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Research Expo returns

ALIX SMITH
Special to The Leader

OSCAR stands for the Office of Student Creativity and Research. Jack Croxton, who has been director of the program for about fifteen years now, explained what OSCAR is all about.

Students, faculty and community members view presentations made by individuals and teams of students.

“The mission of OSCAR is to basically promote undergraduate research, to try to provide support for undergraduate research, and I’d say to celebrate undergraduate research . . .” said Croxton. “[And] to take what they’ve been learning in the classroom and being able to apply it now by doing some type of a research project under the supervision of a mentor."

About 200 students shared their presentations on a rotating basis. There were about 15 two-fold walls covered in pinned posters that exhibited in neat zig-zagged rows. The expo’s $24,000 budget helps pay for students to go to conferences and land internships so that they can do their research efficiently.

Students tend to work all year long on these projects. Some of the projects are synopses of what their capstones are about. Some students chose to do musical numbers such as ukulele or dance routines, which were presented in nearby rooms. About ninety percent of the students opted to create posters.

Lily Dixon, a junior, and Alberto Gonzalez, a senior, are both biology and psychology dual majors. Their project involved investigating whether or not valproic acid, which is used in bipolar medication, when taken during pregnancy could lead to autism. Using mice, they made a breakthrough in discovering that the acid does not cause autism, but rather has beneficial effects.

Daniel Mosher is a senior double major in history and philosophy with a minor in religious studies. His poster highlighted John Locke’s views on religious tolerance according to the testimony of Jesus, with a few exceptions.

“I’m excited mostly because it’s a way to share the testimony of Jesus. More so, [I’m] excited to share the misconceptions,” said Mosher. “This sets the record straight as far as I’m concerned."

Becky Jones, an adolescent education and history double major presented her poster on French peasants’ actual views, lifestyles and what the elites thought of them during the French Revolution. Jones also looked into proving that peasants not only had revolutionary ideas, but that the ideas could be part of the Enlightenment. Her experience at the expo was pretty relaxed, much to her surprise.

“I saw my friends and chatted to my classmates about their finished posters and what they were doing [and] wandered around some. It was nice,” said Jones. “But it was more relaxed than I expected because it has this whole acronym and everything."

The expo is held every spring semester. That way students have at least the entire academic year to work on their projects.

When asked about the number of students showcasing their research, Croxton said he’s focusing on the program’s outreach, so that more students will participate.

“I think there are some students doing some interesting things that should be presenting at the expo but haven’t done so,” he said.
McEwen elevator glitch causes major inconvenience for disabled student

Many of us have the privilege of walking to class without a second thought about how we will get there or what different obstacles might be standing in our way that day. However, this isn’t the case for every student.

McEwen Hall is home to the Reed Library, classrooms, a cafe, the radio station and the Communications Department. Most of the classrooms and offices are on the second or third floor. There is only one elevator in the entire building. Some students or staff depend on that elevator to get to where they need to go if they’re disabled, injured or even just dealing with asthma.

The McEwen elevator has been out of service before, but never for six days.

This created a problem for Victoria Hendrix, a senior interdisciplinary studies self-design major who has to use a wheelchair in her everyday life to get around campus.

Hendrix has had classes on the upper levels of McEwen in previous semesters. This semester, her only class in this building is University Chorus in McEwen 209. She depends on the elevator to get to this class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

On Wed. April 18, Hendrix attempted to get to this class by the elevator only to find a sign on the elevator saying that it was out of order. This was the sixth day in a row the elevator had been out of service.

Hendrix felt it was necessary at this point to take matters into her own hands. The elevator is in close proximity to the stairwell people use to get to the upper levels. She got out of her wheelchair, left it at the bottom of the stairs and climbed up the four flights of stairs to her class without the help of anyone.

A lot of people who were also in the staircase offered her assistance, but Hendrix didn’t want to be carried as that was out of her comfort zone.

There were obvious safety concerns for Hendrix.

“I was sitting at the top of the steps and saw that students were only walking on one side of the steps, it was the wrong side, too, so I was confused,” said Monica Manney, a junior journalism major. “When another student pointed, I got up and was horrified. No student should have to go through that. People offered but she didn’t want any help. Someone . . . grabbed a rolling chair for her and helped her into the chair.”

After her class, Hendrix was escorted back down the stairs in a chair by two other students. Why did Hendrix have to resort to this?

The McEwen Elevator had been having issues all week, starting on Friday, April 13.

Kevin Cloos, the university’s director of facility services, said that they couldn’t determine what the problem was at that time. They called in an overtime technician in attempts to get it fixed.

“We know it’s a very heavily used elevator . . . accessibility was a high priority,” said Cloos.

The following Monday, April 16, a regular technician was sent in efforts to fix the same problem. Come Tuesday and Wednesday, nothing had changed regarding the elevator’s status. It was still broken and no one knew why.

“I see people who just don’t want to use the stairs and they use [the elevator], too, but I don’t have a way around that. I can’t choose that. For me, it’s like I need this . . . I’m not trying to place the blame on anyone, but communication needs to be better around here . . . I was being told all of my support systems already knew [about the elevator being out of service],” said Hendrix.

University Chorus prepares for a concert every semester. With the semester getting close to an end, her class at that time had only two rehearsals left before its concert. If Hendrix didn’t find a way to class on Wednesday, she would have felt unprepared for the concert and unaware that there were significant changes made to some of the music.

On Monday, April 16, her class was held in an accessible different room. So, the broken elevator wasn’t an issue.

A cleaner in McEwen who is close with Hendrix witnessed the incident as well and called her boss right away. She was told that Hendrix could just skip class that day.

“I’m like every other student. I pay to be here. Are there times when I don’t go to class when I’m very, very sick? Yes, but do I just skip? No. In a lot of my classes, [attendance] is part of my grade. Even if it wasn’t part of my grade . . . if you miss something [by not going to class] . . . it’s not like middle school or high school where you can be behind by a worksheet. You’re behind a whole class,” said Hendrix.

Some students who witnessed Hendrix go up the stairs went to speak with President Horvath. Hendrix also went to speak to the president herself.

President Horvath worked with Hendrix in revising a Monday update email about the incident that was sent out to the entire campus on April 23. Hendrix wanted it to be known that she felt that the action she took was indeed necessary.

The McEwen elevator was fixed on Thursday, April 19. Hendrix’s class was also permanently moved to Mason.

What was wrong with the elevator and why was it out of service for so many days in a row?

According to Cloos, there was something going on with the elevator’s computer programming that controls the call buttons along with the elevator controls. They had to delete its computer entirely and reprogram it with new software. A specialist who isn’t the normal service technician had to come in to make this fix.

There have been issues going on with this elevator for a while, but it’s possible that all of the problems could have stemmed from the software issue that is now fixed. The issue would have been more problematic and costly to fix if it were a mechanical problem.

Cloos acknowledged that there were requests from President Horvath for better communication and to ensure that emails are being sent out on listservs.

At this time, if an elevator is down in a building, the immediate staff of a building are the first ones notified. Cloos wants to work on developing better protocol of who should immediately be notified by something like an automated email and also updated on the status of an elevator that’s down.

“The hardest part is trying to send messages on the listserv. There are only authorized people who can send those. I’m not one of them. If an elevator goes down on a Saturday, I don’t know who can send that email. I need to get a procedure set up through the president’s office or Marketing and Communications so I send them an email and they forward it on. We have to work on some of the behind the scenes part of that, [regarding] how we’re going to get these communications out,” said Cloos.

Disability Support Services (DDS) offers support to those on campus with disabilities. It will also work with Facility Services to deal with access issues when they are reported. In circumstances where there is an out-of-service elevator or another physical access issue, students should reach out to DDS so accommodations can be made.

“Acomodations can range from moving a class to an accessible location to excused absences,” said Adam Hino, the coordinator of the DDS.

After dealing with this, Hendrix still remains positive. Even though she didn’t want help getting up the stairs, she is grateful to everyone who offered assistance. Her intentions weren’t to scare anyone.

“I’m very, very thankful for Fredonia in general. In my high school, people would have walked [by me] and not said anything. There is a very supportive community here,” said Hendrix.

However, at the end of the day, this was an action she felt she had to take for herself.

“I hope to at least shed light that there’s an issue . . . I advocate for myself on a daily basis,” she said. “There are things I’m going to need to deal with in my life that you never will have to. I’ve also learned that I have to advocate for others.”
Fredonia students win regional business competition

Nate Winn and Alex Czechowski, seniors at SUNY Fredonia, are the founders of Nexnest, LLC, an online startup company that assists tenants and landlords with off-campus housing. On April 20, the pair won first place in the IT/Software category at the annual Western New York Student 2 Biz regional competition.

The two left the competition with a trophy to be displayed on campus, a cash prize of $1,500 and the chance to compete alongside 80 other businesses in last Friday's statewide competition in Albany, N.Y.

This is the first year in the history of the WNY Student 2 Biz competition that the University at Buffalo did not win the award.

"It's definitely refreshing to hear that, and it gave us a little boost in confidence in the business," said Winn, a business marketing and music industry double major. The trophy will likely be displayed outside of President Virginia Horvath's office.

Nexnest is a platform that allows landlords to place listings online and for students to easily narrow down search results based on lease terms, number of bedrooms and distance to campus, among other preferences. Students can then schedule tours based on landlord availability and submit maintenance requests upon residence.

The idea for the business came two summers ago when Winn and Czechowski were going through the housing process themselves.

"After we had gone through that cycle of finding the house, we knew we needed something better," said Winn. "We can't just keep using Craigslist, we can't just keep referring to our friends. And that's actually when Alex pitched it to me over the summer. We modeled our whole site and user experience around the student and really wanted to facilitate an easy and professional process of listing to the landlord."

In April of 2017, Winn and Czechowski pitched Nexnest at the FTI Student Business Competition. After winning the contest, they were provided $1,200 and 12 months of office space at the Fredonia Technology Incubator, where they have currently been operating. The entrepreneurship also allows access to business mentoring and other professional services.

"It's provided a great space to get creative and really develop our business," said Czechowski. "Working out of an Incubator provides legitimacy for a business," said Charles Cornell, Incubator director. "It basically doubles the chance for success."

When asked about professors at Fredonia that have been influential to their business venture, Winn highlighted the work of Shazad Mohammed.

"He's just a brilliant-minded marketer," said Winn. "Some of our approaches, specifically strategies to target students and landlords, are taken straight out of my lecture notes or books from his classes."

According to Winn and Czechowski, the business has generated revenue but is currently not for profit. Nexnest aims to become profitable in the coming year as the pair look to expand their service to college campuses other than SUNY Fredonia and Jamestown Community College.

"Right now we're just working in the Fredonia area," said Winn, “but we have plans to roll out our Grand Ambassador program to other universities which will then expand us to a couple other campuses. We're looking at SUNY Oswego, UB and Daemen for next year. We're actually looking to get college interns on those campuses as well. And we're looking to get more funding obviously so we can finance the expansion.”

Czechowski, a computer science major, highlighted a rating and review system similar to AirBnB among the company's future plans.

"There will be verified reviews from tenants on landlords and their property," said Czechowski. "The landlords will also be rated on different qualities on a five-star scale. Those are things such as level of communication and maintaining property, but one that we see a lot of value in is leniency. If it's a really strict landlord, and you know your group is going to be a little more disruptive, maybe you want to find a landlord who is rated higher in leniency."

The duo would also like to incorporate all aspects of student apartment rental onto their website, including signing a lease, making a deposit and paying the rent. Nexnest can be reached online at nexnest.com.
Expenditures have risen while state support remains steady

How Fredonia plans to climb out of its structural deficit

DAN ORZECHOWSKI and JOSH RANNEY
News Editor and Assistant News Editor

Since 2007, Fredonia has been in a structural deficit. Throughout the years, this hasn’t been a huge problem, but now that reserve funds are dwindling, the issue is more of a concern.

In the 2007-2008 academic year, the structural deficit sat at about $400,000. Four years later, that deficit breached $6.4 million.

In the Fall, Fredonia saw a boost in enrollment and welcomed the second-largest freshmen class in the university’s history. Since then, student housing has increased by 10 percent.

This week, students who are on the fence on where to attend college will likely make this decision. All eyes are now on enrollment deposits — a leading contributor to Fredonia’s income.

In a University Senate meeting earlier this month, Vice President for Finance and Administration Mike Metzger (who assumed his duties this past summer) told the Senate that increased enrollment is “not going to be enough.”

President Virginia Horvath announced in a budget presentation on Monday that cuts for the next academic year are inevitable.

The biggest cuts will be from the departments of Academic Affairs ($1.25 million) and Utilities and Institutional Costs ($900,000), although specific figures in these areas were not mentioned. Cuts for each area will be determined on July 1.

At the same Senate meeting, when asked if the state knows that Fredonia doesn’t have spare cash, Horvath answered: “The [state] does not provide what we call a maintenance of effort. Do they not know, or do they not care? I cannot begin to guess.

Over the years, state support has remained steady while expenditures have risen.

“We will strengthen our advocacy and lobbying for two things that make a difference to us: additional base state funding and a competitive rate for out-of-state tuition,” said Horvath.

“You would not run a business like this,” continued the president. “You would not have an institution not able to set its prices, and not be able to control its costs — two things that are determined outside of us.”
Despite an increase in recipients, concerns still linger for scholarship

DAN ORZECHOWSKI
News Editor

As of last week, 641 currently enrolled undergraduate students are receiving the Excelsior scholarship, a “completion initiative” designed by Governor Andrew Cuomo’s office.

Entering the scholarship’s second year, about 15 percent of Fredonia’s student population is benefiting from the scholarship. Combined, the scholarships amount to $2.2 million.

According to Lynn Bowers, director of student accounts, Excelsior scholarship funds are anticipated to be received from the state in the next couple months.

“Fredonia is currently working with our software vendor to test the process to determine if students are eligible and transfer the information to NYS HESC,” said Bowers. “Since we are testing this process, we will be among the first campuses to receive our funds.”

The New York HESC (Higher Education Services Corporation) overlook the scholarship. On its website, HESC lays out all the requirements students must fulfill to receive Excelsior — and there’s a good amount.

Because the scholarship is a completion initiative, this means students must enroll continuously. At least 12 credits are required per semester, and students must complete 30 credits by the end of the academic year.

Many students were denied the scholarship if they took a semester off for various reasons.

Excelsior-receiving students (depending on when they first received the scholarship) receive two disbursement payments. If students are unable to meet 30 credits a year, students will not be eligible for their second disbursement payment of the year.

“This will result in a balance due on their account because they had received a deferment for the Excelsior award(s),” said Bowers.

Also, a student’s family income cannot exceed $110,000. This is an increase from last year’s threshold of $100,000.

That last requirement is strictly enforced.

“I had a family come in who had an income in 2016 of $110,031,” said Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services Dan Tramuta. “They missed [the scholarship] by 31 flippin’ dollars. That was $24,000 over four years that they could’ve received through Excelsior. I was sick.”

According to Tramuta, if this student never filed their taxes, the scholarship would have been granted. But because a student’s income counts toward the $110,000 cut off, this family was denied Excelsior.

“When I told [the family], you should’ve seen the mom. She just went blank,” said Tramuta. “They’ve increased their discounts. There was all this concern that private schools were going to be hit tremendously . . . they’ve strategized and adapted.”

Tramuta said he’s looked at financial aid packages from private institutions, and from last year, “they’ve obviously adjusted.”

If he could change anything about the scholarship, Tramuta would have it applied to the overall cost of attendance rather than just tuition.

“Free college is not just tuition. Tuition is already cheap in New York. Students who live off-campus pay rent, utilities, pay for food . . . if you really want to make a dent, [applying the scholarship to Fredonia’s cost of attendance] would’ve done it.”

“I had a family come in who had an income in 2016 of $110,031,’ said Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services Dan Tramuta. ‘They missed [the scholarship] by 31 flippin’ dollars. That was $24,000 over four years that they could’ve received through Excelsior. I was sick.’”
**POLICE BLOTTERS**

**VILLAGE OF FREDONIA**

**Monday, April 23, 2018**

Jolene Kirgar, age 38, was charged with operating an uninspected motor vehicle. A uniform traffic ticket was given.

**Wednesday, April 25, 2018**

Michael Orazio, age 47, was charged with third degree criminal mischief. Bail was set to $1,000.

**Thursday, April 26, 2018**

Larry Bell, age 67, was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was given.

Erika Deangelis, age 18, was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was given.

**Friday, April 27, 2018**

Andrew Lerman, age 19, was charged with underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.

**Saturday, April 28, 2018**

Daniel Flori, age 22, was charged with disorderly conduct. Bail was set to $150.

Anthony Shibitov, age 22, was charged with disorderly conduct. Bail was set to $50.

Abdullah Yusuf, age 19, was charged with attempting to purchase alcohol through fraudulent means. An appearance ticket was given.

Jonah Adeson, age 21, was charged with littering. An appearance ticket was given.

**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

Nicholas Degolier, age 26, was charged with speeding and unlawful possession of marijuana. An appearance ticket and a uniform traffic ticket were given.

**UNIVERSITY**

**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

A student was harassed by another student. The prosecution was declined and was turned over to Student Conduct.

**Sunday, April 29, 2018**

A sign was damaged on Central Avenue. An investigation is ongoing.

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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‘The 39 Steps’ Review: a lighthearted night of hitchcock and Fredonia talent

ERIKETA COST
Special to the Leader

“The 39 Steps” was a true form of escapism with its slapstick humor, sound effects and 1930s setting.

The Performing Arts Company (PAC), a student-run theater group, held the performances last Thursday and Friday night.

Characters were dropped on their heads and into forward roles. Actors stood on top of chests while flapping their jackets as to mimic wind hitting them on top of a moving train.

The clever physical effects that encapsulate physical comedy were endless and they all had the audience actively engaged and roaring with laughter.

Each actor, excluding the protagonist, played several different characters with effortless transitions.

The play involves protagonist Richard Hannay (freshman musical theater major Ian Hayes), who is accused of murdering a woman Annabella Smith (sophomore BFA acting major Grace McCulloch).

Before her death, Smith mentions her effort to escape a spy group to Hannay.

She briefly mentions “The 39 Steps,” but only to leave the audience wondering all throughout the play what it means.

Throughout the show, Hannay attempts to find the spy group, all while hiding from police and meeting several different zany characters and love interests.

Of these love interests is a woman named Pamela (Grace McCulloch), who at first deeply distrusts Hannay.

The two of them find themselves eventually fighting their dissonance to work together and go after the spies.

Although the show was comedic, there always can be special messages to be taken away.

Sophomore BFA musical theater major Emmett Wickersham, who portrayed one of the clowns, introduced the idea that Hitchcock’s work demonstrates that every day holds snip-its of interesting people, adventures and spontaneity.

Perhaps the excitement of life isn’t in murder mysteries, but rather in the people encountered, relationships formed, and experiences gained through each day in the journey.

“Interesting stories happen everyday. The play features a lot of stories that are zeroing in on one specific, private moment in time,” Wickersham says. “You can find importance in the small everyday things.”

Wickersham adds to the idea that a strong community within the cast itself is crucial to conveying these messages properly.

“Building community and trust is integral,” he said. “It goes with the idea that if you are in trouble, you have your friend to pick you up.”

Along with a strong community there must be strong talent, too. And every cast member in the show exuded talent and intense connection to their characters.

Each actor and actress’ face was lit with enthusiasm and engagement all throughout the show. Their character’s energies and idiosyncrasies fed off one another.

Changing from character-to-character in a smooth fashion seems like it should have been challenging. McCullough, who played Pamela, Annabella and Margaret, didn’t seem all that phased.

“For each character I lucked out because they are each such distinct women, so it wasn’t hard to switch,” she said.

Director Monica Lynch and Assistant Director Shawn Sprankle were behind the scenes guiding the younger actors with their expertise all throughout the process.

“My director and assistant director were a huge help with figuring out each woman, so it made it more fun rather than intimidating,” McCullough added.

Not to mention how hard it must be to create a romantic chemistry with another actor and make it so convincing and electric.

The chemistry between characters Hannay and Smith was so fiery, that the anticipation for the two to kiss lasted the entire time.

The supporting roles Emmett Wickersham, David DeCaro, Brianna Ross, Jouhn Boughton, Noelle Crites and Jong Sang Rheu were each hilarious in their own individual way, and each worked the stage with a spring in their step.

PAC’s “The 39 Steps” was a perfect embodiment of a strong community of talent. Each character encouraged the audience to successfully escape to the 1930s for one night.
A review of Spectrum’s Spring Concert: Kid Ink

ELYSE GRIECO
Assistant Life & Arts Editor

Kid Ink took the stage at Steele Hall last Saturday night for Spectrum Entertainment’s annual “Spring Concert.”

Spectrum is a student-run organization that creates and hosts events several events throughout the school year.

Their spring concert is one of their most known events on campus.

The show started with opening act Kristopher Thompson, a sophomore computer science major.

In his free time, Thompson DJs. He can be seen playing every Thursday night at The Old Main Inn.

Due to his experience and skills, Spectrum reached out to Thompson and asked if he would be interested in being an opening act.

“My favorite part when I was performing was looking out into the crowd and seeing all of my friends from Fredonia, back home and even my family coming to see me,” said Thompson. “It was super cool to see the support from everyone, and I had an absolute blast on stage.”

After Thompson’s set, E.A.R. Entertainment took to the stage. E.A.R consists of former and current Fredonia student performers.

This group kept me on my toes. Their original Hip-Hop and R&B songs got the crowd up and ready for the main act.

One thing that was disappointing for me was the fact that I seemed to enjoy the opening acts better than the headliner.

The concert started at 7 p.m., giving both acts a decent amount of time to perform.

But around 8:15, the openers were done and the fans wanted to see who they came for.

Kid Ink had his fans waiting for about 25 to 30 minutes for his arrival.

They even had an MC come out for a few songs before Kid Ink which, to me, seemed like a filler to keep the audience content while waiting.

I’ve been to many concerts in my life, and I know it is common for artists to come late to their shows.

For a concert like this, however, I did not think it was very professional of him.

A crowd made up of mostly 18-22 year old college students who were probably a little bit intoxicated does not sound like a group you want to make wait.

Many students shared their annoyance with me.

“I didn’t want to wait around anymore. You want to see who you actually bought tickets to see. I just don’t think it was right that was had to wait so long for him,” Luciana Perri, a sophomore speech pathology major said.

As for his performance, I was actually pleasantly surprised.

I’m not the biggest Kid Ink fan, I only know a few of his more mainstream songs like “Tell Somebody” and “Show Me,” featuring Chris Brown.

For not knowing his music, I had a really good time. He kept the audience excited with his high energy and stage presence, but like I said, the opening acts were almost more entertaining.

I’m not sure what it was, but I think having him make us wait made me go into his set with negative conceptions.

Overall, Kid Ink wasn’t the best concert I’ve ever seen but it was a good show.

I’m excited to see what artist Spectrum plans to bring to Fredonia next year.
Fredonia’s Department of Theater and Dance Presents: The 12th annual Fredonia Dance Ensemble

ELYSE GRIECO
Assistant Life & Arts Editor

Every spring, Fredonia’s Department of Theater and Dance put on their annual Dance Ensemble. This weekend long event consists of performances of all different genres of dance ranging from contemporary to modern dance. This ensemble is part of the Walter Gloor Mainstage Series and showcases the diverse talents of Fredonia’s dance students.

Many faculty members like Paula Peters, Helen Myers, Sam Kenney and Paul Mockovak helped choreograph pieces for the show.

This year’s performances have also been composed by special guest artists Randy James and Dr. James Levy. Levy will act as the narrator for the ensemble.

This year, every dance will be inspired by a simple word that can be found in the dictionary.

For example, if the word was “happy,” the dancers would perform a piece where they danced out that word.

Morgan Milone, a sophomore BFA musical theater major, said that last year’s concert has her intrigued for this year.

“I’m excited to see the new pieces they’ve created this year in addition to seeing my friends on the stage,” she said.

Each year, the faculty holds auditions in the fall. Once the pieces are casted, the students and faculty take the whole year to help perfect them.

Milone recalled her favorite piece from last year. “My favorite dance was the John Lehrer piece which was choreography from an original dance that students got to experience,” she said.

The weekend of dance starts on Friday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. and continues on May 5 and May 6 at The Marvel Theater.

Tickets are available for $20 from the ticket office located in The Williams Center.

This show is sponsored by Lake Shore Savings.
As the year is coming to an end, it's a really bittersweet feeling. I'm excited to graduate with a degree I love and I am passionate about, but I'm going to be so sad leaving my clubs and all of my friends that I have made along the way.

Friday, April 27, I presented my senior capstone. I'm a BFA graphic design major, and for our capstone we display our final project in a gallery setting. For my project, I rebranded my first job — Gilligan's. Gilligan's is a restaurant in Sherburne, N.Y., and it was time for a new update with their logo and overall brand.

I decided to keep the logo primarily type-based to keep it clean and sophisticated looking. The show was in the Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery on Fredonia's campus. It will be open until May 3 to the public to see the artwork from a few of the graduating VANM class.

The show has a variety of work from graphic designers, drawing and painting majors and sculptors.

For my project, I collaborated with a social media group that is working for Gilligan's currently, called Scrap Paper Social. The social media group allowed me to use their pictures for all of my products that I designed for Gilligan's.

I designed a new logo, business cards, gift cards, employee outfits which include a hat and t-shirt, menu, coasters, silverware wraps, basket wraps and also table tents.

Businesses need to have a solid brand in order for people to recognize them quickly, so it's very important to have a strong logo that is connected and marked on everything. The more the logo is used, the more people will recognize the business.

Make sure to come to the gallery this week and next week to see my work, as well as the work of other amazing art students here at Fredonia.
Bernie Sanders’ proposed job guarantee warrants a lesson in economics

When fictional president from House of Cards, Frank Underwood, announced his plan to guarantee a job for every American, everything I knew about economics cringed, and it’s cringing now.

Senator Bernie Sanders, an Independent from Vermont, made for a unique presidential candidate by being open about his love for socialist policies. Ultimately, Americans weren’t vying for such an agenda and, well — he’s still just a senator.

Last week, the Washington Post reported that Sanders, who may be running again for the 2020 nomination, will announce his plans to guarantee a job to every American “who wants or needs one.” These jobs, the Post reports, will pay at least $15 per hour and include medical benefits.

How would this work, exactly? Well, an analysis, also done by the Post, of an early draft of the proposal says it would “fund hundreds of projects throughout the United States aimed at addressing priorities such as infrastructure, care giving, the environment, education and other goals.”

In ponderance of the rationality of this plan, I find three glaring issues, the last of which I will happily expand upon.

First issue: a representative from the Sanders’ office has admitted they do not know how much it would cost and they don’t know how to fund it. I am very confident that when those decisions are made public, it will be a financial and logistical nightmare.

Second issue: this “job-guarantee” grossly implies that Americans are entitled to employment and that is simply not the case. The paradigm of having a right to someone else’s property or service (in this case employment via taxpayer money) simply because you breathe is unjust and chaotic.

“My next-door neighbor and I need more room for my stuff, so I’m entitled to the room in your house” is a sentence drawn out of a very barbaric world.

My third issue is one that I will explain in detail. This plan, needing not to look at the details, is simply poor economics. Sanders has failed to acknowledge the negative impact of drastic minimum wage increases such as causing greater unemployment, a concept outlined by a study conducted by Jonathan Meer and Jeremy West, published by the National Bureau of Economics Research.

In summary, the report finds that “the minimum wage reduces job growth over a period of several years. These effects are most pronounced for younger workers and in industries with a higher proportion of low-wage workers.”

This job guarantee would consequently then force more people to rely on the government than the current unemployment rate.

When a government subsidizes the economy, even in the least bit, it has the potential to eliminate businesses. If the government can use a bottomless pit of “wealth” (more specifically, deficit spending), to write checks of $15 per hour to anyone who wants it, private entities that can’t match that will fail, which will consequently allow for the government to have unwarranted influence in the economy. Those private businesses that can keep up with the government strong-arm will still need to cut their labor force.

In a free market, the natural supply and demand forces ultimately lower the prices of goods and services. Similarly, the supply of labor capital (the unemployed labor force) and the demand for labor (employers who need workers) ultimately lower wages.

In congruence, these two forces can work in favor for both the employee and employer, but when just wages are artificially set, it will cause unemployment, furthering the cost of this charitable legislation.

Tim Worstall, a contributor to Forbes magazine, analyzes western European countries with and without minimum wages. He notes that those countries who have minimum wages also have a median unemployment rate of 11.1 percent. Of the countries without minimum wage, their median unemployment rate is 5.5 percent.

“Still want to raise our minimum wage?” asks Worstall. “Germany used to have really high unemployment. Then they did labor reforms to allow more low wage jobs, combined with subsidies for low wage workers. Now they don’t have high unemployment.”

According to OECD.org, the unemployment rate in the U.S. is 4.1 percent, which is lower than most well-developed countries including the United Kingdom, Switzerland and Canada. The majority of unemployment we do see in the U.S. is not prolonged, lasting less than five weeks, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports.

With our relatively low and mostly short-term unemployment here in the U.S., Sanders’ socialist-inspired plan is not worth jeopardizing the free market, which has sustained us as the world’s largest economy.

Some may argue that since the details of this legislation are not clear, it is too soon to criticize, but I reject that argument entirely.

It is important to oppose any notion that suggests the state should be in such great control of the nation’s economy. It is no secret that China could not have succeeded as well as it is now if they hadn’t steered away from a state-planned economy. Socialism is bad — let’s reject it in its infancy.
“I was actually pretty shocked . . .”

Nicole Burrows finishes senior lacrosse season, leaves Fredonia with three school records

AVRIL KING
Social Media Manager and
Assistant Sports Editor

The Fredonia women's lacrosse team saw two victories in their last few games, prior to closing out their regular season. And after a long and difficult season, they were certainly met with a large amount of excitement.

However, there were some players on the team that shined brighter than others in those last matches.

Throughout the course of the season, psychology major Nicole Burrows broke three school records, starting with the team's first win over New Paltz on Saturday, April 21. Burrows made 28 saves, breaking Fredonia's single-game team record.

“I was actually pretty shocked when I was told after the game how many saves I had,” she said. “I've always been really bad at guessing how many I had, and I honestly didn't even think I was close to breaking it, but I was so excited and couldn't believe it.”

What did not shock the senior athlete, however, was the win. Despite the team's 0-12 record walking onto the field that day, Burrows was confident in her team's abilities.

“It has been a very tough season and we all wanted to at least have one win to end the season,” she said. “Based on my past experiences playing SUNY New Paltz, I knew that if we worked hard and put in all our effort, we could come out of the game with a win. It was definitely a team effort, and everyone was needed that day to win.”

A few days later, after competing against and beating D’Youville, the Blue Devils claimed their second win of the season, and Burrows shattered another record, this time for most saves in a career.

“This game boosted her total saves to 593, breaking the previous record, which was held by Casey Chiesa (2010-2013), by two. In the team's last game versus SUNY Oneonta, she boosted this number to 612 saves.

By making the most saves in two consecutive games in the program's history against Alleghany and Cortland earlier in the season (38 saves), Burrows now holds three school records in total.

“She has really stepped up to help the team this year,” said Olivia Miller, junior exercise science major and Burrows' teammate. “It has been a hard season, but she plays hard every single game.”

And this has been true since the very beginning of Burrows' career in lacrosse.

First picking up a lacrosse stick when she was in seventh grade, she was originally a soccer player, but after some coaxing from her coach, she decided to try lacrosse.

“I fell in love with the sport,” said Burrows. “This is my tenth year playing.”

Now, despite her senior season being over, she plans on continuing her involvement with lacrosse by moving back to her home of Baldwinsville, NY. and helping to coach her high school team.

Besides this, Burrows plans on attending Medaille College in the fall to get a degree in veterinary technology and eventually become a vet technician. She will also be busy for the next few months planning her wedding, which is set to occur Feb. of 2019.

Miller is already thinking about how unusual the next season will be without her.

“I think Sophie [Jones] will step up big time, but it will definitely be a different feeling not having [Nicole] behind me,” she said.

Yet, Burrows is looking forward to her life post-graduation, and her teammates are excited to see where she goes from here.
AIDAN POLLARD
Assistant Sports Editor

Frisbee is a staple of college campuses everywhere, and Fredonia is no exception.

The Fredonia Ultimate clubs have been making leaps and bounds this year, especially on the women’s side.

Ultimate is a game played with a flying disc that’s somewhat similar to both rugby and football.

To score a point in ultimate, a player has to catch the disc inside the opposing team’s end zone, but that’s about where the simplicity of the rules ends. When a player is in possession of the disc, he or she may not move while holding it; he or she can only pivot and throw to his or her most open teammate.

Beyond this, any interception, incomplete pass or pass out of bounds is ruled as a turnover. Ultimate is a no-contact sport, which means when the opposing team has the disc and can only throw or pivot, defending becomes similar to basketball, where players try to block paths by standing and moving immediately in front of the player with possession of the disc.

The game is played seven-on-seven and traditionally is self-refereed, meaning sportsmanship and rule-keeping are up to the players on the field.

This year, the Fredonia women’s team made the upcoming regional tournament, which they celebrated in multiple posts on their Twitter.

“Not to toot our own shell but see you at regionals,” the women’s team, dubbed the Turtlicious Turtles, exclaimed in a tweet.

The men’s season ended mid-April this year after a loss to the Clarkson team, after which they expressed some disappointment, but shifted their focus to praise of the women’s program. The women’s team reciprocated the pride, expressing thanks and congratulations to the men’s team.

It’s up to the women’s team now to push the season further, and hopefully they’ll be able to bring some pride back to Fredonia with them.
Coming into the weekend, the men's baseball team was trying to catch Brockport for the fourth and final spot in the playoffs. The Blue Devils had to win the remainder of their games and get help to get in. That quest started with the last SUNYAC series of the year at home versus Plattsburgh.

Plattsburgh took an early lead in the third inning on a sacrifice fly before Fredonia countered with two runs in the bottom of the fourth, courtesy of senior Josh Crocetti's two run single.

The game would go back and forth as Plattsburgh would counter in the sixth with two runs of their own to take the lead before senior Steve Zaprowski singled in the seventh to give Fredonia the lead back.

Plattsburgh would waste an opportunity to tie the game in the eighth but would tie the game in the ninth on a sacrifice fly to tie the game at four.

Both teams struggled to score in extra innings until Plattsburgh broke thrown in the 12th on an RBI double to regain the lead for good, killing any chance Fredonia had of making the SUNYAC tournament.

Fredonia would get two men on in the bottom of the 12th, but a flyout would end the game and Plattsburgh would counter in the sixth with two runs in the seventh to come back and close out the series with a win.

Steve Zaprowski talked afterwards about losing such an important game that was a "winnable game."

"It's very disappointing to lose a game like that," he said. "We battled from first pitch to last, and just a few things didn't go our way that cost us the game."

Senior Bailey Gauthier shared the same sentiment, as this loss was hard on the seniors after missing the postseason.

"It's definitely a tough one to swallow, especially since we had to win out and we would be in the playoffs. Losing that first game stung right after for the whole team especially for the seniors who knew they wouldn't get into the postseason," said Gauthier. "We played hard, it's just they found a way to want it a little more than us towards the end of the game."

With the playoff push over, the Blue Devils still had to finish their series versus Plattsburgh. The next game was the baseball team's "Pitch for Purple" game where they raised awareness for domestic violence victims.

"Pitch for Purple is all about spreading awareness against domestic violence. "Unfortunately in today's society, there has been a lot of domestic violence cases against professional athletes and even celebrities," said Gauthier. "It's sad because these are supposed to be people that younger generations look up to. We wanted to show, especially through the slogan 'Silent No More,' that it's important to us as a group to use our platform to spread that awareness around our Fredonia campus. It shouldn't be tolerated."

The Blue Devils looked to end the weekend and senior day on a positive note and the team did just that. The team used some late game heroics from senior Derek Fie in both games of the doubleheader. Fie had the game winning hit in both games for the Blue Devils.

In game one, the score was tied up at seven after seven innings of back and forth baseball before Fie singled home Zaprowski with no outs in the bottom of the ninth inning.

In game two, the Blue Devils rallied from down 2-0 in the fifth inning to score one in the sixth and two in the seventh to come back and close out the series with a win.

After Zaprowski sac fly tied the game, Fie singled in freshman Joseph Coene to gain the win. Though the playoffs will not be in the Blue Devils future this year, going out on a high note was a good feeling for the seniors, including friends Zaprowski and Gauthier who reminisced on their times playing Fredonia baseball.

"There's nothing I'll miss more than the friendships I made on the field these past four years," said Zaprowski. "You come in not knowing anyone as a freshman, and you leave with lifelong brothers by the end of the four years. Whenever we bring it up in a huddle, we always break it down by saying, 'family on three.' That just shows the type of bonds that are built on this team that makes it so special. On and off the field, these guys mean so much to me, and I wouldn't want it any other way."

"My last few games meant a lot to me as we were able to finish strong the last two SUNYAC series and some non-conference games, even though we didn't reach the outcome we wanted," said Gauthier. "We were able to get two memorable walk off wins that most likely will end our season and that's something we will always look back and remember, which is a pretty cool feeling. It's been a pleasure to be apart of this program the last four years, and I will always be grateful, as it taught me a lot when it came to being a student athlete."

The Blue Devils look to finish the season strong when they face Pitt-Bradford in the final regular season game of the 2018 season.
2018 National Football League draft debrief

JORDAN PURVIS
Special to The Leader

The National Football League hosted their annual draft between April 26-28 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, TX. The first round of the draft was full of surprises, as well as questionable decisions made by several teams. Five quarterbacks were selected in the first round, marking the third time that at least five quarterbacks were selected in the draft’s opening round since the inception of the common draft in 1967.

Ravens move up to No. 32 to take Lamar Jackson: Baltimore traded three picks (No. 52, 125 and a 2019 second-round pick) to move up for the No. 32 pick and No. 132 in the draft. The Ravens decided to get Lamar Jackson for the No. 32 pick. Jackson previously played football for the Louisville Cardinals under coach Bobby Petrino. In his junior season, Jackson played in 13 games, finishing with 3,660 passing yards, 27 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. It’s a bit obvious that the Ravens are moving away from 33-year-old Joe Flacco and are preparing themselves for the future at the quarterback position with the new addition of Jackson and Robert Griffin III.

Seahawks draft Shaquem Griffin with the 141st overall pick: Shaquem Griffin’s life is truly inspirational. Griffin was born with amniotic band syndrome, which is caused by strands of the amniotic sac separating and entangling with digits, limbs or other parts of the fetus. Despite only having use of his right hand, Griffin played as linebacker at the University of Central Florida, receiving the AAC defensive player of the year in 2016 and being named a second-team All-American in 2017. In addition, Griffin is reunited with his twin brother, Shaquill Griffin, who plays cornerback for the Seahawks.

Cleveland Browns select Baker Mayfield with the number one pick: Honestly! Did anyone actually think Baker Mayfield was going to be chosen number one pick in the draft? Definitely not me. Mayfield is the first former walk-on to be selected No. 1 overall in the NFL draft. Ever since enrolling at the University of Oklahoma in 2014, Mayfield has scored 199 touchdowns with 21 interceptions and threw for 12,292 yards. Mayfield joins a great team. The Browns have made some big moves this offseason, adding Tyrod Taylor, Carlos Hyde, Jarvis Landry and reinstating Josh Gordon after violating the league’s substance-abuse policy.

Barkley heading to the New York Giants: The Giants decided to ditch the idea of getting their quarterback for the future and instead drafted running back Saquon Barkley. Yes! Barkley was one of the top prospects in this year’s draft and is a great addition to the Giants organization, but will he instantly help turn the Giants back into a playoff contending team? In just 38 games at Penn State, he had 671 rushing attempts for 3,843 yards and 43 touchdowns.

Josh Allen goes No. 7: The Buffalo Bills select Josh Allen for the seventh overall pick in the NFL Draft. The Bills’ postseason run ended off quickly as they lost against the Jacksonville Jaguars in the NFL Wild Card Round. With the departure of Tyrod Taylor, Buffalo no longer has an experienced player in the position. After three years of playing for the Wyoming Cowboys, Allen finished his junior season with 5,066 passing yards, 44 touchdowns and 21 interceptions.

The NFL preseason begins Aug. 2 with the first game featuring the Chicago Bears against Baltimore Ravens for the Hall of Fame game.

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NBA Playoffs update
Is Cavs-Warriors IV looking unlikely?

COLIN HART
Special to The Leader

The biggest storylines of the NBA season often revolve around the game’s biggest personalities. The playoffs are no different.

In a first round that has been entertaining all across the board, the focus still begins and ends with LeBron James. In order to make it to his eighth (!) consecutive NBA Finals, James will have to carry the team on his back like never before.

Remember his Finals run in 2007? This current Cleveland Cavaliers roster is comparable. Even with LeBron putting up insane numbers (35 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists per game), the Indiana Pacers have been able to hang with the Cavs every step of the way. In fact, no team has ever been able to force a Game Seven against James in the first round until now.

It’s hyperbolic to consider this entire series as LeBron vs. the Pacers, but the Cavaliers’ supporting cast has been terribly inconsistent — Kevin Love is playing with broken confidence (and a broken thumb), J.R. Smith is playing with a broken jump shot (don’t let the 60-foot buzzer-beaters fool you) and Tristan Thompson is undergoing a serious case of the Kardashian Curse. Their best No. 2 option right now is Kyle Korver.

Let that sink in.

Even if the Cavs make it out of this round, there are several causes for concern. Namely, you can’t rely on an offensive (and defensive) philosophy of “LeBron will bail us out because he is the best player on the planet” for very long. Though it’s not the worst strategy . . .

But give credit where credit is due — the Indiana Pacers are a young, athletic team that is hungry to win. Victor Oladipo has been special (a triple-double last Friday to force Game Seven) and Lance Stephenson (LeBron’s greatest, and most unlikely nemesis) has provided a spark. They wouldn’t consider a first-round victory a shock, much less an upset.

Elsewhere in the Eastern Conference, the biggest surprise has been the remarkable poise of the Philadelphia 76ers. Despite featuring one of the youngest rosters in the league, the Sixers eliminated the Miami Heat in five games. Health will be a key concern for them going forward, but they have enough star power to give any contender a tough time. There is no better time than now to #TrustTheProcess.

In the Western Conference, things have more or less turned out as expected. The top-seeded Houston Rockets solidified their status as the team to beat, while the Steph-less Golden State Warriors easily took care of the Kawhi-less San Antonio Spurs. Whichever team comes out of the West will likely win the NBA Finals, but both teams face tougher competition in the second round.

Curry still isn’t back to full health, and that could provide issues for the defending champs when they take on the New Orleans Pelicans, who were the only team to sweep their first-round series. Meanwhile, James Harden and the Rockets may run into trouble against the upstart Utah Jazz and Donovan Mitchell, their outstanding rookie shooting guard.

The Jazz defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder in six games. Despite this, the attention is still on OKC, specifically what their future will hold. The Big Three of Russell Westbrook, Paul George and Carmelo Anthony were never able to consistently mesh together all season, and it was on full display in the decisive Game Six. Westbrook had one of his usual statistical anomalies (46 points on 43 shot attempts) but received very little help from his teammates.

Therein lies the question — does he need more help, or is he part of the problem? It’s a debate that will likely continue all summer. George, who christened himself “Playoff P” before the postseason, played more like Playoff Pee down the stretch, finishing with only five points on 12 percent shooting in the final game. His future with the team going forward is up in the air, as is that of Anthony, who will be owed $28 million next year if he decides to pick up his player option. That is quite a hefty price to pay for a bricklayer.

This first round has felt like an entire season in itself. That’s a good thing. After three consecutive Cavs-Warriors finals, a growing sense of parity could be just what we needed. Then again, my inner-LeBron fan would be fine with another sequel.
‘It was a humbling experience, watching him yodel his little heart out’

In turn of events, Kid Ink opens for famous yodeling Walmart boy

The crowd filled up the Steele Hall Fieldhouse with a line going back to the edge of campus — wait, that was just Tim Hortons. The line was long, is the point here. However, they weren’t here for Kid Ink.

In a last minute turn of events that one would describe as “totally lit,” Spectrum Entertainment pulled the rug out from under everyone’s feet in the best way possible.

“We really wanted to put this year’s spring concert in the Fredonia history books by booking a high profile talent,” said Rebecca Lane, president of Spectrum. “While we originally settled on Kid Ink, I was then shown a video of this kid making the most beautiful yodels I’ve ever heard in my life. I had to have him on that stage.”

As such, Spectrum made it so by pushing Kid Ink to the opening act for Mason Ramsey, better known as the Yodeling Walmart Boy.

As Ramsey took to the stage, the crowd erupted in applause as his ten-gallon hat glowed, complimenting his pale, sheep wool colored skin.

“It was the most moving thing I have ever heard in my life,” said one concertgoer. “It was a humbling experience, watching him yodel his little heart out.”

There was some initial controversy surrounding this change in the agenda, with some assuming that Kid Ink would not be too happy about him being moved from the main event to the opener. In an exclusive interview with The Scallion, all preconceived notions were shattered.

“At first I wasn’t really okay with it, but man, when I found out who I’d be opening for, it was like a light opened up inside me,” said Kid Ink, holding back tears. "This kid is an inspiration. He’s following his dreams; he made a name for himself when all he had was a studio in a damn Walmart, I wish I had that ambition."

“It was really boring,” said Ramsey. “Like, yeah, yodeling is fun, but that’s not what I want to be known for my entire life. I want to be an interpretive dancer.”

There is no word yet on how Ramsey’s ambitions as an interpretive dance have been going. Rest assured, The Scallion has reporters in every Walmart in America, waiting for Ramsey to dance like nobody’s watching.
Local Fredonia homeowners prep for incoming Fred Fest

*Mentally and physically*

PATRICK BENNETT
Staff Scallywag

Few things in Fredonia are certain. There's a wonderful academic atmosphere, $3 wells at BJ'ws on Saturday, fist fights over vegan chip dip and Fred Fest.

Fred Fest grants an opportunity for students to let loose (and maybe catch a charge in doing so). This year, local homeowners are on edge more than ever as they prep for the incoming wave of destruction and all around good times.

“Last year a squadron of frat boys literally destroyed my home Fortnite-style with pickaxes and all. They didn’t get any of my loot, though, because I hid the treasure chest underground,” technologically savvy and evident time traveler Margaret Wilson groaned.

Wilson’s husband was fortunately out of town on business but chimed in with his two cents.

“If those kids ever come on my property again, I’m gonna kick each and every one of their asses. I got a fresh pair of Tims to stomp the evil out of these hooligans,” loving husband Brian Wilson added.

This violent and defensive mentality is rampant for local Fredonia homeowners that have the displeasure of facing the hordes of students moving from one house to another in search of booze, games and cat fights. One local man had a brilliant idea to ensure nothing on his yard was compromised.

“Last year there were a bunch of dudes and gals on my front porch just kicking it and soaking in the sun. There was puke and bodily fluid left all over the place once they left. This year I’m dressing up as Pennywise the clown to scare them off my lawn. I’ll attempt to haunt their dreams for the rest of their collegiate existence,” Guy Mann said.

The Fredonia Police Department has already issued the coveted “Hot Tub Watch Your Back” statement for the upcoming fest. The statement stresses the importance of hiding your hot tub, in case students try to engage in “tactical brews in the jacuzz.”

“I think those bastards engaged in tactical brews in the jacuzz last year in my hot tub. I was more than livid. I’m definitely gonna be packing the heat this year,” Donna Denali said, while loading her BB gun.

Reports have local homeowners believing that Fred Fest will be “much more chill this year,” however, this is most likely not the case.
This year during Study Week, formerly known as Dead Week, there will be a new feature at the library. Yes, you heard me right. Now introducing sleep pods! Now, you can destress as you feel your blood turn cold and body decay in yet another expensive and unnecessary feature this campus has been yearning for.

Walking across campus during Study Week, you will feel alone and isolated looking around to see no one in sight. As your eyes grow weary of staying open and your body shivers cold in the global warming heat, your migraine becomes so commonplace that you forget why you’re having trouble remembering the information you just learned three hours ago.

When this happens, it means your body is ready to die but it’s Study Week, so you need to stay alive. So instead, why not simulate death! Dying is so calming; researchers say that it is an eye-closing experience, and that everyone should get to see what it’s like at least once!

After receiving a small loan of one million dollars, like the president of the US had from his father, our campus decided that this machine was a necessary tool for campus-wide mental well-being.

Since its installation on campus, many students have had positive experiences in them. Just hear what Joe Shmo had to say: “I couldn’t feel more alive. I don’t know what happened when I died, but now I feel like a whole new person. I think I’m going to actually pass my finals this year!”

You heard it here first! Interested in destressing? Go use the new sleep pods and die for a little!
JACOB LOGRIVER
Rejected band frontman

It's been meme'd to hell and back; so much so, that it has been recognized by the federal government who has officially declared the month of May "National *NSYNC month."

To celebrate this momentous move, the mayor of New York City issued an impromptu parade down Broadway, with attendees dressed up as Space Cowboys and blasting Justin Timberlake's angelic voice on every airwave in the five boroughs.

"I gotta admit, this is all a bit weird considering the song came out 18 years ago. But I mean hey, I ain't complaining, we got a free parade and everything," said a parade goer, shamelessly double fisting a beer and a corn dog.

"People have been living under constant stress thanks to the fake news, so we decided to give them a breather with a whole month of boy band dreaminess," said Sarah Huckabee Sanders, main roastee of the White House Correspondents Dinner.

People gathered from far and wide to move away from the New York State of mind and into the groove of the late '90s, early 2000s. The most popular and cost effective costumes were people wearing cooked ramen noodles as wigs and thrift shop joggers.

"This is wild, man," said Justin Timberlake, another parade attendee. "Like, first we were a meme, but now we blew up sky high with our own national holiday! We outranked that Walmart kid for sure, last I heard he was performing at some backwater college town."

While this holiday has gotten mostly positive reception, the naysayers will have to sit this one out, because it will be a while before we say bye bye bye to this new month of celebration, this I promise you.

Kathleen Fenton/Staff Illustrator
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<td>It's your season! Celebrate by eating an entire large pizza while sobbing in the middle of the street!</td>
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<td>Who is in charge of your mind? You or the twin you absorbed in the womb?</td>
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<td>You will die for our sins. There will be no resurrection.</td>
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<td>Don't look a gift horse in the mouth! You'll never forget what you see staring back at you.</td>
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<td>Stop saying that no one likes you . . . it's so, so much worse than that.</td>
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<td>A cross roads is coming, look out for the drunk bus.</td>
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<td>Cheer up! It'll make your inevitable failure more entertaining for the rest of us.</td>
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*CAITLYN CROFT*

Special to The Scallion