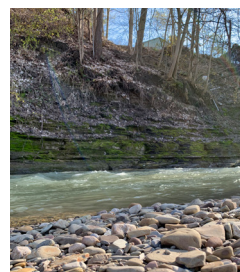
The project involved a piece of cardboard asking students if they trust Fredonia's University Police, and it had a lot of responses from students.

The students' reactions to this project sparked up an interest in this



Logo from sa.fredonia.edu

continued on page 3



### On the Cover:

The flowing waters of Canadaway Creek | Travis LeFevre/Editor in Chief

*Corrections: The image included with the Art of Science Exhibition article in Issue 25 was incorrectly attributed. The image was created by Jamie Greenfield. The artwork shown in the article promoting Jonathan Katz were in fact done by a different Jonathan Katz. The Jonathan Katz that is discussed in the article is an art historian.*

## Fredonia's incoming freshmen contribute to a great accomplishment

**ALISA OPPENHEIMER**

Special to The Leader

As the end of the semester rapidly approaches, Fall 2019's incoming students have sent in their applications, helping Fredonia go out with a great accomplishment.

Out of all the SUNY schools, Fredonia was unmatched in having a net-increase, or positive gain in applications this year.

According to Cory Bezek, Director of Admissions, last year Fredonia had increased 16 percent in applications from the year prior and this year there have been additional gains on top of that.

With many changes happening to our university, this steady increase in student population may have Fredonia members questioning how this will impact our campus and community in the future.

Bezek claims that this is an achievement and something to be proud of.

"Anytime we can increase interest for Fredonia, it's better for us overall as a university. We're going to have more students potentially being able to come in and a higher caliber of students, too," said Bezek.

But that's not the only thing Fredonia will take away from this jump.

"The larger the class we're able to bring in means more resources for our current students," said Bezek. "If we're able to grow the student body size, that means more funding into the student activity fees. It helps us bring in different speakers to campus, different entertainment. [It] helps make it more well-rounded."

In regard to the possible negative impact this increase could have, Bezek feels

as though only positives could come out of this.

"I don't see how it could potentially affect Fredonia negatively," he said. "We're becoming more popular, and that's never a bad thing."

Although Fredonia is growing, Bezek admits that they never want the school to become impersonal but this steady growth brings acknowledgment and reputation.

"If we're more popular, that means people are aware of the value of a Fredonia degree. For our current students, this means more employers out there that know the value of our Fredonia degree, more parents that know the value of our degree. It, overall, just breeds a level of success," said Bezek.

As for Fredonia's qualifications to be accepted, they have not changed in years.

"We still accept the same high caliber of a student that we always have, but we have a particular interest in well-rounded students. Ultimately, when we're looking at a student, we want to be able to see how we can take that student [and] make them successful."

One thing Bezek feels Fredonia does in recruiting that makes a difference is our student-recruiting process.

"Our peer-recruitment program actually sends current students back to their high schools and gives them a chance to interact with prospective students," said Bezek.

"Being able to tell your story to students who are from the same place, who have the same opportunities you have, grew up in the same environment and to see how you thrive, they immediately sit back and

go 'Wow, I can see myself doing that,'" said Bezek.

Another recruiting tactic Bezek feels has had an impact on student growth is the Big Blue Profiles, which highlight some of Fredonia's "superstar students," as Bezek refers to them.

"Obviously we would need to run one every day for 20 years to hit all of our



superstars, but showing just some students who really stand out help our prospective students to really connect and highlight the fact that you don't have to be one thing to be successful," said Bezek.

Being the only four-year public institution in this part of the state, Bezek feels that Fredonia has met one of their goals in increasing the student body and plans to keep reaching higher.

"It's just showing the increased value of our education and more and more people are realizing what we have to offer," said Bezek. "We really are a unique place and it's something that once our students come here and experience. They go home they tell their friends, they tell their family, they tell anyone who will listen, and that enthusiasm is really what this represents."

### SA changes continued . . .

matter on campus. The idea of having police officers wearing body cams could help the students trust the police more.

During the GA meeting, the Student Association had every representative attend various workshops. Representatives from each club in attendance went to workshops talking about leadership skills, diversity on campus and sexual assault prevention.

Each one of the representatives applied and were placed into different groups based on their personal interests. The groups then

participated in workshops that featured public speakers and activities.

Doing workshops in this style is something that is done at the SUNY level, specifically in the semesterly SUNY Student Assembly conference.

When speaking on the benefit of learning workshoping techniques, Battaglia said the SUNYSA conference earlier this month had, "A lot of unique experiences that I'm lucky to get to hear about. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend SUNYSA this year, but I wish I could

have. I can't wait to attend next year."

Battaglia is a sophomore biology major and has been the SA Vice President since the end of last Fall semester. She and Seth Meyer, the SA President, have taken action so far in their term to represent the interests of Fredonia students and their work will continue into next Fall semester as well.

The Student Association's final GA meeting will be Thursday, May 2, in McEwen G26.



## FREDventures: Family Church Fredonia rebuilds one year after fire



**ELYSE GRIECO**  
Life & Arts Editor

As the streets in downtown Fredonia filled with students enjoying “Not-Fred Fest” last May, the sky filled with dark black smoke.

Curious bystanders who followed the trail of smoke to Barker Commons were shocked at what they saw next.

The steeple of Family Church Fredonia, a staple in the community for over 165 years, was quickly burning.

Scott Wise, the associate pastor of Family Church Fredonia, was at home enjoying his Friday afternoon and watching “Star Wars” when he received a call informing him of the steeple’s current state.

“I got a call from our church secretary because we had youth group that night, and the youth group leaders had contacted her that there was smoke coming out of the clock tower,” he said.

Luckily for Wise, a walk to the church from his home is less than five minutes.

He quickly got in his car and drove to the church, parking on a nearby lawn due to high traffic.

“When they say there’s smoke in the clock tower, you think, ‘Oh there’s a little smoke.’ But when I came around the corner and saw this inferno it was, ‘Okay, this is a real situation,’” Wise said.

The church was built in 1853.

The historic landmark housed the start of The Women’s Christian Temperance Union in its basement.

It has ties to The Underground Railroad due to the former Baptist congregation’s activist leaders.

Family Church Fredonia purchased the building from Fredonia Baptist Church in 2015.

After its purchase, the building went under a \$1.3 million renovation and reopened for services in 2017.

But on May 4, 2018, due to high winds, part of a copper gutter was blown off and landed on a nearby transformer.

This caused the fire that would leave the church back at square one.

“The first thing we did was get ready to have church that weekend somewhere else,” said Wise. “This is our building, but the church is our people.”

Luckily, Family Church Fredonia still owned their former building located at 45 Lakeview Ave.

The building was listed for a year, but it never gained much attention.

“It needed to be tidied up,” said Wise.

Several churches offered a helping hand by donating chairs.

That Saturday, the building was filled with volunteers who helped make the church presentable for service.

The following Monday, rebuilding began.

“When they saw the magnitude of how bad it was inside, it became a national scale project and national scale disaster,” said Wise.

People from all over the country who specialize in rebuilding after disasters were brought in to help rebuild the church.

“To them, this was nothing. They’ve done 9/11, hurricanes and tornadoes. So to them, this was a little dip in the puddle,” said Wise. “It was comforting for us to know the experts were on the job here.”

The fire caused extensive damage to the building’s structure.

The fire itself was contained to the clock tower structure, as well as over half of the attic space.

Although those were the only spots affected by charring, most of the building’s damage was caused by water and smoke.

About 150,000 gallons of water were pumped into the building in a matter of 45 minutes.



“It flooded the building, basically,” said Wise. “When I came in the next morning, we still had standing water in our children’s church classroom, which is on the complete other side from the clock tower.”

*Above photos courtesy of Elyse Grieco/Life & Arts Editor*

The most important renovation done so far has been the building of the church’s new roof.

The roof, which of course suffered immense amounts of damage, took longer than expected due to insurance paperwork.

Before the completion of the roof, all other inside work was put on hold.

“Once that was put on, things have been moving pretty fast inside,” said Wise.

Flooring and wiring are still being worked on in the office-portion of the building.

In the main sanctuary structure, the ceiling will be done next week.

The scaffolding still has to come down, but once that’s completed, everything else is simply “finishing work.”

Although insurance coverage has helped restore the church back to the way it was,

*continued on page 6*

# POLICE BLOTTERS

**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.*

## UNIVERSITY

### Tuesday, April 16, 2019

A bicycle was stolen from the Gregory Hall bike rack. An investigation is ongoing.

Students reported being threatened and harassed on President's Dr. An arrest was completed.

### Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Items were stolen from a car near Ludwig Field. An investigation is ongoing.

A subject was harassed via social media. An investigation is ongoing.

### Thursday, April 18, 2019

12:35 p.m. Nkoromady Kaba was charged with harassment in the second degree and menacing in the third degree. An arrest was completed.

### Friday, April 19, 2019

Trash was dumped near the Services Complex. An investigation into illegal dumping is ongoing.

### Wednesday, April 24, 2019

11:00 a.m. Luis E. Navarro was charged with harassment in the second degree. Prosecution was declined.

### Friday, April 26, 2019

2:50 a.m. Hunter D. Lares was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana outside Kasling Hall. An arrest was completed.

### Saturday, April 27, 2019

A domestic altercation in which a subject was pushed by another occurred at an undisclosed location. Prosecution was declined.

### Sunday, April 28, 2019

A vehicle was damaged in Lot 26. An investigation is ongoing.

## FREDONIA

### Monday, April 15, 2019

6:12 p.m. Barry Mead, age 36, was charged with failing to yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

### Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Dawn L. Okerland, age 50, was charged with an operating a motor vehicle with an expired inspection. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

### Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Antonio Lorenzo, age 32, was charged with harassment in the second degree. A summons was issued.

### Thursday, April 18, 2019

William C. Sutton, age 20, was charged with harassment in the second degree, a warrant was issued for his arrest.

Devon W. Wiedenhofer, age 17, was charged with failing to stop at a stop sign and a loud muffler. Two uniform traffic tickets were issued.

### Friday, April 19, 2019

Joshua W. Carlson, age 34, was charged with failing to stop at a red light. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Amarilis S. Rodriguez, age 23, was charged with failing to yield the right of way when entering a roadway causing an accident. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

### Saturday, April 20, 2019

Calvin D. Kinsey, age 30, was charged with operating an uninspected motor vehicle. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

### Sunday, April 21, 2019

Amber Conrad, age 34, was charged with trespassing, an appearance ticket was issued.

### Monday, April 22, 2019

Kaden W. Scott, age 19, was charged with speeding in a zone and operating an unregistered motor vehicle. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

## Thursday, April 25, 2019

Cassandra N. Majecki, age 29, was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

## Friday, April 26, 2019

Vincent E. Vecchio, age 47, was charged with driving while using an electronic device. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Jennifer L. Giles, age 38, was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Michael J. Clark, age 21, was charged with failing to stop at a red light. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Steven J. Nichy, age 21, was charged with littering, illegal dumping and trespassing. An appearance ticket was issued.

Desteny A. Barnard, age 18, was charged with petit larceny. An appearance ticket was issued.

## Saturday, April 27, 2019

Timothy J. O'Dell, age 19, was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Brennan Rivera, age 22, was charged with violating the sewer ordinance. An appearance ticket was issued.

Lauren P. Helf, age 22, was charged with open container. An appearance ticket was issued.

Cassandra A. Watson, age 24, was charged with failing to obey traffic control. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

## Sunday, April 28, 2019

Kamie L. Fields, age 46, was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Ethan M. Morales was charged with failing to stop at a stop sign. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.

Family Church Fredonia continued . . .



Photo courtesy of Travis LeFevre/Editor in Chief

Family Church Fredonia wants to make things even better than before.

These extra costs have been absorbed by the church unexpectedly.

Thankfully, community members have continued to give back by starting a GoFundMe page to help donate money to restore the tower.

The page has raised \$7,602.

Just a few weeks ago, a similar situation happened in France when the Notre Dame Cathedral burned.

According to The Guardian, police believe this was also an electrical fire.

Through this struggle, Wise has never lost his sense of optimism.

"I wasn't devastated or upset. To us, we kind of had that attitude all along. It was an opportunity for better to come out of it, that's what we believe the Bible says. That's what our faith is for, to carry us through adversity and trials," he said.

At this speed of construction, Family Church Fredonia plans to reopen their doors for service in early August.

"We already have plans in the works for a big grand opening. We will probably hold services a couple times before then, just to get used to the building and work out the kinks in our equipment," said Wise.

Wise plans to have a special grand opening celebration during the Fredonia Farm Festival.

The opening will feature service in the park that weekend, as well as a celebration in the new building.

The celebration plans to include tours of the church, videos of the reconstruction and fundraising.

For more information on Family Church Fredonia and their upcoming events, please visit <http://fcfredonia.org>.

# Life & Arts

## Fredonia hosts new season of Public Astronomy Nights

**ERIKETA COST**

Assistant Life & Arts Editor

If you are an astronomy buff, SUNY Fredonia has good news for you.

With warm hints of summer comes the onset of free public astronomy nights on campus.

Students and community members are invited to attend these astronomy nights every second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

The nights will start at 8:15 p.m. outside Jewett Hall, for an interactive digital planetarium show.

Participants will view and explore the vast night sky through the planetarium.

If the weather is permitting, participants are then invited to head on over to the Science Center to view specific objects in the night sky through the telescope, which will be open for viewing until midnight if visitors would like to stay.

Assistant Professor of Physics Michael Dunham will be hosting and organizing the astronomy nights.

He explained what an interactive digital planetarium show means.

"There's a room with a domed ceiling on it. We have a projector and computer system with a fisheye lens, which takes the flatness that you usually get from a projector and curves it so we can project it up onto the ceiling," he said. "It basically simulates as if you were outside looking at the night sky."

The planetarium shows will last about an hour.

It primarily focuses on what stars and objects are visible in the night sky.

Dunham said that what you see changes throughout the year, depending on the season.

"Sometimes we talk about general things up in the night sky, and some of the time we zoom in and focus on a few particular objects," he said. "If the weather is clear we can actually walk across to the Science Center, and view those objects with the telescope."

These nights started after a new telescope had been purchased for the Science Center.

"Something similar to what we have now started two years ago in 2017. When I first came to Fredonia in 2016, there was this new telescope in the Science Center that had just been bought the previous year," he said. "So one of my goals was to open it up for public viewings."

What's new this year is that the viewings will be paired with the planetarium shows.

"The planetarium has been newly upgraded with a new digital projection system that lets us do this," said Dunham. "Part of the advantage of doing this is we can spend more time in a sort of controlled environment, just talking about what you might see and what different types of things there are."

The nights are also a way to strengthen the bond between the campus and the outside community.

"Part of why we do this is to promote science and all the cool facilities, but we also do it as a community outreach. We do it to foster more connections between the community and university," said Dunham.

Those interested should know that there is a 30 person limit for these nights.

You can sign up by going to the google doc link, [www.bit.ly/fredob](http://www.bit.ly/fredob), and writing your name.

All are welcome.



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# Orchesis Dance Company presents Spring showcase, "Anomaly"

**JESSICA MEDITZ**

Special to The Leader

With finals right around the corner and stress at an all-time high, a treat to myself was definitely in order.

I picked up a ticket for the 2:30 p.m. showing of Orchesis Dance Company's upcoming performance, "Anomaly."

Being a member of Fredonia Orchesis last Spring, I was interested and excited to see this year's Spring show since my departure.

I was also looking forward to seeing the wide variety of genres and choreography the club notably has to offer.

The showcase took place in the Fredonia High School auditorium and had two showtimes: 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

It began with a brief introduction from the members of the executive board, consisting of Holly Burdick, president; Jillian Stonefoot, vice president; Emily Kreitsek, secretary; Alyssa Pohlman, treasurer; Rosalina Pena, vice treasurer; and Mamiko Nakatsugawa, public relations representative.

They accredited individuals who were heavily involved in the performance and explained the significance of the show's title.

"Although 'anomaly' usually has a negative connotation, we like to see it as a positive because of all the different experiences dancers have come from," said Kreitsek.

I kept that in the back of my mind as I watched each piece in the performance.

The opening piece was choreographed by Burdick.

She is a senior public relations major.

"My piece is called 'Flirting with the Devil' and it's to 'Bury a Friend' by Billie Eilish," she said. "It's a creepy, sexy jazz piece. The song itself is very strange, and I really liked that vibe. I wanted to bring it to life."

Costumed in long, ripped white shirts, the dancers' appearances remained true to the choreography and overall somber mood of the piece.

The piece was a good choice for the opening, as the message was open to interpretation and was able to leave the audience thinking and curious as to what would come on next.

I did not have the chance to pick up a program prior to the show, so I was pleasantly surprised in the diversity of music and choreography that graced the stage throughout the show.

The fifth piece was titled "AFROJAZZI!" and was choreographed by Vaneiqua Wilson.

Corresponding with the piece's title, the music of the piece was in the genre of Afro jazz, and the choreography was in the stylings of African dance.

It was a small group of dancers, so it wasn't hard to see their energy and genuine smiles on their faces while executing such intricate movements.

It was definitely a highlight of the show to see different cultures represented. I'm sure the audience would agree, since I noticed plenty of bopping heads, dancing in seats and cheers of appreciation.

A beautiful contemporary piece choreographed by Jordyn Donner went on before intermission. It was titled "Consumed" and featured the use of a large cloth as a prop.

Noteworthy, Fredonia's show choir, performed at intermission. Their mixed choir covered "Treasure" by Bruno Mars, and a smaller group of women performed "What About Us" by P!nk.

Much More Chill, a male acapella group, performed at the 7 p.m. performance.

Another highlight was a tap piece choreographed by Julia Turner called "Dancing Through the Riptide."

Growing up with a special love for tap dancing, it was meaningful for me to see

that tap is still appreciated in the arts today.

Although the music was loud in the auditorium, the dancers' sounds were still audibly crisp and clear to be heard by someone sitting in the back.

The music for the piece was "Riptide" by Vance Joy, which is the perfect tempo for a tap piece and allows for great musicality, which the dancers all had.

Burdick takes pride in the wide array of styles Orchesis offers.

"I think we really have an awesome mix of pieces this semester. There are so many different pieces and styles," she said. "We have different types of jazz, contemporary, Afro jazz, tap, modern and hip hop. We have a nice variety, so it'll be an exciting show for sure. You never know what is going to be next on the stage."

Burdick has been a member of Orchesis for eight semesters. She became the public relations representative as a sophomore and president for her junior and senior years.

"This company is going to be the hardest 'see you later.' It is my family. It's really cool to see all of the different members that do it throughout the years. This company has the most passionate and hardworking people in it. It's really awesome to all join together throughout the semesters to put on an awesome show. I'm going to miss this," Burdick said.

With that said, the company succeeded in their portrayal of the word "anomaly." They incorporated a plethora of different types of music, styles of dance and stories together into one show they took pride in.

It was evident from beginning to end that each dancer put their everything into their performance and that there was a lot of love and unity within their community.





Church Girls  
Joseph Wright/Photographer & Guitarist



Vintage Pretty  
Photo courtesy of the band



Mallory Run  
Photo courtesy of the band



Fallow Land  
Photo courtesy of the band



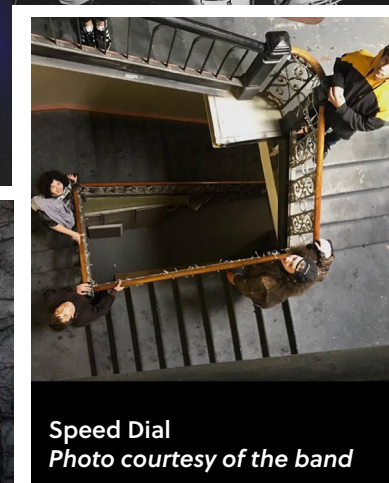
Ghostpool  
Matt Sledz/Band Photographer



Johnny and the Man Kids  
Photo courtesy of the band



Eerie Shores  
Photo courtesy of the band



Speed Dial  
Photo courtesy of the band

## Annual BJ's Fest rocks Fredonia

### BRENTON NEWCOMB

Special to The Leader

The next event of Fredonia's blooming live music circuit is the annual BJ's Fest, hosted by Last Call Entertainment.

The festivities will take place on May 1-2, and both nights are stacked to the brim with artists ready to tear up the stage.

Night one will feature Johnny & the Man Kids, Church Girls, Fallow Land and Vintage Pretty.

All groups in the lineup have an alternative vibe that will make for a killer show.

Vintage Pretty is a local band comprised of Fredonia students with an eclectic mix of different influences.

Self-proclaimed as offspring of the Eagles and The Strokes, the group combines the sound of your parent's record collection with a modern touch to create their own musical style.

Their first single "Come Around" is available on streaming platforms now.

Fredonia faves Johnny and the Man Kids will also be tuning up for an exciting show featuring their lo-fi indie-pop tunes. The group recently released their album "You Made Me Hurt" and "all members incorporated a piece of themselves into each song" on it.

Don't be afraid to dance shamelessly for their set.

Church Girls will also be tearing it up that night with their indie/punk rock vibe and restless-themed tunes along with Fallow Land, a group out rooted in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

If night one's lineup doesn't knock your socks off, night two will surely do the trick.

Buffalo band Ghostpool has a "unique" set prepared for BJ's Fest and the guys are super stoked for the show.

Fans can expect a few surprises as they are "currently in the midst of working

on new material that will make our next release."

Eerie Shores will be playing BJ's Fest as well on Thursday and will have a few EPs on the horizon.

Frontman and guitarist Alex Vasiloff, said, "It was a huge learning process."

A lot of the songs featured on this new release are older, but they are constantly writing and have a bunch of new tunes in the line up as well.

Speed Dial will be heavy as ever and Mallory Run will be returning to BJ's for the festival.

BJ's Fest 2019 will begin at 9:30 p.m. both nights and run until 1 a.m.

Admission for guests 21+ is \$1.

Admission for guests 18+ is \$5, and space for these guests is limited.

Graphic by Diana Maria/Special to The Leader

# PHOTO GALLERY

*An Orchesis Dance Company highlight of their Spring showcase, "Anomaly"*



*Above photos taken by Jessica Meditz/Special to The Leader  
Bottom photos taken by Justin Saylee/Assisant Photo Editor*



## FOR RENT

### 3 BEDROOM APT FOR RENT FOR GRADUATION WEEKEND | 716-680-0109

# OPINION



## From the Desk of Amber Mattice, Managing Editor



I have been dreading writing this From the Desk Of for about . . . two years now. It's my last one.

I joined The Leader my freshman year, first semester because writing for a newspaper sounded fun and would also force me to figure out if journalism was really the major for me. Drum roll please — it was!

Journalism, for me, was a way to connect to people and give them a voice and an outlet for the things they were passionate about. Writing articles about bands playing, art gallery openings, activism and a plethora of topics opened my eyes to exactly what college is all about. I was able to grow and shape who I wanted to be through my journalism career. I went from being a staff writer, to the assistant of the Life & Arts section, to the editor of said section, to being Managing Editor over the past two years (with a brief semester break in between.) Without my major, The Leader or Fredonia, I would not be the somewhat confident, bubbly, sarcastic, hipster trash, Dungeons & Dragons playing feminist I am now.

But this FTDO is not only for me to talk

about how much The Leader has meant to me over the years.

In approximately three weeks, I am graduating. I will be leaving Fredonia and going off into the scary world to figure my shit out as best I can. I am, naturally, terrified of what is to come but I can honestly say that Fredonia has prepared me, in various ways, for this moment.

Throughout my four years here I have met amazing people, traveled to four different countries, gotten work published and laughed until my stomach hurt.

I have been inspired at nearly every turn and I'd like to think I've inspired others, too.

I know a lot of this sounds cliché and redundant to what you have heard a thousand times before but, as long as you surround yourself with people who positively impact your life, college can actually be kind of bearable.

I've had my fair share of downs. Like, a lot. I've cried, panicked, considered becoming a hermit and doubted myself at plenty of points throughout my time in Fredonia, but ultimately I've pulled through and made it here.

It's strange continuing to go about my schedule knowing that soon everything is going to be different and Fredonia will no longer be my home, especially with how much the campus has changed across the four years I've been here.

It's funny to think back on the weird, awkward little teenager I was when I moved into my dorm in Hemingway Hall my freshman year. It's funny how different my friend group is now (with some very dear consistencies, of course). It's funny how foreign to me the meek, uncertain girl is now.

I'm not going to tell you that things will be perfect and college is amazing and my time here has been the most important to me because none of your experiences will be the same as mine and none of those things are entirely true for me.

But I am going to tell you to make the most of the time you have and appreciate the journey you're on while you're here. If you take in some sunshine, stay up late with friends on the weekends and take time to talk to your professors, I can guarantee that your perspective on life will change.

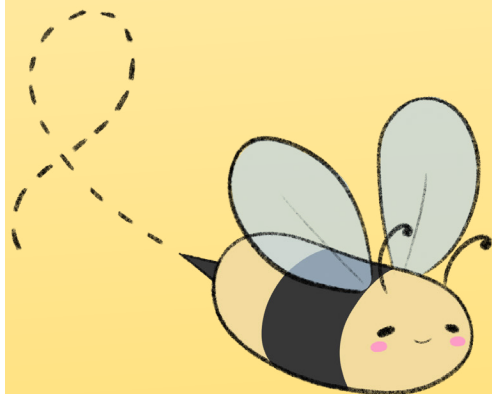
There are so many people to learn from, so many experiences that will teach you, so many secrets to be shared.

If you don't recognize the opportunities while they are so close, you'll never touch them.

So, as a grumpy old woman preparing to go off into this big, big world, my advice to you is this:

Look around. Appreciate everything. From the bees flirting with flowers on your walk to school, to the way your crush's eyes crinkle when they smile, to the way your best friend takes their coffee.

Time is gonna keep going and the little bubble that Fredonia seems to exist in when you've been here for so long is going to dissipate. The real world will come rushing in. But you'll be prepared. I promise.



# VERBATIM

## "What is your favorite motivational quote or phrase?"



**Erin Petti, senior**  
**music history & literature major**

*"You don't have to be a genius, you just have to show up."*



**Julie Tramontana, freshman**  
**music education major**

*"You are strong. You are important. You got this."*



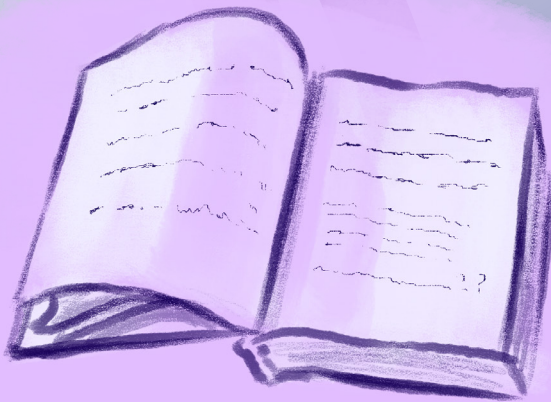
**Anthony Castellana, freshman**  
**business major**

*"The Babe Ruth quote, 'Heros will be remembered, but legends never die!'"*



**Matt Cicero, freshman**  
**liberal arts major**

*"Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard."*



# SPORTS

## Fredonia sports update



**ELYSE GRIECO**  
Life & Arts Editor

As April ends and May quickly approaches, the Blue Devils are entering the final stretch of their Spring seasons.

Last Tuesday, April 23, the Fredonia's women's lacrosse team lost 17-10 to Alleghany.

On Saturday, just four days later, the team also lost 19-4 to Oneonta.

This game wrapped up the team's season, leaving them with a final overall record of 4-13 and 1-8 in the conference.

This was the last game for graduating seniors, Samantha Spiess and Jen Kershner.

The Fredonia softball team played two doubleheaders this past weekend.

On Saturday, the team won their first game 5-4 against New Paltz.

Unfortunately, the team didn't have a repeat performance, and ultimately lost the second game 1-12.

On Sunday, the team pulled out another win in their first game with a score of 6-5 against Oneonta.

However, the second game was not as pleasant for Fredonia, ending with 8-0 loss.

Both victories of the weekend were walk-offs.

The team is still in the running for a position in the playoffs; their fate relies on SUNY Plattsburgh's next two games.

With two Plattsburg losses, Fredonia will secure a spot.

Last Saturday, the men's and women's track and field team competed in the Cardinal Classic hosted by St. John Fisher College in Pittsford, NY.

Cassie Serafin, a sophomore at Fredonia, won the women's long jump, moving her to No. 19 on the NCAA Division III qualifying list.

Her jump, measuring at an outstanding 18 feet, 3 inches, moved Serafin to the No. 3 spot on Fredonia's Top Ten list in the women's long jump.

Gus Alvarez, a Fredonia junior, won the men's pole vault with a personal best of 15 feet, 11 inches.

His teammate, senior Nick Serafin, went on to win the high jump clearing 6 feet, 2 inches.

The team looks forward to competing in the SUNYAC Outdoor Championships happening this weekend at SUNY Brockport.

After securing a spot in the playoffs, Fredonia's baseball team lost 11-3 to Oswego on Saturday night.

The next day, the two teams met again for a doubleheader.

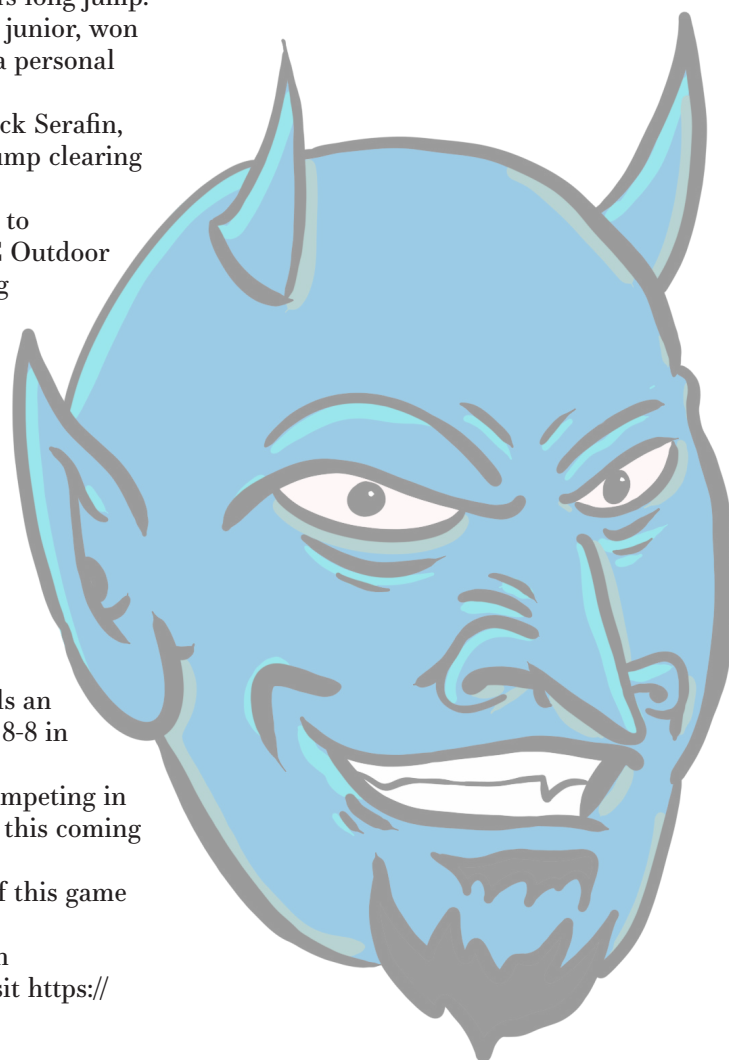
Unfortunately, Fredonia lost both games.

The team currently holds an overall record of 11-19 and 8-8 in the conference.

They look forward to competing in the SUNYAC Tournament this coming Friday, May 3.

The time and location of this game are to be announced.

For more information on Fredonia sports, please visit <https://fredoniabluedevils.com>.



# Everything you need to know from the NFL Draft

## DANTE LASTING

Assistant Sports Editor

The NFL Draft has come and gone, and 254 college prospects were selected in the seven rounds this weekend. Those players along with hundreds more undrafted free agents are about to start a new chapter in their football lives.

The draft has been on the road since 2015 after leaving its home in NYC, and found itself this year in Nashville, Tennessee.

The record setting draft had around 600,000 fans in attendance, and 47.5 million television viewers throughout the weekend.

The Arizona Cardinals opened up the draft by picking Kyler Murray, the quarterback is the second selected in the first round in the second consecutive season. The Oklahoma product that was selected number one overall, was the first athlete to be drafted in the first round by both the MLB and the NFL.

These are four takeaways from the 2019 NFL draft.

### 1. Biggest Storyline - Cardinals Quarterback Controversy

This all started when the Arizona Cardinals drafted quarterback Josh Rosen tenth overall in the 2018 draft. After a blunderous 3-13 season, head coach Steve Wilks was fired after only one season. Then the Cardinals hired former Texas Tech head coach Kliff Kingsbury, who is on the record of saying that he loves what Kyler Murray can bring to the game of football.

That started the dilemma in the Cardinals quarterback room.

On the second day of the draft, the Cardinals found a trade partner to ship Rosen off to.

Now they did not get back what they gave up to draft Rosen, but the team was able to get a second round pick from the Miami Dolphins for the quarterback. Rosen

will go into Miami looking for a fresh start and to put his past behind him. He will have a lot of work in front of him as he has to learn a brand new offensive scheme. This will be the quarterback's fourth offense that he has had to learn since coming into the league only one year ago. Rosen will compete for the starting job against veteran Ryan Fitzpatrick, who is going into his 15th season in the NFL.

### 2. Loser of the Draft - Houston Texans

No team really had a bad draft this year.

Every team filled holes on their rosters where they needed to and selected players who they think will fit their system. The Texans lost because of what happened to them in the first round. Throughout the draft process Houston really liked the skills of offensive tackle Andre Dillard out of Washington State. The Texans were ready to take him with the 23rd pick in the draft. At least until the Philadelphia Eagles traded up two spots to select the tackle with the 22nd pick. The Texans still ended up getting tackle Tytus Howard with their pick, but he is not as good or as ready to start as the player they wanted.

Houston is in desperate need of some offensive line talent, giving up a league high 62 sacks last season. Quarterback Deshaun Watson had to ride a bus to their week 7 game in Jacksonville due to chest and lung injuries. He was not able to fly with the team because of the change in air pressure, and had to take a 12-hour bus ride.

To make matters worse, all three division rivals bulked up their front seven in free agency and the draft. The Texans will have to improve their talent on the offensive line if they want to keep their quarterback healthy, and be successful in this league.

### 3. Most Improved Division - AFC East

Ever since Tom Brady came into this league in 2000 he has had this division handed to him because of the lack of talent on the other three teams.

As Brady will turn 42 before the season starts, change might be coming to the AFC East. The Buffalo Bills and New York Jets have done a lot of work to get talented players onto the rosters over the past two years. They finally have competent quarterbacks that bring hope to these franchises, and have started to build around them. The Miami Dolphins just traded for Josh Rosen, but they have so many holes on the team that they seem to be in rebuilding mode.

One thing that each team did in the first round of this draft was select strong defensive linemen. The Jets picked Quinnen Williams, the Bills got Ed Oliver and the Dolphins chose Christian Wilkins.

These teams know that the only way to win the division is to slow down Tom Brady, and they now have a better chance of doing that. Saying that the New England Patriots coming off of their sixth Super Bowl win aren't just going to give this division away. The Patriots added depth to their roster as well as some talented players that can make an impact on day one. As always the Patriots won't go down without a fight, but at least this year the other three teams will fight back.

### 4. Most Unique Names of Players Drafted

119th pick - Sheldrick Redwine (Safety) Miami University

151st pick - Andrew Van Ginkel (Linebacker) Wisconsin University

164th pick - E. J. Speed (Linebacker) Tarleton State University

207th pick - Ulysees Gilbert III (Linebacker) Akron University

209th pick - Demarcus Christmas (Defensive Tackle) Florida State University

# Six feet or shorter

## JORDAN-CHRISTOPHER PURVIS

Staff Writer

Despite what sports commentators or fans thought deserved to be the number one draft pick in this year's draft, the Arizona Cardinals ultimately ended up selecting Kyler Murray from the University of Oklahoma.

Before making his debut as a Cardinal, Murray has already etched his name into the history book. Murray is the first under-six-foot quarterback to ever be drafted in the first round, and the first person to be a first-round pick in football and baseball. (Murray was drafted 9th overall by the Oakland Athletics in the MLB Draft). Not to mention, the University of Oklahoma has produced back-to-back number one picks in the past two drafts. Last year, the

Cleveland Browns selected Baker Mayfield, and this year, Murray.

In his junior year, Murray appeared in fourteen games, threw for 4,361 yards, 42 touchdowns and 7 interceptions. In midst of a phenomenal season all across the board, Murray was also awarded the Heisman trophy for the 2018 season.

One physical attribute many feel will hinder Murray's success is his height. Murray enters the league at just 5'10 ft. The only active quarterback similar to Murray's stature is Seattle Seahawks Russell Wilson.

Wilson was selected as the 12th pick in the in the third round (75th overall) of the 2012 NFL Draft by the Seattle Seahawks. On Wilson's combine profile, scouts at the NFL combine list him as having one weakness. "Wilson's height will be his biggest inhibitor at the next level and the largest reason for his late-round value.

It remains to be seen if he can throw effectively from the pocket at the next level."

At the age of 30, Wilson has proved everyone wrong about his height. Now entering his eighth year into the league, he's been named to six Pro Bowls, led the Seahawks to a Superbowl Championship (XLVIII) and has appeared in the playoffs five consecutive times since 2013.

On April 15, the Seattle Seahawks and their longtime quarterback Russell Wilson reached agreement on a four year, \$140 million. In addition to this, the deal includes a no-trade clause resulting in Wilson potentially being a Seahawk through 2023.

Preseason kickoff begins on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 8 p.m. in the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium between the Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons.

## These playoffs are chaos

### AIDAN POLLARD

Sports Editor

What a round.

After the first round of the NHL playoffs, almost every favorite was defeated and, in many cases, pretty definitively.

The Tampa Bay Lightning, who were leading the league by 21 points, got swept by the worst team (on paper) in the playoffs, the Columbus Blue Jackets.

The Pittsburgh Penguins, who were largely favored over the Islanders due to their history of strong playoff performances and three Stanley Cup wins in the past 10 years, also got swept.

The Calgary Flames, who were leading the Western Conference with 107 points, were defeated by the Colorado Avalanche and the Nashville Predators, who led the Central Division, were defeated by the Dallas Stars.

With that chaos in mind, here are my predictions for Round 2:

### Eastern Conference:

Columbus Blue Jackets vs. Boston Bruins:

After Columbus' underdog (to put it lightly) sweep against the Lightning, it's hard to ignore the amount of fight that's in this team. They wanted it more than the Lightning, and they probably want it more than the Bruins.

Columbus takes the series in six games.

Carolina Hurricanes vs. NY Islanders:

After the Islanders' largely unexpected sweep of the Penguins and the Hurricanes' win against the defending champion Capitals, this series could easily go either way. Based on the way the games that have already happened have gone down, this series will go to game seven.

The Islanders take it because I really, really want them to.

### Western Conference:

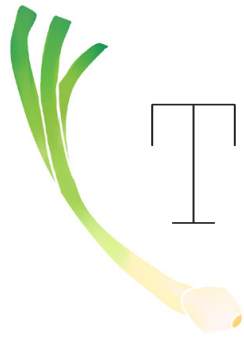
San Jose Sharks vs. Colorado Avalanche:

After watching the Avalanche take down the Flames, it's again hard to argue against the fight that's in this team.

Since San Jose just barely skated by last year's runners up, the Vegas Golden Knights, they're probably at least a little tired going into this series. The Sharks won the first game of the series, but I think the Avalanche can come back to win it in six or seven games.

Dallas Stars vs. St. Louis Blues:

These two teams are pretty similar on paper, and the series can go either way, but I think the Stars can keep subverting expectations and take it in game seven.



# THE SCALLION

## Man who has seen no other Marvel movies reviews 'Avengers: Endgame'

**DOM MAGISTRO**

Staff Scallywag

Spoilers for “Avengers: Endgame” ahead. You have been warned.

So “Avengers: Endgame” seemed to be cinematically decent, but fell flat as a narrative-based piece of fiction.

For starters, it seems like they put the end at the beginning. They really killed the main antagonist just to bring him back with a bigger, scarier suit of armor at the very end. Weird.

The characters were not introduced but, holy moly, there were a lot of them.

First of all, props to the rat in the storage container cause without that champ Scott Lang would still be in the Quantum Realm. But also, this Tony guy really comes back from actual literal space and just goes “felt cute, might start a family and also invent time travel” and then just. Does?

Alright, but for real he “inverted” a Mobius strip? I don’t wanna be that guy, but Mobius strips are kinda literally one-sided. There’s no way to invert one. I’m not gonna get into the finer details but trust me, it doesn’t make it different.

There’s some depressed, old, fat guy calling himself Thor, but like, he doesn’t have a hammer for a while and it’s an axe instead, and he’s hanging around with the Avengers but I’m pretty sure he doesn’t belong there. I don’t know, it’s all pretty weird.

Steve really wants to die, though. Like really bad. I feel like the Russo Brothers really should have killed Steve instead of Tony.

Steve goes “Oh Tony please invent time

travel for me. I know you have a daughter but ultimately, all those people whose lives you don’t have a stake in are just so much more important than your wife and daughter.”

Then he actively fights his past self like that’s not gonna mess with the timeline. Then he tells his past self that Bucky is alive?

I didn’t know who Bucky was at that point but if it was enough for Old Cap to stop fighting New Cap, then New Cap probably really, really messed something up. Then, he goes toe to toe with an eight-foot purple alien, skipping into battle with a hammer.

Finally, if none of this makes you think he wants to die, I’ll give you this: he wants it so bad that he literally goes back in time and lives to death. He can’t stand being alive for one second longer so he decides to go back in time and live his life so he can be old and gray in 2023.

All in all, I just can’t see how this movie is a movie. Like besides introducing its characters poorly, there’s also the issue that like this purple alien dude apparently killed a bunch of people with the snap of his fingers and is a crazy villain for it, but when Tony kills a bunch of people with the magic space rocks, he’s a hero.

I don’t get it. Maybe it isn’t for me. But it definitely wasn’t a compelling story by itself.



Kathleen Fenton/Staff Illustrator and  
Ben Rockafellow/Design Editor



# Ask Fairy Godmother



Your place to bippity boppity bitch

Dear Fairy Godmother,

Do we get to decorate our graduation caps in college? I remember doing it in high school, but I guess college graduation feels more formal for some reason. That being said, what should I put on mine? I've been trying to think of something that encompasses the entire four years I've been here, but I'm coming up short. Do you have any ideas?

Please help,  
Blank Cap

Dear Cap,

Of course, you get to decorate them! This is a very artsy school after all. Can you imagine the uproar if you hormonal, stressed young adults didn't get one last arts-and-crafts project before being sent out into the world? Now as for the matter of what to put on the cap, I would suggest something that inspired you during your time here. Something that, years from now, you'll look back at pictures and smile at the thought of. Something that made college easier for you. A perfect example of that would be me! Just make sure you get my good side. But truly, your graduation cap is completely yours to do with as you please. Perhaps a quote that means a lot to you or a silly picture that brings you joy. You could even get your friends to sign it like when you broke a bone and got a cast as a kid. No matter what you choose, just ensure that it makes you happy. College may be ending for you, but the memories don't have to.

Sincerely,  
Fairy Godmother

Dear Fairy Godmother,

My parents keep bugging me to get a summer job. I'm only going to be home for like three months max, so I don't see why I need to. I'm going into my sophomore year of college. I don't have time to waste working at the mall! What should I do?

Please help,  
Jobless

Dear Jobless,

If you keep this mentality for the rest of your college career, you're going to have a bad time. Just because you're on the cusp of actual adulthood doesn't mean you get to coast by and ignore responsibilities. Your parents help you monetarily throughout the year, I presume? Use these three months to take some of the burden off of them. Some people don't have the luxury of choice in regard to a job. Some of your classmates work multiple jobs while also attending classes. Make money over the summer and save it. You'll thank me when you graduate and actually have money in your savings account.

Sincerely,  
Fairy Godmother

Dear Fairy Godmother,

What are a couple of things you think everyone should do while they attend Fredonia?

Please help,  
New in Town

Dear New in Town,

Sit by the clocktower. Walk up Three Man Hill. Spend time at Point Gratiot. Go to an art gallery. Attend a concert in Mason Hall. Sit in the cubes in the back of the library. Stand in the amphitheater. Walk downtown. Attend a festival in the park. Go to the pier in Dunkirk. Take a road trip to Buffalo or Canada. Thank a professor who left a lasting impact on you. Help in a community service project. Enjoy your years here because they'll be over sooner than you realize. Fredonia is a transitory place for many of us, but it will leave its mark on our lives forever.

Sincerely,  
Fairy Godmother

# HOROSCOPES

## ARIES

Keep fighting the urge to put your hand in the panini press at Cranston.

## TAURUS

C's get degrees. That's all you gotta know. Oh, and happy birthday.

## GEMINI

I see you've got your clown suit on like always. Now just wash it.

## CANCER

Drink some water: you can't keep surviving off Baja Blast and Twizzlers.

## LEO

I promise you aren't "ironically" failing. You're just failing and it's not funny. Turn in an assignment for once.

## VIRGO

I know alarms aren't your "thing," but you're sleeping through your 2 o'clock.

## LIBRA

You might want to increase your meals next semester because you can't keep starving three days out of the week.

## SCORPIO

Oof. Look at your last week. I don't even know what advice to give you.

## SAGITTARIUS

Why are you reading horoscopes? You always want someone to tell you what to do.

## CAPRICORN

Just stop. No wise words. No puns. Just stop.

## AQUARIUS

Don't you dare spoil "Avengers: Endgame."

## PISCES

You're panicking, and you should be. We have like 3 weeks left, Pisces. Breathe into a paper bag and get an assignment done.

# COMICS



## Blue Jays on Campus

SCREAM



Emily Kupp/Staff Illustrator



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