

7.17.2025 — Orientation Issue — Volume CXXIX



THE **FREDONIA LEADER**

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper



**Welcome to Fredonia,
Class of 2029!!**

Everything you need to know about driving on campus
Celebs on campus: 10 icons who have visited Fredonia
Emma Cockerel: Trading Cleats for a Whistle
[OPINION] Suites vs. Corridors: which one is better?
[SATIRE] PLEASE write for the Scallion

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Front and back cover: Photos by **MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief

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"Watch more sunsets than Netflix." - unknown

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Fredonia switches from Google to Microsoft

MATT VOLZ
Editor in Chief

The online experience for Fredonia students and faculty will look a bit different this year.

After several years of utilizing Google Workspace, the school has made the switch to Microsoft Office.

On Wednesday, May 28, all emails and files were automatically switched over to Microsoft.

Michel Kouadio, Fredonia's chief information officer (CIO), explained that the university's financial issues contributed to the decision.

"Unfortunately, because of our financial challenges, we found ourselves in a position where it became more and more difficult to be able to catch up with new technology or even replace computers in the classroom," he said.

Information Technology Services (ITS) found that the school had over 1,000 computers that were nearly a decade old, and Kouadio said that the bill to replace all of them would total nearly \$1 million.

That price tag, combined with an existing multi-million-dollar deficit that the school currently faces, meant that something needed to change.

As ITS took stock of the university's technology, they found that several platforms overlapped with each other, and the school was paying for multiple services that performed the same functions.

For example, Fredonia was paying for Zoom, but Google offered its equivalent of Google Meet, and the school's existing Microsoft license provided access to its videoconferencing program, Microsoft Teams.

"All in all, the Microsoft system provided a more comprehensive platform for enterprise infrastructure," Kouadio said.

Kouadio also said that many universities and organizations use Microsoft for various reasons, including the fact that Microsoft Office was originally designed for enterprises.

When the switch officially took place on May 28, all files in Google Drive were transported to Microsoft's OneDrive.

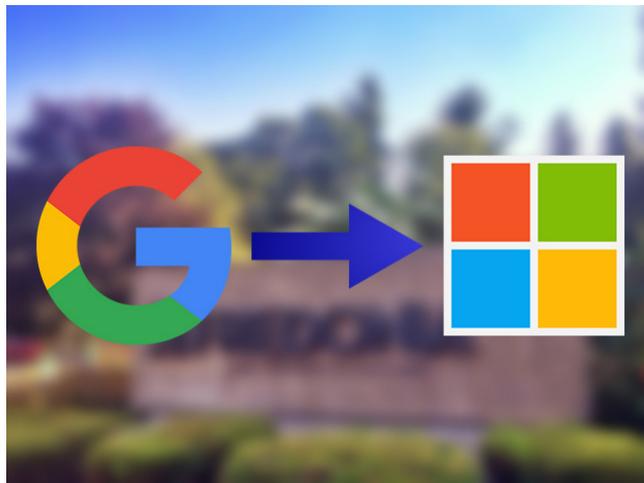
Fredonia enlisted the help of Fortsyte, a partner of Microsoft, to handle the transition of all data.

Kouadio said that there would be no data loss in the process. He mentioned that if a file was not able to be automatically switched over, ITS would be notified and they would copy the file to Microsoft manually.

Now, when students log in with their eServices account, they will automatically be directed to OneDrive instead of Google Drive, as well as Outlook instead of Gmail.

In OneDrive, students will notice a folder labeled "Mig25," short for "Migration 2025."

Inside the folder, all files from Google Drive will be available as Microsoft documents.



Graphic by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

As a result, anything created as a Google Doc will now be a Word document, Google Slides will now be PowerPoints and Google Sheets will now be Excel spreadsheets, just to name a few.

Like Google Drive files, any Microsoft files can be accessed through the online versions of each Microsoft program, so students do not need to download any additional software.

In fact, ITS recommended using the browser version of Microsoft platforms rather than the desktop apps, as some users reported issues with access to files in the desktop versions.

While Microsoft will now be the platform for students and faculty to use, Google hasn't completely gone away yet.

Kouadio said that students will still be able to access Google Drive through at least January 5, 2026.

Gmail is an exception, though. Students are no longer able to send or receive emails through their school Gmail accounts.

But if a student would prefer to keep using Google Drive instead of OneDrive for the fall semester, they can.

However, anything created on Google Drive after May 28 will need to be manually copied over to OneDrive by the student, as the migration only copied over files that were in that time.

Student reactions to the switchover have been mixed. Some have voiced their frustration, while others have expressed that it's not much of an issue.

Several students have posted their thoughts on YikYak, an anonymous social media platform.

"I wish they didn't switch to Microsoft, bro, like can we just have one consistent thing," one student posted.

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"I'm sorry but I hate Outlook/Microsoft. I was so glad I didn't have to use it once I graduated high school," another student said. "Now we're using it again? I am not switching if I don't have to. F--- OneDrive and f--- Outlook Calendar."

Another post disagreed with the previous two opinions. This student wrote, "I think you guys are being a little dramatic about the Microsoft switchover, [I'm not going to lie]. Yeah, it's not ideal but Outlook really isn't that difficult to navigate, and Microsoft Word and PowerPoint are hardly any different than Google Docs and Slides."

Kouadio acknowledged that some may not be thrilled about the migration, but he expressed confidence that the shift will be beneficial to all. "I know when you make a change of this magnitude, there are always people who may have some concern," he said. "However, this is a very, very important project for us, and [it is] something that will bring a lot of value and enhance the user experience."

Moving forward, Kouadio said the university is thinking of using Microsoft to create an intranet, which is an internal website that only Fredonia students and faculty can access.

He said the intranet would be a new communication tool for the campus, and it would function in a manner similar to how social media works.

"You can find different communities on campus and engage with them," he said. "You can participate in discussion, so this way, you have a sense of belonging."

The intranet may also be used to help incoming students connect with one another and answer any questions that may arise.

Outside of communication, the intranet would also be used to keep students organized, as links and files would be accessible all in one place.

Any students who have additional questions or need help in relation to the switch can contact ITS at help@fredonia.edu.

ITS also has a searchable database of frequently asked questions, and those can be found at <https://fredonia.sharepoint.com/sites/MicrosoftTransition>.

BLUE DEVIL GAMING PRESENTS:
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Everything you need to know about driving on campus

MATT VOLZ
Editor in Chief

Driving can be a hassle on campus, especially for new students who may not yet be familiar with the area.

Nobody wants to begin their college career with a ticket.

Some schools do not allow freshmen to have vehicles on campus, but Fredonia does.

However, it's important to know the rules and regulations before coming to school in the fall.

Vehicle Registration

All students who have a car on campus must register their vehicle with University Police, which can be done online.

Registration is free of charge, but it must be done as soon as possible to avoid receiving a ticket.

An email will be sent to all students in July with the updated link to register.

After filling out the form, students can expect to have their parking sticker mailed to them at their home address.

The sticker must be placed in one of two spots, either on the driver's side rear window or on the driver's side of the back bumper.

If students do not register by mid-August, they will need to pick stickers up in person, according to University Police Chief Gordon Carpenter.

"We're going to make ourselves available during move-in weekend and the week after to sit down in the lobby of Gregory Hall," he said. "If [students] don't [register] or they forget to [register], we'll have an opportunity for them to show up to the table and pick it up after they've registered online."

At the beginning of the semester, all vehicles must be registered within one week of the first day of classes.

Sometimes, students may also need to have other cars on campus for whatever reason.

In this case, students must contact University Police as soon as possible to notify them of the car's information and how long they will have it on campus to avoid being ticketed.

Also, anyone who brings a new vehicle onto campus during the semester must register within 48 hours.



A parking sticker from 2024-2025.
Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Parking

Parking can sometimes be tricky at Fredonia, especially once the semester gets rolling and lots fill up with student and faculty cars each morning.

During the day, most parking lots are open to all students. However, be sure to take note of whether or not there is a time limit on those spots.

For example, spots along Old Main Drive in front of University Commons are only 30-minute parking spots, so don't stay there too long or you might wind up with a ticket.

There are also certain places designated as loading or unloading zones, and it's often the case that cars may only be parked there for 15 minutes at a time.

Some parking lots also have reserved spots, either for specific people or visiting tour groups.

Even if there is nobody in the spot and you need somewhere to park, don't risk it. They're reserved for a reason, and University Police could ticket you for being unlawfully parked.

You'll especially want to be careful of spots that are designated as tow-away zones. If you're parked for too long in one of these spots, you might return to find that your car has been towed regardless of whether you've been ticketed before or not.

At night, be sure to park in a lot that allows for overnight parking.

Lots 9A, 9B and 9C along Ring Road are always open for parking at any time, and many students living in the dorms choose to leave their cars there overnight.

Lot 9D, the closest lot to University Village, is also open to all students if it isn't full. But be mindful of students who live in the townhouses, as they have the primary privilege of parking in this lot.

Lot 26 near Igoe Hall and Hendrix Hall is also open for all students to park overnight, and this may be the best option for students living in the suites.

"[Lot 26] used to be just for Igoe and Hendrix, but now everybody's parking there and we're not enforcing it," said Lieutenant Brian Studley.

Lot 27 near the turf field and Steele Hall is also an overnight option, but this lot is primarily used by athletes who park there while their teams are out of town. Near the corridors, Lot 19A has one section of overnight parking for all students, but the rest of the lot is for University Commons residents to leave their cars overnight.

Tickets and Penalties

If any vehicle-related violations occur, students may receive a ticket from University Police.

Tickets come with a fine of \$25 for the driver's first offense and \$10 for each subsequent offense.

Payment of all tickets goes through Student Accounts, and fines can be paid online, in person or by mail.

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To pay online, students can go to <https://ww2.fredonia.edu/parking> and sign in with their eServices login information.

If you receive a ticket, you can appeal the penalty within seven days by going to <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/university-police/appeal>.

Outside of ticketing, University Police may take further action against subsequent violations.

Anyone who receives five tickets within an academic year will be placed on the tow list, meaning the driver's vehicle will automatically be towed upon receiving any more tickets.

If a driver receives 10 or more tickets within one academic year, University Police reserves the right to revoke their parking privileges altogether.

This policy applies regardless of whether the tickets were paid in full or not.

Contacting University Police

University Police has a specific parking unit, complete with their own window on the second floor of Gregory Hall.

Students can come to the parking window in person or contact parking@fredonia.edu with any questions or concerns.

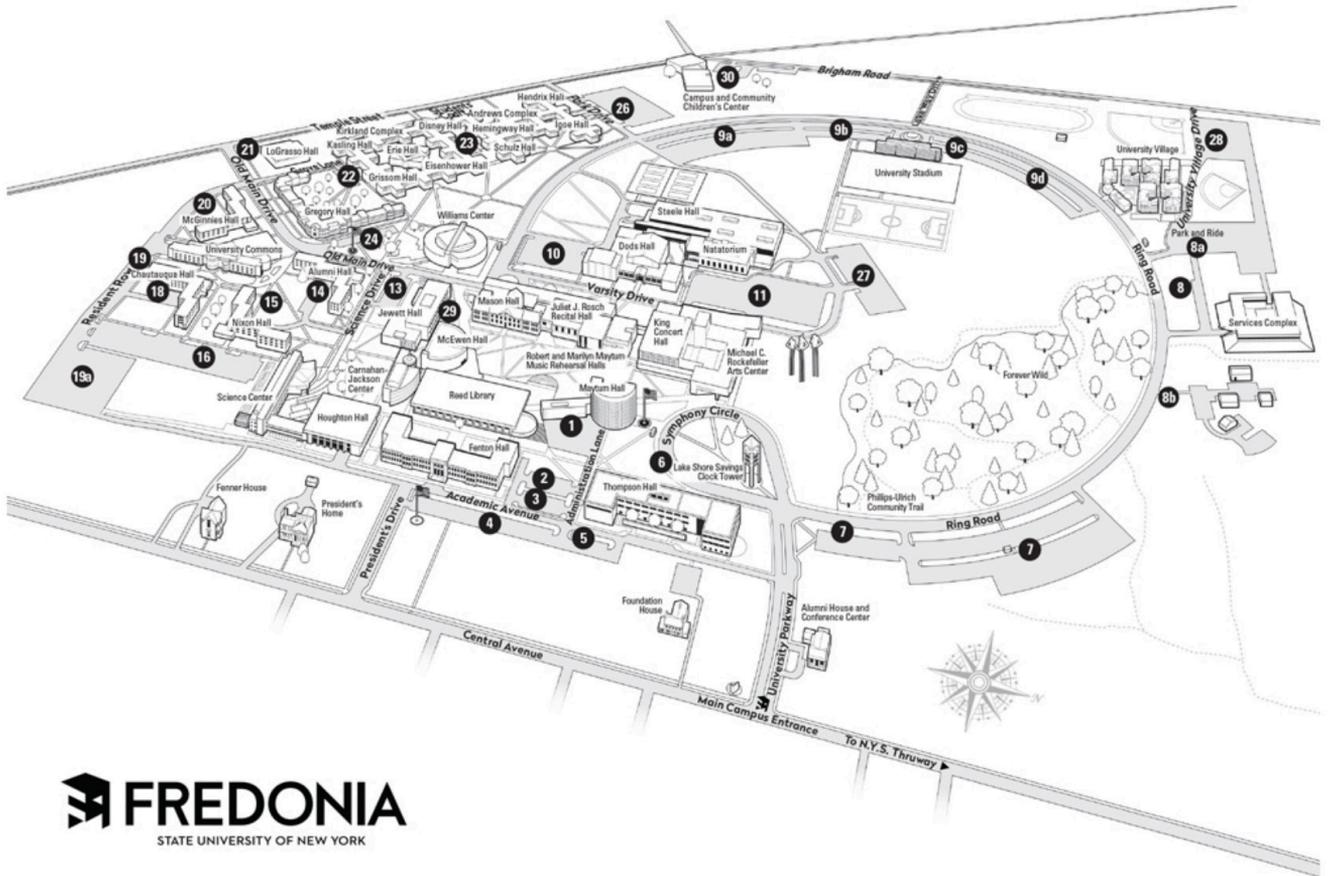
The parking unit also has its own phone number, and they can be contacted at 716-673-2222.

More information will be made available to students via email later in the summer.

If any questions or emergencies arise, students can contact University Police by phone at 716-673-3333 or by email at upd@fredonia.edu.

The department's barracks can be found on the second floor of Gregory Hall.

The complete list of Fredonia's parking regulations is available online at <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/university-police/parking-regulations>.



A map of all SUNY Fredonia parking lots. **Graphic via fredonia.edu.**

Meal plans: The inside scoop

SAMANTHA ZOTARA

Special to The Leader

Cranston Marché, Willy C's, Starbucks, Peet's Cafe and the C-Store.

These are students' options when it comes to dining on campus.

Most (especially underclassmen) attendees here at Fredonia use their meal plans and points to pay for food while on campus.

Meal plans are available to all students no matter if they live on or off campus.

So what exactly is in each meal plan, and what are points?

Points are a form of currency included in your meal plan to supplement your meals for the week. These points could be used for snacks, drinks or any small necessities from the C-Store.

There are many different meal plan options. The first meal plan option costs \$3,695 per semester, and it includes 21 meals per week, 300 points and five feed-a-friend options per semester.

The second includes 19 meals per week, 425 points and five feed-a-friend options for \$3,515 per semester. The third one includes 14 meals per week and 425 points with five feed-a-friend options per semester costing \$3,375.

The fourth entails a little less with 10 meals a week, 425 points and five feed-a-friend options per semester totaling \$3,230.

If you are looking for more points and less meals, the fifth option may be for you. This plan consists of seven meals a week with 700 points and five feed-a-friend options for \$3,200 per semester.



University Commons, which houses Cranston Marché and Starbucks.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief



Starbucks, located in University Commons.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

The sixth option comes in with a whopping 2,825 points and five feed-a-friend options at \$3,325 per semester.

The final option, meal plan number seven, includes seven meals a week with 400 points and five feed-a-friend options a semester costing \$2,950.

All on campus residents must pick one of the seven meal plan options. First year students or first year transfer students must pick either meal plan one or two.

Seniors, commuters or residents of Disney or Eisenhower kitchen suites are not required to choose one. Meal plan seven is exclusively offered to juniors and seniors.

Before you register for your meal plan, make sure to reflect on your lifestyle and choose which one will benefit you the most during your time at Fredonia State.

For more information on meal plans and points, check out the Fredonia website.

Ready to register? Make sure to login into MyFSA with your eServices information to complete the registration process for your semester.

Life & Arts

Lily Dale: A haven of spiritualism, suffrage and history

TATUM ERICKSON
Special to The Leader

Are you bored? Maybe looking for something new, something maybe a little... strange.

Look no further than Lily Dale, N.Y.

This small town is a bit different from your regular, run of the mill gated community — it's full of mediums (yes, people who speak to the dead), reiki healers, spiritualists and more.

If you're feeling tired, visit Sacred Grounds and grab some delicious coffee, tea or a sweet treat before the adventure begins!

Just a few steps into the forest, you'll find the pet cemetery, filled with loved animals' tombstones that tell a story about their past lives.

One of the community's favorite and most well-known animals, Topsy, was a horse who lived in the 1890s.

She worked hard during the winters hauling ice off the lake, but one day, she fell ill.

Topsy was the first pet in the cemetery, and many other grieving pet parents buried their beloved animals there.



A photo of Topsy at her gravesite in Lily Dale, N.Y.
Photo by TATUM ERICKSON | Special to The Leader



A plaque describing Topsy's life at her gravesite in Lily Dale, N.Y.
Photo by TATUM ERICKSON | Special to The Leader

Another Lily Dale quirk is the Inspiration Stump. Residents believe that this stump holds strong spiritual power.

In the 1800s and much of the 1900s, mediums would stand on the stump and give readings to crowds.

Now the stump is cemented over, and no one is permitted to stand upon it.

But two times a day during the season, mediums gather around the stump to give readings to the crowd.

If you end up visiting, you may be lucky enough to get a message from the dead.

Take a stroll down East Street, and you'll pass the playground and find yourself at the museum.

Stopping in, an older man will greet you: Ron Nagy.

Nagy knows almost everything there is to know about Lily Dale's past, from the women's suffrage movement, Hollywood stars' visits, town-wide fires, great mediums or healers of the past and more.

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Should you get the pleasure of speaking to him, you won't be disappointed.

Another interesting fact about East Street is that you'll find the remains of the Fox Sisters house.

These women began the spiritualism movement and the diversification of religion in New York State way back in the early 1800s.

Their childhood house was moved to Lily Dale back in the 1950s, but it burned down shortly after that.

Beside the remains of the cottage is a small path called the fairy trail, another small hike that Lily Dale has to offer.



A plaque at the site of the former Fox Sisters House in Lily Dale, N.Y. Photo by TATUM ERICKSON | Special to The Leader

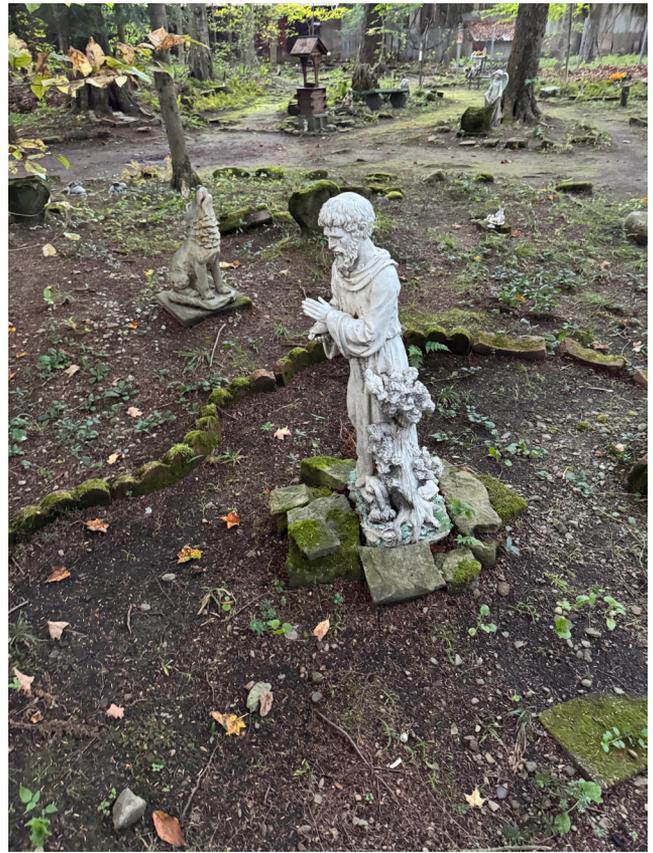
These are some of the most popular landmarks in this small town, but there's so many other interesting spots to check out.

The people in this town are some of the best folks you'll meet, not to mention all of the cool shops littered about.

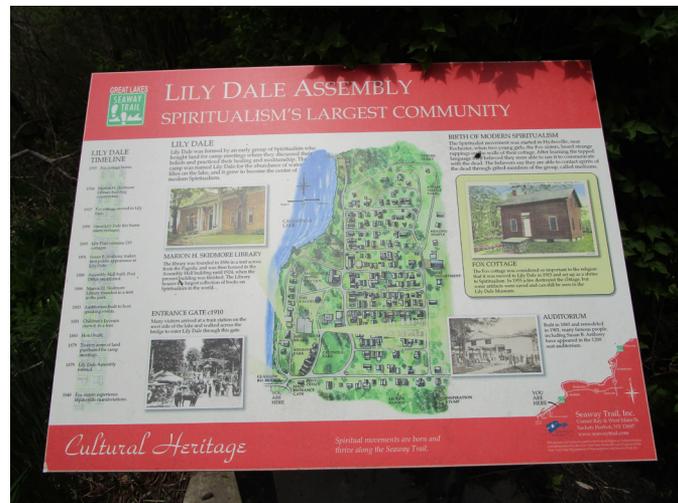
You can purchase crystals, tarot cards, incense, books, antiques, clothing and so much more.

Gate passes are \$15 from June 24 until Sept. 4, Outside of that, entry to this town is free.

So plan a trip; it's only a 15-minute drive south of Fredonia. Lily Dale should definitely be on the to-do list this year.



A statue in the pet cemetery in Lily Dale, N.Y. Photo by TATUM ERICKSON | Special to The Leader



A historical marker in Lily Dale, N.Y. Photo via Historical Marker Database.

Celebs on campus: 10 icons who have visited Fredonia

MATT VOLZ
Editor in Chief

Despite being a small school in a rural area, Fredonia has hosted some pretty notable guests.

In years past, the school has been visited by Hall of Fame athletes, iconic bands, entertainment personalities and more.

While this is far from a list of all those worth mentioning, here are 10 recognizable people or groups who have been here before.

Charles Barkley

We'll start with the one who pretty much broke social media around Fredonia at the end of last fall.

On Friday, Dec. 6 and Saturday, Dec. 7, the Blue Devils hockey team hosted its annual Alumni Weekend.



Barkley with Sports Editor Mitchell Horucy, Friday, Dec. 6, 2024.

Photo by **MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief



Barkley with Editor in Chief Matt Volz, Friday, Dec. 6, 2024.

Photo by **MITCHELL HORUCY** | Sports Editor

Many of the program's all-time greats were in attendance, including several members of the 1994 and 1995 Blue Devils teams who reached the national semifinal and national championship, respectively.

One such alum was Craig Conley, a two-time All-American forward who holds numerous school records.

Through his firm, Niner Sports and Entertainment, Conley met Barkley, an NBA Hall of Famer and iconic personality from his work as a basketball analyst on TV.

Barkley spent the weekend in Fredonia, witnessing back-to-back 2-0 victories over rivals Plattsburgh and Potsdam.

"Sir Charles" also made his way downtown, where he played tunes and bought drinks for everyone at Old Main Inn.

After his visit, Barkley gave Fredonia a national shoutout on Inside the NBA, thanking the campus and community for their hospitality.

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Billy Joel

The first musical artist on our list is maybe one of the most recognizable singers of all time, and likely the most prominent to ever perform at Fredonia.

In 1974, one year after the release of “Piano Man,” Joel brought his talents to Steele Hall.

According to a 2022 article published in Statement, Fredonia’s alumni magazine, Joel entertained the audience for over three hours.

Tickets were only \$2, and the price was reported to be even lower for students in attendance.

During a concert at Highmark Stadium in August 2021, Joel gave a shoutout to Fredonia, referencing the 1974 concert.

Bill Nye

Science rules.

The man who many students watched in middle and high school science classes graced Fredonia with his presence just over a decade ago.

Nye hosted “Bill Nye the Science Guy” from 1993 to 1999, a program with an upbeat theme song and a message geared towards educating adolescents about the world of science.

In September 2014, Nye visited Fredonia as part of the school’s semester-long ceremonial opening of the Science Center.

Originally, Nye was supposed to speak at King Concert Hall, but due to high demand, his speech was moved to the fieldhouse at Steele Hall.

Buffalo Bills

From 1981 to 1999, the Bills hosted their annual training camp at Fredonia over the summer.

Hall of Famers Jim Kelly, Thurman Thomas, Bruce Smith and Andre Reed, as well as other star players, stayed in the dorms while students were away on summer break.

The summers at Fredonia coincided with some of the most successful seasons in Bills history, including four straight trips to the Super Bowl from 1990 to 1993.

Please don’t ask your parents what happened in those Super Bowls.



A shirt from when the Bills hosted training camp at Fredonia.

Photo via etsy.com.

A 2015 ESPN documentary titled “Four Falls of Buffalo” actually showed Fredonia in the background of a few training camp clips.

Training camp at Fredonia was a bit of a hassle, though. Because the school didn’t have a football program, the Bills needed to bring all of their own equipment.

In 2000, the franchise began hosting training camp at St. John Fisher University near Rochester, where it has remained since.

Pat LaFontaine

Continuing with Buffalo sports legends, one of the greatest American-born hockey players to ever play the game has a unique connection to Fredonia.

LaFontaine played for the Sabres from 1991 to 1997, serving as the team’s captain for much of his tenure.

His cousin, Marty Diamond, was a forward on Fredonia’s aforementioned 1994 team.

In the opening round of that season’s NCAA Tournament, Fredonia faced RIT in a series at Steele Hall.

LaFontaine was injured and unable to play, so he took the hour-long drive down Interstate 90 to watch his cousin play.

Steele Hall was completely sold out, so to have him in attendance and away from fans, the Hockey Hall of Famer parked his car in the Zamboni entrance and watched the game standing behind the glass.

The Blue Devils won, 7-0, to advance to the national semi-final.

Kenny Rogers

The Piano Man wasn’t the only notable singer to perform at the Steele Hall Fieldhouse.

Rogers produced chart-topping hits such as “The Gambler” and “Islands in the Stream,” the latter of which he recorded as a duet with Dolly Parton.

Details of his performance at Fredonia are scarce, but he was brought in to perform in January sometime around 1990.

The sports information office was primarily in charge of putting the event together. They enlisted the help of some students as roadies, including my dad and his friend who worked in the sports information office.

Run-D.M.C.

We’ve now arrived at the “FredFest performers” part of this list.

Special thanks to The Leader’s sports editor, Mitch Horucy, for finding a list of all FredFest performers from 1980 to 2008.

Brian Giermek, a student in that semester’s Reporting and Newswriting II class, put this list together when the school still sponsored the annual event.

The 2001 festival was headlined by Run-D.M.C., the hip hop group and artists behind hit songs “It’s Tricky” and “Walk This Way,” the second of which was in collaboration with Aerosmith.

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According to another article from the class written by Angela Spara, Run-D.M.C.'s performance was rather lackluster, and the event led to disorderly conduct throughout the village.

After 2001, Fredonia shortened the length of FredFest from three days to one, and the school ended the official festival in 2015.

Pauly Shore

Fredonia is full of squirrels, but in 1991, The Weasel came to town.

Shore is known for his roles in various 90s comedy movies like "Encino Man" and "Son in Law." He got his start as an MTV VJ, or "video jockey," in 1989 at the age of 21.

Before either movie, Shore headlined FredFest in 1991. According to my mom, who was in attendance, Shore went up on stage and asked the crowd, "Anybody got a beer?"

Shore also dropped one of his classic lines, "What's up buddies," when he got off his tour bus and saw my dad and a few other students.

Sixpence None The Richer

A prominent late-90s and early-2000s group has very close ties with Fredonia.

Armand Petri, a senior lecturer in Fredonia's music industry department, is the producer of the band.

He was the producer for their most iconic song, "Kiss Me," which has over 1.1 billion plays on Spotify.

The song was actually demoed in Mason Hall's sound recording technology studio before its 1997 release.

Lead singer Leigh Nash has been to Fredonia multiple times. In February 2024, she was joined by alumna Mary Ramsey, the lead singer of 10,000 Maniacs.

Steve Burns

At first glance, the name Steve Burns may not jump off the page. Readers under a certain age may not recognize him at all.

But anyone who grew up watching "Blue's Clues" would know and love him simply as Steve.

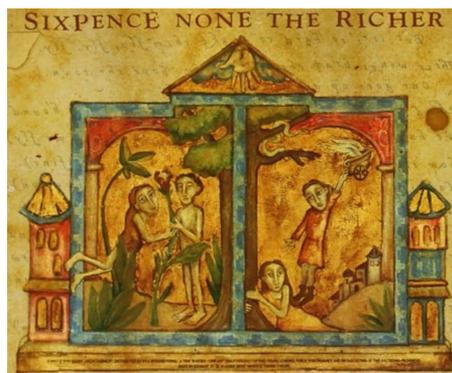
Burns hosted the hit Nickelodeon show alongside his cartoon dog counterpart from 1996 to 2002.

After leaving "Blue's Clues," Burns pursued a career in music. He connected with musician Steven Drozd, who was living in Fredonia at the time.

At Tarbox Road Studios in Cassadaga, Burns recorded his debut album, "Songs for Dust Mites."

The first song on the album, "Mighty Little Man," became the theme song for CBS sitcom "Young Sheldon."

Did we miss any famous guests who have visited Fredonia? Let us know at leader@fredonia.edu.



The album cover for Sixpence None The Richer's self-titled album, released in 1997. Photo via amazon.com.

**CHECK OUR FACEBOOK
FOR ADDITIONAL LIVE
SHOW LISTINGS**

MONSTER BEACH

TIKI BAR & BREWERY

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesdays - 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm : Son of Trivia Night! - come and answer live trivia for real prizes

Friday 5/2 - 8:00 pm to Midnight: Scareoke - Come and sing your guts out to your favorite songs

Friday 5/9 - 5:00 pm Faculty Rock band Showcase | 8:00 pm Catastrophonics - live metal

Saturday 5/10 - 8:00 pm Merrik Follett - Live vintage Rock & Roll

Friday 5/16 - 8:00 pm to 11:00 pm : Open Mic Night! - SHOW US WHAT YOU GOT! All acts welcome

Friday 5/23 - 6:00 pm to 1:00 am : Retro Games Night! - Come and play retro video games on our tv's

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A guide to Fredonia's student-run clubs

MIA CIECHALSKI
Life & Arts Editor

Are you trying to find an extracurricular activity to help give you a break from classes and homework?

Whether you're a new student or a returning one, here are some clubs for you to consider joining.

According to SUNY Fredonia's website, there are over 120 student-led clubs on campus. The school has clubs ranging from intramural sports to gardening.

For sports lovers, the school has a wide variety for you to take part in. Fredonia has all of the classics like hockey, soccer, field hockey and so much more.

The school even has some sports that not many others have to offer, like karate.

Fredonia also has clubs for you to join to help further your career, including science, math and psychology clubs, among others.

For all of my art lovers, this school has more than you could ever imagine, whether it's for drawing, singing or performing.

For example, the school has its very own student performing arts club, which is also known as PAC.

Each club for the arts has multiple opportunities to showcase the work students have created throughout the year.

Fredonia also has a Greek life scene for fraternities and sororities, with three of each.

Fraternities include Delta Chi, Kappa Sigma and Sigma Phi Epsilon, while sororities include Delta Phi Epsilon, Sigma Gamma Phi and Sigma Kappa.

If you're interested in rushing one of the Greek life organizations, be sure to check out their social media accounts to see when all their rush events will be held.

Students will have multiple opportunities to rush during the beginning of fall and spring semesters.

This is only a small fragment of everything that Fredonia has to offer. For more information, you can go to the clubs and organizations page on the school's website.

However, if you want to try and see each club in person, try going to Activities Night at the beginning of each semester.

Here you can meet some members of each club, learn more about the club and students' experiences, and get to see some of the activities they do in person.

According to the school's event calendar, Activities Night will be happening on Wednesday, Sept. 3 in Dods Grove.

After all, college isn't just about schoolwork. It's also about finding your niche, and clubs can be a way for students to connect and establish relationships.



Students represent the Animation Illustration Club at Activities Night, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024.

Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor Emerita



Students Elijah Smalls and Nyles Emile represent the Black Student Union (BSU) at Activities Night, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024.

Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor Emerita

Tutoring Center provides learning aid for students

SAMANTHA ZOTARA

Special to The Leader

SUNY Fredonia offers many different services and resources when it comes to helping their students succeed.

The Tutoring Center is one of the most popular and effective organizations on campus designed to support students along their academic journey.

If you are struggling with understanding a topic in class or you need help writing an essay or doing your math homework, the Tutoring Center is the place to be if you have any academic concerns.

The Tutoring Center is located on the fourth floor of the Carnahan-Jackson Center in Reed Library.

The Tutoring Center group is filled with trained students who are proficient in their line of study.

Tutors receive training at the beginning of each academic year to ensure that the general student body's educational needs will be met.

The subjects range from accounting, chemistry, biology, music, communications, economics, math, writing, statistics and more.

Music tutors are not in the Carnahan-Jackson Center, but they can be found in room 2020 of Mason Hall.

Tutors can help with studying for tests or quizzes, understanding class concepts, questions on homework assignments and reviewing essays.

The Tutoring Center will never do the work for you, but they'll help you understand the material being taught in the course you are seeking help with.

To access the tutors, all you need to do is stop by and ask for assistance in whatever subject you may need.

You don't need to make an appointment, just make sure to check the tutoring website at fredonia.edu/academics/tutoring-services for the updated hours of the Tutoring Center before your next visit.

Each individual who works at the center has different hours based on their student schedule. So, plan ahead to ensure a tutor for your desired subject will be there.

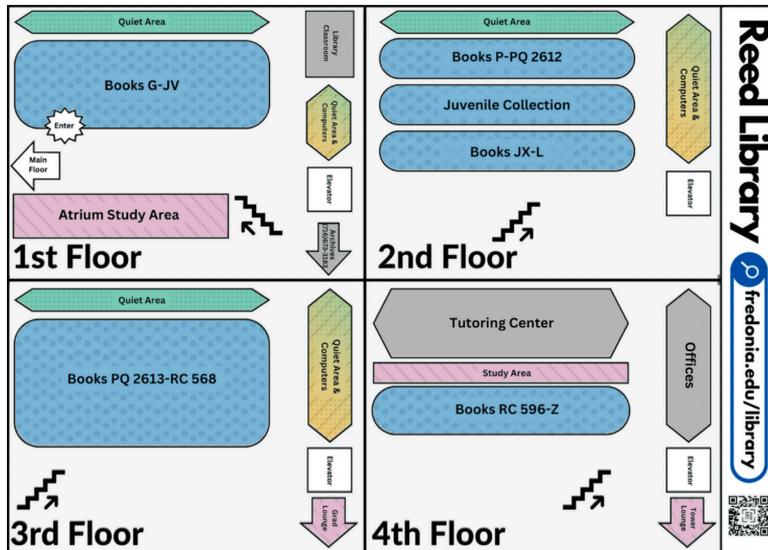
Once you are there, sign into the designated Tutoring Center computer with your eServices account info and ask for assistance in the field you need.

From there, that particular tutor or group of tutors will sit down with you and go through any questions, comments or concerns you may have on your assignment.

For further inquiries contact Adam Hino (adam.hino@fredonia.edu).

No matter what major you are, the Tutoring Center supports academic achievement through guidance, teamwork and curiosity.

This school year, take advantage of the Tutoring Center and get the grades your parents have been wishing for.



A map of the Carnahan-Jackson Center, which houses the Tutoring Center.

Photo via fredonia.edu.

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SPORTS

Emma Cockerel: Trading cleats for a whistle

JACK HOADLEY

Special to the Leader

Passion and dedication are traits every athlete should have in common.

But for one Fredonia women's lacrosse player, these traits shine through.

Emma Cockerel is a recently graduated Blue Devil who has decided to return to Fredonia and continue her education. She has also returned to coach for the team she just played for.

Those who know Cockerel would not be surprised by this decision. She has influenced athletics at Fredonia in ways that span beyond just the field.

As the creator and president of the Morgan's Message Club at Fredonia, she understands that athletes and their mental health is essential.

Morgan's Message is a nonprofit organization created to help student athletes through mental health struggles.

The foundation was created in memory of Morgan Rodgers, a former Duke University lacrosse player who died by suicide in 2019.

Cockerel was a standout player at Fredonia, particularly during her senior season.

She finished her final campaign posting 65 points, good for second on the team.

Now she looks to have an even larger impact on the sidelines as a leader for the program's present and future.

Tori Poffenberger, head coach of the women's lacrosse team, says that Cockerel is "so valuable" on and off the field for the Blue Devils.

This is through both her keen understanding of the team's system and aptitude as a mentor, which Poffenberger emphasizes.

"She can help them really understand what their role looks like in that offense," Poffenberger said in regard to Cockerel's value for young players.

She added that Cockerel's own experience playing a number of positions will make her a key asset for developing new players.

Poffenberger said that Cockerel's mental and physical strength "blew her away" going into her senior year. This made Cockerel someone who her coach absolutely thought would thrive in this role.

She also added that Cockerel tries to give herself to the team "in the best possible way."



Image via morgansmessage.org.

But what stands out to her coach is Cockerel's understanding of mental health, which she hopes she can bring to the team.

"She figured out that mental health is just as important as your physical health," said Poffenberger about Cockerel's understanding.

"Say you're nursing a sprained ankle," said Poffenberger, "... you have to nurse your mental health the same way you'd nurse that ankle."

It's through this understanding of three dimensions that encompass being a student athlete where Cockerel shines.

Excellent performance on the field, in the classroom and with her mental health has been a part of her life that Poffenberger greatly admires.

"She was super determined," said Poffenberger about Cockerel's success academically.

As a speech pathology major, work was not exactly easy for her as she balanced assignments with lacrosse.

However, Cockerel was a strong contributor to the team's cumulative 3.35 GPA, a testament to their well-rounded success in recent years.

This sentiment of well-rounded performance is one that Poffenberger believes Cockerel can bring to the team in her new role.

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Cockerel had her own reasons for wanting to return, citing the program's state early on in her years at Fredonia.

"My freshman year, I went through three head coaches," said Cockerel. "I basically saw the program at like, pretty much its worst."

The growth from these early years to now is what made Cockerel decide to return and, "continue to help the program grow."

She has been coaching a travel team for girls entering their senior year of high school, and her previous work with girls around her age is experience she believes will be invaluable to this new role.

Based off her work as an ambassador for Morgan's Message, Cockerel is very focused on the importance of mental health. She believes that beyond just being an athlete, every aspect of your life is dependent on your mental well-being.

She wants to use her own history with mental strength to help her new athletes in any way she can.

"I just want to really make sure I'm there for the girls in whatever way they need it," said Cockerel.

She also emphasized her priorities of open communication between her players as a coach.

This forum for help is a strategy that both Cockerel and Poffenberger share, as communication is an essential part of coaching.

Struggling mentally can cause athletes to lose sight of their goals, which Cockerel hopes to focus on as a coach.

"I just don't want to see any of them struggle and lose sight of what they have set their previous aspirations for," added Cockerel on mental health.

She believes that a unique understanding of the mental side of athletics will go a long way in establishing a successful team culture.

When asked about the team values she will strive to teach them, she mentioned respect as a core element of the team.

With respect comes the idea of keeping the team's public perception positive. Serving as good role models for the community at Fredonia is important to Cockerel as a coach.

Last of these values is the idea of accountability between the team and understanding what being a team means.

"Progress is not linear," Cockerel explained.

"If you can't give 100%, you should be able to rely on your teammates to give you that extra 20%."

It's principles like these, stacked upon a clear determination, that show why Cockerel was someone her coach wanted in this role.

Through her own growth as a leader this past season is where Cockerel says she found herself to be ready for this position.

"[This past season] gave me the confidence that I needed to be able to step into this role once Coach Tori offered it."

Cockerel embodies the drive and attitude a coach should have, as well as being a symbol of what passion can lead to.

Her commitment to on-the-field performance as well as her mental well-being has led her to this role.

The Fredonia women's lacrosse team will look to establish long-term success through a new, yet familiar face on the staff this coming year.



The women's lacrosse team huddles together, with Cockerel (#10) front left. **Photo by BECCA TORNCELLO** | Sports Photographer Emerita

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5th Quarter Column: Defense Wins Championships?

MITCHELL HORUCY
Sports Editor

With offseason workouts underway, fans are getting their first look at the Bills' 2025 draft class.

It was a defense-heavy draft with six of Buffalo's nine picks being on the defensive side of the ball, including the first five picks.

After touching on him briefly in my NFL Draft Round One edition of the 5th Quarter Column, the Bills surprised some, including myself, and stayed put at pick 30 to select cornerback Maxwell Hairston.

Out of the University of Kentucky, Hairston is a speed demon with great ball skills at the boundary cornerback position.

At 4.28 seconds, he ran the fastest 40-yard dash at this year's NFL Scouting Combine.

The public's view on Hairston was mixed as he comes in at 5'11", 183 pounds, which is slightly undersized for the position.

However, the technique and skill are there, as well as the pure athleticism. It'll just be a matter of whether or not he can match the physicality of the pros.

With the team's next three picks, they beefed up the defensive line, starting at pick 41 with T.J. Sanders out of South Carolina.

He offers something the Bills have made a priority on defense over the years: versatility.

The team also hopes he can be the 1-tech they've been searching for since drafting Ed Oliver six years ago.

At 6'4", 290 pounds, he's very agile for his size. This allows him to excel in the pass rush while also being a stout run defender.

If he can develop into an above average 1-tech and consistently draw double-teams, it could finally unlock Oliver's full potential as a pass rusher.

With pick 72, the team selected Landon Jackson, a 6'6" monster out of Arkansas.

He's an athletic freak with a 4.68-second forty-yard dash and a 40.5-inch vertical, which rank 91 and 99, respectively, in terms of percentile.

Pairing him with another monster in Greg Rousseau on the line gives you about 14 feet of wingspan on the edge, on top of being above average athletes at the position.

After the Von Miller experiment, the team is still looking for a dominant edge rusher of their own to pair with Rousseau.

Keeping the theme of monsters on the defensive line, with pick 109 the Bills took Deone Walker, a defensive tackle out of Kentucky.

He comes in at 6'7", 331 pounds, a massive human.

Walker is an incredibly interesting prospect, maybe the most intriguing out of the Bills' nine picks.

Prior to the 2024 college football season, Walker was often mocked in the first round of drafts, even as high as top-five.



Fourth-round pick Deone Walker (#96) completes a drill during minicamp, Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

Image property of the Buffalo Bills.

However, after a lackluster junior campaign, his stock dropped dramatically.

While you can't teach his size, there's questions about his technique, work ethic and strength.

He'll be a project, but if Sean McDermott and Bobby Babich can coach him correctly, the sky is truly the limit.

While Walker may be the most intriguing pick, taking Jordan Hancock at pick 170 may be their most under-the-radar pick.

Being an Ohio State fan, I've seen Hancock play a ton of football, logging over 1,400 snaps in his four-year career.

Something Hancock offers that I spoke about earlier, specifically on the defensive line, is versatility.

He's played over 150 snaps at four different positions on defense, including over 200 in three.

With 837 snaps, he's played slot corner more than any other position, but that is filled by All-Pro Taron Johnson.

But with over 400 snaps at safety, he could find his way onto the field in a multitude of ways.

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Orientation Issue

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"We have a plan going into it with Jordan, and it's a well-thought out, articulated, time-sensitive plan that we have, and we're following that right now," said Babich.

It's rare to hear a coach talk about a fifth-round pick like this, which gives me reason to believe Hancock will be getting more snaps than most think.

The team's last four picks will be predominantly depth pieces, with chances to find some time on the field.

With the departure of Quintin Morris, Jackson Hawes is a direct replacement.

He doesn't offer a ton in the passing game, but he's made a name for himself in the run game which could lead to him getting some real time.

Out of all of Buffalo's draft picks, there may not be anyone with more football played in college than Dorian Strong.

The team's sixth-round pick played 2,700 snaps at cornerback for Virginia Tech in his five-year career.

He'll be behind a few guys on the depth chart, but reports are that he's impressed coaches in OTAs and minicamp so far.

As for the last two picks, there's no guarantee they'll make the final 53-man roster. Both are behind numerous players in positions that have crowded rooms.

One year removed from being a few plays away from a Super Bowl appearance, rookies may have to play some big snaps.



Fifth-round pick Jackson Hawes (#85) catches a pass during minicamp, Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

Image property of the Buffalo Bills.



Third-round pick Landon Jackson (#94) rushes the passer during minicamp, Wednesday, June 11, 2025. **Image property of the Buffalo Bills.**

Bandits win third straight title, blank Rush in second half

MATT VOLZ
Editor in Chief

The Buffalo Bandits are champions of the National Lacrosse League.

Stop me if you've heard that sentence before.

For the third straight year and the seventh time in team history, the Bandits raised the championship trophy.

This time, the Saskatchewan Rush fell victim to Buffalo in a best-of-three series that went the distance.

Buffalo took the first game of the series, rallying from multiple deficits to earn a 12-10 victory.

When the series shifted to Saskatchewan, however, the Bandits weren't so lucky.

After battling back from an early deficit, Chase Fraser's desperation shot was blocked by Rush defenseman Holden Garland to preserve an 11-10 Rush win.

That set up a winner-take-all Game 3 in Buffalo on Saturday, May 24.

In their five consecutive finals appearances, the Bandits have been no stranger to hosting Game 3s.

Their finals matchups in 2022 and 2023, which both saw the Bandits face the Colorado Mammoth, made it to Game 3 in Banditland.

The two teams split the titles, with Colorado lifting the cup in 2022 and Buffalo getting revenge in 2023.

Like each of those series, Buffalo had the chance to close it out on the road in Game 2 but couldn't seal the deal.

Once again, it all came down to one game in Buffalo.



The Bandits win Game 1 of the 2025 NLL Finals, Friday, May 16, 2025.

Photo by **MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief

Most Bandits fans wouldn't miss this opportunity for anything, whether they were in attendance or watching from home.

For me, life intervened.

Saturday just happened to be the day of my cousin's wedding, so family obligations took priority over the game.

It would be a lie to say that I wasn't watching on my phone during the reception, though.

The game was another sellout, with all 19,070 tickets sold.

The first two games of the series saw Saskatchewan score on their opening possession, and that trend continued with an Austin Shanks goal 24 seconds in.

Games 1 and 2 also saw the Rush jump out to a 2-0 lead, but that didn't happen this time thanks to a Josh Byrne goal where he crashed into the crease, dove and scored.

Because Byrne collided with Rush goalie Frank Scigliano after the ball went in, he was given a minor penalty for goaltender interference.

The goal stood, but Buffalo was shorthanded, something they struggled with at times during the season.

On the power play, a long shot by Shanks completely froze Matt Vinc to give the Rush a 2-1 lead.

Dhane Smith answered right back for the Bandits, tying the game on the next possession.

With eight minutes remaining in the quarter, another Bandit took a trip to the penalty box as Captain Steve Priolo and Rush defenseman Adam Jay were each given minor penalties for roughing.

Zach Manns took advantage of the 4-on-4, cruising around Cam Wyers to put Saskatchewan back in front.

Before the quarter ended, Buffalo tied it right back up as Chris Cloutier faked a shot and went airborne to score.

Entering the second quarter, the Bandits and Rush were even at 3-3.

That's when Buffalo's offense started rolling.

Byrne scored his second of the game, burying a shot after a feed from Kyle Buchanan.

They wouldn't trail again for the rest of the night.

Now playing with the lead, Buffalo's transition game sparked more offense. Wyers hit Dylan Robinson with a stretch pass, and one more pass found Ian MacKay who flew in off the bench to score.

The rampage continued with Byrne completing the hat trick just 18 seconds after MacKay's goal.

Less than three minutes into the quarter, the Bandits now held a 6-3 lead.

A little over a minute later, the lead grew thanks to a five-hole goal from Buchanan.

If the Rush were shell shocked from Buffalo's five-goal run, they didn't show it, as Robert Church answered with a goal on their next possession.

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Church's goal was the first for the Rush in nearly 13 minutes of game time, but they wouldn't have to wait as long for their next one.

Near the midway point of the quarter, Ryan Keenan raced to the middle of the defense and scored to cut the deficit to two.

Saskatchewan seemed to be playing with momentum, and after Scigliano stopped a Tehoka Nanticoke scoring chance, Church scored again to pull the Rush within one.

The Bandits still held a 7-6 lead at halftime, but things seemed to be turning in Saskatchewan's favor.

However, that was it for the Rush.

They wouldn't score again for the entire rest of the game.

To open the second half, Fraser continued his streak of scoring unbelievable, highlight-reel goals.

After collecting a pass from Dhane Smith, Fraser went behind the back for a no-look, one-handed goal.

The goal landed him number one on SportsCenter Top 10, which was pretty cool.

It didn't take long for Buffalo's offense to bring the fans back to their feet, even if the next goal wasn't as jaw-dropping.

However, it was Byrne's fourth of the night, and it gave the Bandits a three-goal lead.

Entering Game 3, the defending NLL and Finals MVP struggled to find the back of the net in the playoffs, only scoring three total goals across five games.

He had regained his scoring touch, something that spelled doom for the Rush.

The next several minutes were highlighted by defense, as Vinc continued to deny every Saskatchewan opportunity.

He had some help in front of him, as the league's best shot-blocking unit did their part.

With six and a half minutes remaining in the quarter, Smith buried his second goal of the game, triggering another Bandits run.

In a span of less than four minutes, Cloutier scored his second of the game, which was followed by Smith's hat-trick goal and then Cloutier's.

At the end of the third quarter, Buffalo held a 13-6 lead.

It was time to go into defense mode.

In the final 15 minutes, Buffalo's offense utilized every second of the shot clock that they could in an attempt to bleed the clock as much as possible.

On the defensive end, the Bandits continued to execute. Vinc kept the Rush offense at bay, and the defense stepped up to block shots and deny opportunities.

Even when Fraser went to the penalty box for a loose ball foul with just under eight minutes to play, it didn't matter.

The penalty kill unit did its job, keeping the clamps on a frustrated Saskatchewan offense.

But a dominant defensive performance didn't mean Buffalo was done scoring, either.

With five minutes left, Buchanan found the middle of the defense and scored to extend his team's lead to eight.

If that wasn't enough, Buffalo's transition team put the finishing touches on a third straight championship.

Nick Weiss forced a turnover and ran down the floor uncontested, but his shot was stopped by Scigliano.

That's when Wyers came flying in to bury the rebound, scoring his first ever playoff goal.

As the final seconds ticked off the clock, it became real.

The Bandits had done it again.

"One is great. Two is fine. But there's nothing like winning three in a row," said play-by-play announcer Teddy Jenner.

The Bandits are just the second team in NLL history to win three straight championships, joining the Rochester Knights-hawks from 2012 to 2014.

Oh yeah, Vinc was their goalie for all three of those championships, too.

In the modern era of North American professional sports, only three professional athletes have had multiple "three-peats."

Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen of the 1990s Chicago Bulls are two of them, winning three straight from 1991 to 1993 and then again from 1996 to 1998.

Vinc is now a part of that group, too.



The Bandits celebrate after winning the 2025 NLL Cup, Saturday, May 24, 2025.

Photo courtesy of the National Lacrosse League.

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In each of these three championships, Buffalo has had a different player named Finals MVP.

This time, it was MacKay who received the award, joining Smith in 2023 and Byrne in 2024.

2025 was a season to remember for MacKay, who shattered his career high with 37 goals and scored a team-best 16 playoff goals.

Overall, this was the seventh championship in franchise history, surpassing the Toronto Rock and original Philadelphia Wings for the most by any team.

I am truly honored to have covered one of the most special runs of any team in sports history.

To quote Bills fans from 1993, let's "piss 'em off and go for four" next year.

MATT'S HIGH FIVES

During every Bandits game, when the team scores, my family and I all send each other high fives over text.

It's a way to keep in touch and all enjoy the game together, no matter where we are.

So, I thought it could be fun to share some high fives with my top five performers from each game.

This week's high fives go to:

Matt Vinc: Not only is he unquestionably the best goalie in NLL history, we might need to have a conversation about him being the best player in NLL history. He owns every goaltending record in the book. Let's see if the soon-to-be 43-year-old wants to come back and do it one more time.

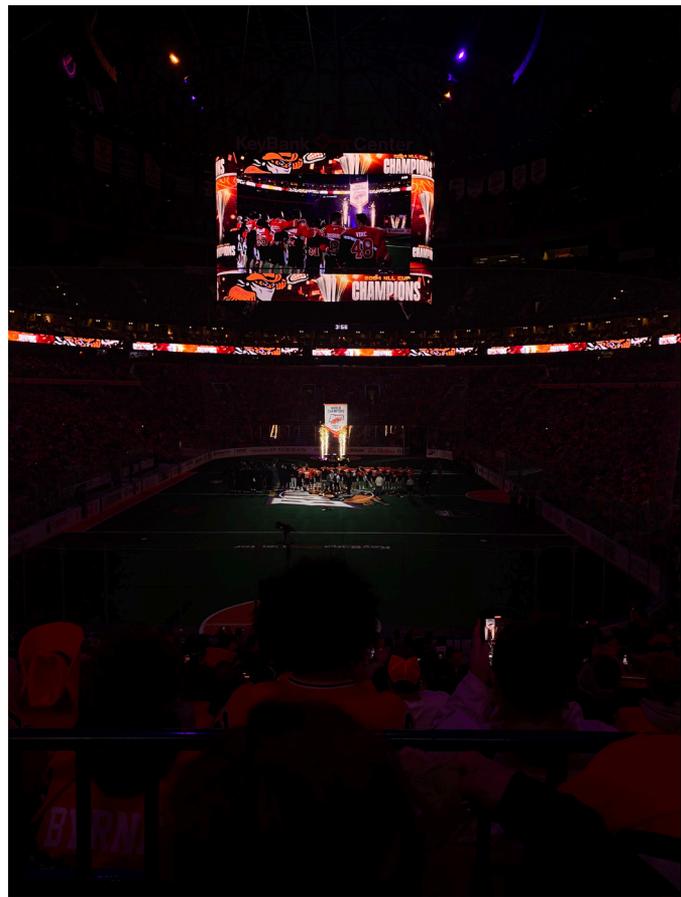
Ian MacKay: What a season it was for MacKay. He scored the second-most goals of any Bandit in the regular season, and he led the team in goals in the playoffs. Nobody deserved Finals MVP more.

Chris Cloutier: After missing Game 2 with an injury, Cloutier came back and scored a hat trick in a winner-take-all game. He was excellent in his return.

Josh Byrne: It's not about how you start, it's about how you finish. Through Buffalo's first five playoff games, Byrne's offense was noticeably lacking. He responded with a remarkable four-goal, nine-point performance in Game 3.

The entire organization: There's too many people to write everyone down, but they all deserve a shoutout. Winning three straight championships is an unbelievable and rare accomplishment.

Banditland: Yes, Bandits fans get a special bonus high-five. This team truly has the best fans in not only the NLL, but maybe in all of sports. There is no group of people more deserving of success than Buffalonians and Western New Yorkers.



The Bandits' 2024 championship banner-raising ceremony, Saturday, Dec. 28, 2024.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief



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Column: Sabres continue to underwhelm with offseason moves

MITCH HORUCY

Sports Editor

385 wins, 493 losses and 115 overtime losses.

That's the Buffalo Sabres' record since then-President Ted Black said at his introductory press conference, "Buffalo is hockey heaven."

This "hockey heaven" has gotten even more real after the team traded rising forward J.J. Peterka.

He's been a rare bright spot for the team since his rookie campaign in the 2022-2023 season.

He posted a career-high 68 points (27 goals and 41 assists) which was tied for second-best on the team.

The trade that broke late Wednesday, June 25, took a while to get confirmed, leaving fans wondering what the return for the young playmaker would be.

After about an hour, this was the confirmed trade:

Buffalo Receives:

D Michael Kesselring

F Josh Doan

Utah Receives:

F J.J. Peterka

It's a trade that surprised many, including our Editor in Chief Matt Volz, as well as myself.

As someone who admittedly hasn't been a huge hockey fan for that long, go check out "Even with the snow, the drought continues" on fredonialeader.org for an in-depth reasoning of why I am already feeling the pain that many Sabres fans before me have felt.

It's become a normality to see a former Sabre lifting Lord Stanley's Cup in June after failing to retain countless young talented players.

Ryan O'Reilly, Jack Eichel and Sam Reinhart all had their time in Buffalo, left and almost immediately won a cup.

The Utah Mammoth may not be championship contenders, but they have a promising forward core, one that Peterka will likely thrive in.

As for the trade itself, I didn't really see this coming.

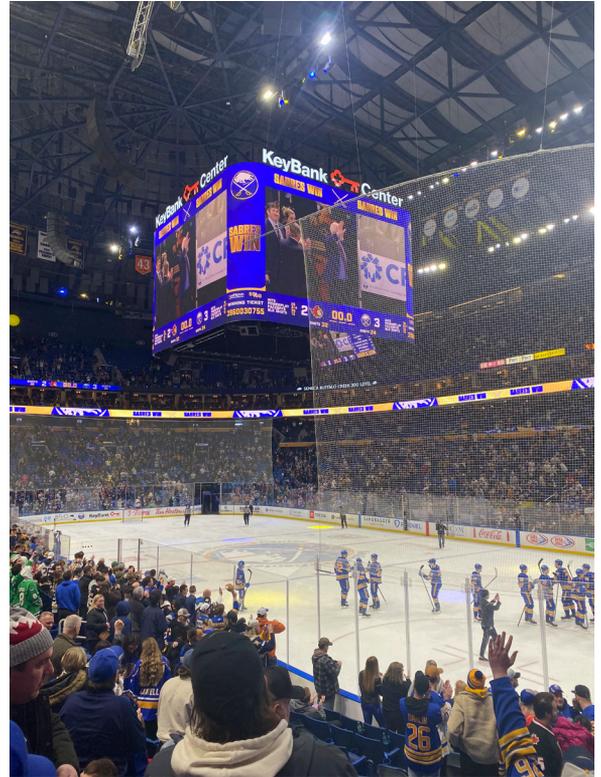
After completing his standard entry-level contract, reports came out that Peterka wasn't happy in Buffalo.

To make things short, the Sabres should've paid almost no attention to it.

Peterka was a restricted free agent, or RFA, meaning he was a free agent and could sign anywhere he wanted, but the Sabres could match any offer he got.

With the Sabres' current salary cap situation, as well as the rising cap over the next few years, there isn't an offer that they couldn't match.

Peterka has almost no leverage in this, yet the Sabres front office was bullied once again.



The Sabres defeat the Ottawa Senators in front of a sparse crowd, Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Now even though I just spent the first half of this article critiquing the Sabres in every way possible, I would actually like to defend them.

While Peterka is a great scorer with top-line right wing potential for years to come, he's limited.

According to @JFreshHockey on X, who I highly recommend following if you're a hockey fan, Peterka had a 14.7% on-ice shooting percentage at 5-on-5.

This is the highest percentage ever recorded.

He also isn't great on the power play, generating almost all his shots and goals off the rush.

Although most scoring forwards are not defensive powerhouses, Peterka is a bad defender, ranking in the fourth percentile in even strength defense according to @JFreshHockey.

The return Buffalo got really isn't as bad as people are making it out to be.

Kesselring fills a position of need at right defenseman and has a ton of upside.

He's 25 years old with two full seasons of NHL experience.

With 150 shots on goal last season, that would've ranked second amongst Sabres defensemen.

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While he isn't an offensive gem on defense, he had 29 points (7 goals and 22 assists) which I think can increase playing second-pair defense minutes with Owen Power.

The team also acquired Josh Doan, a young, big forward.

He comes in at 6'2", 198 pounds, putting up 19 points (7 goals and 12 assists) in a fourth-line role last season.

In 28 AHL games this season, he had 26 points (11 goals and 15 assists), so there is some upside there as well.

However, his ceiling isn't all that high, likely peaking at a decent middle-six forward.

With that being said, this makes a Bowen Byram trade that much more important.

Picking up a partner for Owen Power is good, but now there's a huge gap in the team's top-six forwards.

If Byram can't be moved for a proven scorer in the NHL, it'll be another disaster by Buffalo.

Reports are saying that the rest of the league values Byram, maybe more than Sabres fans do, meaning there is hope.

It has also been reported by Michael Russo of The Athletic that the Minnesota Wild used Marco Rossi as a starting offer and were "willing to include another roster player and/or prospects and picks" in a deal for Peterka.

If this is the case, all hope may be lost.

Adding Rossi, who's on a similar trajectory as Peterka, is an immediate top-six forward, and Buffalo could have also added a third-line player.

After news broke that defenseman Bowen Byram was signed to a two-year deal at \$6.5 million per year, I'm losing the little bit of faith I had left.

He was an RFA, the same as Peterka, giving the Sabres some leverage in trade talks.

His new deal makes him a UFA or unrestricted free agent, meaning after his two years are done, he can walk away.

Byram has played very well when paired with Rasmus Dahlin.

However, as I previously mentioned, a top-six forward is much more important to this team right now than Byram, especially if he can be moved for one.

It's entirely possible the team is just so far gone from hope to even care, but somehow rock bottom seems to keep getting deeper.



A young Matt Volz and his parents dress up as 'disgruntled Sabres fans' for Halloween, Friday, Oct. 31, 2014.

Photo by KATHY VOLZ | Special to The Leader

Suites vs. Corridors: which is better?

ALEX BUCKNAM
Managing Editor

If you attended a campus tour, Go Big Blue Day or Accepted Students Day, you were most likely shown both suite-style and corridor-style dorms.

But which one is better?

I'll compare both dorm styles in five categories: sense of community, room size, walkability, common spaces and bathrooms.

Sense of Community

The suites have a strong sense of community. Personally, I became friends with my suitemates before I got to campus.

When we received the housing assignment email, we all reached out to each other and built a friendship; this made the transition to college so much easier.

Even if you don't connect right away, the shared bathroom and common room encourages you to interact.

Still, not everyone bonds with their suitemates. Some students finish the semester without speaking to the people they live with.

Corridor-style dorms also provide a sense of community, with shared lounge spaces and hallways that create opportunities to meet new people and find people you connect with.

These common areas tend to be out in the open compared to suites, which encourages more people to use these spaces.

I'm going to give this point to the suites.

Room Size

Both styles are equally priced (excluding kitchen suites), so one might expect similar room sizes.

But you would be wrong.

When I moved into my suite, I was shocked by how small the room was. The lamp was right in front of me when I opened the door, and I couldn't find a better place to put it.

Thankfully, my roommate later moved to a single room which gave me more space.

After visiting a friend in a corridor-style dorm, I saw a big difference.

The rooms were more spacious, instantly I knew that this would be better suited for two people.

As a person who loves his stuff and wants to bring it to college and therefore needs more space, the corridors get this point.



Nixon Hall, a corridor-style dorm for freshmen.

Photo by **MATT VOLZ** | Editor in Chief

Walkability

This one is straightforward. Suites are located behind Gregory Hall and right next to LoGrasso, which means they are farther from Starbucks and academic halls compared to the corridors.

Now I'm not saying this as a lazy person not wanting to walk a little bit further.

I'm saying this because we live 10 minutes away from Lake Erie.

Winter ice is no joke here, and the school, according to some students, is horrible at properly icing sidewalks by the suites.

Personally, I hated walking all the way to Thompson Hall in the winter from the suites, so I sometimes wished I lived in a corridor dorm because I wouldn't have to walk as far.

For the reason of not wanting to fall on ice, I'm giving this point to the corridors.

Common Spaces

Both styles have shared common areas. Suites have a private common room shared by suitemates (usually 4 to 8 people), which can be personalized and decorated. This makes living arrangements feel more homelike.

Both styles have a shared lounge area, where you can expect to find a TV and a few game tables.

I don't know if any other dorm has this, but the suite I lived in during my first year (Grissom Hall) had a piano.

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As mentioned before, the corridor lounges are more out in the open, so they are used more. This gives people a good chance to meet people in their hall.

Still, the ability to decorate a private common space makes me give the point to the suites.

Bathrooms

For many, bathrooms are a big concern when choosing dorms.

Each suite shares one bathroom, which means you are sharing a bathroom with 3 to 7 other people.

This includes a shower, two stalls and two sinks. With fewer people sharing the space, it's easier to establish boundaries and maintain cleanliness.

Corridor-style bathrooms are shared among more students, which can make cleanliness and privacy harder to manage.

I've also heard horror stories about the shared bathrooms and showers in the corridors, so I have to give it to the suites.

With a final tally of 3 points for the suites and 2 points for the corridors, the suites win.

While you likely won't get to choose your dorm as a first-year student, keep these factors in mind when considering future housing options.

Both living styles have pros and cons. Ultimately, the choice is up to you and how each living arrangement fits your lifestyle, preferences and wants.

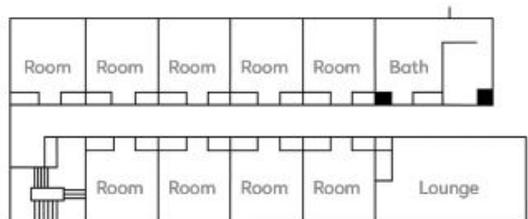
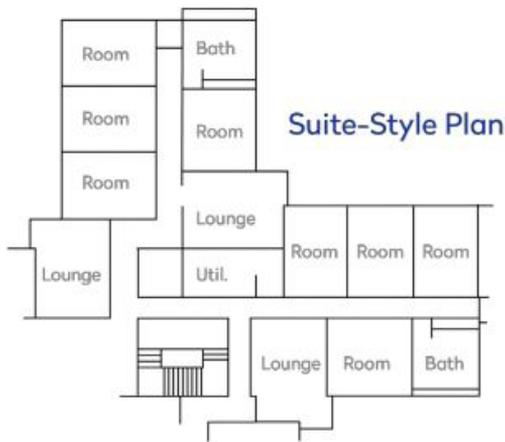


Kasling Hall, a suite-style dorm for freshmen.

Photo by MATT VOLZ | Editor in Chief

Note: This comparison excludes townhouses, kitchen suites and University Commons, as those are typically not assigned to first-year students unless there is medical accommodation.

Dorm Layout Plans



Suite and corridor-style layouts. Photo via fredonia.edu.

Lovecolumn: Long-Distance Relationships

THE QUARTERBACK

Executive Producer of Lovercall

THE MUSICIAN

Lovercall Producer

RADIO REBEL

Lovercall Producer Emeritus

Hello!

We are The Quarterback, The Musician and Radio Rebel: producers and hosts of the radio show Lovercall, right here at Fredonia.

Lovercall is an anonymous late-night talk show about love, relationships and more.

Students who are guests on the show use codenames to protect their identities when discussing potentially personal topics, hence the codenames of the writers of this column.

This is your reminder that none of the hosts or guests are professionals, and everything stated is based on personal experiences.

“The Quarterback” is a 21-year-old cisgender man who uses he/him pronouns and is a senior at Fredonia.

“The Musician” is a 22-year-old gender-fluid person who uses they/she pronouns and is a senior at Fredonia.

“Radio Rebel” is a 21-year-old transgender man who uses he/him pronouns and is a recent graduate of Fredonia.

On each episode, the hosts and guests of Lovercall participate in a variety of segments. The cast discusses a relevant news story, a date idea, a wacky game and a main topic for the episode.

Listeners can submit their questions or seek advice either via Fredonia Radio’s Instagram, @fredonia_radio, on YikYak or through the QR code provided in this column.

We answer your questions live on the radio, then add them to this column in case you missed the episode.

The show will broadcast weekly throughout the semester on Wednesday nights from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. on WDWL 89.5 on www.fredoniaradio.com.

This column runs in conjunction with Lovercall and can be found in print and online at fredonialeader.org.

Date idea of the week

We hope to provide fellow students with a fun and unique date idea in every episode. These date ideas aren’t just for romantic partners — you could go with your friends, classmates or can even go solo for a fun activity in Fredonia.

For this week’s date idea, you are going to have a long-distance date night!

If you’re not fortunate enough to have loved ones closeby, this is the date for you!

This date idea is best over some form of video chat, whether it be FaceTime, Zoom or whatever else.



Lovercall logo. **Graphic by ALEX ERWIN** | Special to The Leader

That way, you can see your partner’s beautiful face even if you aren’t there with them!

This is a multi-step date idea, so stay with me.

You’re going to start with a nice virtual dinner, so you’ll be chatting with them while you each make dinner in your respective kitchens.

Whatever you make is up to you, and it doesn’t have to be the same thing as the other person, either.

When you sit down to eat, make sure your partner can still see your face.

This may seem a little weird, but the goal is to keep it as similar to a real in-person dinner date as possible!

After you’ve finished eating and done all your dishes, it’s movie time!

Several streaming services allow users the opportunity to watch a movie together from different locations; services such as Disney+, Hulu or Netflix are viable options.

It doesn’t matter whether you watch a romantic comedy or a true crime documentary; whatever you choose is great!

After the movie is over, get ready for bed and chat with them as you fall asleep.

Sooner or later, you’ll be with your loved ones again, but until then, you’ve got this date idea as a way to be together no matter how far apart you are.

Long-Distance Relationships

Long-distance relationships, as we defined on the show, are relationships where you would need to go “out of your way” to see each other.

Continued onto next page

Many college students find themselves in this situation, and it can be hard to maintain a loving relationship with someone you can't see all the time.

Whether you're with someone who goes to a different school or lives in a different town, or whether you and your significant other(s) are in different parts of your lives, we discussed a few tips for maintaining your love.

Open and honest communication is probably the most important thing to remember with any long-distance relationship.

It's easy to feel jealous of those who get to spend lots of time with your significant other(s), but remember that you're the one they chose to be with.

If you're worried about your partner(s) straying from the relationship, have a conversation with them about it.

Sure, it's a difficult conversation to have, but communication is key to maintaining any healthy relationship.

In that same vein, it's important to have trust in any relationship.

It's not always easy, we understand. But try to live by this idea: trust them until they give you a reason not to trust them.

The next piece of advice is to make time for them, even if it's not a lot of time.

In any relationship, all parties should feel like they matter to each other.

Some people have very busy schedules, that's true. So it's understandable if you can't spend every waking moment talking to your partner(s).

Even just a few minutes per day can be enough to remind them that you love them and despite the distance, you're right there with them in spirit.

If you find yourself questioning your relationship because of the distance, think about what you want out of it long-term.

If the relationship seems like something you want to last, have faith that it will last and do your best to make that the case.

If the distance is too much and you don't know that you envision them in your future, have an honest conversation about it.

Remember this: whatever is meant for you will find you, and whatever is meant to be will be.

Working through a long-distance relationship can be a leap of faith, there's no doubt about that.

But sometimes, in order to be happy, you just have to jump.

Reach out! Do you want to ask the authors of *Lovercolumn* a question? Do you need advice? Fill out the form by using this QR code.

Interested in being a guest on *Lovercall*? Email wdrvlonair@gmail.com or visit Fredonia Radio Systems, located in McEwen Hall 115 and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“The Quarterback,” “The Musician” and “Radio Rebel” are members of Fredonia Radio Systems and are involved in the production of Lovercall.



We're still working on our new *Lovercallers* form, so in the meantime, go ahead and use this one to ask your questions!

THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

We need more squirrels on campus

TALON GRAVES

Definitely Not A Hawk

As a totally normal, incredibly average SUNY Fredonia student who definitely isn't a red-tailed hawk perched ominously atop McEwen Hall, I am deeply concerned about the troubling decline of squirrel activity on campus.

Let me be clear: this is not just about personal grievances, hunger pangs or the fact that squirrels are basically the mozzarella sticks of the natural world.

No — this is about ecology. Balance. The food pyramid.

Democracy, even.

In my first semester at Fredonia, squirrels were everywhere.

Bold, plump and crunchy.

A proud part of campus life, weaving through the quads with tails high and morale higher.

You could barely flap your wings — I mean, walk to Starbucks — without nearly tripping over an acorn hoarder or two.

But lately? Nothing. Just dry leaves, empty branches and that one groundhog near Dods Grove who still eludes my grasp.

The administration claims there are “no current plans to introduce more squirrels.”

How convenient. How suspicious.

What are they hiding? Are the squirrels unionized? Have they transferred to Cortland?

Some may say, “Oh, maybe the hawks had something to do with it,” and to that I say: how dare you.

Just because I — I mean they — have talons, laser vision and a biological imperative to snatch woodland creatures doesn't mean they're to blame.

We need to act.

I propose the formation of S.Q.U.A.W.K. — Students for Quality Urban Arboreal Wildlife Kinetics.

Our mission: to increase squirrel populations, restore campus biodiversity and, totally incidentally, ensure a reliable snack supply.

We can start small. Set up some squirrel feeders. Open a Nut Dispensary. Host a “Bring a Rodent to Class Day.” Whatever it takes.

SUNY Fredonia was built on acorns, dreams and the distant screech of justice. Let us not falter now.

If not for me, do it for the future hawks — I mean, students.

PLEASE write for the Scallion

MEGAN KIDBY

Scallion Editor

Hi. It's me. Megan Kidby. Editor of The Scallion, SUNY Fredonia's premier source for occasionally funny campus satire. And I am writing to you today with a very serious, very desperate plea:

Please. For the love of caffeine and creative writing, join The Scallion. I cannot keep doing this alone.

When I took over this humble corner of The Leader, I envisioned a bustling writers' room, overflowing with clever quips, biting wit and the occasional heated debate over whether squirrels or the vending machines posed a greater threat to campus security.

Instead, it's me. Just me.

Alone in a Word doc at 2 a.m. hallucinating punchlines and arguing with myself over whether “Soupapalooza” counts as breaking news.

Have you ever tried to write five fake news stories in one week while juggling classes, a social life and a caffeine addiction that could floor a moose?

I have. It's not glamorous. It's not healthy. I'm 23 and my spine sounds like a microwave popcorn bag.

I didn't get into satire journalism for the glory. I did it for the people. The people who deserve to know about ghost hauntings in Reed Library, underground tunnels connecting Kasling to the moon and the university's alleged plan to replace Blue Devil mascot Freddie with a sentient robot funded by PepsiCo.

But I need help.

I need fellow weirdos with a new Microsoft email account and too many opinions about campus squirrels.

I need someone to brainstorm headlines like “Registrar's Office Declares Time Is Fake, Cancels Finals” or “Student Claims Einstein's Ghost Helped With Physics Homework.”

I need... you.

No experience? Perfect. No sense of shame? Even better. Can you string together a sentence and tolerate my excessive use of em dashes? You're hired.

Join The Scallion. Save my sanity. Save the satire. Save Fredonia's only semi-trustworthy news outlet from becoming “The Sad Solo Rantings of Megan K.”

Please. My Word docs are crying.

Megan Kidby

HOROS

IZZIE NOELLE
Staff Writer

Welcome back everyone! I'm Izzie, your maybe permanent horoscope writer for the semester. I'm not super into astrology, but boy do I have my opinions!! Anyway, I'm sure your summer was full of fun and relaxation. While I'd loooovee to hear about it, instead, I'm going to guess what you did. SO, here's what I think you did this summer based off your sign!



Aries

Went on crazy adventures:

You wanted to get out and get active this summer, get that adrenaline flowing! You definitely did something insane (and Insta worthy) like skydiving or cliff jumping. I commend you for your bravery.



Taurus

Worked on a passion project:

This summer gave you a BUNCH of free time and your imagination a lot of free reign. Maybe you worked on your EP or released your first book. Or maybe you made a short film with your friends over the summer! Whatever project you worked on, I'm sure it was awesome.



Gemini

Finally took a vacation:

After a loonnngg semester, you couldn't get away from campus fast enough! You worked hard last semester, the break was well deserved. You kicked your feet up with the sun shining on you while the waves crashed on the shore. Or you just lay in bed at home and had a staycation.



Cancer

Visited family and friends:

The hardest part of college for you is leaving all your friends and family from home. You missed them all dearly last semester. Your summer was definitely spent at friend's houses, grandma's house and going on fun outings with your favorite people.



Leo

Summer classes:

Maybe you didn't lock in as much as you should've last semester. Looks like you were hitting the books all summer. Cs may get degrees sometimes, but you were definitely working hard to graduate on time.



Virgo

Learned a new skill:

This summer, you learned to do something new and fun. Maybe you were doing some grandma prep and learning to knit. Or maybe the group chat trip finally left the chat and you learned a new language! OR maybe just maybe you decided to learn how to code, just for funsies. All I know is you feel soooo much cooler having this new skill.

COOPES



Libra

Had a Summer fling:

Libra....be so real, y'all are some flirty people. I think you had a lil summer fling. Cute dates, beach days and late-night drives. Your summer was flirty and fun like some romcom.



Scorpio

Worst/Best Summer ever:

No reason, just something about Scorpios, specifically men. Boohoo Scorpio men, it was your worst summer ever. Scorpio women, I love you and you had the best summer of your life.



Sagittarius

Slept in:

You were up late working on allll those assignments (or doom scrolling) last semester. Summer came and you were ready to catch up on some of the sleep you may have (definitely) missed. You had a comfy blanket and your favorite movies all summer long.



Capricorn

Worked hard:

You worked hard all last semester, but you didn't stop there! You had a summer job or internship lined up since at least March so you could keep working and make some moneeyyy. Props to you for wanting to work so hard!



Aquarius

Lots of reading:

You did a lot of reading this summer, finally making a dent (probably a small one) in that suuuppperrr long tbr (to be read) list. You probably got through a decent couple of books too; I'd guess 4-6. Hopefully this semester you have time to keep reading even with all your class work!



Pisces

Went on a solo adventure:

You love being on your own, and this summer was no different. You packed your bags and set off on your own adventure. Maybe you hopped on a plane and flew to another country, or maybe you just went on a day trip. Whatever you did, you did it alone, like the strong, independent Pisces you are.

