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THE LEADER

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S2o6 Williams Center

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Fredonia, NY 14063

Instagram @leaderfredonia

leader@fredonia.edu

Facebook LeaderFredonia

www.fredonialeader.org

Editor in Chief

Elyse Grieco

Creative Director

Natalie Opp

Managing Editor

Avril King

Asst. Creative Director

Vacant

News Editor

Aidan Pollard

Photo Editor

Vacant

Asst. News Editor

Vacant

Asst. Photo Editor

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Life & Arts Editor

Eriketa Cost

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Vacant

Asst. Life & Arts Editor

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Sports Editor

Dante Lasting

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Vacant

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NEWS

Culturefest brings together students of all backgrounds



Photo from Culturefest. | Maddie Little

MADDIE LITTLE

Special to The Leader

On Monday, Nov. 18, the Intercultural Center (IC) at Fredonia hosted their annual Culturefest in the Williams Center, MPR.

This is the fifth year this event has been put on. However, it wasn't always called Culturefest or designed for all cultures.

Culturefest was first known as "Holiday Hotspot" in 2013.

Kim Miller, Administrative Assistant for the IC said, "Holiday Hotspot" was put on to showcase holidays that aren't really celebrated around this time of year, such as Hanukkah and Three Kings Day."

The name of the event was changed to Culturefest in 2014 by the Native American Student Union. They began to host this event celebrate their own culture.

In 2015, more groups were added to the IC and the Culturefest turned into an event hosted by the IC to express each group's culture.

So they began hanging flags around

the MPR each year to represent multiple countries.

Many were happy to see the African Student Union back in effect and participating in this year's Culturefest. The group is happy about the positive turn-out this semester.

Students say this year was the most diverse, and the number of people that attended was much larger than last year.

Nia Morse, a sophomore, said, "It was an energy-packed, activity-based event, and I was happy to be the host of it along with Deoniss Jackson."

Every intercultural group was required to conduct activities all night. These activities included vision boards, photo booths and a unique game of "Heads Up."

There were performances by two dance teams: Envied Xpression and EnFusion Dance. Fredonia's step team, Blue Ice and one of Fredonia's singing groups, Divine Sound, performed as well.

The Intercultural Center believes you can't put on a cultural event without food. Students were able to get

continued on pg. 5

On the Cover:

Snowmen outside of UC | Dante Lasting/Sports Editor



Presidential seal. | Elyse Grieco

Open forums to be held for presidential search

AIDAN POLLARD

News Editor

As SUNY Fredonia prepares the confidential search for a new university president, they've hired the presidential search firm Storbeck/Pimentel.

In November, the firm successfully aided in searches at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Penn State Brandywine and the University of the Pacific.

A piece of the firm's involvement will be the hosting of open forums for faculty, students and the greater campus community. The first of these forums will be held Thursday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 6 at 10 a.m. Both forums will be held in the Williams Center's 204 A, B and C rooms and are scheduled to last 45 minutes apiece.

The forums will be conducted by the search firm's lead consultants, Steve Leo and Tom Fitch.

"... the forums are somewhat structured while still allowing for free-flowing comments from attendees," said Fitch in an email.

He went on to list categories the firm typically asks for comments on during searches, including why someone would be attracted to Fredonia and want to be its new president, what challenges the campus community sees in the position and which attributes and qualities the campus community would like to see in a candidate.

"There will be a position profile that will be created and approved by the search committee that will include the desired attributes of the candidates," said Fitch. "We would expect that to be released before the holiday break, or if not then, early in January."

In addition to Storbeck/Pimentel being hired to conduct the search, Seth Meyer, whose term as Student Association President ends after this semester, confirmed in an email to The Leader that he's stepped down as student representative for the university's internal search committee following his choice not to run for president again in the recent SA elections.



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Intercultural Center hosts annual Culturefest continued ...

ethnic garbage plates as long as they had a ticket.

Senior Staff Associate Executive Director Khristian King said, "The best thing about Culturefest was seeing all the groups support each other."

This year's Culturefest was a great turnout. Students and staff showed lots of support for their favorite groups and enjoyed the performances.



Students enjoy activities. | Maddie Little

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

Saturday, November 16, 2019

A suspect was found in possession of marijuana. An arrest was completed

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

A subject gained access to a victim's computer. The investigation was closed.

Saturday, November 23, 2019

A bicycle was stolen from the Williams Center. The property was returned to its owner.

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Items were stolen from a Grissom Hall dorm room. An investigation is ongoing.

Sunday, December 1, 2019

10 p.m. - Zachary S. Hochhauser, Mark E. Marrelli, Bradley E. Beemer and Jacob Richard Andrews were found in possession of marijuana. All four were arrested.

FREDONIA

Wednesday, November 20, 2019

10:15 a.m. - Dianalie Rivera was charged violating the barking dog ordinance and animal abuse.

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

Arthur E. Babcock was issued an appearance ticket. The charge was not listed.

Wednesday, November 27, 2019

10 a.m. - Ross M. Patchin was charged with petit larceny.

Sunday, December 1, 2019

3:40 a.m. - Zachary T. Buckley was charged with violating the sewer ordinance. An appearance ticket was issued.

Life & Arts

VAP presents Rainy Lehrman: The woman behind 'Stockpiles' sculptures

JESSICA MEDITZ

Asst. Life & Arts Editor

If you've ever wondered about the meanings behind those pink sculptures between Maytum and Mason Halls, look no further.

The abstruse shapes you pass on your way to class, called "Stockpiles," are the works of artist and educator, Rainy Lehrman.

With the help of Fredonia's sculpture project, In Sight/On Site, they were installed earlier in 2019.

The Visiting Artists Program invites Lehrman to return to Fredonia to discuss the creative process and message behind her work in-depth.

The lecture is free, open to the public and will take place on Dec. 5 at 8:30 p.m. in McEwen Hall, Room 209.

There have been various interpretations of the sculptures among students of Fredonia, including junior B.F.A. sculpture major and president of the Art Forum, Max Lee.

"I personally couldn't tell you the message, mainly because in talking to Rainy, she was pretty ambiguous," he said. "I think she does that on purpose, so people can pull what they want from it. I know one message regarding the materials is the idea that nothing is wasted. But the pink color can represent flesh, feminism or just simply a pop of color to our campus. Many people have also taken the shapes as blobs, meat in a market or other things. I really think they're up for interpretation."

Lee was one of the students who worked closely to help Lehrman install "Stockpiles" inside of Fredonia's campus.

He said that he, along with the rest of the VAP executive board, found the installation experience to be both insightful and a bonding experience.

Aside from Lee's interpretation of the art along with the disclosure that the group poked fun at what each pile resembled, Lehrman said that her "Stockpiles" actually have specific meanings and themes beneath their surface.

"Stockpiles" are an ongoing series of Lehrman's, alluding to three main themes present in her art: observation, accumulation and excavation.

"In general, this 'Stockpiles' piece is a commentary on overconsumption," she said. "To stockpile is a natural human instinct. Putting away for harder times, hoarding grain, salt and gold to sustain and control the masses."

She said they were purposely made to feel a bit grotesque and that something is "supposed to feel off about them."

Lehrman self-identifies as a process-based artist as the end results of her work are not always the main focus.

Formatting "Stockpiles" to be more permanent and suitable for outdoor weather conditions was a challenge for her, since her work is typically designed to change over time.

She expects the pieces to deteriorate periodically due to Fredonia's frigid winters and humid summers.

"I'm curious to see them," she said. "They should expand and contract naturally throughout the season, as well as [be] affected by moisture and cold temperatures."

Each sculpture is eight to 10 layers and the balloon-like outer coating is made of industrial spandex. They are completely stuffed with sawdust and painted several shades of pink with exterior house paint.

Lehrman is not only excited to see how the "Stockpiles" have taken to the brisk conditions thus far. She's also thrilled to be the second woman artist that In Sight/On Sight has recruited, as the majority of Fredonia's sculptures have all been made by men.

As for her lecture, she's looking forward to showing students specifically how she went about creating and recreating "Stockpiles."

In fact, Lehrman said she had to start over about six or seven times before achieving the result she wanted.

"Usually the piece itself is all students get to see," said Lehrman. "But to actually be able to show them how much trial and error it took to get to the point where I was working in a specific way; it shows how many times you have to try as an artist."

In addition to creating more original artwork, her latest project being a piece titled "Water Bellies," Lehrman is a professor of art at three universities in New York and New Jersey.

She said her artistic talents came naturally for her considering her hometown: a small artist commune in Oregon.

"Coming from a place with no electricity or running water is a completely different experience than living in Brooklyn, where I am now."

Rainy Lehrman's humble roots and recent Brooklynesque lifestyle contrast one another in the best way — shaping her open mind to create delightfully obscure artwork.

One of two "Stockpiles" on campus. | Barbara Racker

'The Wolves' kicks into gear this weekend in Bartlett Theater

BRENTON NEWCOMB

Staff Writer

Opening on Thursday, Dec. 5, Fredonia's Department of Theater and Dance is putting on "The Wolves" in Bartlett Theatre inside of Rockefeller Arts Center.

"The Wolves" is an all-female cast play that centers around a girls soccer team and their pre-game warm-ups every week.

It is a contemporary play written in 2016 by Sarah DeLappe.

The play is not only a comedic one with the conversations the girls have, but also a very moving one with depth and serious themes.

This makes the play applicable to a wide audience — especially for anyone who has ever played on a sports team and understands how close teammates become, how they support each other and how they sometimes get after each other.

When talking about the themes and conversations in the play, Dr. Jessica Hillman-McCord, the director of the production, said, "They're talking about genocides and immigration, and also their periods ... often at the same time."

The play takes teenage girl clichés and turns them upside down. One second, the players are talking seamlessly about drama, the next they're talking about deep, worldly issues.

Hillman also said that this makes it so that "Their voices are given weight and respect." This is important and unique because according to her, "It's easy to dismiss 16-year old girls as a type."

Think of the movie "Mean Girls."

This dialogue and conversation make up a huge part of the play, which deals with big ideas as well as everyday things, and these conversations go from one to the other effortlessly.

Overlapping dialogue truly makes this play one of a kind.

Hillman said that the playbook is written in a way she has never seen before; the pages often have two or three columns with different conversations going on.

At first, this seems unnatural and slightly overwhelming. In reality, this is how everyday conversations go on; there is always overlapping talk from people cutting each other off or going on tangents.

This overlapping dialogue is a lot to take in, but is easily understandable and works the same way an orchestra does when playing a score; the different players are the different instruments, making the play a moving piece of work.

Interestingly enough, there aren't any character names in "The Wolves" — just the players' jersey numbers. This was a conscious decision made by the playwright.

Hillman elaborated on this and said the playwright did this "In order to make you figure out who they are through more than just their identities."

This makes for a slow reveal on each character as you get to know their personality.



The cast of 'The Wolves' poses on the field. | Dante Lasting

The work on the Fredonia production began as early as the spring; the designers and cast were assigned the first week of the semester.

Immediately, the cast began their soccer practice as some of them had no prior experience with the sport.

This proved to be one of the most challenging aspects of the play, turning the cast into convincing soccer athletes who have played the sport growing up.

The cast even had a soccer game in front of a large audience toward the end of their practices.

What makes the play truly spectacular is its creation of a space that allows for safe and healthy communication, encouraging women to bond together regardless of if they are in the plotline or not.

"The Wolves" is an open and accessible conversation on what it means to be on a team and being a teenage girl that is witty, dramatic and powerful.

Opening night is Thursday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Additional showings include Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 7 and 8 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets for the event are \$12 for students and \$25 for the general public.



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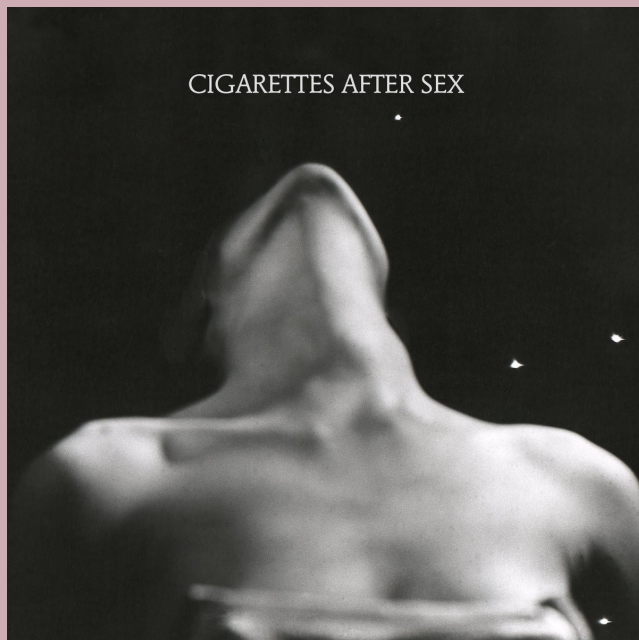
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Hannah and Matt on music: The EP issue

**HANNAH LUTEREK
AND MATT TURNER**

Specials to The Leader



Hannah's Choice: "I." by Cigarettes After Sex

Matt's Take: As a newcomer to Cigarettes After Sex, "I." was quite the experience to say the least.

While the EP was off to a great start with the slow but effective "Nothing's Gonna Hurt You Baby," I knew after that song that I would appreciate the band's sound more than I would actually like it.

Like my primary problem with Hannah's previous choice, "Being No One, Going Nowhere" by STRFKR, the vocals on "I." are way too floaty for me to fully immerse myself. I can tolerate floaty vocals with artists, especially Thom Yorke of Radiohead, but that is because it is typically used as a primer to bring listeners in before laying down the heavy stuff. It might just be my personal taste, but when musicians keep this seemingly unenthusiased tone without any type of lift, I feel somewhat cheated.

This is nothing to say about the actual quality of the EP, as it is perfectly serviceable for people into this style of music, and it will no doubt be worth a listen to them. I will state my respect for the atmosphere that the EP gives as it pulled me in enough to wait for a lift. Unfortunately, this lift never came, so I left feeling underwhelmed.

Three Standout Tracks: "Nothing's Gonna Hurt You Baby," "I'm A Firefighter," and "Dreaming of You."

Score: 5.5/10

Hannah's Take: Before getting into the heart and soul of this

EP, I will be the first to admit that Cigarettes After Sex is a band I could take or leave.

Most of their discography is annoyingly similar.

With that being said, they do know exactly how to get a person feeling some type of way, "I." is no exception. The 18-minute EP features lead singer and guitarist Greg Gonzalez evoking feelings of love, desire and pure emotion through each song. This is definitely not revolutionary for the group, as some of their more popular tracks like "Apocalypse" and "K." have the exact same appeal and influence on the hearts of listeners.

What "I." does successfully is give listeners the experience of a budding relationship in the short amount of time it takes to listen. "Nothing's Gonna Hurt You Baby" calls to mind the unsure, nervous feeling you get when you're on the verge of exclusivity with someone new. Fear mixes with excitement, and then straight up love throughout the remainder of the EP.

Yes, I'm annoyed with the lack of risk and difference in "I.," but I am so lucky to have listened to such an intimate, emotion-inducing group of songs.

Three Standout Tracks: "Nothing's Gonna Hurt You Baby," "I'm A Firefighter," and "Dreaming of You."

Score: 7.8/10



Matt's Choice: "Zerwee" by Billy Cobb

Matt's Take: As any Weezer fan knows, it really sucks being a Weezer fan.

Defending the band through the best and the worst is quite a strenuous activity. One minute they release one of their best albums in decades with "White Album," the next minute they're debuting their "Black Album" on a private island in the videogame

“Fortnite.”

While they are branching out, it is hard to still love the band following their dip after “White Album.” It seems that no one understands this struggle more than the Youtuber Billy Cobb who produced the EP “Zerwee” because he was sick of waiting for a good Weezer album.

If any fans have felt burned by the bland “Pacific Daydream,” the insulting “Teal Album,” or the underachieving “Black Album,” “Zerwee” is for you. The songs harken back to the days of “Blue Album” and “Pinkerton” with Cobb’s vocals practically mirroring that of Weezer’s frontman Rivers Cuomo.

I dare any Weezer fan that has not listened to “Zerwee” yet to listen to the track “She Doesn’t Love Me” and say that it doesn’t sound like a lost “Pinkerton” B-side.

I definitely have a lot of bias being a huge Weezer enthusiast, for better or for worse, but I can confidently state that “Zerwee” is an EP that is right up my alley, and I’m sure any alt-rock fan/Weezer fan/sad-boy will dig it to no end as well.

Three Standout Tracks: “The Shell Shack,” “She Doesn’t Love Me,” and “Dumb Song for Virgins to Cry to.”

Score: 9.4/10

Hannah’s Take: Unlike Matt, I am not much of a Weezer fan, so it was fun to dive into “Zerwee” without much awareness of what I should even be listening for.


Off the bat, Cobb managed to give me the pop punk vibes that have been absent from my life, maybe since middle school. “She Doesn’t Love Me” is very reminiscent of teenage days spent longing for the ex you dated for a few months. This feeling of teenage angst/sadness/bullshit is ever-present within the EP, and I honestly enjoyed it.

I found the nostalgia to be slightly forced in “1955,” but “Dumb Song for Virgins to Cry to” really hit the nail on the head when it comes to feeling like an outcast teen without a clue. I’m not well-versed in this subgenre of alternative music, so it’s difficult for me to be overly critical, but I can say for certain that this is not something I would normally find myself listening to.

“Zerwee” didn’t really leave much of a lasting impact on me, but I do appreciate the backstory Matt provided. It’s admirable to create something good for yourself instead of sitting around and waiting for someone else to do it for you. Bonus points for the EP cover, which I have seen turned into a meme maybe once or twice.

Three Standout Tracks: “The Shell Shack,” “She Doesn’t Love Me” and “Dumb Song for Virgins to Cry to.”

Score: 6.8/10



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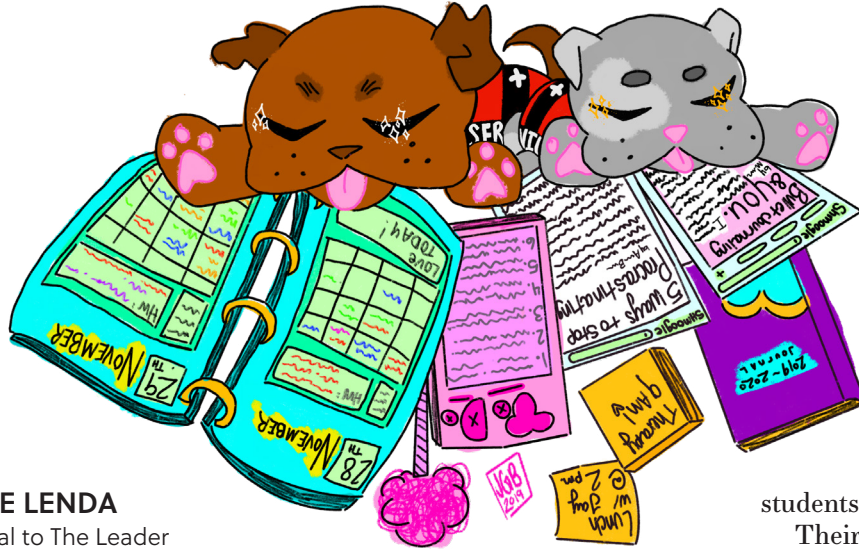
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Katie's end-of-semester tips and tricks: Paws to Relax, yoga classes and more



Graphic | Jesseca Bennett/Asst. Art Director

KATIE LENDA

Special to The Leader

Deadlines are approaching, stress levels are high and the semester is coming to a close.

Here is your reminder that it is crucial to work hard, but to not overwork yourself.

Try your best to stay motivated and destress with these five tips and tricks to end your semester feeling great.

One of the perks we have as students is our accessibility to the aerobic and wellness centers on campus.

Every day during the week, the aerobic center offers multiple classes.

My personal favorite class to destress is yoga, offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 p.m.

Senior journalism major Eriketa Cost teaches the Tuesday class.

“Yoga is a grounding practice which clears your head and allows you to focus all your attention on gentle, sometimes more aggressive body movements and exercise,” said Cost. “Through deep breathing and stretching, you are practicing a grounding technique that clears your head and leaves you feeling refreshed and peaceful.”

Meditation seems like an intimidating idea if you’ve never really tried it.

However, there are so many resources to provide you with a much simpler experience.

For instance, the free app Headspace is an amazing tool for guided meditation.

The app really focuses in on your breathing and how that can directly influence your stress.

If you just take even five minutes of your day to put in some headphones and open your Headspace app, it can significantly help your stress levels.

Every semester, the Counseling Center in LoGrasso Hall offers

students the chance to destress through some animal therapy.

Their program, “Paws to Relax” allows students to pet and interact with certified therapy dogs as a means to reduce stress.

The event is in Reed Library, so you can take a quick study break and walk over to see the cuteness.

If you are feeling unmotivated and stuck in a rut when it comes to schoolwork and studying, it may be because you need a change of scenery.

Work can become boring, and you can feel uninspired to be productive if you are cooped up in one place for too long. It can also be fun to explore new places around campus and in town.

If you typically do your work at your house or dorm, maybe try going to the library or to Starbucks.

If you have the luxury of being able to go off campus, try going to different cafés such as Upper Crust or Om Nohm.

If you go to Om Nohm, I highly recommend the parmesan bagel.

My final tip to being productive and decreasing stress is to simply take time for yourself.

Sometimes we work so hard and have so much going on that we neglect ourselves.

When I have a huge workload, I often get so stressed about it that I can’t do anything else besides work.

However, I’ve found that this mentality just results in poorly completed work.

When I take a break for self care, I feel so much more refreshed and ready to accomplish my assignments.

Take a break at the end of the night and do something for yourself. Read a book, do a facemask, watch Netflix, listen to music or whatever you need to do to temporarily take your mind off the stress of finals.

Always remember to take a break from your hard work, and hopefully these tips leave you feeling productive and accomplished.

VERBATIM

"What's your favorite holiday tradition?"



Keegan Herriman, sophomore graphic design major

"Driving around with my family and looking at the lights."



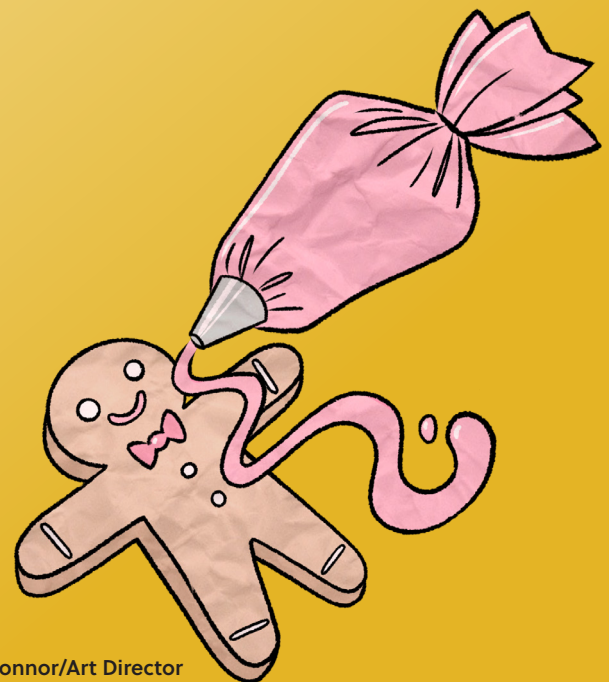
Desi VanDyke, sophomore dance major

"Participating in [a] family gift exchange."



Brittney Cranmer, sophomore adolescence Spanish education major

"My brother and I always get new matching pajamas on Christmas Eve."



OPINION

From the desk of Avril King, Managing Editor

It always seems like the same old story.

An athlete who is in perfect condition and has probably never suffered any sort of injury before jumps, turns or steps wrong, hears a pop in their knee and then hits the ground.

Within a few minutes, a trainer will run onto the field/court/arena and (usually) determine that the athlete has torn his or her anterior cruciate ligament, better known as ACL.

It takes one second to tear a 32 millimeter ligament in your knee, but it takes almost a year to come back from the injury.

This was my story only a little over a year ago.

I suffered my own personal tragedy on Sept. 18, 2018 during a fairly average tennis practice.

Before this, I had never been injured. It just took one poor landing at the net to put me out of sports for the next year.

I was on crutches for about two weeks, and it took several doctors visits, an MRI and three full weeks for us determine that my ACL was in fact fully torn.

So, what's the point in all of this?

Well, ACL injuries are extremely common, especially in women. Around 100,000 to 200,000 people tear their ACL every year in the United States.

And yet, there are still a ton of misconceptions around what this actually means.

I am no medical professional, but I did live through the experience. I think there are a few things that can be cleared up surrounding this topic.

Misconception #1: Focusing on quad strengthening will ultimately prevent me from tearing my ACL.

I wish it were that simple.

Tearing your ACL typically has more to do with your body structure and poor mechanics. A lot of ACL injuries occur simply because an athlete made an awkward step, causing their knee to turn in just the right way to make the tear.

For me, it was just a matter of jumping up and not sticking the landing. My knee turned in and then gave way, simple as that.

Can quad strengthening help your prospects of preventing an ACL tear? Maybe. But beware of avoiding any sort of cross training, because that will definitely put you at a higher risk.

Misconception #2: Only athletes tear their ACLs.

While ACL tears do tend to be highly common in athletes (it is considered one of the most common sports-related injuries), no one is immune.

I know an older man who tore his ACL simply from tripping in a hole in the ground.

All it takes is a simple misstep.



King being lifted by her teammates. | Avril King

Misconception #3: Surgery is the only option for recovery after an ACL tear.

This is a big one.

If a young athlete experiences an ACL tear, they will most likely be encouraged to get surgery as soon as they can.

That was what I did.

Some people, however, are able to walk off such an injury without ever needing a beat to recover.

My surgeon's PA is an example of someone who tore his ACL while playing sports, got up, walked it off and never had a problem again.

It's rare, but it happens.

Really, it all comes down to what's best for that particular person. If they are active and want to continue being active without having to worry about any further injuries, surgery is usually the best option.

Misconception #4: ACL recovery takes a long time.

This isn't a misconception, so much as a negative mindset.

It was one of my major reasons for not wanting to get surgery when I initially found out I had torn my ACL. My surgery was scheduled for the end of December, and if it took the full nine months to get back into sports (which my surgeon had told me it might), I would still have had to sit out the first month of my senior year of tennis.

As it happens, my recovery took slightly less than eight months, and I was able to come back at full force (I sprained my ankle during my first match back on the court, but that's a story for another time).

It's really based on the person (have you noticed a theme emerging here?). If you push yourself in physical therapy and do exactly what your surgeon tells you, it's not unheard of for people to return to sports in six months, maybe even less.

It may be a pain to think about committing yourself to so much extra work just to get one of your body parts working again, but, looking back, I wouldn't have changed my recovery process.

If anything, it really made me value the moments I had playing tennis. It can be so easy to take for granted when you have two working knees.

A letter from the Editorial Board

Recently, there have been a lot of questions regarding one of The Leader's advertisements.

The University at Buffalo ad first appeared in Issue 11 and has been printed in subsequent issues, including this one.

While the Editorial Board wishes the representative at UB had phrased the ad differently, The Leader is a student-run organization that has always strived to operate like a business. This means that we reserve the right to accept or deny the ads that we choose.

Given the current state of advertising and the newspaper industry, we only turn down ads for extremely good reasons (advertisements containing illegal substances, for example).

Further, it seems necessary to clarify that The Leader is not a part of the Marketing and Communications department. While this office's main focus is to attract prospective students and engage the current campus community, The Leader's is to objectively inform our peers. We are by no means obligated to promote Fredonia as the best and only option for education in the SUNY system. UB is another school within SUNY and a valid option for students pursuing higher education.

The bottom line is that UB paid for a spot in the newspaper. The Leader operates in a free market, which, as defined by the American economist Murray N. Rothbard, is when "Each exchange is undertaken as a voluntary agreement between two people or between groups of people represented by agents."

The keyword here being voluntary, denying The Leader the right to pick and choose which clients they can and cannot accept advertisements from is essentially censorship. Journalists have a long history battling gatekeepers of this nature. It is an accepted part of our career path, fundamentally ingrained in our DNA.

The advertisement was by no means intended to offend or degrade Fredonia. It was a business transaction that was decided upon by The Leader staff.

And if Fredonia ever has any interest in placing an ad in the school newspaper, we would be happy to oblige.

SPORTS

Coaches Corner: Astrid Escobar on swimming and her journey to Fredonia

CAROLYN MULLARKEY

Staff Writer

It was a cold and early morning in the Steele Natatorium the Friday before Thanksgiving Break, and there was definitely no one more excited to be at their job more than Coach Astrid Escobar.

This is Escobar's first year coaching at Fredonia for both the men's and women's swim teams.

Sitting down in an interview with her, the energy was nothing short of engaging, positive and with a tangible passion for what she does, coaching for sure, but swimming especially.

"If the NCAA just said today you could have four more years of extended eligibility, I would just quit and do that again. I just love swimming so much and I want kids to have a passion and love for it. Sometimes it's hard because

I miss it so much," Escobar said when first asked about the drastic transition from being a swimmer to becoming a coach.

Something about Escobar that stood out is her love for NCAA Division III athletics.

She is extremely qualified with experiences all surrounding DIII schools.

How exactly did Fredonia get so lucky to have someone of her passion and caliber to be head coach this season?

Having gone to college to study biochemistry and not really initially intending to go into coaching, it was an interesting story of events of how she ended up where she is.

She's been coaching for five years now and describes how she started as "serendipitous" and refers to herself as a "beneficiary of good timing."

From being a star swimmer at her own Division III school in Tennessee, after graduation, she wasn't ready to say goodbye to the competitive world of swimming and NCAA athletics.

She went on to be an assistant coach at Hamilton College for two seasons, then to interim assistant coach at the

University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse for one season.

Both of those schools are in Division III for NCAA.

After that, she was ready to head her own swim team and department, and that is what led her to Fredonia.

"I really believe in Division III. They are full of solid groups of athletes that buy into the program."

Getting to know the athletes has been a pleasure for Escobar so far with adjusting to the culture of Fredonia and the Athletics Department.

Escobar said, "If you asked any of my swimmers they would say what Astrid cares about most? Culture."

It is her top priority with team building, and that is the key to success and drive among her swimmers to keep them for four years.

When asked about something to look forward to this season, Escobar did not hesitate to say Feb. 8 is Fredonia's home meet.

This will be the time of honoring seniors graduating come May 2020.

The meet is additionally special to Escobar because Fredonia will be hosting Cortland, and they are some of her former swimmers/colleagues in past years.

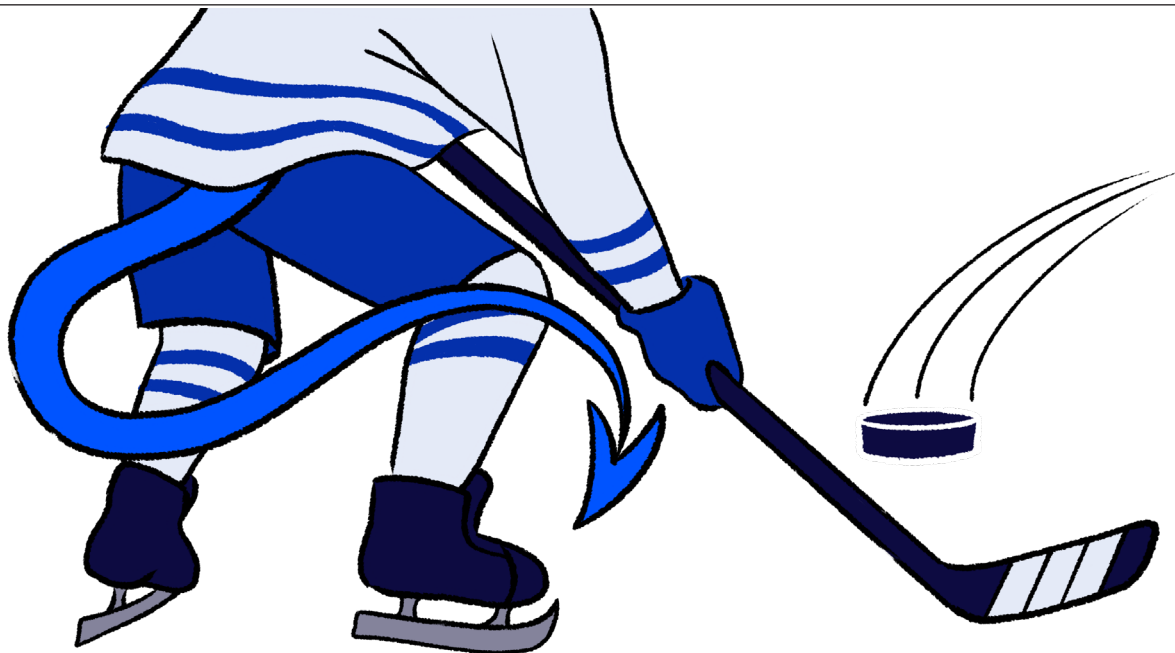
It will be the only home meet, so Escobar hopes Fredonia will fill up the stands and give the swim team the recognition they deserve for all of the hard work they've been putting in this year.

Although this season is halfway over, SUNYACs aren't completely off the table.

Their next meet is this Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6-7 at SUNY Cortland.

For all updated stats and scores, check out <https://fredoniabluedevils.com/index.aspx>.





Graphic | Olivia Connor/Art Director

Fredonia sports update

ANTHONY GETTINO

Special to The Leader

Not much went on this past week, as most students went home for Thanksgiving break.

There was one team on campus that competed over that time, and boy did they show up.

The Blue Devils hockey team competed in the Castleton Tournament in Rutland, V.A. Nov. 29 - 30 and came away with two ties and a tournament title. The first game came Friday night against the 15th ranked team in the country in Curry. The score heading into overtime was 0-0, and Fredonia won in a 1-0 shootout on junior Jasper Korican-Barclay's score.

The next day ended in similar terms, with the Blue Devils tied with Nazareth at the end of regulation 5-5 before a rebound goal by Victor Tracy gave the team the win.

This upcoming weekend, the hockey team faces off against Cortland on Friday night and Oswego on Saturday, and both games are at home in Steele Hall Ice Arena.

Other teams competing this upcoming weekend include the men's and women's swimming and diving teams, both of which are heading to the Cortland Snowflurries Invitational. This is a two day meet, with the first day starting at 5 p.m. and the second day at 10 a.m.

Another team that is coming off of break to games this weekend is the women's basketball team. Their first two games back will be on the road, as they first travel to Nazareth College for a Tuesday game before facing off against Buffalo State on Friday, Dec. 6 in what could be the first winter points of for Fredonia in the Battle by the Lake.

The other team that has a chance to score the first points in the Battle by the Lake for Fredonia this winter is the men's basketball team. These Blue Devils only have one game, and it is on the road on Saturday, Dec. 7 against Buffalo State.

The last two teams who are going to be competing this first weekend back from the break are the men's and women's track and field teams. They will both travel to Rochester for the Brockport Invitational.

A Thanksgiving to remember

DANTE LASTING

Sports Editor

For Bills fans, Thanksgiving night felt more like Christmas. The Buffalo Bills beat the Dallas Cowboys 26-15 on Turkey Day. This was the ninth time the Bills have played on this holiday and their first win since 1975.

Before the game, the national media counted the Bills and picked the Cowboys to win the game. All those people were proven wrong, because the Bills played possibly their best game of the season so far.

On the biggest stage of the decade, the Buffalo Bills silenced all the doubters by shutting down the Cowboys' number one ranked offense. Dallas scored on their first drive of the game and then in garbage time when the game was pretty much locked up. The Bills defense kept the Cowboys offense out of the end zone on eight out of the 10 drives that the team had. The Bills defense ended the night with three forced fumbles, four sacks and an interception. The number-three-ranked played like it on Thursday and was a big reason for the win.

This game was the most-watched Thanksgiving game in 27 years with an average viewership of 32.5 million viewers. The Buffalo Bills offense put on quite a show for all those people. Josh Allen played a tough and smart game of football. Cole Beasley had his best game as a Bill, catching six passes for 110 yards and a touchdown. This meant so much to him because it was a revenge game against his former team who he had been with for the first seven years of his career. He has a great opportunity to make this his best season of his career.

More history was made on the offensive side of the ball. John Brown became the first Buffalo Bills wide receiver to throw for a touchdown. The beautiful trick play went 28 yards, and Brown threw a perfect pass to rookie running back Devin Singletary.

The performance on Thursday should provide a boost in confidence for the team as they have the toughest stretch of games yet to come. The Bills have taken care of business,

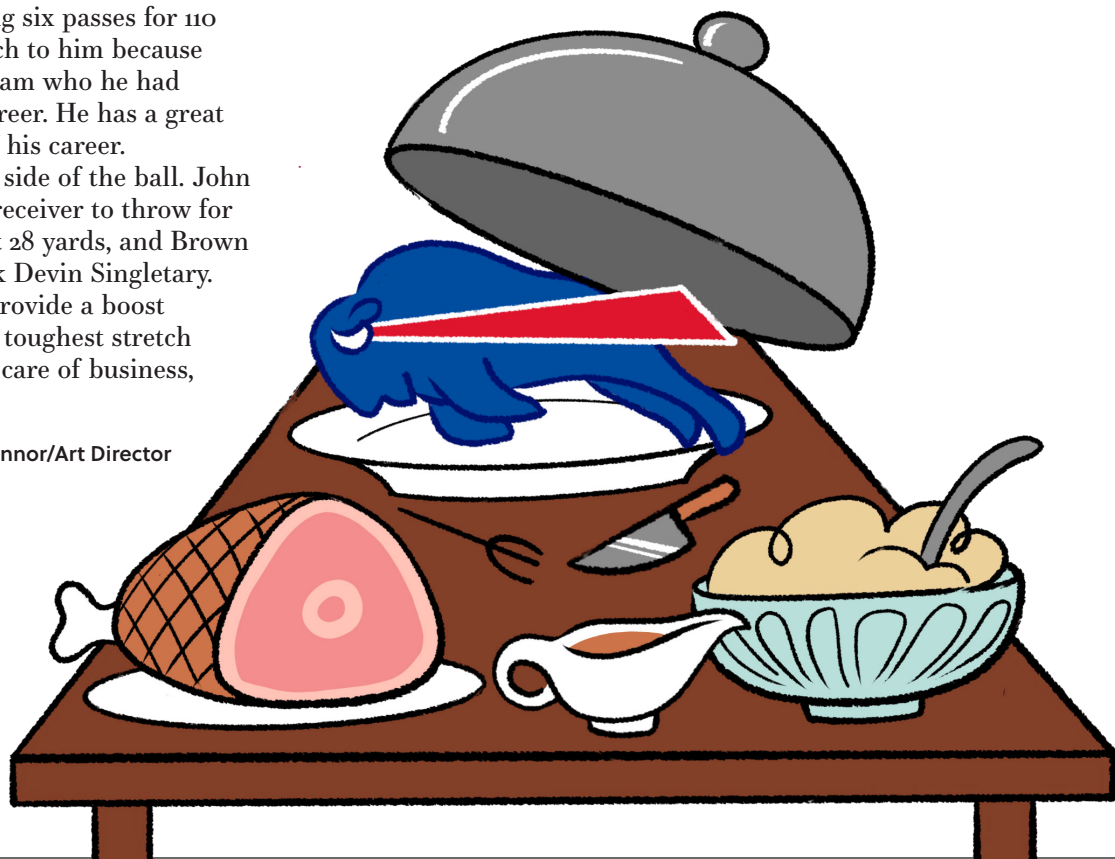
finishing 3-1 in their first three-quarters of the season. They now stand at 9-3 for the first time since 1996.

The next four games are at home vs. Baltimore, away at Pittsburgh, away at New England and home vs. the New York Jets. On Sunday night, the NFL announced that they moved the game versus the Steelers from a 1 p.m. time slot to Sunday night football on NBC. This will be the first time the Bills will play on SNF since 2007. The Bills will have back-to-back primetime games as the next week they play the Patriots on a special Saturday night game on NFL Network.

The game on Sunday against the Ravens will be a huge matchup and the toughest test for the Buffalo Bills. The Ravens are riding an eight-game win streak, with over half of the wins coming against teams with a winning record. The Bills defense will have their hands full with trying to contain and stop MVP candidate Lamar Jackson. For Bills fans, it is crazy that this late in the season the division is still up for grabs, but with the Patriots losing on Sunday they still have a chance. If the Buffalo Bills want any chance of winning the division for the first time since 1995, they need to beat the Baltimore Ravens at home on Sunday.

The Bills will play the Ravens at New Era Field on Sunday, Dec. 8 at 1 p.m. on CBS.

Graphic | Olivia Connor/Art Director





THE SCALLION

Fredonia responds to UB transfer ad by putting own ads in UB newspaper

JOSEPH MARCINIAK

Editor of the Scallion

After seeing a controversial new ad out in The Leader newspaper, the Fredonia faculty board decided to retaliate in a story for the ages.

The ad was a simple yet striking one, saying “You should be here. Transfer today.” In fact, you can flip to the other page now to look at it if you’d like.

However, the faculty was not happy with this.

“They should not be using this language to coerce our students to transfer,” Dr. Franklin, professor of analytics said. “We may be doing nothing to combat the fact that UB is a generally superior school in every way, but that doesn’t mean we can’t fight back.”

In a sweeping vote, the faculty voted to put an ad in the Spectrum newspaper, UB’s student newspaper, to combat this.

According to the Spectrum, the ad reads “Hey assholes, come to Fredonia. We may not be better than UB at much, but at least we have a great dining hall in the basement of the Williams Center, a plethora of parking spaces and prompt snow removal services.”

Ouch, right where it hurts.

As a Fredonia student myself, I am glad the faculty is focused on this issue, rather than something that’s not important, like the crumbling debt or massive program cuts.



Graphic | Griffin McPherson

Idiot Scallywag forgets to write article over break

MATTHEW BAUM

Previously-mentioned Idiot Scallywag

It is currently 10:04 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 1 in Manlius, New York, and a college kid is desperately typing on his mom's computer, his face in a grimace, as the smell of Pillsbury crescent rolls wafts in from the kitchen. His concentration is at war with his desire for breakfast, but he knows he must focus on his task at hand.

This college kid is me. I am currently writing an article.

This article.

See, for those who aren't directly involved with the Scallion, my week usually follows this path: I meet with the other Scallywags on Monday, we plan our articles and sing praises to our benevolent leader, Joe Marciniak.

His muscles are really big and he's a funny guy, so he could be cast as a really buff doctor or lawyer in a TV series.

Then, I have all week to procrastinate getting my article written, because they are due on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Then, my email is bombarded by notifications that editors are doing their job and making my article presentable, and I once again share my

thanks for the merciful Joe to the world, because it is he who still allows me to continue writing for the Scallion, even when my works are not flawless, like his.

The thing is, there was Thanksgiving break.

At home, where I am now, I volunteer at a small business on Saturdays, and last Saturday was Small Business Saturday. I was at the All Things Oz Museum in Chittenango from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. giving tours to people who wanted to learn more about L. Frank Baum, the author of the original Oz books, written from 1899 to 1919.

Those who were paying attention would note that, hey, you were busy when the article was due, but you haven't mentioned how busy you were every day before then! You probably were swamped with other responsibilities that took your focus away from writing!

To that I say, no. I really didn't. I would even go so far as to say that you who were thinking such things weren't paying attention to the part where I said I procrastinate. It's a thing, alright? I'm not proud of it, but it's who I am.

And Joe Marciniak, God's gift to SUNY Fredonia and my personal master, cares for me, despite this flaw.

What's that, Fredonia?

"What do YOU think about Thanksgiving?"

ALEXANDRA WALSH

Guest Scallywag

**Josh Brown,
sophomore math major**

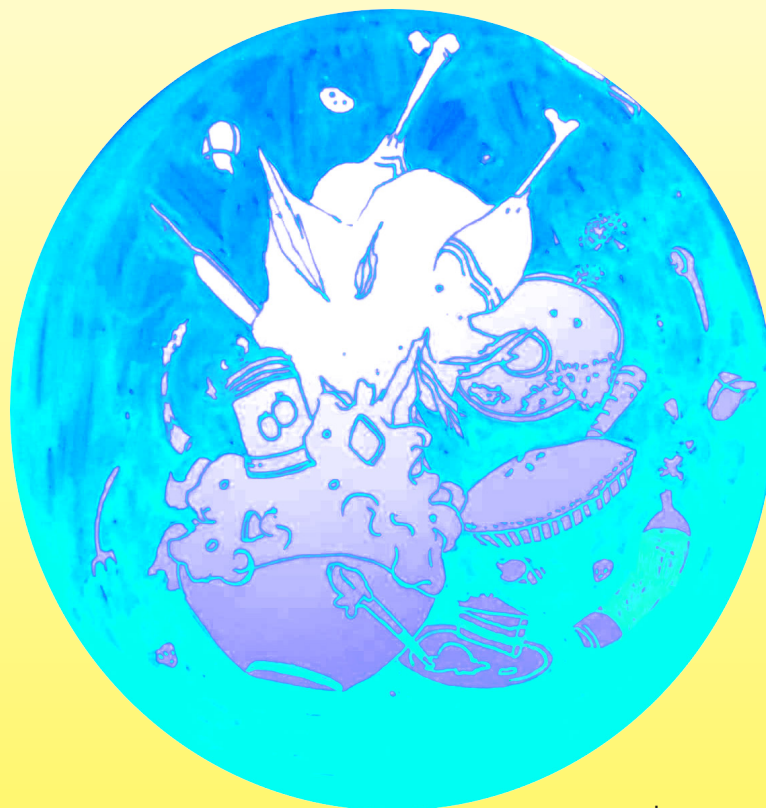
"Thanksgiving is chill. There's cranberry sauce, potatoes and football!"

**Taylor Run,
senior exercise science major**

"Thanksgiving should be about football and food, but no. My girlfriend's family does the turkey trot. Needless to say, Thanksgiving with her family is no more for me."

**Jeffrey Eve,
freshman social work major**

"Honestly, the best part about Thanksgiving is the night before."



Graphic | Khris Dunn