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NEWS



Fredventures: Lakeshore Humane Society

SARAH HUGHSTON

Social Media Manager

The Lakeshore Humane Society is a safe-haven for animals who no longer have a home to call their own.

When I walked into the building, my first impression was that the space was small, but well-used. There were about 10 volunteers sitting at the desk, helping a soon-to-be owner, or in the back-room cleaning and interacting with pets. There were a few barks and meows here and there, but not many considering the number of animals in the shelter.

My friend, Hannah Tyman, and I were greeted warmly by the volunteers who sat behind the front desk. We met with Tigan Woolson, a volunteer of one year who would be showing us around, and she gave us a guided tour of the building.

The non-profit, no-kill shelter, established in 1980 under the name of The Dunkirk Humane Society according to their website, has plenty of land for the animals to roam.

Bob Ehrheart, a longtime volunteer who focuses on the maintenance of the building and grounds, said, "The

guy that owns all these warehouses over here donated the land to us ... he donated 3.8 acres."

Of course, it also helps to be in close proximity to the Dunkirk Nestlé Purina factory, which donates food for the dogs and sponsored the lobby of the building.

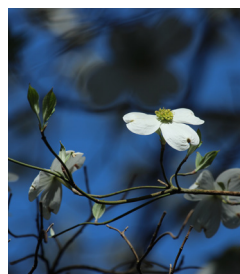
When walking into the rooms in which they house the animals, the gray cement floors and metal cages are unsurprising. At first glance, it looks like a standard animal shelter.

But when I looked closer, I started to see the type of care the volunteers put into the protection and well-being of these animals.

Every cage has the animal's information, as well as a sign that reads "you are so loved," which spreads hope in both the animal and the workers; they truly believe every pet deserves a good home. Although on an adoption Saturday in March they appear to have plenty of staff to take care of the animals, they always need more volunteers.

"It's not all fun and games. When we first opened, we probably lost two out of every three volunteers that were new," Ehrheart said, because the new volunteers assumed they could

FREDventures logo by Khris Dunn/Staff Illustrator



On the Cover:

Springtime has arrived| *Kristin Johnson/Design Editor*

Corrections: The graphic on page 20 of Issue 27 was created by Alissa Salem. The photograph on page 10 shows the artwork of Natalie Sacchitella. Senior Emery Mauro specifically created four ceramic sculptures. The upper left photograph on page 11 shows work of Erin Ruffino. Artists that participated in the exhibition that were not included in the article are Ben Rockafellow, Natalie Sacchitella, Erin Ruffino, Alison Gugino, and Aaron Trudell.

just go and play with the animals, without accomplishing the necessities of keeping the building running smoothly and cleanly.

Woolson introduced us to Buu, a two-year-old German shepherd mix. Buu, whose tail wagged the minute she saw us coming, ran happily around the laundry room/meeting room the whole time we talked. She played fetch with a soft and worn stuffed ghost, making sure to give each of us a turn to throw it for her in between her energetic kisses. Dogs like Buu can make becoming a volunteer all the more enjoyable.

To keep a non-profit organization like the Humane Society running, donations are in-

credibly important. Since it takes in animals that have possibly been on the street or sick, veterinary bills add up.

"About 65 cents of every dollar we spend is vet bills and medicine," Ehrheart said. "Almost 100% of the animals that get adopted we lose money on. Because according to New York State, they've got to be spayed and neutered before they can go out of here, unless they're too young or there's a medical reason or something. If they're not, we'll give you a voucher so when the animal's old enough, it doesn't cost you a thing."

Along with being responsible for the animals currently in their care, Lakeshore Hu-

mane Society is also focusing on the "pretty substantial stray cat colonies [in Dunkirk, and] getting all of them spayed and neutered so that the colonies will actually shrink, but in the meantime, the colonies just grow," said Woolson.

Ehrheart added on that the former animal control person for Chautauqua County "figured there was probably five or 6,000 stray cats in the city of Dunkirk. I can believe it."

For now, the Lakeshore Humane Society is focused on taking care of the animals currently in their possession and finding them their forever homes.

Let's not lose our Excelsior Scholarship

ALEXANDRIA NIEVES

Special to The Leader

Dan Tramuta knows the Excelsior Scholarship program. He was there when it was created, and he also recognizes problems students can have with it.

"There were four [Tramuta, SUNY, New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (NYSHESC) and Cuomo's office] of us that helped Governor [Cuomo] draft the regulations of the delivery that helped work on this program," said Tramuta, the associate vice president for Enrollment Services.

Tramuta is someone who wants to help the students. He believes the Excelsior Scholarship "should be catered to [the students]."

He cares about students because he knows that it's not easy, especially since NYSHESC put a registration date on the Spring semester application for incoming students.

However, students have recently been having other issues with the Excelsior Scholarship, which is the scholarship that helps students go to college tuition-free.

Tramuta said, "In 2018-19, there are 870 students who have been awarded an Excelsior Scholarship for a current total of \$3,092,929."

Junior history and political science major Hannah Dompkowski has, essentially, had to jump through hoops to keep her Excelsior Scholarship.

"[The main issue is about] the credit requirements. I'm on track to graduate on time, but if you drop a class or retake one, it really makes things difficult because you need 30 credits per [year] to stay on the scholarship," said Dompkowski. "For example, I'm only taking 12 credits right now because one of my 15 is a retake, so next semester I have to take seven classes just to keep the scholarship for my senior year."

When students apply for the scholarship, there are requirements to maintain it each year.

The NYSHESC sets the requirements for the Excelsior Scholarship. One of which is, "be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program."

"The reason that students cancel or lose their Excelsior Scholarship is because they were given a grant that covers their tuition," said Tramuta. "They were given a private scholarship, so they had to withdraw from the [Excelsior] scholarship, and sometimes it's about not having the required amount of credit hours for the year."

Students with the Excelsior Scholarship who are having difficulties with the credit hours have until the beginning of the following fall semester to get the 30 credits to keep it.

"If you lose the scholarship for not completing the minimum (30) credits each academic year, it is forever gone. You cannot get it back," said Tramuta.

When students take courses during the summer or J-Term, those credits are "banked." This means that if a student has six credits from J-Term classes, they can use those credits to fulfill the required amount of credit hours to keep their scholarship.

The Excelsior Scholarship is also a "last dollar scholarship," according to Tramuta. This means that if your average income for 2019-20, including your parents' income, is \$125,000 or less and your 2017 federal adjusted income falls below that as well, you could qualify for the scholarship.

"Since cost and affordability is a driving factor in the college-going decision, we work with all students — Excelsior and non-Excelsior recipients — to try to build a college financing plan that maximizes their eligibility," said Tramuta.

Scott Martelle: A life in journalism

ALEXANDRIA NIEVES

Special to The Leader

Scott Martelle has spent most of his working life in journalism. He can trace it back to his years at SUNY Fredonia.

Fredonia alumnus and columnist for The Buffalo News Sean Kirst said, “[Scott Martelle had] the same ethic, always with conscience and always with sweat.”

Kirst introduced Martelle with the story of how they met in Martelle’s sophomore year at Fredonia when Martelle was the editor in chief for The Leader.

His journey went from Fredonia to Jamestown to Rochester to Detroit, and finally to Los Angeles at the well-known paper, the L.A. Times.

“When I was working in Detroit, it was the afternoon paper. It was a brutal journalism market at the time. [It was] serious competition,” said Martelle.

While Martelle was in Detroit, the paper he was working for ended up going on strike.

“We went on strike in July 1995; [they were on the] picket line for a year and a half,” said Martelle. “My wife was a kindergarten teacher in a private daycare . . . and we had two young children. [I was back] bartending again . . . it was a great fall back.”

Martelle admitted that he applied for the L.A. Times three times, never even receiving a rejection letter.

Before talking about his journey up the food chain, Martelle was telling the audience about how to build readership and how to get the attention of readers.

He brought up his recent opinion piece, “OMG, a top Trump official is under investigation.”

Martelle said, “That’s a great headline. The headline is driving the coverage of business, but I managed to make it a real piece . . . sort of a summation of [the] number of scandals that have confronted the Trump administration at this moment.”

Martelle was asked about how he stayed focused on everything surrounding the Trump administration

and not just on what Trump tweeted that day.

“It takes a lot of work, a lot of research,” said Martelle. “You have to bring an awareness of the elements of what you’re reading about.”

He showed a series the L.A. Times did that started on April 2, 2017 titled, “Our Dishonest President.” It talks about Trump’s reactions to issues within a seven-article series.

“After he was elected, we were writing this stuff [tweets and comments]. As soon as he declared [his candidacy], we were writing critical articles about it,” said Martelle.

The series ended Aug. 20, 2017. It shows that the L.A. Times researched what was going on after Trump would say something verbally or through Twitter. They didn’t want the audience to just see what he tweeted, but how people would react to his words.

Senior Fredonia student, David Wentling, asked why people should trust news outlets, especially since news outlets get called fake news from society nowadays.

Martelle said, “The story you read, read it with skepticism. Is it plausible? Have I read the source before? If it doesn’t [feel right], then look for other sources for it if you’re questioning something. The whole point of this is to do that work for you. If you’re interested in doing that work, then double check our sources.”

Martelle wants everyone to read articles with skepticism, because then they can find the truth behind the lies.



Fredventures: A winter day at Arkwright Falls

ANNA GAGLIANO

Special to The Leader

The journey to the entrance of Arkwright Falls during any season can be described as bumpy and a bit challenging as one exits off the main roads down a dirt path just wide enough for a car.

During the winter, however, it is comparable to driving conditions one might see on the moon. Tires dip in and out of deep craters and slip on patches of ice scattered about dangerously like Legos in a toddler's toy room.

A small clearing is reached, where oftentimes during the summer season other cars will be parked, as many members of the community make the hike to the falls. It is currently the dead of winter, though, and no other sign of human life is detected within the area.

The area twists just off of Park Road. The falls themselves technically sit on private property, which is important to be aware of. One is protected through the New York State Public Right of Navigation, which states that if a waterway is affected by tides, it is open to navigation by the public until the first impassable barrier, regardless of who owns the specific area it passes through.

But one cannot simply drive on rough winter terrain and suddenly reach a picturesque view of the falls. It's a bit of a hike, with uphill and downhill sections and a multitude of twists and turns.

A newbie to Arkwright should not attempt this hike on their own, as the possibility of getting lost is very high, especially in the winter when the water leading up to the falls is frozen and still, eliminating the helpful trick of following the water's flow.

The water that typically flows and will eventually supply the falls with its, well, falls, is Canadaway Creek, a stream feeding Lake Erie.

Originally settled by Native American tribes, the creek earned its modern name when early European explorers mispronounced its Iroquois name "Ganada-wa-o." In 1804, the creek was settled upon by non-natives, forming today's Village of Fredonia.

The mouth of the creek was also the location of the War of 1812's very first naval battle, where

American troops fought off a British ship trying to seize a salt boat from Buffalo.

With the history of this water in mind, the trek to Arkwright Falls becomes a bit more interesting. Being able to reflect on the past is a valuable addition to an otherwise cut-and-dry outdoor adventure.

The crunch of boots in snow is the only sound that interrupts the soundtrack of nature. Birds perch in the surrounding trees, sweetly singing to one another occasionally, while the quiet snap of a fallen twig gives away a wiry squirrel's hiding place. When there are no animal-induced sounds, though, one can still hear a sort of silence distinguishable from other types of silence.

The silence of nature is low and pure, and wraps one up in a sort of blanket, protecting them from the grumbles and mechanical humming of industrial silence.

As the falls come into view, so does the sun. As the clouds above part, the true beauty of this frozen world is illuminated with grace. The falls stand still, their only movement resulting from the slow, concentrated dripping of icicles being warmed by afternoon light.

Absolutely every surface is covered with a thick dusting of snow that glitters and sparkles without motivation. The frozen falls glisten, too, and almost reflect rainbows as sunlight intertwines through its crystal structure.

In the summer, boisterous explorers will jump from the top of the falls to the pools below, while others skip stones or relax on the large rocks scattered around. At this time of year, though, an adventurer needs nothing more than to simply stand and marvel at Mother Nature's display.

Arkwright Falls in the winter is a more quiet, contemplative adventure. It's a hike taken in order to witness the magic of nature that will only shine through for those brave enough to face the cold and ice. Despite the temperature, though, it is more than worth it for someone looking to just sit back and enjoy the show.

Popular local hangout takes a step back in time

CARL ALDINGER

Special to The Leader

When my parents came to Fredonia for the first time, they were taken aback that Central Avenue ends in Lake Erie. But we quickly realized it was a popular hangout spot for students and community members alike.

The college's road ends at the Dunkirk City Pier, a popular locale year-round, a place that almost seems out of a 1950s TV show. People can be found relaxing there, gazing out over the lake when the weather's warm, or they might be ice-fishing on the frozen harbor in the dead of winter.

But first, some brief history.

The Buffalo District of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the Dunkirk Pier, also known as the Dunkirk Small Boat Harbor, in 1979. The project was done alongside the New York State Office of Parks and Recreation. This information is printed on a large, aged, wooden sign at the entrance to the pier.

It might seem older than only 40 years, but the sign on the wall of the fish-cleaning station says that building is younger, being dedicated only 28 years ago.

Another sign on the cleaning station reads "City of Dunkirk: Home of Holiday Harbor at Chadwick Bay."

The Chadwick name comes from Sam Chadwick, who settled here in the early 1800s, according to the City of Dunkirk website.

Today, the pier and harbor have grown into a regularly-visited location with something to see or do on all sides.

The Dunkirk Yacht Club, Memorial Park and the Salvation Army store are all right down the street to the west.

As you drive onto the pier, you'll first pass Demetri's on the Lake. This restaurant has a fiery, sunset-orange sign at the intersection and a patio in the back overlooking the lake.

Drive a bit farther and you'll see the sign welcoming you to the Dunkirk Harbor and Boat Launch. The boat ramp is directly next to the fish-cleaning station at the base of the pier on your left.

On the north side of the tiny cleaning station building are two aged signs, the years they've spent in the sun very apparent in the faded illustrations. The first sign gives an explanation of various water birds one might see at the harbor, and the other shows where in the lake various historical ships have sunk between the pier and the Canadian side of the lake.

The boat harbor, which has been around since 1948, according to one sign, sits directly east of the pier and cleaning station. In the summer, boats are constantly docked, filling the water near shore. In the winter, they instead sit tightly wrapped up, packing the parking lot on land.

On the north side of the cleaning station is the real destination, though. At this point, the 500-foot long pier extends before you, with its two long rows of parking spaces and four street lamps rising at regular intervals.

From here, the green-blue of the lake extends to the horizon. A few breakwalls a couple hundred feet away, and a power plant sticking out into the lake down the street are the only things that fill your sightline as the wind off the lake will whip your hair and waves will crash on the breakwalls.

Because of the orientation of the pier, the sun will set just next to the power plant, throwing the massive structure into sharp silhouette.

On a winter's day, snow covers the edge of the pier and the surrounding water, making sunglasses a must. Once your eyes get the influx of light under

control, you can see sideways, wind-blown icicles frozen on the surface of benches and cleats, and you can see people maybe 100 feet off the pier.

Some people sit right on the edge, rubbing their hands together to warm them from the brisk wind, resting a fishing line into the ice below.

Others are more dedicated. One might see a couple people sitting out on the ice-covered lake with a tent perched 20 feet away from them. Later, they'll pack up their belongings and drag them on a sled over the snow and piles of ice back to shore.

Walk back up the pier toward the intersection and look to your left. Some might say this is really the step back in time.

This is the Boardwalk Marketplace, a strip of eight connected, wood-sided, porch-front mom-and-pop shops.

On this Mayberry-esque line of private businesses of bold-but-muted colors, one can buy souvenirs at the gift shop, ice cream, coffee or visit an "Irish Pub."

Opening back up each spring, these shops leave their doors wide open during their in-season, amplifying the 1950s small town atmosphere as patrons can come and go as they please, work their way down the wooden structure, smell the homemade pizza wafting through the door, hear the chatter of various customers and the soft music of the radio a shop owner put on.

Put this all together and what do you get?

You get a scenic, popular area full of photo-ops, flashy sunsets, gentle breezes and a general sense of nostalgia, something my parents are sure to take advantage of when they visit.

Life & Arts

The Mustard Seed: Newly opened restaurant

ERIKETA COST

Life & Arts Editor

Lately, there's been a lot of talk on campus about the new location of The Mustard Seed, which opened up in the village on April 25.

But not a lot of people are aware of the story, or the couple behind it.

Bob and Laurie Scudder had dreamt of opening a restaurant for over 20 years.

Bob, a seasoned businessman, had recently owned a hardware store in the village called "Fredonia Hardware."

He always thought of using the skills he learned from running his business to open a restaurant.

Coincidentally, Scudder's son-in-law stumbled upon an ad that happened to be selling the original Mustard Seed in Dayton, NY.

The Scudders decided to go talk to the owner, Nettie Puleff, about potentially doing business.

"My first thought was to rent her the hardware space. But before you knew it, we ended up partnering up with her," said Bob.

Scudder sold his hardware material and inventory to make way for the new location of The Mustard Seed.

"I am a man of faith, and I believe God had a hand on this," he said. "This is what we are supposed to be doing."

The Scudders also mentioned that their daughter and son-in-law will also be involved in the business.

"They're in their 30s, so they're bringing a lot of fresh ideas that the young people are going to enjoy," said Laurie.

Some of these new ideas include vegan and gluten-free options.

"We'll have an area of the kitchen sectioned off to prepare food for anyone with dietary restrictions, allergies or gluten-free needs," said Bob.

Additionally, The Scudders couldn't hide their enthusiasm for the quality of the food.

Their hamburgers are all grass-fed and hormone-free. Nearly all of their fish will be grilled.

Their bread is all homemade, including some that is dairy-free for those who are vegan.

"We specialize in sunflower bread that is out of this world," said Laurie.

The restaurant will include handicap-accessible bathrooms and parking.

As far as the menu, they have a wide range of options to offer.

Wraps, salads, pasta dinners, hamburgers and steak are a few to name.

One of the things that make The Mustard Seed unique is their venue's homie-feel.

"Nettie set up her restaurant in Dayton in her dining room, so we are trying to keep that same homie and eclectic feel to it," said Laurie. "We want it to feel like you are sitting in your living room at home."

The restaurant will also offer take-out options for customers who prefer to dine at home.

The two believe the restaurant is going to be a hit with Fredonia students in the village.

"We love Fredonia, the school and the community. We need you guys and you need us," said Laurie.

The Mustard Seed is located at 31 East Main Street and is open Thursday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information on the restaurant or the menu options, visit themustardseedrestaurant.com.



Photos courtesy of Kristin Johnson/Design Editor

David Kaplin: His journey from Wall Street to Fredonia and beyond

JESSICA MEDITZ

Special to The Leader

The only predictable thing about David Kaplin is the way his office looks.

"This is exactly what I picture an English professor's office to look like," I said while admiring the tall shelves filled to their tops with a variety of books.

He sat down wearing one of his signature pastel shirts and patterned tie. After revealing a warm smile, he said "Yeah, I like to think of my books as friends."

Being in his class for a while, I knew Kaplin had a passion for literature and the English language. With that said, it actually took him some time to discover this passion.

He said that he always had a way with words — "I loved words. So, I really wanted to work with words," he said.

And so, he became a lawyer.

Kaplin went to law school immediately following his undergraduate degree in 1986.

He described law school as worthwhile, that it recast the way he thought about writing and reading. It changed the way he put words together.

"I am grateful because I still use that skill today," he said.

Law intrigued him at the time because of outside influences, including some of his friends who loved law and the popularity of the television series "L.A. Law," which portrayed lawyers living a glamorous lifestyle.

He was soon able to experience the glamour for himself.

Following law school, Kaplin landed a job at a premier law firm on Wall Street in New York City.

"I'm not going to be modest about this; it was a big deal," he said. "That job was glamour in spades. It was a place where if I wanted to go to one of the most exclusive restaurants in town, all I had to do was tell the firm secretary to make a reservation, and I'd go."

He worked several hours per week and took on some prestigious clients. Although the experience was life-changing and worthwhile for him, he felt that, after about five years, the job was turning him into a bad person.

He switched to a smaller law firm located in Washington, D.C. because he thought it was possibly the hustle and bustle of the city that was driving him insane.

However, after his long days of work, he would find himself crawling into bed and reading Charles Dickens' novels.

"I'm talking the giant thousand-pagers. After a while, I said to myself 'Why are you doing this?' because it was one after the other," he said.

He realized that he found comfort in reading these novels because while working as a lawyer, he felt he had no control over his life. Reading these, he said it gave him the ability to express himself and brought a "sense of order" to his life.

It was during this time he realized that literature was his passion, and he wanted to become a teacher.

"Teaching is a lot like being in a courtroom. You're telling stories and trying to get information across to relate to your audience," he said.

Kaplin's way with words and communicating with students does not go unnoticed.

His colleague, Ann Siegle Drege said that he's "simply amazing."

"Dr. Kaplin is an amazing teacher. Part of what makes him so is he pushes students, but he can do it in a way that helps students know that they can achieve something. He pushes them beyond what they thought they could do," she said.

Kaplin teaches a variety of courses in the English department at SUNY Fredonia —including detective fiction, argumentative writing and the Romantic Age.

He said that he most enjoys teaching the mystery and detective fiction course.

"People take the genre for granted as just a fun read, but there's so much to say about the culture that wrote the books and what's behind it," said Kaplin.

Paige Rzepka, a sophomore English adolescence and psychology major, was in Kaplin's detective fiction class last spring.

"It was one of the most enjoyable classes I've ever taken. I discovered how much I enjoyed reading mystery novels and I fully attribute my new-found love of the genre to him," she said.

Rzepka will be traveling to London with Kaplin for Fredonia's Literary London program.

She said that she's particularly excited for the Dickens and Doyle class he will be teaching.

Kaplin said the program is "the highlight of every year."

"The best part of that program is to watch students' faces when they're there seeing the connection between the literature and the actual setting where they take place," he said. "The glow, the joy and the surprise just melt my heart."

A word of advice Kaplin would give students is to have patience.

"There's so many options today in terms of careers. The first couple of jobs outside of college are almost always entry-level. If you keep getting experience in different ways, you get closer to the job you want. Don't settle," he said.

He sure didn't, and says it was the best decision of his life.



Photo courtesy of Jessica Meditz/Special to The Leader



Fredventures: Fredonia's new/old record store

JESSICA MEDITZ

Special to The Leader

I was welcomed by the familiar tunes of Van Morrison upon walking into Rhythm and Grooves Record Store.

Its quaint location on West Main Street in Fredonia gave it a genuine, vintage feel — along with the natural musk similar to that of a library and shelves filled with records from multiple generations.

Surprisingly, the store only opened its doors about six months ago.

Derek Jusko, owner of Rhythm and Grooves, has always had a strong love for music. He is a Buffalo native and studied music industry in college.

He accredits the success of his store to Record Theatre, which had locations scattered around the East Coast, including Buffalo. The company is now out of business due to the death of its owner and founder, Lenny Silver.

“I was always fascinated with the prospect of vinyls, but didn’t have the equipment just yet,” he said.

Jusko said he was able to purchase shelves and other equipment for his store from Record Theatre for wholesale prices, making it easier to get his foot in the door in that respect.

It was obvious that much thought and effort was put into Rhythm and Grooves. Admiring Kendrick Lamar’s “DAMN.”

next to me and spotting a Doors album in the corner of my eye, I asked him: “So, you collected this whole store on your own, essentially?”

“Essentially, yeah, I did,” he said. “The new record craze really started my first year of college, so I started collecting them about 10 years ago.”

He then reminisced about how, in the past, records were “no big deal,” and that CDs were once the trendy thing to have. He said that he once purchased Elton John’s “Goodbye Yellow Brick Road” in perfect condition at a flea market for around \$3.

“You’ll never find that anywhere now,” he said. “I certainly can’t do that now owning a record store, or I wouldn’t be in business.”

That’s the beauty of buying, selling and trading records. You don’t know whose hands and what year the record you just purchased came from; it’s a hobby that can be shared with anyone at any time.

Jusko said he wanted to bring his love for records and music as a whole to Fredonia because having an album on vinyl is a totally different experience than having a CD or downloaded version.

“There’s a certain flow that goes with songs on an album, especially if you’re listening to something like Pink Floyd,” he said. “Artists like that put songs together for a reason: to make a cohesive piece of art. That’s not something you can really get on a CD or download. I’d rather pay the

same price or slightly higher for a vinyl that will give me better quality and a fuller experience.”

There have been other small businesses popping up in Fredonia recently, including East Main Café and Om Nohm Gluten Free Bakery.

With that said, it seems Jusko knew his audience when it comes down to the location where he opened his business.

Fredonia, being a college town, is full of people in their late teens and early 20s.

This goes along with trends such as pastel Crosley turntables sold at Urban Outfitters and the “vintage aesthetic” at an all-time high.

People will at least drop by his shop once to scope it out and see what they can find.

After chatting with him, looking around the shop felt as if I had traveled through time. With so many modern albums and classics bound together, it felt as though I was in a room filled with history, even though Rhythm and Grooves only opened a short time ago.

Photo courtesy of Jessica Meditz/Special to The Leader

Graphic by Fay Patterson/Staff Illustrator



Fredventures: A Spot and A Spell

HEATHER STEIN

Special to The Leader

You are restless on campus because you have not left it since you got there.

It is dragging you down, and all you want is a little magic.

And in Fredonia, luckily, magic is a 30-minute walk away.

If you find yourself on Temple, just walk down it until you have hit Main Street.

From there, you head right (or west) and continue until you run into a window that boasts “Wizardry Merchandise Inside.”

This window belongs to A Spot and A Spell, a little nook of magic nestled into downtown Fredonia.

The cafe has only been around since 2017, but it still draws people in.

On the inside, you almost wonder if you have entered a compact version of Hogwarts itself.

There is what could only be a replication of the Great Hall, house flags hanging from the ceiling.

You can also spot Hedwig hanging from the ceiling as you continue to walk into the store.

There is a couch where Dobby sits and where a Harry Potter movie plays, seemingly on repeat.

You continue past, curious about the counter at the back.

A cheerful employee greets you there, donned in Hufflepuff attire and ready to serve.

There is a lunch special that works well for your college student budget: only \$5 for a soup and a coffee with a refill.

There are almost endless options of coffee, all Harry Potter themed and all delicious sounding.

There is even a Hogwart’s hot chocolate you could get, but you end up choosing The Niffler brew, curious about the nutty and sweet notes.

You wander back to the Great Hall area, stopping by the wand display they have up.

You can buy anyone’s wand, or a wand that is specially carved.

Running your hand over the smooth wood, you almost consider it, but instead sit down as the employee brings over your coffee and soup.

Your soup is served in a rustic-looking bowl with a handle, and it almost makes you think of Hagrid’s cottage as you eat from it.

You finish your soup and place the dishes where they belong, then further explore the store.

There is an entire corner dedicated to tea and coffee, and you lose yourself in that corner for seemingly hours, looking at all the different teas.

You eventually walk away from the teas to the front corner of the store where Harry Potter can be found.

You heard the movie that has been playing faintly as you look at the different scarves and gloves.

You consider buying the shirt that says “Forget Fredonia, I’m going to Hogwarts,” but decide not to, simply because it will be there later, and you feel like you will end up coming back.

You continue to browse through the little area.

You inspect the necklaces and look over the “potions ingredients.” (They are really just things like soap and essential oils.)

As you find yourself growing bored, you head back toward the counter.

There is an assortment of witches hats for sale and you stop to try one on. Then you put it back.

Someone new enters the store before you can pay, so you linger as he buys a coffee and talks about some kind of gemstone with the employee.

After he leaves, you pay for your lunch and a scarf you picked up.

On your way out, you glimpse behind you to confirm this is really here.

The cafe is quiet, aside from Dumbledore’s soft voice playing from the TV.

It feels real enough, but at the same time, you feel touched by Fredonia’s little piece of magic.

Maybe next time you’ll bring along a friend.

OPINION

Diplomacy to blame game

TANNER TRUAX

Special to The Leader

The ever-growing inability to debate and discuss within our society is despicable. What happened to being able to talk freely with opposing sides to try to better understand a situation and ultimately form compromise?

Those days have been replaced with shouting matches coupled with masses gathering in the streets, fighting each other. The country as a whole is one huge shouting match and blame-appointing mess at every level of existence, from civilians calling each other rednecks or snowflakes, right to the top government officials calling each other “Pencil Neck” or “Pocahontas.” The inability to be civil and “agree to disagree” in this modern age is quite possibly the largest fault in our 50 stars.

Everyone uses labels to live by, whether it be racial labels, nationality, sexual orientation, gender, et cetera. This aspect of society is not terrible, but rather a celebration of our diversity and what makes an individual unique. Our diversity is one to be admired especially in the United States.

Although labels are a key component of how we live and identify ourselves and the world around us, in recent years, they have caused rifts between people of different groups or labels.

Throughout history, different groups of people have conquered while others were oppressed, such as the Hebrews and Egyptians, Conquistadors and the Native Americans, and White Americans and African Americans, just to name a few.

With these events in consideration, I would say we have made considerable progress. So what really bothers me is that we as a society have come too far to mend these past rifts to just start making new ones. We are closer than ever before to having a society (at least within the United States) that gives all groups of people

the same rights. We got this far in our progress toward a fair society through communication and the ability to speak and debate with people without having spit shouted onto your face.

I am not sure when we started to forget this, but we as humans are indeed starting to.

What I loathe most about this is that people just will not talk to the other side anymore, and it creates ever-increasing polarization.

Society is unable to just talk it out anymore.

Remember when you argued with your sibling when you were 5? Your mom always told you not to fight; just talk it out. It's literally that elementary of a solution, yet so many people are unwilling to do that anymore.

Since when did beating people with sticks, vandalizing whole neighborhoods or running over a crowd of people you disagree with solve any problems? It just causes more.

I especially despise that everyone sees this polarization forming, but does not care enough to do anything about it.

I identify as a human first. Before all other labels, I am human. Everyone falls under this label. We are all just humans that have opinions that need to be heard, and have a right to be heard. No opinion is more factual or important than the last.

Whether it be political, or something as stupid as who got to the last 4K TV on the shelf on a crazy Black Friday morning, people need to realize that the answer to any issue is not to ignore the opposing side or slap the lady holding the TV and make a frantic dash to the checkout.

It sounds so silly to compare politics with Black Friday shopping, but the parallels are definitely there, sadly enough.

So why can't society just talk out its problems?

Who knows.



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I'm involved: Why I can't forget about the Uber kidnapping news story

ERIKETA COST

Life & Arts Editor

Everytime something happens to a woman in the news, I'm involved.

I'm involved because I am a young woman who fears for her life while doing simple things.

I would never feel safe going for a jog on country roads.

I would never feel safe walking alone in a forest to embrace my solitude, or spirituality.

I've only ever ridden in an Uber once. I rode alone, late at night because I had no other option.

The reason I rode alone late at night is a whole other story, but I remember being scared.

I had to sit with a man I had never met for 15 minutes as he drove me back to where I was staying.

I remember looking out the window, wondering if I was safe.

I just wanted to be home.

I didn't want to be alone.

The silence killed me.

If you are an Uber driver on a late shift, where the roads are all empty and secluded, and you make zero conversation with the passenger, you're a weirdo. Like, you're just asking for me to think you're a psychopath.

My Uber driver said nothing for a 15-minute car-ride. If he had made light conversation, or put some music on, my mind would definitely be more at ease.

Thoughts raced through my head like, "...why isn't my Uber driver making conversation? Is he just tired? Or is he thinking of kidnapping and killing me?"

For 21-year-old Samantha Josephson, I can't even imagine what was going through her head that night of her death.

April 29, at 2 a.m. Josephson was headed home alone — but in the wrong car. She mistook a dangerous, unknown car for her Uber ride.

She was all alone; her friends had left her drunk at a bar. They sound like some

shitty friends.

Unable to think straight, and probably too drunk to care, she stumbled into the car, most likely eager to just be home and in a warm bed.

She never returned home that night.

Who knows who was waiting for her at home. Maybe it was friends or family. As each hour went into the late night and early morning, who knows what they were thinking as Josephson failed to return home.

Or maybe no one noticed at all — not until it was too late.

That's what scares me.

The thing is, for a young woman in her 20s, there's no one to really check on you 24/7.

Most girls aren't in a committed relationship in their early 20s.

Your parents are out of the picture — if you are a girl who has moved away for college, your parents could be hundreds of miles away, fast asleep and minding their own business.

And then there's the people you share an apartment or a dorm room with. They're most likely out-and-about doing their own things. It's not that uncommon for a roommate to come home at 5 a.m., or perhaps even the next morning.

You literally are in the most vulnerable time of your life, and you are alone for most of that time, unless you are with your friends. So, perhaps no one was wondering why she didn't come home until it was too late.

That's what scares me.

Her body was discovered in a "wooded area" by some hunters. She had numerous wounds and bruises.

This happened around 4 p.m. on Friday, the afternoon after she went missing.

The man who kidnapped her has been faced with charges for murder and kidnapping.

It has not yet been said how Josephson died.

All I know is, my friends better not

leave me alone at a bar or a party. I swear I'd never leave them alone, either. Women need to stick together.

For now, all we can do is prepare for emergencies. There are ways to learn how to escape a locked car by locating the child locks. There is a feature on the Uber app that allows the user to share their location with family and friends, so they can track you on your way home.

Always ask the driver to tell you their name, and who they are waiting to pick up. Check the license plate and car model.

Women need to normalize these actions, and they need to normalize going to a party and leaving a party in one group, no matter what.

Some people will argue that this story is part of a bigger picture, and that all of this is from some masculinity problem in our country. I understand that, but I also don't know if that's the case.

That's too easy of a blame, and not much of a fix other than just being bitter. What about the kind of upbringing this man had?

What is the problem with families in America? How are people raised? Where did this man grow up, who were his parents, what kind of childhood did he have? How can those factors give us insight into why he'd want to commit an act like this? Was he ever loved? If no one loved him, then maybe it led him to live a life that stripped him of feeling any emotions, stripped him of any intelligence, humanity, leaving him to just be a zombie.

How can we make sure students and outcasts in school feel loved if we sense they are growing up in a troubled household? Could we be able to catch these patterns early on?

I know there's no easy fix to issues like these; they seem eternal. But we can start by looking at this country, at families, schools, cities and trends. We're all involved.



Photo Gallery: Welcome to Fredonia



Photos courtesy of Avril King/Managing Editor & Kristin Johnson/Design Editor



SPORTS

Jerry Reilly on what it takes to be a sports writer and the purity of athletics

AIDAN POLLARD

Sports Editor

Jerry Reilly, Fredonia's Sports Information Director (SID), started covering sports when he was 16. And he's been a major part of the local sports scene ever since.

Walking into Reilly's office, it's immediately evident that he's a writer.

Between the messy desk strewn with notes and papers and the St. Bonaventure Bonnies clock on the wall, it's even more evident that sports are the main focus of that writing.

It was MLB opening day, and it was easy to tell that that was the thing he was most looking forward to that day.

Reilly is easily one of, if not, the best expert on local sports in the Dunkirk-Fredonia area.

Reilly spent the first part of his career as a writer for the Dunkirk Observer where he covered local sports, both at the high school and collegiate level.

"When I was young, I was taught how to be a writer," said Reilly. "From reading, you gather the appreciation of the written word and how people can use words to give you an image in your mind."

Reilly went on to talk about how, like most sports fans, he would go to the paper after watching a game to read and find out more about what he saw.

"Growing up, that's just kind of how I was," said Reilly. "I enjoyed sporting events. I enjoyed the paper, [and] the feeling of the newspaper, having it arrive at your doorstep. Having to come up with that moment, the genesis of it all, I just can't, but I've always had that appreciation for the written word."

It's that purity of enjoyment and discovery that

brought Reilly to sports and sports writing, but in some cases, it seems like the purity of sport is dwindling.

"Professional sports [and] big-time college sports, it's business," said Reilly. "There's no denying it. When the UB coach can sign a five-year contract extension and then two weeks later go to Alabama to coach basketball ... good for him, but that's not really loyalty to me."

Reilly spoke more about the first time he saw a women's basketball game, and how genuine it was compared to professional and big-time college sports.

"I went to a girls game, the very first one I ever saw; it was the purity of the sport," said Reilly.

Reilly contrasted that purity with what he'd seen in men's sports and the kinds of attitudes and gestures that came with those games.

"You would see how the guys would posture. They would puff out their chests," said Reilly.

But this first girls basketball game was nothing like that.

"They just wanted to play basketball," said Reilly. "Maybe it was the last pure moment of sports I ever got to see."



Arthur Renteria/Special to The Leader

Falling for rock climbing at Fredonia

SARAH HUGHSTON

Social Media Manager

I walk into the Blue Devils Fitness Center and look up at the massively tall rock climbing wall that reaches the high ceilings of the gym. The area is chained off to prevent people from entering without permission, as it could be dangerous.

I walk over and greet Zachary Bills, the staff member currently in charge of the wall.

Since I have previously visited the wall this semester, I do not need to sign the required waiver in order to climb. The waiver states that if I am injured on this wall, I cannot sue SUNY Fredonia, and I am to be held liable.

The two-sided rock climbing wall with an auto-belay system was added along with the rest of the equipment in 2013 when the Blue Devils Fitness Center opened, according to the Blue Devils' website.

For anyone afraid of heights, this wall is terrifying.

They must first agree to sign the waiver and decide whether or not to wear a helmet.

As I put on my harness, there are three people asking Bills questions about the waivers they are signing.

I can hear the timid question of, "do I need to wear a helmet?" from one of them.

Bills answers frankly and states that she would probably be fine without one, they are just more of a precaution.

I begin to tighten my harness around my waist, making sure I will not fall from above. Bills begins to go through the process of informing the new climbers of the safety rules for the wall.

They must keep the tether that clips into the harness and connects them to the ceiling between their arms at all times. If they don't, falling would cause the rope to twist them around and they could hit their head on any of the many holds,

a different part of the wall, or possibly sustain another kind of injury.

Once harnessed, climbers walk over to where the tether is currently clipped into the floor and wait for Bills to attach them to the ceiling. After being clipped in, they can begin to climb.

Most beginning climbers start on the left side, which is generally considered the easier side. If they ask for help or advice on where to go, Bills simply states "up," and lets them figure it out for themselves. To this, the climber typically groans and attempts to get back up the wall.

The scariest part is coming down.

Once the climber makes it to the top of the wall and taps the auto-belay system, they must let go completely to get themselves back down to the ground. They cannot climb back down; they have to fall.

And when the climber is very high in the air, towering above the rest of the fitness center and the people using the machines, falling can be a little harder than expected.

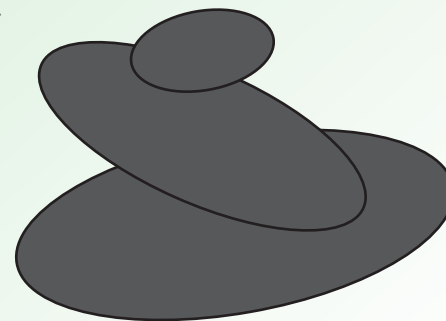
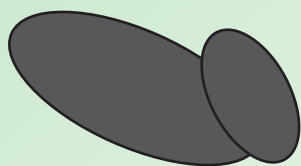
Climbers can dangle just below the ceiling and stare back down at the ground they are attempting to go back to, and they just have to trust the auto-belay system. It is difficult for my brain, at least, to comprehend that falling from a height that large will not hurt you.

Trusting machinery in today's age has become an easier task, with almost everything we use becoming some form of technology.

But of course, there's still people who find it harder to trust.

There are many people in today's society that believe these types of technology, along with robots and artificial intelligence, are going to corrupt or take over our culture.

For now, however, they just have to trust the (auto-belay) system.



Kristin Johnson/Design Editor

The historic '94 and '95 Fredonia hockey seasons

DANTE LASTING

Assistant Sports Editor

In the 1994 and 1995 seasons, the Fredonia men's hockey team made its greatest mark on the history of Fredonia sports.

These teams were, for the first time in school history, back-to-back SUNYAC Champions.

The memorable two-year run has the records to explain their success. These teams lost only six games out of 68 during the course of both seasons.

Much of the credit can be given to their head coach, Jeff Meredith, who pulled together a winning roster and won the American Hockey Coaches Association (AHCA) "Coach of The Year Award" after the 1994 season.

To date, Meredith has won that award three times and is well-deserving of it. The AHCA awarded him with the honor after he led his team to a 29-1-4 record.

That record was, at the time, the best in all of Division I, II and III levels of collegiate hockey. The 1994 team won their first SUNYAC Championship and appeared in the prestigious Frozen Four.

During the 1995 season, the hockey team had a final record of 25-5-4. They repeated their 1994 SUNYAC Championship win and played in the NCAA Division III National Championship Game.

The Blue Devils lost that game 1-0 to Middlebury College.

That men's hockey team still has a lot to be proud of, and they accomplished many things during those two seasons.

Between the 1994 and 1995 seasons, the team set nine school records that have yet to be broken.

Records Set Between 1994-1995 Seasons:

Most wins in a season: 29 wins
Longest unbeaten streak: 32 games
Longest home unbeaten streak: 37 games
Most goals scored in one game: 19 goals
Most shots on goal in one game: 82 shots
Most goals scored in one season: 244 goals
Fewest goals allowed in one season: 86 goals
Total amount of points in one season: 769 points
Goals saved in one season: 1091 saves



Graphic by Jessica Bennett/Staff Illustrator

Stephanie Wojnowski: What it takes to do it all

SANDRENE HAMILTON

Special to The Leader



Stephanie Wojnowski, one of the captains of the women's cross country team at SUNY Fredonia, was recently presented with the chancellor's award for excellence. Wojnowski said that receiving the award was a great way for her to end her academic career at Fredonia.

Wojnowski is a senior with a double major in communication disorders and sciences & French. She said that track is a lot of work and time.

"It's [between] 25 hours of my week, practice and being at a meet all Saturday," said Wojnowski.

Sometimes, it's hard for her to have a meet every weekend. She has to manage her time well and make sure that she gets all her work done during the week.

"Just making sure that I'm organized. I've always been busy, so, kind of having that schedule helps me keep my grades up and stay productive," Wojnowski said.

Hannah Kurbs, Wojnowski's teammate, is a senior who double majors in biology and psychology. When asked how she thinks Wojnowski balances school and track, Kurbs sees Wojnowski as calm and collected.

"She's always had a crazy load from like freshman year until now. She's so on top of it. She's so responsible," Kurbs said.

Ethan Francis, a senior video production and political justice double major, thinks Wojnowski is selfless and a great leader.

"You can pinpoint, like, 10 things she does a week that are for the better of other people rather than herself," said Francis.

Wojnowski has been running since the seventh grade and really liked the sport in high school. She thought that it would be fun to continue track and to be a little more competitive in college. She wanted to see how well she could do.

When Wojnowski was looking at colleges, she wanted to go where there was a good program for speech pathology. She also wanted to be able to run.

"I love getting to compete, being with my friends and having an outlet outside of school. I know we're here to take classes and eventually get a job, but it's nice to have that

other side of making connections and having leadership opportunities," said Wojnowski.

Emily Maguire is a senior music education major and Wojnowski's co-captain.

Maguire said that Wojnowski always gets along well with people and has a warm personality.

"She has a great relationship with the team as a whole. That isn't always easy to do as a captain, but she has a way of being a great leader as well as a great friend, which I think is a really special trait," said Maguire.

Kurbs said that Wojnowski always knows what to say, how to handle things, has a good head on her shoulders and is very well-tempered with decision-making. Kurbs said since the start of track, she and Wojnowski have been close.

"We've lived together for the past four years and our relationship has grown closer," Kurbs said.

Maguire noted that over the last four years, Wojnowski has never let school stresses affect her attitude at home or her performance on the track, and vice versa.

"It can be so hard to stay focused on one task at a time when you have so many things going on in your life, but Steph is always fully invested in the task at hand at any given moment, which is something I really admire about her," said Maguire.

Maguire would describe Wojnowski as independent, determined and faithful. She said that Wojnowski commits so much time and energy to the things that are important to her, such as school, running, her friends and family.

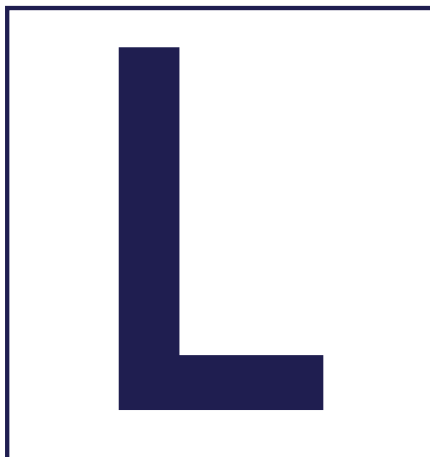
"Even when she was in France for an entire semester, Steph never missed a beat of what was going on back here in Fredonia, because it was important to her to still be involved in what was going on with her teammates," said Maguire.

Wojnowski's best memory at Fredonia was freshman year.

"I had a really good race and I placed fifth at SUNYACs. And I studied abroad for a semester in France. That was a really great experience," said Wojnowski.

Maguire knows that not everybody who runs competitively enjoys it, but Wojnowski has never doubted her love for the sport, and that's something Maguire admires.

"When it comes to balancing school and track, Steph does it just about as good as one can. She's obviously a stellar student, on top of being a team captain and a good athlete," said Maguire. "She's suffered a number of setbacks athletically, but she's never let these affect her to the point of getting in the way of her school work."



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Back to where it all started

KEVIN SIRACUSE

Special to The Leader

After spending the previous five years working at Jamestown Community College (JCC), SUNY Fredonia Assistant Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator Angela Pucciarelli is back in her hometown, working at one of the three colleges she graduated from.

Pucciarelli was born in Dunkirk, N.Y. and raised in Fredonia. She attended Northern Chautauqua Catholic School before graduating from Fredonia High School in 2005.

Pucciarelli graduated from JCC in 2007 with an associate's degree in business administration, and from SUNY Fredonia in 2009 with a bachelor's degree in business marketing.

She then graduated from Medaille College in 2013 with a master's degree in organizational leadership.

Pucciarelli became the assistant athletic director at JCC in September 2013, and was hired by Fredonia this past August.

Although she's just seven months into the job, she already has many responsibilities.

"It's mostly compliance — making sure all of our athletes are eligible to compete and making sure all of our coaches are following the proper guidelines to recruit and be ethical with the NCAA," Pucciarelli said. "I also have some facilities responsibilities, and we're trying to start the student-athlete leadership seminar."

Making the jump from working at a junior college to a Division III college is great, but it also presents many challenges.

"I've been trying to decode all of [former Assistant Athletic Director and Senior Woman Administrator Megan Valentine's] processes and the way she did things," Pucciarelli said.

"I don't want to say it's been a struggle, but it's been very time consuming."

However, with her personality, Pucciarelli has been able to make it a smooth transition.

"Angela is really kind person, she brings an enthusiasm that is infectious, [and] she's a hard worker," Fredonia Athletic Director Jerry Fisk said. "She's really jumped into things because of the time of her hire."

Fredonia Athletics Secretary Karen Tarnowski echoed Fisk's words.

"She's amazing," Tarnowski said. "She jumped right into things, fell right into place and picked up [right where Megan left off]."

Tarnowski said she is always in contact with Pucciarelli, as they frequently relay messages to one another in their Dods Hall office next to the fitness center.

"We help each other solve problems," Tarnowski said. "She fits in well with us."

Fredonia Athletics' other secretary, Tracy Wysong, chimed in from across the room.

"Yeah, she really does," Wysong said.

One of the key factors in hiring the former Jayhawk and Blue Devils basketball player was her personality.

"I had the luxury of having four female administrators, all with their master's and all of whom had good experience that applied," Fisk said. "I think Angela separated herself with her people skills."

In their short time together, Fisk and Pucciarelli have already accomplished a lot.

"Our student-athlete leadership seminar has really gotten off the ground, we've had some facility improvements [and] we had the windscreen [put up around the tennis courts]," Fisk said. "I think there's a lot of changing of not what we do, but how we do it since she's gotten here; she's very collaborative and she's very

easy for people to talk to."

Pucciarelli added to this.

"I'd say an accomplishment of mine is really diving in head-first, trying to get up to speed as quickly as possible," Pucciarelli said.

A big reason why Fisk, Pucciarelli and the rest of the athletic department have already been able to accomplish so much together is communication.

"I think right now we do a nice job of communicating because I don't want either of us to assume we know what the other is thinking just yet," Fisk said. "Once we're two years in [to working together], we'll each have learned to work with each other and what the best things are that we can pull from each other."

However, there are many things that both Pucciarelli and Fisk still want to accomplish.

"I really want to be present for our student-athletes. I want to know all their names and I want them to know who I am," Pucciarelli said. "And I really want our student-athlete leadership seminar to get off the ground and really take off."

Fisk explained what the athletics department is planning on doing as a whole.

"We're going to continue to impact facilities, and we're going to continue to impact our presence on campus," Fisk said. "The school is embracing the Blue Devil, and there's going to be more of that; ultimately, we want to build champions."

Pucciarelli loves working at one of her alma maters and is thrilled to be back in her hometown.

"I've always wanted to be here in town. My sisters are way younger than me, my whole family is here and I loved when I went to school here," Pucciarelli said. "It was always a dream of mine; I didn't know if it was ever going to be a possibility that I'd be able to come back here and work."

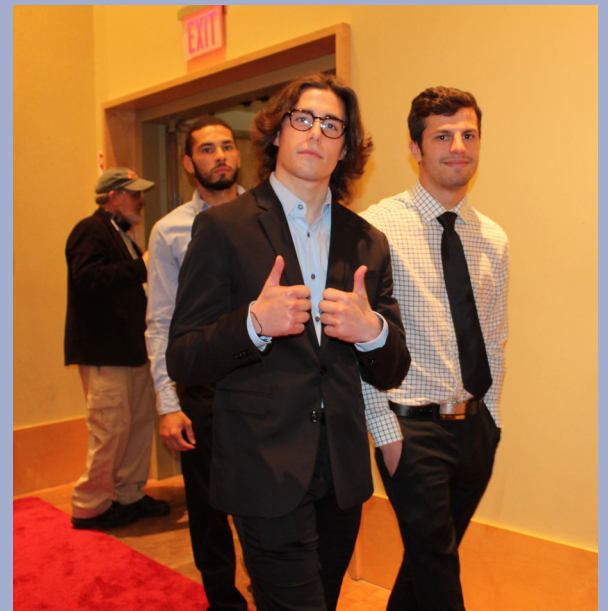
Photo Gallery: A night at the FREDDYS



Photo courtesy of Ron Szot



Photos courtesy of Megan Moellendorf





THE SCALLION

'Screw it, let's take a three month break' newly-elected editor in chief of The Leader says as first official action

JOSEPH MARCINIAK

Editor of The Scallion

In the final e-board meeting, newly-elected editor in chief, Elyse Grieco, announced that every writer is too lazy to continue writing. Thus, The Leader will be taking a three-month break.

This came as a shock to many.

"Three whole months without the news being provided to students in the summer? This has NEVER been done before," said Wilhelm Johnson, a news writer for The Leader.

According to reports from those within the e-board, Grieco threw a calendar containing June, July and August only in the air, and shot a hole through it with a revolver she randomly had on her. Police are looking into where this gun came from.

Unfortunately, because I'm writing this during exam week, I'm too busy to actually check if The Leader has ever taken this kind of break before. If anybody feels like researching it for me, feel free to get a pen and cross out any applicable things above. Or add an interview to the end; that would be cool.

According to rumors, Advisor to The Leader

and Journalism Professor Elmer Ploetz has been marching around the office angrily after hearing the news, unsure of what he'll do during the time of the weekly content meetings.

Some students welcome the change, such as Dom Magistro, assistant editor of the Scallion.

"I was running a little dry on ideas for the Scallion anyways. All I could think of was trying to find an article that could fit the word 'Boboverse' into it," he said. "Still drawing blanks as to how I'll fit that in somewhere."

Sorry Dom, had to be somewhere.

Other writers, like Staff Scallywag Sophia Moore, was ready to continue writing throughout the summer.

"I had my 50 page epic I was planning on publishing in the paper over three months. It's titled 'The struggle of the Staff Scallywag', and details the intense conflict forced upon me by this position," she said.

After careful thought and consideration, all I can say is thank God we're taking a break.

The odd couple

SOPHIA MOORE

Staff Scallywag

Devin Mathers was really excited.

On Thursday morning, he woke up to an email notifying him that he had been matched with a roommate, Kyle Bach. Mathers subsequently scoured the internet for information on his future roommate.

“The first thing that really caught my eye was this link that was basically plastered all over his Facebook and Twitter,” he told the Scallion.

Mathers let us know that he was “familiar with the application” as he uses it to “find rare Vivaldi compositions.”

The link led him to the SoundCloud page of Lil SqueeXZ, Kyle Bach’s stage name. Each song had around 60 listens, and his bio read: “beats by me, hmu for booking on my snap, serious inquiries only, yungmess entertainment.”

Mathers decided to put his personal tastes aside and listen to every song, a daunting task as our Scallion writer deemed the music as “incoherent, repetitive and the beats seem to all be remixed themes of various 1950’s racist and anti-semitic sitcoms.”

Mathers came back from his quest, refreshed, stating “Once I got past how bad it was, I noticed

the good parts. He has a lot of interesting views on PETA and they were all super present in his music, like almost all he talked about.” He referenced songs like ‘They Support Kill Shelters (look it up)’ and ‘Objectification =/= Activism.’

When asked about his new roommate, Bach simply said, “Who?” to which we informed him of Mathers and his examination of his music.

Lil SqueeXZ replied, “Okay I mean I guess I’ll see him on move-in day. At least now I know I can play my music as loud as I want. I’ve received complaints before.”

Our writer that listened to his music did not doubt that as fact.

Mathers gushed about the possibilities they could have in their search for new music. He looks forward to exposing the rapper to the “intricacies of classical” and wants to take him on a “sonic experience through time and space.”

He hopes that he can even join in on Lil SqueeXZ’s artistic process saying, “He already likes that 50s sound maybe he’ll be open to a shift from jazz to classical once he experiences it,” to which Bach replied “Yeah, no, that’s not going to happen.”

The two are excited see where the unlikely friendship will leave them in August. Well, at least Mathers is.

The Scallion needs your help

DOM MAGISTRO

Assistant Scallion Editor

After only one semester of being The Scallion editor, Joseph Marciniak has decided to step down from his position because it has been “increasingly time consuming.”

Marciniak cites the lack of writers at The Scallion, among other things, as the reason for his untimely departure.

“Look, Dom, this is getting out of hand. Sophia is doing something else, which leaves you and me as the only writers. As the editor, it’s my job to come up with ideas and pick up the slack when there are no other writers. We need four articles each week, so that means I have to write three of them,” Marciniak said.

Not only is the editor responsible for coming up with ideas for articles, he also has to write and edit articles submitted by other writers.

Writing for The Scallion allows you to make up quotes that people didn’t actually say, subtweet your friends in a print format instead of on social media and tell jokes to the rest of campus, all 13 people who read The Leader. It is a rewarding way to learn AP style, work on your comedy writing or just feel like Trevor Noah from “The Daily Show.”

Marciniak has been seen pacing his cubicle at The Scallion saying: “I can’t take it! There’s too much to do, not enough to write about, half the articles are just me begging for people to write, and the other half are all food-puns! I can’t do this anymore! I quit!”

Joseph was promptly talked out of quitting, but only if more writers start here at The Scallion.

If you want to write for The Scallion next year, email Joseph Marciniak at marc6g3o@fredonia.edu.

COMICS

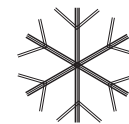
Blue Jays on Campus



Emily Kupp/Staff Illustrator



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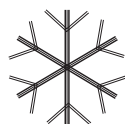


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JANUARY 2020

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Questions?

Contact club president, Chelsea robi4297@fredonia.edu
or advisor Marjorie Plaister@fredonia.edu

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Club name: MW FRED

Passwork: FREDONIA

HOROSCOPES

ARIES

Start a clown club next semester. Be the president of said clown club.

TAURUS

Keep up your self-care this summer. Find your inner creek.

GEMINI

You can't keep ending your email's with a Travis Scott lyric.

CANCER

The "oof" is strong in this one.

LEO

Hey, at least the semester is over. But you still have the next one, and the next one, and the next one...

VIRGO

Take the summer to align those chakras so you can pass those classes.

LIBRA

Stop trying to make 'passing' happen, Gretchen. It's never gonna happen.

SCORPIO

You don't actually have a scorpion tail. Stop backing up into people and acting like you're pinching them. We can't take you anywhere anymore.

SAGITTARIUS

No one wants to watch your YouTube Channel.

CAPRICORN

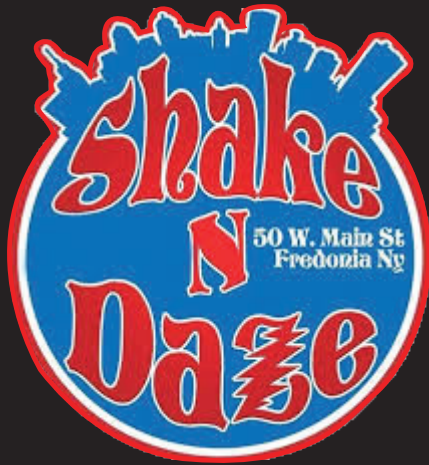
You are exactly like your usual Starbucks order. Overcomplicated, gross and lacking in substance.

AQUARIUS

You spoiled "Avengers: Endgame," didn't you?

PISCES

Full disclosure: Aquarius didn't spoil "Avengers: Endgame." Capricorn did.



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