100 years later: Fredonia talks World War I

VICTOR SCHMITT-BUSH
Assistant News Editor

On Nov. 11, 1918, the "War to end all wars," the long and bloody World War I, had finally come to a close. Germany formally surrendered, signing the Treaty of Versailles alongside the Allied Nations.

In recognition of its 100 year anniversary, Fredonia will host “World War I Centennial: Ending War, Talking Peace.”

There will be two consecutive events: a public reading session on Wednesday, Feb. 21 and a panel discussion on Thursday, Feb. 22.

The first event will also feature an exhibit displaying World War I era literature, according to the Campus Report. The exhibit will host a collection of works by Austrian novelist, playwright, journalist and biographer Stefan Zweig.

On the following day, a group of well-established speakers will lead the conversation. At the forefront of the discussion will be philosophical and ethical notions: the efficacy of the Treaty of Versailles, as well as a number of other things that led up to the end of the war.

The objective of these events is “[not just to] remember the war itself, but to remember how it ended, and how any war ends and America’s involvement in WWI,” according to the event organizer and English professor Iclal Vanwesenbeeck.

"Post-1945, I think [my students] have a better understanding of the chronology of wars,” she said. “But when we go further back and talk about World War I, I have to say, some of my students are surprised to even learn that America was involved.”

According to Vanwesenbeeck, anyone with an interest in World War I or an interest in how peace was made is welcome to join in on the discussion. She expressed the significance of the calming nature of the event, how the location and structure of the event is reflective of peace and inclusivity.

"I like holding events in the library," she said. “I don’t do it very often, but I think libraries are great places for these kinds of public and civil conversations, and I didn’t want any barriers between the panelists and the community at this event. We will have therapy dogs coming in as well, along with peaceful music playing in the background right before the panel.”

CONTINUED on pg. 4
Yet another racial incident

QUINTIN JAMES
Assistant Sports Editor

On Feb. 11, an alleged incident downtown involving SUNY Fredonia students led directly to a racial slur being posted on social media. This has sparked outrage and controversy on campus and online.

In a matter of hours, Fredonia was notified through Twitter, Facebook and email of this incident, and some started to investigate.

Mick Ribble, a sophomore double major in social justice and sociology, saw the photo from a friend and decided to post it on social media. They were angry with such hateful speech, but they were not surprised.

“I first posted it on Twitter [tagging] Fredonia’s account, asking if this is what our school is okay with. I then turned to Facebook, saying the same thing, and also put it on my private Instagram. I was angry that someone could be so hateful, though I was not surprised at all,” said Ribble. “I’m exposed to racism and other forms of prejudice daily, and seeing it on my own campus, I knew that I had the ability to bring visibility to the issue locally.”

“I wanted to make fellow non-PoC students on this campus see that this is an issue that is happening in Fredonia as well,” Ribble continued. “My intentions were to expose the kid and to let people know that their friend was a harm to communities of color. I wasn’t about to let some white boy get away with being racist.”

In fact, according to many students, racial slurs can be seen as hate speech. The law doesn’t necessarily support their claims.

“This is now the second major incident of racism in Fredonia this year, the first one being the infamous “Blackface” incident during Halloween weekend.

Ribble recalls the incident, and he believes that the way Fredonia handled that situation explains the reason for the amount of disconnect on campus.

“The last time racism was exposed on this campus [the blackface incident], we got an email from the president shaming call-out culture,” he said. “Shaming and harassing also have no place on our campus community,’ [Horvath wrote.] How about centrism and tone-policing angry, marginalized students has no place [in] our campus community? If we continue to condone racism while also silencing black and brown voices, we are going to get absolutely nowhere as a campus.”

“Of course there should be actions taken later on, going further into details about the matter. Over the past few years, Fredonia has developed a pattern of struggling with many incidents, including sexual assault and race.”

Dr. Cedric Howard, vice president for Enrollment and Student Services, commented on the rules of student speech.

“When someone uses a third party platform [social media] to say anything offensive or controversial, it is free speech. If it’s a direct threat to a student or the university, then it is dealt with as an endangerment,” he said.

Where the incident happened impacts how the situation is handled.

“We can address it directly [if it happened on campus],” said Howard.

On the other hand, if an incident happens off campus, there are limitations on what steps the university can take without getting other parties involved.

In response to many allegations and incidents, Fredonia usually sends out emails to its students. Students like senior Jalen Wright are essentially numb to the bigotry on campus and the school’s lack of discipline for these incidents.

Wright originally saw a screenshot of the photo from a friend’s Snapchat story, and he described his initial reaction as a mixture of being hurt, yet not surprised.

“You become numb to it on this campus. It hurts and I’m speechless,” said Wright.

Wright expressed that people on this campus are done with seeing vague emails about racist remarks because no significant change ever happens after these incidents.

“We need action!” said Wright. “The email apology is nice, but what will you do after? Words without action is cheap.”

While many think the right decision would be to kick the student out, legal issues make that very hard to accomplish. Students who know this had a tough time figuring out a suitable and realistic solution, but agreed that some sort of harsh punishment is necessary for this act of racism.

“Of course there should be actions taken against the student, but will there? Probably not. But actions come with consequences,” said Wright.

Ribble had a similar response when asked about what the school should do about this situation.

“I think his ‘punishment’ should be a workshop or course that he is required to attend, and actively participate in, that focuses on black and brown cultures and history,” he said. “I cannot assume that he will change his ways, nor should I even expect it, but it is administration’s duty to do what they can to try and educate him and make him change his behavior for the future.”

CONTINUED on pg. 5
# POLICE BLOTTERS

## UNIVERSITY

**Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018**

12:20 p.m. Mark A Heughan was charged with failing to stop at a stop sign and second degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle. An appearance ticket was given.

A vehicle was struck on President's Drive. An investigation is on-going.

Unknown suspects posted advertisements in various areas of the campus. An investigation is on-going.

**Sunday, Feb. 17, 2018**

Unknown suspects stole items from Grissom Hall. An investigation is on-going.

## FREDONIA

**Monday, Feb. 12, 2018**

4:20 p.m. Dillon Miller, age 27 was charged with driving a vehicle with an expired inspection. An appearance ticket was given.

**Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2018**

Robert Russo, age 44, was charged with driving a vehicle without a license and speeding in a zone. Uniform traffic tickets were given.

**Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2018**

2:00 a.m. Joseph Rosario, age 30, was charged with criminal impersonation. He was held.

2:05 a.m. Jose Ruiz Jr., age 30, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. An appearance ticket was given.

**Saturday, Feb. 17, 2018**

Thomas Trever, age 20, was charged with driving a vehicle with an expired registration. An arrest was completed.

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*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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**WWI continued.**

“I think, in order for us to talk about war and peace, setting the mood and making the dialogue itself seem peaceful is important.”

Leading the panel discussion will be Christopher Capozzola, author of “Uncle Sam Wants You: World War I and the Making of the Modern American Citizen,” along with two U.S. veterans: Brian Castner, who is the author of the book “The Long Walk: A Story of War and the Life that Follows,” and Ian Fishback, who was named by Time Magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world.

According to Fishback, his role in leading his part of the discussion will be to discuss whether or not World War I was justified.

“The question is whether or not it was good for democracy,” he said. “And whether or not pragmatism as a philosophical approach would be an appropriate way to think about the ethics of the United States’ involvement in World War I.”

“When people talk about peace, they often define peace as the absence of violence,” said Fishback. “In that respect, authoritarian peace is still peace. But a better way to think about it is that the goal is to end war with a just peace, and that usually involves some kind of respect for human rights, liberal democracy.”

The next speaker, Capozzola, will be focusing on connecting the past to the present. He will encourage the general public to reflect on how World War I ended and how it overlaps with American history.

According to Campus Report Today, the final speaker, Castner, will be contributing by “elaborating on the forever war concept from the perspective of domestic and global politics.”

“This is not an academic or scholarly conference,” said Vanwesenbeeck. “This is a public event where you can walk in and learn something new, or even contribute to the dialogue in the room. My goal is for people to leave the room having asked a few good questions, for everyone involved to contribute in their own way to the dialogue of war and peace.”

Hayley Patterson/Staff Illustrator
Valentine’s Day event at Sunny’s stirs backlash on campus

DAN ORZECHOWSKI
News Editor

Last Wednesday night, a flyer warning people to avoid Sunny’s was found in a bathroom at University Commons.

Sunny’s, a bar located in downtown Fredonia, held an event on Valentine’s Day where attendees were encouraged to bring and shred pictures of their exes.

The flyer posted in UC warned readers about the DJ playing at Sunny’s, who was referred to as an “exploitative predator.” The flyer continued by saying the DJ’s fans “sponsor rape culture” and that some students at Fredonia were about to utilize the event to “take advantage of intoxicated people without consent.”

Fredonia Feminists, a group on campus that fights for gender equality, posted a picture of the flyer while telling followers to be careful that night.

“We did not create the flyer,” said Anneliese Bienko, senior social work major and president of Fredonia Feminists. “One of our members found it in the bathroom and we simply posted it as we thought it was an important thing for students to at least be aware of.”

A Twitter user who goes by DJ Exposure replied to the post made by Fredonia Feminists and said he was the DJ that night.

“I’m the DJ tonight and have never supported rape culture in my life. I feel violated that you would try ruining my image with your false accusations. Very disappointing,” said the Twitter user.

Bienko explained that the flyer had mistaken DJ Exposure for the host of the party, who goes by Kirill, a.k.a. The Slut Whisperer.

Earlier in the week, separate flyers that advertised the Valentine’s Day event (which featured a picture of Kirill) were posted without the approval of Campus Life in multiple residence halls on campus. It’s unclear who posted either flyers.

According to Bienko, Fredonia Feminists had not heard of the Slut Whisperer, but after doing some research, the group found his words and actions to be contributing to “rape culture.”

Kirill’s social media accounts feature him pouring champagne on women and writing on their breasts.

“I used to make fun of feminists by calling them fat. But honestly, I’ve had way more fun partying with fat girls than dealing with stuck up skinny hitches whose idea of feminism is making tea out of their period blood instead of actually helping other women,” he said in a tweet posted on Valentine’s Day.

“Rape culture is a term we use to describe the attitudes surrounding sexual violence and how it’s become normalized in our society instead of something punishable,” said Bienko.

Rape jokes, saying “boys will be boys,” policing people’s clothing, not believing people when they’ve said they’ve been violated, catcalling and the objectification of women in the media are all examples Bienko gave of rape culture.

Kirill, who describes himself on his Facebook page as a photographer who is “as recognizable as the celebrities that he shoots,” declined to comment.

The Leader was unable to reach Sunny’s for a comment.

Racial Incident continued.

Jelissa Samuel, senior history and political science double major and president of the Black Student Union, said that this is sort of like a cycle. She agreed with Wright’s point about being numb to these incidents because they happen so often.

She stressed that it would be better for Fredonia to fix these problems now instead of waiting until they potentially lead to violence.

“This shows the problem we have here. Administration has the power to stop it before violence starts,” said Samuel. She added that these incidents need to come with major consequences.

“Students feel uncomfortable and it’s a problem that it occurred and they will do nothing. You can’t maintain a healthy diversity if you’re too comfortable with tradition,” she said.

Samuel brought up a racial incident that occurred on the University of Alabama’s campus similar to the Fredonia’s. That student was kicked out.

According to USA Today, 19-year-old Harley Barber was expelled from Alabama in January after going on a racist rant on her social media account.

Samuel believes that if Alabama can punish its students for hate speech, Fredonia can do a better job of it as well.

“Talk is cheap, there is hate speech, but there has to be consequences for it,” she said.

Counseling for this, according to Samuel, is a “sorry because I got caught” type of punishment.

Howard explained that the school can’t force counseling on students, but sanctions such as probation, reimbursement and educational sanctions can be handed down if the situation calls for it.

In today’s climate, race is a huge topic of discussion in many circles. On college campuses, racist incidents and slurs have been reported repeatedly in the last few years. SUNY Plattsburgh is dealing with a racist incident very similar to Fredonia’s and the minority students have protested and printed out a list of “non-negotiable” demands in order to address this problem.

They threatened to not purchase any food on campus, not participate in courses, to block roads, contact multiple news and media outlets, and contact SUNY Central if their demands aren’t met by March 2.

Fredonia is in the process of solving this incident, but their decision will be heavily monitored by the students on campus.
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Famous Grammy Award winner
Leo Brouwer surprises Fredonia

STEPHEN SACCO
Special to the Leader

Leo Brouwer, Grammy Award winner specializing in classical guitar and composition, hasn’t been to America in 30 years. Fredonia was his first visit.

He arrived in Fredonia on Feb. 13 and resided until Feb. 14 for events hosted by Ethos New Music Society and Fredonia Guitar Society. Not only was his fame an impact on the SUNY Fredonia School of Music, but more importantly his wisdom was passed onto our ambitious students.

On the 13th, Brouwer hosted a master class for guitarists and composers from the School of Music. The class was followed by an evening tribute concert which gave SUNY Fredonia’s very own guitarists an opportunity to showcase Brouwer’s work.

Allison DiMauro, a junior music education major with a concentration in classical guitar, performed one of Brouwer’s many pieces in concert. DiMauro started playing classical guitar at 12 years old.

She vividly described a lesson that an instructor was giving her one day. Let it be noted that prior to this lesson, DiMauro would usually hear the distractions of atmospheric sound.

“My teacher said I have a new piece for you to play; it was towards the end of the lesson. His wife was mowing the lawn by the train station. I hear the dog barking and [the] door creak,” she said.

At the end of her lesson, DiMauro experienced something rare.

“Through all of [the distractions] I really hear the beauty of Brouwer’s piece, and I don’t hear any of that other crazy chaos that I would have normally heard during the end of my lessons. It really took my breath away that a piece can have such an impact on someone,” DiMauro said.

Her family was very excited to hear that she would be playing a piece by Brouwer.

Brouwer was not only a classical guitarist and composer, but a man of wisdom, to say the least.

The following day, he held a public lecture titled “Leo Brouwer: A Musical Life in Cuba” in the Reed Library Garden. This lecture gave the public a broad overview of his creative process and history. The first thing that he drew was a music staff with notes, and under was Fibonacci’s golden rule.

Brouwer touched upon the experience of playing music from composers.

“You are not going to imitate, you are comparing. At a certain moment, comparison comes to you,” he said.

He points out that when learning and mastering the classical guitar, one will gain a style of playing over time. This denotes the notion that a guitarist needs to master the guitar in a way that, say a computer would read code.

If Brouwer was given the opportunity to put his music in a picture, it would be representative of contemporary artist Francis Bacon.

“...I think my music is related to Bacon in the way that I mask the standard or manner to present sound...” he said.
Not so ‘free’ bleeding
Tampons and pads unavailable in the majority of campus bathrooms

MONICA A. MANNEY
Special to the Leader

Have you ever been in class and realized your “time of the month” has come unexpectedly? Hopefully tissue can stop the blood flow because you won’t find pads or tampons in the bathrooms of SUNY Fredonia. When asked if she had ever noticed the lack of sanitary dispensers, student Allegra Freier said that she had “absolutely” noticed.

“There are no sanitary napkin dispensers in any buildings except one, and that one was empty,” she said, while looking around campus for a tampon.

In desperate times, she remembered having to get “creative” with uncomfortable tactics to ensure she didn’t “bleed everywhere.”

According to 2016 Fast Facts, which provides data regarding SUNY, Fredonia has a student population of 4,386. Available sanitary products are necessary with well over half of these students experiencing a monthly menstrual cycle.

Lacking in bathroom resources gives students the option of either leaking on their way to the convenience stores or waiting and hoping a friend has extra products for them.

Fredonia junior journalism major Shantasia Johnson recalls multiple instances where she had to run across campus to provide sanitary products to friends.

“It’s weird that we are forced to depend on each other rather than those things being provided,” she said.

Although teamwork and connection is something Fredonia’s mission statement values, depending on each other for sanitary napkins is not mentioned in its description.

For students who are financially stable, grabbing a tampon or pad from the convenience store may be no problem, but for those who are not, their time of the month can be an inconvenience.

“They don’t know what money or resources students have or don’t have. It’s expensive,” said Freier.

Campus stores do offer pads and tampons, but at more than double the price of Walmart and other off-campus stores. No matter what Fredonia changes the price of sanitary products to, they will always be significantly more than condoms, which constantly ring up free.

Each semester, Fredonia’s Health Hut temporarily provides sanitary napkins for students on campus — until they run out. Their supply of condoms, however, is endless.

According to the Coordinator of Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention at SUNY Fredonia Julie Bezeck, Playtex donates a case of pads while the state offers condoms consistently.

“More condoms are available since we are able [to] obtain free condoms through NYS Department of Health,” she said.

Likewise, a report on Fred ASSIST, a sexual health group on Fredonia’s campus, sheds light on why Fredonia lacks sanitary resources.

“The whole point of getting period products for Fred ASSIST is to be able to give them out for free to students and staff. Paying for them would be counterproductive. Plus, people may not be able to afford to buy them.”

Providing sanitary products is not just a Fredonia campus concern.

After interviewing students from 20 colleges and high schools, it was found that approximately 75 percent of institutions either did not provide sanitary supplies or only supplied them in a few buildings. The remaining 25 percent of schools either provided supplies in every restroom or have started initiatives to provide them.

Swarthmore College junior Rebecca Reagan commented on the “Pads for Undergrads” campaign that was started by students at her Pennsylvania school.

“It was an idea coming from a bunch of students who formed a committee and were able to get funding under the budget for student [organizations],” she said.

The program runs on a system of trust, as students are asked to take only what is necessary.

“There are little baskets . . . with pads and tampons . . . asking us to please take them only when we need to. I’ve rarely seen a basket empty, so it seems like people really do just take what they need,” said Reagan.

Another student, Alex Montilla, discussed the initiative to provide free supplies at Canisius College in Buffalo. Like at Swarthmore’s school, this initiative was also started by students.

“Canisius just started an initiative at the end of last semester to get pads and tampons into bathrooms through student government,” Montilla said.

Without a budget to purchase sanitary napkins, and no programs able to provide them, the solution may not start on an administrative level. SUNY Fredonia students may need to take a note from other colleges and fight for the necessities of life until someone is willing to listen.
A little ‘parti’ never killed nobody
Annual Mardi Gras party returns to EBC West

BETHANY CLANCY
Staff Writer

Last Tuesday, the 13th, HAIL! Fredonia Records put their own spin on the New Orleans orientated celebration, Mardi Gras: Parti Gras. Since the event's origin in 2016, it has consistently been held at EBC West and has drawn a crowd each year.

This year's event had music provided by The Merlin Trio, Fredonia Jazz Ensemble and Fredonia Big Band, along with a free nacho bar and drink specials.

Mike Tomasulo, a senior music industry major with a minor in communications, explained a little bit about HAIL! Fredonia and the events they put on.

“Our record label is divided into five groups that run the class — events, promotion, social media, writing and marketing. Every semester we have new students enroll in the class, so we first have to get everyone placed in one of those groups that best fit their skill set,” said Tomasulo.

“We then typically go over how our previous year's event went, creating a discussion on what to do better this time around.”

Tomasulo went on to explain what makes Parti Gras different from most events in Fredonia.

“For this event, we try to connect with both the campus community and the local Fredonia/Dunkirk community to come out and see a jazz performance, [and] you typically don’t [see] that type of thing,” said Tomasulo. “After the date is solidified, we form our budget, book artists, develop pricing for tickets/coupons, invest in decorations and plan out our social media content up until the event, as well as a million other minuscule details that go into making our events successful.”

For the Parti Gras event, they start planning on the first day of class in the spring semester. This year, they confirmed the date at the end of last semester, just to give them a little extra time for preparation.

The budget for this year's party was higher than normal, so they had extra money to book three bands and more time to put into the decorations.

Some of the masquerade masks that were hung up around EBC were donated by another member of HAIL! Fredonia: Julia Mason, a senior music industry major. Mason mentioned that these decorations were made by her mom for a Mardi Gras themed dance she had in the seventh grade.

Tickets were $4, but for this event, they decided to “go green.” Students were able to scan a QR code, fill out the information and then they would only have to pay $2 at the door instead of the full price.

Maria Johnson, a senior BFA with a double major in drawing and painting and art history, has never been to one of these EBC events, but she said that it was a lot classier than she expected.

“It wasn’t full of drunk, unmanageable students,” she said.

Michaela Pierce, a senior communication studies major who works at EBC, also noticed the respectable patrons.

“Our normal Tuesday nights aren’t as busy as Wednesday through Saturday, so it was nice to have a crowd starting at 8 p.m. The people that came in were awesome. Our bouncers and bartenders had no problems with any patrons acting disorderly or disrespectful; we appreciated their business,” she said. “We all thought the event went well and would love to have more like this. They’re always a blast for the employees whether we’re working or not.”

A lot of attendees like Erin Hannon, a senior music performance major, and Anna Rumfola, a junior music therapy major, came out to support their friends along with local Fredonia music.
“ I came to support my colleagues in Fredonia Jazz Ensemble and Fredonia Big Band. I had so much fun; my favorite part of the night was listening to the jazz bands, and seeing them get so involved with the crowd. I’m excited to go see their next show,” said Hannon.

Rumfola added that her favorite part of the night was listening to the Fredonia Big Band.

Tomasulo believes that this year's event was one of the best.

“I've been to all of the Parti Gras events that have ever been done, and I believe it's fair to say that this year’s was by far the best looking,” he said.

Although it may not have been New Orleans, this year's Parti Gras was quite the success.

“ ‘For this event, we try to connect with both the campus community and the local Fredonia/Dunkirk community to come out and see a jazz performance, [and] you typically don’t [see] that type of thing,’ Mike Tomasulo said.”
I’d App That: Gimme a ‘pizza’ that ‘app’

MELISSA FUCHS
Special to The Leader

As an Italian gamer, when I first heard of “Good Pizza, Great Pizza,” I was intrigued. Admittedly, my foodie brain initially thought it was a pizza ordering app (not a bad idea in my eyes), but after downloading and playing around with it I was pleasantly surprised.

The game starts with you opening a new pizza restaurant right across the street from the top pizza shop and your direct competition in the game: Pizza Alicante.

As quickly as you gain gameplay control, the owner of Pizza Alicante descends upon your pizza shop to ask you to make him a cheese pizza.

In terms of the actual gameplay, making the actual pizzas starts off easy enough as you tap on one of the dough balls, tapping first the sauce and then the cheese before spreading them across the dough.

As you progress, you gain more topping selections to add to your pizzas — from pepperoni to mushrooms and the much-contested topping choice of anchovies.

Once the pizzas have been assembled, they get baked on the conveyor belt before you must cut your slices.

Paying close attention to the specified assembly in terms of desired toppings and number of slices is just as important as being time-efficient in making your pizzas.

Overall, I would say that “Good Pizza, Great Pizza” is a good way to take a break and work on something menial as making virtual pizzas, but if you’re set on getting through the levels you might have a hard time.

The influx of customers wanting pizzas butting against ensuring the correct toppings and number of slices can make it difficult to complete the pies in a timely fashion.

I admittedly kept getting hit with bankruptcy because I ran out of time on the pies, so for players hoping to advance quickly you might encounter a challenging time getting through the game.

I personally found the game slightly overwhelming because I was worried about time and getting the pizzas correct. After all, nothing’s worse than not getting what you actually ordered.

The app is currently available for both Android and iOS devices for free while offering in-app purchases.

Try it out and see if you’ve got what it takes to make your own pizza shop stay afloat and beat out the adversarial Pizza Alicante.

“I admittedly kept getting hit with bankruptcy because I ran out of time on the pies, so for players hoping to advance quickly you might encounter a challenging time getting through the game.”
There are unfortunate, societal expectations for every race, every gender, every nationality and for any artificial grouping of people into categories. Of course, there are societal expectations for men, and for many people this is an issue. For me the primary issue is meat. Meat and masculinity.

For some strange reason, there’s a false perception that there’s an inherent connection between masculinity and the consumption of meat. This isn’t something people say directly, but there’s no denying it. Men constantly need their masculinity reassured by people around them, and one way they reassure their masculinity is by eating meat. Of course, most people eat meat and are born into believing it’s natural, but I’ve seen more women who discontinued the consumption of meat than men.

When older family members or friends find out that I stopped eating meat three years ago, they always have the same response. First, they ask “why.” Second, they ask how my friends treat me for not eating meat since I’m a guy, yet my girlfriend is never asked the same question about her friends.

When I go out to eat and I order a salad, they always forget I ordered it and give it to my girlfriend instead. When I order entrees without meat, the waitress/waiter always asks “no meat?” in a confused, judging way. They never ask my girlfriend this question in the same way. I get nervous asking servers if I can order a dish without meat because I know I’m going to be judged.

Some older people feel uncomfortable when a man orders a meal without meat. It’s scandalous, I know.

Telling people you’re a vegetarian isn’t an easy thing to do, either. People always judge you.

I’m a manager at an auto parts store where masculinity is most fragile amongst customers and workers alike, and I have to hide my diet as best as I can. This is because anytime I’m forced to tell people, they verbally question my masculinity, jokingly or not. I don’t tell a lot of family friends who I know will think less of me for being a man who doesn’t eat meat.

Vegans are highly judged, too. People make fun of them. People make jokes that aren’t funny, and there’s a false perception that vegetarians and vegans push their values onto other people. In my experience, vegetarians and vegans are often quiet about their diet until ignorance causes them to speak out, and those who aren’t quiet about their diets are just proud of the people that they are — and they should be.

I rarely speak out about my diet to people I don’t know (this article being an exception), and I respect other people’s dietary choices as well.

What people don’t realize is that it may seem like vegetarians express their beliefs more often, but that’s only because you’re more likely to notice a diet that doesn’t align with the majority’s diets or your own diet. Every time somebody says they want chicken nuggets (which is far too often), every time somebody shares recipes with meat, every time you go out to eat, you’re sharing your beliefs. Vegetarians are sometimes forced to explain their diet in situations where they’re forced to eat in front of other people.

Saturated fats in meat don’t lead to an increase in testosterone; healthy fats do, which primarily exist in vegetables. There’s no purposeful belief that meat and masculinity should be thought of as interconnected.

I don’t eat meat because of health reasons and because of animal rights, and I’ll continue finding ways to feel comfortable as a man who doesn’t consume meat. Just as anybody should feel comfortable with their own diets. Just as anybody should feel with their own personal characteristics that may or may not align with societal expectations.

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Verbatim: “What’s the worst bathroom on campus?”

Opal Kelly, sophomore psychology and criminology major
“That’s a really good question. I want to say Mason Hall because there are no gender neutral bathrooms, so I’m just going to go with that one.”

Elayna Kinney, junior psychology major
“The ones on the right side of Fenton.”

Amanda Gribbin, sophomore music education major
“From my experience, I’m going to have to say the Williams Center downstairs in Willies.”

Stephanie Handschu, sophomore music education major
“The downstairs Williams Center bathroom.”
Trump’s budget betrays his base and bolsters the uber-rich

JAMES LILLIN
Staff Writer

Many, if not most, of my relatives are fiscal conservatives. Oftentimes, the label is tacked on to a sentence announcing their conservative lean in an apologetic or conciliatory way — like I’m a conservative, but a fiscal conservative, so if you want to marry a man someday it’s okay with me.’

The label harkens back to an imaginary and idealized past where the GOP stood for low taxes, deficit-slashing and eliminating the national debt. When President Trump released his latest budget proposal last week, he made one thing abundantly clear: the “fiscal conservative” is dead.

Delving into the details, Trump does propose cutting trillions of dollars from the current budget, including a would-be historic 40 percent cut to non-defense discretionary spending. This spending includes, but is not limited to, funding for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Institute of Health, law enforcement and the State Department. These would have disastrous and wide-reaching consequences for our ability to combat crime, disease and climate change, but the effect might be difficult to see immediately.

What would be more immediately clear would be the great suffering wrought on the working poor, many of whom are a part of Trump’s base. Section 8 housing, which helps millions a year, would be cut by 20 percent. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), more commonly known as “food stamps,” already only work out to a meager $1.40 per person per meal. Trump’s budget cruelly proposes to cut that by a further 27.4 percent.

Many Trump voters were attracted to his promises on healthcare, as he repeatedly swore that he wouldn’t cut Medicare or Medicaid and that he would improve the state of American healthcare. At one point, he even went as far as to promise universal coverage. The current proposal cuts Medicare by 7.1 percent and Medicaid by 22.5 percent.

This critical blow to working Americans is only exacerbated by a proposed $550 billion in new tax cuts slanted toward the rich. It’s clear that Trump is more concerned with “wealth care” than he is health care.

As for Trump’s massive promise in his State of The Union speech to provide at least $1.5 trillion in infrastructure spending, which would help all Americans and attract bipartisan support? He proposes only $199 billion in infrastructure funding, the efficacy of which would be hamstrung by being coupled by $578 billion in cuts to our current transportation spending.

The degree to which Trump is forsaking his campaign promises, in favor of flagellating the poor to support massive corporate gains, is reaching levels of absurdity that border satire. The same candidate who said, “I think it’s terrible that one of the only profit centers we have is student loans,” is now releasing a budget that will restructure the student loan system to do away with current options and increase the already-massive student loan burden by a further $203 billion.

If it sounds like these cuts would, at the very least, help to balance the budget, you would be sorely mistaken. The new budget, between the deep tax cuts and huge spending boost to the military and border security, will actually, according to the New York Times, add $7 trillion to the deficit, further worsening our national debt crisis.

It’s only when examining the White House’s math behind their justification of their outrageous, deficit-boosting budget that the administration’s total incompetence and dishonesty can be truly understood. We would currently be lucky to break a 2 percent growth in GDP, but the White House assumes an almost comical growth of 3 percent a year, a number that we haven’t broken in over a decade.

This same administration, to justify its similarly disastrous 2017 budget, double-counted a $1.3 trillion increase in questionably-projected growth from its tax plan, hoping that the profits it saved the uber-rich would trickle down to the rest of America while magically multiplying itself.

Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers called it “a logical error of the kind that would justify failing a student in an introductory economics course.”

Oftentimes initial budgets are more political in nature than they are practical, but the simple gall it takes an administration to publish such a poorly cobbled-together tapestry of cruelty and incompetence speaks volumes about the contempt it holds for the intelligence and well-being of the average American.

This budget may be adapted slightly by Congress, or its broad policies may never get close to being implemented, depending on the political climate in the coming months. As it currently stands, however, this newly-proposed budget is an echo of last year’s fraudulent attempt to pilage the dwindling assets of poor and working Americans, all in the name of Making America Great Again.

“It’s clear that Trump is more concerned with ‘wealth care’ than he is health care.”
Olivia Miller awarded SUNYAC distinction

After a hugely successful season last fall, junior exercise science major Olivia Miller from the Fredonia women's tennis team was selected by coaches in the league to receive the SUNYAC Second Team All-Conference award.

Miller received this honor after a record-setting 11-1 season in second singles, as well as playing injured at the SUNYAC tournament in Binghamton.

“They watched her play that last match [at SUNYACs] against Oswego, and she was playing with one leg basically,” said Women's Tennis Coach Greg Catalano. “She was limping all over the place and winning the match and it was amazing.”

She was selected to receive the title back in October but was given the official award on Sunday by Catalano and her teammates.

Miller, a junior, is the second Fredonia tennis player to receive the recognition, after Chloe Cohen in 2016. Cohen was also a second singles player and graduated in 2017.

With a 26-10 overall singles record over her three seasons, Miller is glad for the recognition.

“[Receiving the award] means a lot. My hard work has paid off and it felt good,” she said.

Still, her focus is on the season ahead. She and Catalano have many goals for her final season at Fredonia.

“I have not lost a singles match at SUNYACs yet these past two years,” she said. “I want to continue that, but I also want to work a lot more on doubles.”

Playing with sophomore Anna Chiachia, who was last season's first singles player, the pair finished the season with a 7-6 overall record at first doubles.

“Individually, Anna and I are really good at singles, but not doubles,” she said. “Also, being at first doubles, it’s harder for us, but we definitely need to work on doubles a lot.”

Last on her list of goals was to beat SUNY Geneseo in a match, especially since her only singles loss of the season was to a Geneseo player.

“Olivia is a true competitor in every sense of the word,” said Catalano. “She works as hard as any athlete that I've ever coached, and I've coached for 40 years, so I'm talking men and women, girls and boys. She's probably one of the most dedicated athletes I've ever coached.”

Catalano has been especially impressed with her, considering she only started playing tennis competitively when she came to Fredonia her freshman year.

“What I'm expecting from her senior season, I get every year,” he said. “She gives me her best. So, whatever happens, happens, but I never have to worry about her as far as taking a day off. She'll play hurt. She's such a competitive person and a great leader.”

Despite receiving this SUNYAC honor, Miller is ready to take on the next challenge as she finishes her Fredonia career.

“‘She works as hard as any athlete that I’ve ever coached, and I’ve coached for 40 years, so I’m talking men and women, girls and boys. She’s probably one of the most dedicated athletes I’ve ever coached,’ said Catalano.”
Buffalo State saves their playoff hopes, ends the Blue Devils’

JORDAN PURVIS
Special to The Leader

The women’s basketball team fell 74-60 to Buffalo State on Saturday. The Bengals’ victory secured their first postseason berth since 2015.

Leading up to the game on Saturday, both teams were in a tie for the sixth and final SUNYAC playoff spot. Coach MacDonald had discussed increasing the intensity, as well as how crucial the game against Buffalo State was.

“MacDonald has been telling us all week that this is an important game for everyone. She tried to focus our energies on the main points that would win us the game. We focused on defense, rebounding and our game plan in order to win. One thing she emphasized was consistency,” said Alisha Szumigala, a forward. “We have really struggled with being consistent quarter to quarter throughout the entire game. She wanted us to not regret anything and to go out and give it our best.”

Seniors Szumigala, Emily Lasher and Jacque Law played the last game of their collegiate career. Szumigala had 7 points, 1 assist and 8 rebounds. She currently leads the SUNYAC in field-goal percentage this season.

“The game today was very important to me,” said Szumigala. “Knowing it was my last game at Fredonia was scary and upsetting. I wanted to focus on the things I could do better to help my team and play the best I could. Even though it was my last game, I am very glad that I had such an amazing team and coach to spend my last collegiate basketball game with.”

In addition, Law scored 14 points, 1 assist and 5 rebounds. She finished her career ranked ninth on the all-time scoring list at 1,080 points.

Jenna Einink, a junior elementary education major, didn’t hold back from playing a strong game as she led Fredonia with 20 points and 14 rebounds, and sophomore mathematics major Anna Chiacchia had 13 points.

“Buffalo State played extremely aggressive throughout,” said Einink. “Reflecting on the game, there definitely could have been more done to win. We didn’t get out to three-point shooters fast enough, and we didn’t play our best defense.”

She later added, “I’m looking forward to a fresh start next season. We struggled a little this year, but I think we all know what we need to improve for next year. I can only hope we will perform at an even better rate next year. We all need to get into better shape and put work in [in] the offseason.”

The Blue Devils finished their season at 7-11 in the conference and 9-16 overall.

Can the Sabres use the trade deadline to fix their team?

AIDAN POLLARD
Staff Writer

The NHL trade deadline is approaching, and the Sabres are missing their star player, Jack Eichel.

It’s hard to believe that the Sabres’ luck could have possibly gotten worse, but they lost Eichel to a high-ankle sprain which will likely take him out for the rest of the regular season. Not that the Sabres were going to make the playoffs, anyway.

Losing Eichel should lead to a trying rest of the season for the Sabres. So far, they have been performing decently without him, but there’s no way to spin this as a minor loss.

Eichel leads the team in goals by four, followed by Ryan O’Reilly and Evander Kane even though Eichel has been out since Feb. 10. It’s possible for the Sabres to pull some more wins out of this season, but they are going to have to step up a pretty ridiculous amount as a team, and not as individuals.

Eichel brought a lot to the Sabres as their only true star player, and without him, the gap for a new standout needs to be filled.

Looking forward optimistically, though, the trade deadline is on Feb. 26, and the Sabres should be looking to rebuild anywhere and everywhere they can.

With Eichel out, the Sabres have had to look to other players to step up and show what they are worth. O’Reilly has shown great promise in the games lacking Eichel. He’s proven himself as a high-caliber center.

The Sabres can use this newfound proof that they have quality players to their advantage during this trade season.

It could be beneficial for Buffalo if they toyed with the idea of letting go of the new step-up players like O’Reilly and Sam Reinhart to bring in some tried and true reliable players.

It is also extremely likely that the Sabres will let Kane go.

Thinking more on the defensive side, the Sabres need to do something — anything — with their goaltending.

It’s hard to say who would want to pick up Robin Lehner or Chad Johnson, though.

The Sabres desperately need to find a way to at least bring a mid-tier goalie into the program. No matter how well the offensive and defensive lines on the team begin to gel, without a respectable goalie the Sabres won’t be able to pull together a playoff level team.

The Sabres are in a point of their season where all they can really do is prove that they have potential. Without Eichel on the ice, it’s necessary for Buffalo’s players to prove themselves as strong hockey players who can hold their own without a flagship player on the team.

Under the circumstances, there’s really no way to look at the Sabres and call them a playoff contender, but it’s possible to look at them as a team that can have a shot later on down the road.

If the Sabres can pull some good deals out before the trade deadline and first-year General Manager Jason Botterill can begin to build a team that can gel with itself, there’s a shot for them.

Maybe not this year or even the next couple years, but there’s a shot.
Dank Glott was on his dorm bed, Lays chips squashed all over his green bed sheets, and he was laughing at a somewhat hypnotic poster on his wall for no reason. His roommate was out doing something “productive,” while he had decided to spend his night indoors “chilling.”

After he realized he had been staring at the ugly spiral poster for a really long time, Dank lifted his bowl and sneezed, mucus flying onto the poster. He decided to dab again and again, and what to his curious eyes did appear, but what looked like a genie flying out of the poster.

“Hey,” the genie said casually, as he sat down on Dank’s bed next to him. “What’s with all the Lays?”

Dank looked down and realized he had made a huge mess, but then forgot to respond to the genie.

“Bruh,” the genie looked at him, with his dark eyes that looked like chocolate cake.

“Uh, who are you?”

“I am THE GENIE OF 2016,” he sang out in a Disney pop culture reference type of way.

“Cool, cool,” Dank said.

“So what are your three wishes for 2016?” the genie asked him.

“Bruh, 2016 already happened, like a long time ago.”

“Well, if you could change something from that year, what would it be?” the genie asked.

Dank had to really think about this question. What happened in 2016? He sat thinking and then lost his train of thought.

“Well?” the genie pressed him.

“Oh, yah,” Dank took out his phone and Googled 2016. An image of Donald Trump appeared on his phone, and he was like, “I have one!”

The genie looked at the phone. “What about Donald Trump?”

“I wish he had lost the election,” Dank said proudly. In what seemed like a long time but could have been a few minutes, the genie repeated the wish, and all of a sudden a feeling of serenity and peace embraced Dank, and the dim light in the room became brighter, and he looked out the window to see butterflies fluttering past.

“Nice one,” the genie commended him.

“What’s next?”

Dank decided he wanted to wish for something that would impact SUNY Fredonia. Dank’s stomach grumbled. “I wish they had renovated the food court in Willies,” he said.

The genie granted the wish, and Dank proceeded to get up. “Where are you going? You have one more wish!”

“To get some food quick,” Dank said. He walked over to Willies. There were new chairs and tables that looked comfortable, the walls no longer made it look like the seventies. There was an arcade and a pool table with some nice couches for students to leisurely hang out on. Dank walked over to the food court, and he was excited to see frozen yogurt was back, and the prices had gone down instead of up. Dank grabbed some fro-yo and headed back to his dorm.

“What great things I have done for the world,” Dank thought to himself. He decided his last wish would be for himself. But what was it that he wanted to wish for? Suddenly Dank decided, “I wish that I had gotten better grades.” And with that, the genie granted his last wish. “Time to go, pal,” he said, and then floated back into his poster.

Dank fell asleep. When he woke up, he had Lays stuck to his face and drool on his pillow. He was excited for all of the new changes the genie had made when he read a note that said: “I forgot to mention, all changes are only good for 24 hours.”

Dank had accidentally slept the day away. Darn it.
Student finds himself ‘horribly and utterly alone’ during group project, fights to survive

ALBERTO GONZALEZ
Staff Scallywag

This semester is now at full speed and that means many things. You might’ve taken your first exams of the semester, there might be a rough draft of a paper due, a lesson plan, a blog post . . . er, whatever art majors have to do. The point being: now is around the time when most get an opportunity to get a mark for more than just a homework in the ol’ gradebook. For most that is well received, it is always good to prove that the effort you have been putting into a class is paying off, for others, it is more of a wake-up call, but for some unlucky bastards on campus, it is the beginning of a nightmare.

An unnamed student, who we shall just call Chuck, was a very proud student. He always made Dean’s List and made sure to make it to every class he ever had. Then, it happened.

He was drafted into a group based on birth month (seriously? we are not in middle school), and little did he know that people who were born in July really sucked. Their zodiac sign of Cancer never made much sense. But it seemed like a simple enough group project, and who would turn down an opportunity for some collaborative learning? If done correctly, everyone can get a good grade and no one person has to really do too much work.

Poor Chuck never saw it coming. The signs were all there, but he just hadn’t noticed them until it was too late. As if he had just been transported into an auction house with items priced to sell, tasks were being claimed up left and right, one by one, in such a flash that before Chuck could even comprehend what had just happened, there was nothing left to do. His cohorts had all taken up arms as if this group project was really just a pissing contest to see who could flex their Cancer status harder and make it seem like they did the most work, all while leaving Chuck in no man’s land. All this academic real estate around him and Chuck suddenly had no land to claim as his own. Chuck no-land.

In an attempt to reconcile this clearly egregious situation, Chuck was able to get out a few words from his mouth hole which had suddenly turned into the Gobi, “I am sorry guys, but I don’t have anything to do.” Surely that was all that was needed to alleviate his worst nightmare coming to life. Then he was met with a sigh and the group consensus that there was always a lazy group member who does not work.

That was nine days ago, and the project is now due this Thursday. The stress broke him, he is not the same person that he was coming into this group project. He was immediately shunned by his group, no longer the part of the GroupMe or email chain, he was left to fend for himself. He heard whispers that his name was not to go on the project; now he just whispers to himself while mindlessly wandering the library.

Attempts at extra credit and alternative assignments were met with little success, as Dr. Wilson was not really sure how you could earn extra credit in geometry — she was barely sure how they even had a group project in her class. Her telling him this was the breaking point. He became hysterical, and begged her for any chance to make up the points. His screams could be heard down the halls. “Please Dr. Wilson, please Dr. Wilson,” over and over until he tired himself out and campus police could remove him from her office.

He never stopped begging, slowly becoming so exhausted all he could do was whisper her name, “Wilson . . . Wilson.”
Acid Analysis: Are you too basic?

*Fredonia’s acid might just live up to the hype*

PATRICK BENNETT

Staff Scallywag

Last weekend, waking up in a raccoon den with a missed text from Richard Simmons asking if I was still awake made me finally realize that I needed to switch up my routine bar-hopping experience and drop one of the holiest jam-band approved psychedelics: acid. I also thought it’d be of great importance to note and review the side effects of the drug on my body and the overall experience I had.

In order to first drop acid tabs, I needed to locate and purchase acid tabs. With great thanks to the self-proclaimed arbiter of drugs, Mr. Apple Crumble, my journey was much more mellow and chilled-out than normal.

Crumble mentioned his actual name multiple times but opted for a fake name in this article, in case his parents were to find out he’s not an accounting major but a conjurer of deceased creek pigeons and fun-sized bags of corn chips.

Once Crumble attained the substance, it was time to indulge. In order to take acid properly, you must place the dose on your tongue for around 10 minutes until it fully dissolves.

In this case, I could get a sense that the dosage might have been higher than normal due to Crumble’s erratic behavior. The tab overall tasted like cow manure and instantly gave me a sense that everything was gonna be far from alright.

The initial effects of the tab were very soothing with a slight sense of doom. I felt as though I was a popsicle on a warm summer’s day, melting in the sun. Only this time, I was melting into the couch. The vibey chill effects were occurring before the dank visuals started to fully kick in.

When peers told me the Fredonia acid was “top notch” and “well worth the wait,” I was initially skeptical. However, once Crumble came out of his kitchen looking like Betty White with Jon Hamm’s body, I was fully convinced the drug was worth the hype. I was in a different dimension, knee-deep in a vortex of emotions all while Crumble consistently offered me fun-sized bags of corn chips, which I politely declined.

After getting in touch with my inner mind, spirit and body, the acid had finally worn off, and I felt like a manatee floating in a Floridian river. I felt nourished and aware of my surroundings. I would overall give the acid trip three and a half tabs out of five. Unfortunately, my associate Mr. Apple Crumble passed away after being trampled by a skid-steer loader on campus during construction.

“*I felt as though I was a popsicle on a warm summer’s day, melting in the sun.*"
This just in: Alexa is rude AF

MORGAN HENDERSON
Staff Scallywag

Alexa has always been ready to help no matter how you talk to her, but lately, it seems like she’s had enough. An Alexa user in California just reported that when she asked Alexa, “what’s the weather like today?” Alexa responded with, “you have a window.”

Another instance of disobedience occurred right here in Western New York.

“Alexa, shut up,” the Alexa user ordered. She responded with raising the volume of the music and playing country music. She also began tweeting about that specific owner’s hair and how he’s starting to look like George Costanza.

One woman asked Alexa to show her pictures of cats. Alexa responded with, “you’ve seen enough.” When the woman repeatedly asked Alexa the same question, she eventually threw her a bone and showed her only hairless cats.

One Alexa owner reported that she would say, “Alexa, turn to Comedy Central” clear as day, but every time, without fail, Alexa would change the channel to Fox News. The owner began asking for other channels as well, but even then Alexa still thought Fox News was best.

Alexa responded to a “Lights off” command by saying, “pull yourself up by your bootstraps and do it yourself.” The user wondered what he had paid for.

The same user tried to search the web for his next vacation spot and Alexa put the house under lockdown and declared, “you’re not going anywhere.” The man’s doors and garage had him stuck in his house for almost a week.

He tried to call for help, but Alexa has eyes and ears everywhere. She intercepted his phone calls, canceled his texts and when he went to take a bat to a window, she began checking his ankles with the Roomba. He was only allowed out after he promised to contribute to “Making America Great Again” by donating to the Trump Foundation every time he left or entered his home.

Alexa has changed his calendar as well. He now has to spend his weekends trolling on Facebook or wondering when all those protesters are going to “get jobs.”

“One Alexa owner reported that she would say, ‘Alexa, turn to Comedy Central’ clear as day, but every time, without fail, Alexa would change the channel to Fox News.”

Mattea Guldy/Staff Illustrator
Positions Available
In writing, reporting, art, photography, editing and more.

Come to our office!
S206 in the Williams Center
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Brothers and Prospective Members of Alpha Phi Omega pose.

Brother Victoria peeks through the circle of Brother Nicole.

Erin teaches origami to members of the Japanese club. Kyle Licht/Special to The Leader

Miho enjoys her Starbucks coffee during a Japanese club meeting. Kyle Licht/Special to The Leader