Maytum Hall reopens doors

JENNIFER PETERS
Special to The Leader

As students are getting back to school this spring, reuniting with friends and getting back into work mode, most students have yet to see the inside of Maytum Hall – until now. Students and faculty have both anticipated this reopening for over three years, and the building is finally available for public access.

“The first office was moved back in on January second,” said Interim Vice President for Administration Karen Porpiglia. “By the eleventh of January, everything was moved back in except for the information technology folks that occupy the first floor, and they haven’t made all their arrangements to move back in yet.”

Porpiglia went on to explain how the building wasn’t without its need for restoration. “We were in desperate need of fixing the heating and cooling system,” she said. “Probably the biggest advantages nobody sees is the new heating/cooling and ventilation system. Another thing that led to the redesign of offices is the increased regulations governing privacy of information. Prior to that, we had desks that were in the hallway. If you were working on a document that had confidential information, you were right in the hallway, so payroll clerks were in an open area in the hallway.”

Now that the offices have all been moved, the important documents of students are even more secure, so there aren’t any chances of confidential information being in an unsafe location. Through the office reconstruction, both students and faculty alike will observe daily activities within Maytum with much more ease and maneuverability.

“From my perspective, this brings us back to the center of campus into one location,” Porpiglia said. “We try to keep Student Accounts and Financial Aid together; they were both in the Williams Center and Thompson [Hall] together because, so often, if a student has a question or an issue with one office, it affects the other.”

Continued on page A-2

Water main breaks the ice of new semester

SEAN PATRICK
Special to The Leader

Residents of the Andrews quad were unable to use toilets, showers and drinking water after a main water line break at 2:45 p.m. on Sunday Jan. 27, 2013. A member of the SUNY Fredonia custodial staff alerted the supervising custodian that water was accumulating in the basement of Igoe.

This is when Residence Life director, Gary Bice, received a phone call from Fredonia’s head plumber, alerting him of the situation. After receiving the official news around 3:30 p.m., Bice took immediate action and met with other Fredonia officials to determine a plan of action.

The administration came to the conclusion to turn off the water to Hemingway, Schulz, Hendrix and Igoe Halls and contacted residents directors, instructing them to notify students to shower or do laundry before 8 p.m., when the water would be shut off.

“It was a 40-year-old cast iron pipe …” said Bice. “It finally just gave way, so they decided to abandon it in place and put a brand new pipe in, snake it through the basement of Igoe … so to have that happen in 48 hours is pretty amazing.”

Continued on page A-2
Maytum Hall holds all the offices together,” said Dr. David Herman, vice president of student affairs. “We had almost 80 staff members spread from the fields, to Gregory, to the Library, to some of the academic buildings. So, from an administrative side, it’s nice to have everyone back together.”

Herman continued, “For students, it’s a little further to walk to Maytum, but when they do come here, they can get most of their business done.” Herman mentioned that the proximity of the offices builds a sense of camaraderie, which in-turn leads to more productivity. “Most of the students have never been in Maytum Hall before, so they don’t know what it looked like before, and they’ve never seen a view of the lake from the sixth floor, so I think students have found it to be comfortable, and it’s a lot more modern that it used to be. I think having a lot of the administrative units close together builds a lot of teamwork, and it’s easier to get things accomplished.”

Now that Maytum Hall has reopened, all of these offices will be much more accessible to students because they are all in one location. For many students who have never been inside Maytum Hall, the wait of seeing the inside of the tallest building in all of Chautauqua County is finally over.

Andrews quad water main breaks: Continued from A-1

The choice to hire outside contractors is strictly situational; if we can handle it in house [with Fredonia staff] then we will,” Bice said, “but we just don’t have the equipment for something like this.” Working around the clock, contractors repaired the water main within 48 hours. “I think the timing helped us. It wasn’t the middle of the semester,” Bice said, “so most of you [students] were returning with [bottled] water; a lot of things worked in our favor.”

After about four days without water facilities, students regained full use of water on Jan. 31 at 4 p.m. The board of administrators did their best to effectively and efficiently resolve this problem. As with most maintenance issues, student cooperation helped to ensure the best result and to minimize repair time.

I believe the water issue on campus couldn’t have been handled any other way,” said Lunderman. “I realize they did all they could do in a short amount of time, especially because it was under no control and unexpected, so there’s no negative feeling towards anyone, because it was out of the administrators hands, and it wasn’t bad.”

In order to solve the problem as efficiently as possible campus administrators hired outside contractors to resolve the issue.
The Student Association will be holding General Assembly meetings every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in G24 McEwen. Every student is encouraged to attend, and each meeting will provide valuable information. Your tuition dollars are being spent – have your opinions heard.

Children and Grandchildren of SUNY Fredonia Alumni

As a Child and/or Grandchild of a SUNY Fredonia alumnus/a, you are eligible to apply for a SUNY Fredonia Alumni Association Scholarship.

You may find all information regarding criteria and the application on our website:
http://alumni.fredonia.edu/Home/Scholarships/ChildrenGrandchildrenofAlumniScholarships.aspx

**DEADLINE** to apply is April 5, 2013

The office of Alumni Affairs
286 Central Ave
Fredonia, NY 14063
(716)-673-3553 (T)
(716)-673-3626 (F)

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January 6, 2013
2:43 a.m. A silver necklace was found and turned in to University Police.

January 27, 2013
2:49 p.m. An iPhone was reported stolen from Steele Hall. A report was filed.

January 29, 2013
4:25 p.m. A credit card was reported stolen from 234 McGinnies Hall. A report was filed.

January 30, 2013
2:09 p.m. A student reported being harassed by another student. A report was filed and statement taken.

January 31, 2013
11:53 a.m. A visitor’s son was hit by a vehicle in lot 11 which then left the scene of the accident. An investigation is ongoing.

February 3, 2013
12:26 a.m. Two males refused to leave the lobby of Kasling Hall. A report was filed.

Fredonia
January 29, 2013
Anthony P. Draves, 22, was charged with disorderly conduct and issued an appearance ticket.

Parker T. Winddancer, 20, was charged with passing a red light, unlawful possession of marijuana and underage possession of alcohol. He was issued appearance tickets.

February 1, 2013
12:00 p.m. Luis F. Carrero, 16, was charged with criminal mischief.

February 22, 2013
5:55 p.m. Dean, L. Shelters, 24, was charged with speeding in zone.

Peter C. Isaac, 22, was charged with disorderly conduct and issued an appearance ticket.

Michael P. Hore, 20, was charged with disorderly conduct and issued an appearance ticket.

Joshua R. Taylor, 22, was charged with disorderly conduct and released on $100 bail.

Ashley A. Wise, 19, was charged with failure to keep right.

Michael A. Crowley, 21, was charged with disorderly conduct and issued an appearance ticket.

February 3, 2013
1:01 a.m. Patrick Fay, 20, was charged with underage possession of alcohol and issued an appearance ticket.

2:30 a.m. Brian J. Blackburn, 18, was charged with violation of sewer ordinance and seventh degree criminal possession of a controlled substance. Blackburn was issued an appearance ticket.

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.
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GREAT NEWS FOR YOU!
OP-ED

ETHAN POWERS
Managing Editor

On the morning of Dec. 14, 2012, we were busy preparing for the monotonous routine of the end-of-semester exam schedule and thinking ahead to a quiet holiday with family and friends that would provide us with well-deserved solace. In Newtown, Connecticut, 430 miles from here, 20-year old Adam Lanza entered Sandy Hook Elementary wielding a .223-caliber, semi-automatic Bushmaster rifle.

When police arrived on the scene to find Lanza’s lifeless body, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound, 26 other bodies lay motionless throughout the school, and 20 of them belonged to children. Since the unfathomable tragedy, about 1,500 people across the country have needlessly lost their lives to gun violence. Yet just a month after the Sandy Hook shooting, following the passing of historic gun control legislation within New York State, we’ve faced the task of not only enduring another mass shooting inside the walls of a school, but we’ve also had to tolerate the incessant, illogical ramblings of the NRA and other gun-touting extremists who have shouted over the cries of Newtown victims’ parents and their calls for a reexamination of this country’s gun climate.

To be clear, the NY SAFE Act is far from a perfect piece of reactionary legislation. The specific components of the bill should have been more thoroughly debated at the highest levels and New York itself, with relatively low gun death rates compared to that of many other states, hardly should be the paradigm for gun control.

The bill redefines “assault weapons” as semi-automatic firearms with a detachable magazine and at least one “military style” feature such as a pistol grip, folding stock, flash suppressor, muzzle brake/compensator or bayonet lug, and bans the sale or exchange of these weapons within the State of New York. It also addresses high-capacity ammunition clips, banning the sale of clips capable of holding 10 or more rounds. Clips with seven rounds can still be purchased, and gun owners who possessed guns with 10-round clips prior to the bill’s passing are permitted to keep them. Yet while NRA members and gun enthusiasts alike alike flood local hearings and condemn the possibility that they may be less effective at shooting deer or have a whopping three less bullets to protect themselves with, the most troubling element of the SAFE Act goes relatively unnoticed. Within the bill is a provision that now requires mental health professionals to report individuals whom they believe to be a threat to themselves or to others. Subsequently, the police may then issue an investigation and confiscate the guns of such individuals.

Such a shortsighted and kneejerk reaction to the public uproar that claims it is not gun control that is the issue, but a poor mental health system, won’t just be ineffective at preventing the targeted mental patients from obtaining guns, it’ll deter those in serious need of mental treatment from seeking it (not to mention will shatter any degree of doctor-patient confidentiality).

If an individual is suffering from disturbing or harmful thoughts, and that person comes from a family which owns guns or lives in a community in which there is a culture that promotes their use, it is much more likely that they’ll act on those homicidal or suicidal impulses without NRA overshadowing the right to wield weapons for the people who would consider it to be a helpless act of defense.

“Do you believe stricter regulations would reduce gun violence?”

Amanda Scavard
junior visual arts/new media

“No, because the people that are causing the majority of gun violence don’t pay attention to the stricter rules anyway. They are taking away the right to wield weapons for the people who do follow the rules.”

Laura Imm
senior political science/criminal justice

“Yes, gun regulations in general would reduce crime but it’s not gonna have a vast effect as other types of interference would, such as mental health and other types of regulations like that.”
faced, brazen gun owners as they gather at town halls from Newtown, CT to Clarence, NY, nor are they the arguments of the NRA. Just last year, hundreds of gun rights advocates with the support of the NRA showed up at a Connecticut hearing to oppose legislation that would have restricted high-capacity ammunition magazines – the same ones used by Adam Lanza to rip through adolescent flesh.

Perhaps a microcosm for the gun control debate as it’s been conducted over the last decade, this highlights an overlooked element that often proves to be the difference when policy makers sit down to discuss possible gun legislation: NRA lobbying power.

While the NRA doesn’t necessarily negotiate with massive lobbying fund figures (about $2.5 million in 2012), its main source of influence lies in its scope and ability to assemble Congress members to dictate the outcome it sees fit. A study conducted by the Sunlight Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that uses the power of the Internet to produce greater government transparency, found that 51 percent of the members of the new Congress have received funding from the NRA’s political action committee at some point in their political careers and 47 percent received money from the NRA in the most recent race in which they ran.

If one is to make the assumption that financial incentives serve as a catalyst for political action, then the disparity of resources between the gun rights and gun control groups provides stark evidence as to why gun control legislation consistently seems to be pushed to the back of the agenda. Put simply, it’s because the incentives remain in the corner of inaction.

But let’s pretend for a moment that the NRA had much less influence and pull in Washington. The gun control debate should still be nonexistent because of the religious fervor in which gun advocates view the Second Amendment, right? One of the most frustrating aspects of the entire debate originates from those who so vehemently and blindly point to the Right to Bear Arms as an unalienable right when they seem to have much less influence and pull in Washington. The 18 years before the law’s introduction saw Australia play host to 13 mass shootings. The 18 years after its signing? Zero.

A study by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center further found that the gun murder rate had dropped by more than 40 percent. Interestingly enough, the assault-styles weapons banned in Australia following the Port Arthur massacre were of the same kind used by James Holmes during his rampage at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado – An AR15 rifle which had been legally purchased. There are a few starting points if we are to begin considering new, effective gun legislation targeted at the most basic and essential levels. One, would be to restrict the sale of high-capacity magazines. Another would be to limit gun purchases within a short period.

If a deadly new strain of the flu were ravaging the country, would doctors and medical scientists not be scrambling to find a cure? If missiles were being launched into American cities by an external party, government officials would certainly be working to prevent innocent American lives from being taken. It is only in the U.S. in which, despite the ominous statistics, a culture of gun violence and social dormancy that only leads to further agony and social decay.

The ever-stated, “guns don’t kill people, people kill people” mantra is a self-fufilling prophecy of political and social conformation. Perhaps a microcosm for the gun control debate in modern society.

The Constitution and the nature of the U.S. Constitution has less to do with the denotation it was written and the nature of the U.S. Constitution. The Founding Fathers, clever as they were, understood and foresaw that life in the United States of America as it was in 1776 would not be the same as in 2013. Thus, they included ways in which both the public and political realm could amend the document if necessary to compensate for fundamental changes in technology, cultural norms, etc.

No realistic or pragmatic gun restriction argument will contend that the Second Amendment should be repealed entirely. However, what this country desperately requires is a reinterpretation of the amendment as it applies to modern society. When written, the First Amendment and its content was solely intended to represent white males. Following a massive shift in public perception over the course of 200 years, it was accepted by the American people that the amendment’s implication should be expanded to include the minority and female populations as well.

The same reexamination must be applied to the Second Amendment, mainly because its implementation in the aftermath of the Revolutionary War to raise and maintain local militia to protect against external threats bore no relevance whatsoever to current American society.

If you were to propose such blasphemous talk to a U.S. gun advocate, they’d most likely reiterate the fact that guns are American’s only true line of self defense. The reality is that there is very little data to determine whether or not firearms are used substantially in cases of self defense. Part of the incompleteness is due to the fact that “self defense” is not concretely defined and is therefore not always accounted for or done so incorrectly.

There is tangible evidence however, that the legal purchasing of guns has resulted in a great deal of bloodshed in the U.S. Magazine Mother Jones has mapped each shooting spree of the past 30 years, and found that since 1982, there have been at least 63 mass shootings across 30 different states. Of the 142 guns possessed by the shooters, more than three quarters were obtained legally.

To counter the claim that gun control, when introduced, has absolutely no effect, Australia provides evidence to the contrary.

In 1996, a mass killing that took the lives of 35 people and wounded 23 others in Port Arthur and deeply shocked an entire country. There was neither partisan bickering nor mega-group lobbying. The government proposed bi-partisan legislation which led to the heavy restriction and in many cases, banning of self-loading rifles as well as self-loading and pump-action shotguns. There was no subsequent outcry from the public amidst legal gun ownership in Australia being reduced by one-fifth.

The 18 years before the law’s introduction saw Australia play host to 13 mass shootings. In the 14 years after its signing?

Another would be to limit gun purchases within a short period.

Research Center further found that the gun murder rate had dropped by more than 40 percent. Interestingly enough, the assault-styles weapons banned in Australia following the Port Arthur massacre were of the same kind used by James Holmes during his rampage at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado – An AR15 rifle which had been legally purchased. There are a few starting points if we are to begin considering new, effective gun legislation targeted at the most basic and essential levels. One, would be to restrict the sale of high-capacity magazines. Another would be to limit gun purchases within a short period.

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"AT SUNSET" BY SARAH SADLER/PHOTO EDITOR

"COTTON CANDY SKY" BY SARAH SADLER/PHOTO EDITOR

IF YOU HAVE PHOTOS FOR THE PAGE, PLEASE SUBMIT THEM TO OUR PHOTO EDITOR AT SADL2171@FREDONIA.EDU
This past weekend was one of the coldest yet. The effect the dead of winter had on the nightlife was just that – as dead as dead can be. On Friday, Feb. 1, musical acts took the stage upstairs at Doons, bringing a different atmosphere to the usual hustle-and-bustle attitude of the popular locale. The turnout, however, was less than show stopping at the start of the night. With mixed reviews from the crowd, half of attendees stayed by the bar for the entirety of the evening, while a select few active audience members danced the night away.

“What I love about this is that this is acoustic,” said senior music education major Morgan Townsend. “It’s always been electric, so it’s nice to see some more acoustic stuff. It’s very intimate.”

Townsend discussed her history with the bar in her years at Fredonia.

“I’ve been coming here for five years, when this place was called Muldoons and the upstairs was called The Hairy Lemon.

Others too looked back on their times spent at The Hairy Lemon.

“I’ve been coming here for five years, when this place was called Muldoons and the upstairs was called The Hairy Lemon.”

Ed Croft, a former Muldoons performer, spoke of booking shows at the venue. Croft, however, didn’t have such a bright outlook on the performance.

“People are doing recycled tunes from black men in the 30s and 40s,” Croft said. “It’s a very exclusive elitist culture, and that sucks because that’s not what folk music is supposed to be.”

The varied reviews coincided with the variety of music. The performances of the night ranged everywhere from acoustic guitar to a flute solo, ending with the main act of the night, Killing It, a band comprised of a fiddle player and a banjoist.

“I came here to check out my friends Jose and Bryan,” Croft said about the members of Killing It. “The weather made it much less easier to come out, but I came to check out my buddies.”

Matt Corrigan, the first performer of the night, talked about his creative process.

“Sometimes I can write a song in the amount of time it takes to play a song – it’ll just come right out,” said Corrigan. “Sometimes it takes a lot more work to labor over the lyrics. It all varies.” His musical style was very reminiscent of older jazz-influenced music with hints of bluegrass thrown in as well. “I listen to a lot of blues,” Corrigan said, “going back a good 70 years”.

As the night drew to a close, more and more people started to arrive. Although the venue wasn’t packed, the audience definitely picked up some energy as the night went on. By the time Killing It took the stage, the high energy performance only added to the ultimately energetic demeanor of the crowd. Even though the night started off cold and dead, it ended hot and full of life for the crowd at Doons.
The Golden Globes is the best award show for giving good television its due. The drinks were flowing and everybody was tipsy by the time the first award for TV was announced. The Best Actress in a Supporting Role category was filled with amazing actresses: Hayden Panettiere for Nashville, Archie Panjabi for The Good Wife, Sarah Paulson for Game Change and Sofia Vergara for Modern Family. Vergara was anticipated by many to take home an award if only because the show usually cleans house at the Globes. However, Maggie Smith from Downton Abbey received the award in this category. Smith is most known for her portrayal as Professor Minerva McGonagall in the Harry Potter film series.

The next award of the night for TV was Best Miniseries or Motion Picture made for Television, and Game Change was the big winner. The show would prove to be victorious once again when Julianne Moore took home the Globe in the category for Best Actress in a Miniseries or Motion Picture made for Television. Star of the show Ed Harris pulled yet another for Game Change when he won for the Best Supporting Actor in a Miniseries or Motion Picture Made for Television.

When it came time to announce Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series, bringing the show’s total up to three. Crowd favorite Kevin Costner took home the Globe for Best Performance by an Actor in a Television Series Drama while Claire Danes took home Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series, drama while Claire Danes took home Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series while Laurie Metcalf took home Best Performance in a Comedy or Musical and then went on to win Best Television Comedy or Musical.

Argo Jessica Chastain
Daniel Day-Lewis
Les Miserables
Jennifer Lawrence
Hugh Jackman
Brave
Amour
Anne Hathaway
Christoph Waltz
Ben Affleck
Quentin Tarantino
Homeland
Claire Danes
Damien Lewis
Girls
Lena Dunham
Don Cheadle
Game Change
Julianne Moore
Kevin Costner
Maggie Smith
Ed Harris

The regularly snubbed writer/director walked away from that award show with a victorious fist clenched around a little golden statue. In his 22 years as a filmmaker, Tarantino’s work has only yielded one Oscar for Pulp Fiction and a couple of Globes.

At its heart, the Golden Globes, though entrenched in 70 years of tradition, is nothing more than a drumroll for what’s coming later this month. For those who live to oggle at stars while they’re at peak beautification, by all means sit for three hours and give away. But the serious movie buffs can shake this one off as a trivial, vanity-driven Hollywood expenditure.
Welcome back everyone, and welcome to week fourteen of The A-Tracks! It feels great to be back in the swing of things once again and with the spring semester being a little different this year, we will still be covering plenty of artists both local and popular along with various albums, I want to branch out and cover some other musical topics. This week, I have a continuation of our Golden Globes coverage, an interview with one of the hottest new music groups on campus and more! Please don’t forget to join me for the radio show, which will now be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons on WDVL 98.5.

EILEEN MOWREY
Assistant Reverb Editor

If you’re trying to make a name for yourself in the Fredonia music scene or just want to get experience working in the music business, the MOFOs are here to help. The Music of Fredonia Organization, better known by their catchy acronym, is like an “easy” button for aspiring musicians in Fredonia. The group was created in October by junior music industry majors PJ Gerlach and David Neimanis with the intent of promoting local music and increasing music participation both on campus and in the community.

“The idea came to Gerlach and Neimanis while they were attending the CMJ conference in New York City last semester. The conference brings professionals from throughout the music industry to host panel discussions on various aspects of the music industry. Gerlach said that it was while they were sitting in those conferences that he and Neimanis began wondering how they could use the knowledge they had just acquired to help Fredonia students.

“The one thing we noticed, especially in the past year and a half, is that there are no bands or musicians playing around. And if there are, nobody knows about it, nobody’s going,” said Gerlach. They even discovered that some venues are considering not doing shows anymore because their turnouts are so poor. “There is no reason why we can’t connect the campus and the downtown area,” says Gerlach. And he and Neimanis have set out to do just that.

MOFO provides a number of services for local musicians. A lot of what they have been doing thus far is booking. They have organized shows at Doon’s, Kangaroo Cafe and WBVL already and are working on booking shows at other bars around town this semester. They have scheduled a show featuring Functional Flow for Saturday, Feb. 23 at 9 p.m. at Doon’s and one for Universal Bistro Saturday, Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. They are also working with the Art Barn and all those proceeds go to the bands themselves. MOFO’s goal is to be booking at least one show a week by the end of the semester and maybe even organize a small music festival come spring.

MOFO also focuses heavily on publicity. The majority of their artist and event promotion is achieved through their Facebook page, on posters and via good off of month. They are also hoping to get a blog up and running in the future that would keep people updated on all upcoming events and review recent shows. The organization offers press kit manufacturing as well, mostly of which is created online in the form of electronic press kits.

However, the group wants to go beyond just booking and record their music. MOFO is prepared to help with that too. They will help set artists and bands up with Fredonia student sound engineers in the campus studio, which Gerlach says are “as professional as you’re going to find anywhere else.” Gerlach and Neimanis are also available for consulting. Both gentlemen have experience in music – Gerlach as a former vocal music major and performer and Neimanis as a long time musician. For those who are just starting out, Gerlach’s advice is, “It’s all about entertainment. Just be entertaining.”

For those who are looking to take a bigger step, there is still a place for you in the MOFO project. While they enjoy the work, Gerlach and Neimanis can’t do it all themselves.

“We started it with the intention of having more people join and help us out,” said Gerlach. The music industry club is trying to bring the music industry to the students, and we’re trying to bring the students to the music industry,” said Gerlach. “By going to shows you’re still participating in the music industry, even if you’re not helping putting them on.”

Gerlach and Neimanis recognize how much musical talent there is on the Fredonia campus and throughout the community, and they want that talent to be shared with everyone.

“We just want there to be a more conscious collaborative experience across campus when it comes to music because it’s a music school,” Gerlach said. His reasoning is that everyone enjoys music to some degree or another. He said, “It would stand to reason that we should be able to get any student on this campus to come to a show if we can find the right music. And that’s kind of our goal.”
MAGGIE GILROY  
Staff Writer

A top contender for this year’s award season is Les Misérables. The movie musical is currently up for eight Academy Awards: Best Picture, Actor in a Leading Role (Hugh Jackman), Actress in a Supporting Role (Anne Hathaway), Production Design, Costume Design, Makeup and Hairstyling, Music (Original Song) and Sound Mixing.

Despite many positive reviews and success at the Golden Globes, Critics Choice and Screen Actors’ Guild Awards, the film has caused differences of opinion between theater goers and film goers.

My former theater teacher advised me not to look at it from a theater perspective, but from purely a film perspective. It was through this lens that I viewed the movie, and I was thoroughly impressed with what I saw. After its 1980 premiere on London stages, the musical adaptation of the Victor Hugo novel became wildly popular. While I have always preferred the theatrical production, this film adaptation is a wonderful example of how film can be utilized to tell a story in a way that would not be possible on stage.

The film takes place during the French Revolution and is centered around Jean Valjean, a convict who seeks a life of goodness after experiencing forgiveness and Javert (Crowe), the policeman who makes it his life mission to ensure Valjean pays for his crime.

Beginning with the prologue, the movie contained breathtaking scenic shots that did a wonderful job of establishing the setting. The setting changed countless times and in a way that that cannot be done onstage simply because there isn’t the space for endless scenery.

While many people have been critical of the vocal performances, the movie is a perfect example for how singers don’t have to be classically trained in order to be able to find the true meaning of a song. Considering the camera can come as close to an actor as they need, the same of which cannot be said for those in an audience during a play on a stage, this truth is much more understated on film than on the stage.

The groundbreaking use of live vocals contributed to this truth as well. They were more believable than the over-synthesized studio recordings that are so often used in movie musicals.

As film allows the audience to get right in the actors faces and truly witness their performances, I was fascinated by the close shots throughout each song. Close enough to see the tears streaming down Fantine’s (Hathaway) face and the change in Valjean’s eyes as they became strained and bloodshot after he experienced forgiveness from the bishop (Colm Wilkinson).

As much as I love the stage, this intimacy seen in the film adaptation is impossible to achieve when the audience is a minimum of 10 feet away from the actors, which is the case for stage performances. It was this closeness that ignited a deep sympathy within myself for the characters, opening my eyes to the hardships experienced by those oppressed in France prior to and during the French Revolution.

As a fan of both the London and Broadway productions, I appreciated Hooper’s nod to the stage with the casting Wilkinson as the bishop, seeing as Wilkinson was the original Valjean on both the London stage and on Broadway. I felt that Jackman carried the performance wonderfully with his highly passionate portrayal of Valjean, remaining believable as he aged about 40 years throughout the progression of the movie.

While Crowe did not have a voice as polished as Jackman’s, Crowe did a wonderful job of capturing the angst and rigidity of Javert. Hathaway appeared to have had the most vocal training as she went through the journey of young factory worker to TB-ridden prostitute. Although she was only onscreen for a short time and was only given one song to showcase her talents, she used it to her full advantage and moved the audience with each sob and gasp for breath during the devastating audition favorite “I Dreamed a Dream.”

Sacha Baron Cohen and Helena Bonham Carter did a wonderful job as the humorous, yet ruthless, con masters, the Thénardiers. They added much needed comic-relief throughout the complicated, tragic plot.

Although his acting talent far exceeded his voices, Eddie Redmayne did a wonderful job as the young Marius. His acting talent was showcased brilliantly, especially as he poured every ounce of passion into the tragic “Empty Chairs and Empty Tables.”

Les Misérables is a film I will not soon forget and I will be sitting on pins and needles until I find out if the Oscar voters share my opinion. But with equally strong opponents including Argo, Lincoln, Life of Pi, Django Unchained, and Silver Linings Playbook, only time will tell who will walk away with one (or many) of the coveted gold statues.

Opportunity: “Checked Out”

CHELSEA DRAKE  
Assistant Review Editor

For the past four years, I have lived in this quaint college town, but I never realized how lucky I am until now. I mean, the cheap movie reviews, student discounts and dollar drinks are all great, they really are, and I have certainly tried not to take them for granted, but one of my favorite things is living so close to thriving bookstores and working libraries. They’re where I go for both work and play; how many places can you say that about?

When I was home over winter break, I forgot that the library is just casually strolling through a bookstore took time and planning. The closest bookstore, besides the local library, there are always activities going on. If you’ve ever sat studying for a final and seen your professor stroll through with his or her own children to read them stories, and in their pajamas nonetheless, you know what I’m talking about. Or, if you are a library junkie in your hometown, there are always people of all ages either researching for their profession or simply tracking down a favorite author, not to mention engaging in activities like learning languages through ESL programs. These are important essentials for the people in any community.

Author of White Teeth and several other miraculous books, Zadie Smith said she owed her “whole life to libraries.” Despite many positive reviews and success at the multiple awards, Smith, who joined campaigners fighting to save her local library in Brent, UK, said, “When we were children, you’d never imagine that you’d get into a right/left argument about the purpose and use of a library. It seems extraordinary to me,” she said. “I really don’t find it a political argument. It’s about equality of opportunity. You know, you don’t expect everyone to be as educated as everyone else or have the same achievements, but you expect, at least, to be offered at least some of the opportunities, and libraries are the most simple and the most open way to give people access to books.”

Now, with the closing of several Barnes and Nobles, I am disheartened over the Blindness that has shaded a great deal of our libraries. I’ve met a book a day to learn and receive information for free should be of constant use, and it’s refreshing to see communities protecting that belief, not only in our backyards, but all over the world.

For ways to help preserve our libraries and free education, visit your local library.
Blue Devils hockey win two more

SEAN MCGRATH
Special to the Leader

Nine straight games without a win can definitely do a number on a team’s outlook on the rest of the season, not unlike our very own Fredonia Blue Devils (7-13-2 OVERALL, 5-6-1 SUNYAC). Coach Jeff Meredith still has his sights set on the positives that can come out with the final three games on the horizon.

That’s exactly what his perspective looked like this past weekend, as the Blue Devils took to the ice for a Friday to Saturday back to back home stand against the visiting Potsdam Bears (6-14-1 OVERALL, 3-9-0 in SUNYAC) with a 2-0 win, and then taking that momentum into Saturday with a 2-1 win over ninth place nationally-ranked Division-III Plattsburgh Cardinals (14-6-1 OVERALL, 9-2-1 SUNYAC).

“I think, sometimes, every team takes time to evolve and be able to figure out the best way they can make things happen positively together, and I think that we have great leadership through what has been a fairly difficult season to get wins at,” Meredith commented.

After going on a slide of 0-7-2 over the past few weeks, with their last win dating back to Dec. 7 against visiting Elmira, the team had something to prove and refocus and getting back to their winning ways, and the Potsdam Bears drew the unlucky pick.

The first period started off the usual way; with hits and passing plays. Each team had to get a feel for each other in recognizing what it will take to break the scoreless effort. Mark Friesen was equal to the task, stopping anything that produced a threat to his domain.

The final buzzer rang, and the Blue Devils had snappy a nine game winless streak on the backs of Friesen and McLaughlin with Hehr and Jung assisting to the winning effort. Friesen skated off the ice with his fifth career shutout and second this season.

But not all was over. The Blue Devils were only just beginning.

“We didn’t even talk about Plattsburgh last week, we only talked about Potsdam, and even Friday night Saturday morning we didn’t even say the word Plattsburgh, we were just like, ‘Hey! We gotta get ready!’” Meredith stated.

So, by the time that 7 o’clock rolled in Saturday night, the team had mentally prepared for what was going to be a battle at all ends of the ice in the visiting Cardinals.

With the team riding the win from Potsdam, it didn’t take long for the Devils to realize the game at hand. Once again, the first period started off the same way as the previous night, hits, shots and saves, just to get it started. Plattsburgh finished the period with the lead in shots, 11-8. The score was locked at 0 for both teams.

Following suit from the night before, it took almost no time at all for Fredonia to strike first in the second period. Only 17 seconds into the game, Mat Hehr wrapped the puck around the net and slid it by Plattsburgh goalie Mathieu Cadieux to light the lamp and put Fredonia up on the Cardinals 1-0. Jung and McLaughlin added the assists as the three kept their hot streak going. The period seemed to play the same way, until controversy struck in Fredonia territory as an apparent Plattsburgh goal was disallowed by the official, saying the play was stopped before the puck entered the net.

With only a minute left to play in the second, a boarding call to Ian Cogrove gave Plattsburgh a late power play. This proved lethal to the Devils as Freshman Dylan Fox took a pass from line mate Luke Balestra and one-timed it into the net to even the score at one with a minute to intermission.

With the score at a tie, it was time for Hehr to shine again. A charging call to Plattsburgh’s Michael Radisa seemed to be the straw that broke the camel’s back.

A Fredonia fore-check on the power play caused a turnover in the Cardinal zone and, with the assist to Tyler Sheppard and Jared Wynia, Hehr jammed the puck by the right side of the net. Lifting the Devils above Plattsburgh once again, this goal would be named the game winner. The scoreboard read 2-0 in favor of our home team.

As the buzzer sounded, the roar of the crowd, the loud instrumentals of the band and the team leaping from the bench to meet goalie Friesen in the net only showed that the boys are here to play. The shot count was heavy on Plattsburgh’s side as the visitors tested Friesen with 36 shots, 35 of which he turned away.

The team now looks ahead to continuing its home stand, as the Cortland Red Dragons (7-12-2 OVERALL, 3-8-1 SUNYAC) will play for the annual “Pink the Rink” fundraiser for breast cancer on Friday night, followed by the Oswego State Lakers (18-3-0 OVERALL, 11-1-0 SUNYAC) visit for Fredonia’s “Senior Night.” Puck drop is at 7 p.m. both Friday and Saturday.

Tickets are only $1 for Fredonia students, $3 for other students and $6 for adults.

Fredonia State men's basketball team falls to Cortland and Oswego

Check out our blog at Fredonialeader.org for more photos of Saturday's men's basketball game against Oswego!
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This... cannot be.

Hey

you know where I could get some .45 cal rounds?
February Horoscopes

Aries: Jupiter has orbited the Sun creating a halo around your stars. That halo indicates that you’ll have superpowers for the month of February. But watch out! Don’t take advantage of these new and strange powers. It’s a privilege that the stars only allow once in like a billion years. Your fellow signs may be jealous, but tell them to back off or you will get angry. And they won’t like you when you’re angry.

Taurus: You’re broke and we all know it. There are a bunch of broke Taurus’ walking around Fredonia begging for cash to buy a dollar well beverage or to pay the cover for their favorite Fredonia Hot Spot. Listen: begging is unbecoming. You need to figure out creative ways to make your money. The stars are giving you very little to work with, so you will need to use your natural abilities, whatever they may be.

Gemini: The stars went out for lunch. They will be back in a moment. Please wait patiently.

Cancer: Life will bring you roses and happiness. It’s a wonderful month for you. I have nothing bad at all to say about all you lovely Cancers out there. You did it! It’s a wonderful month for you. I have nothing bad at all to say about all you lovely Cancers out there. You did it! It’s a privilege that you, Sagittarius, so eloquently possess, and they will fail where you succeed.

Leo: Your love life has been up in the air, Leo. It’s probably for a number of reasons, including but not limited to loudness, sloppiness and stupidity. So, maybe you should work on some of those things before you expect another person to want to be with you. That’s a recommendation from the stars, not from this writer. Get it together Leo. You’re grossing everyone out.

Virgo: There seems to be some static; your horoscope cannot come in.

Libra: Your school work will take a very serious turn for you, Libra, this has been your life goal all along. So suck it, all you haters.

Scorpio: Stop it. Whatever you have been doing. Stop it. It’s time for a change. You’re irritating everyone. Seriously.

Sagittarius: Your family will be your rock for this month. You will rely on them to pay for your boozing and cruising. You will repeatedly have to ask your parents for money to purchase “food” and “pay for bills.” They will surely believe you and begin forking over money. All your friends will become jealous of your new found riches and try to hoodwink their parents in the same manner. Unfortunately for them, they do not have the cunning skills and deceitfulness that you, Sagittarius, so eloquently possess, and they will fail where you succeed.

Capricorn: The stars wish you good luck. That is all they said. So, good luck. It looks like you might need it.

Aquarius: It’s your birthday month, you lucky bitch. Mention this article to a bartender downtown on your birthday and the will give you a free drink (assuming you are 21 or older). Congratulations. You did it.

Pisces: You are a water sign, in case you were wondering. This month is not one for the water signs, so that’s a real bummer. It’s way too cold to go swimming or really do anything water related, unless it’s in its frozen form. Turns out, mid-way through the month, you will fall in love with the snow and cold weather, which is rather out of character for you, Pisces. That being said, you will begin to make some major changes in your life following your newfound love of snow and ice. It’s going to be an interesting February for sure.

OVERHEARD AT FREDONIA

Text what you’ve overheard to: (716) 202-0661

“Overheard” was started nearly five years ago as a group on Facebook. The Fredonia chapter was created after the popularity of SUNY Geneseo’s Overheard group began to spread. Now, in a collaborative effort with the Facebook group, The Lampoon will be bringing you the best of SUNY Fredonia’s awkward and otherwise unseemly mouth dribble heard in passing.

Along with posting on Overheard’s wall, you can now text us your quotes to our dedicated Lampoon line (see above). Without further ado, here’s a highlight of this week’s eavesdroppings:

Tour Group
Parent: “I see there is a lot of construction on campus. Are there any parking problems?”
Tour Guide: “No, parking is never a problem on campus. In fact, they just built three new lots.”

Girl 1: “If you get drunk and you piss yourself, I think it’s called ‘piss drunk.’ But what do they call it when you get drunk and you shit yourself?”
Girl 2: “Shit-faced!”
Girl 1: “There we go.”

Williams Center
“I don’t think it’s still considered the walk of shame if you go before the sun comes up…”