Greek life unites, fundraises for the Escobar family

Fredonia's Greek life came together during the week of April 23, as the Inter Greek Council (IGC) raised approximately $3,200 for Manny Escobar's family.

Every spring semester, IGC comes together to participate in a series of events, as well as to fundraise for people within the community. This year, the IGC chose to fundraise for the Escobar family in memory of Emmanuel J. Escobar, also known as “Manny.”

IGC is a joint council of the six social fraternities and sororities on campus.

“We always try to do something to help the community,” said Austin York, co-president of the IGC and brother of the Delta Chi fraternity.

York explained that every greek organization has their own philanthropies that they work with throughout the year. Greek life wanted to choose an entirely separate cause to donate to during their annual “Greek Week.”

“...This year Manny unfortunately passed away right around the time we were planning Greek Week,” said York. “And since Manny is such a strong staple in [this] community's life, especially students', it just seems to be the right thing to do.”

During the week, fraternities and sororities team up and compete against each other in a series of events such as volleyball, spike ball, backyard games and more. By the end of the week, results are announced and the greek organization who won the most events and fundraised the largest sum of money wins the competition.

Greek week is also an important event to keep alumni connected and engaged in the campus community. A portion of the donations came from alumni.

“Alumni are more inclined to donate and give back when it has something to do with the community,” said York. “Jon Escobar, twin of Manny Escobar, was an alumni of Delta Chi and that is why a lot of alumni from Delta Chi [were] involved and took part in it.”

On the Cover:
A neon sign in the Old Main Inn celebrates Fred Fest.
Photo courtesy of @SUNYPCompany Twitter page.
Fire rips through 165-year-old church steeple in downtown Fredonia

If the village of Fredonia were to have a panoramic picture of its skyline taken, the clocktower of the Family Church Fredonia would dominate it.

After this weekend, though, the steeple that looked over Barker Commons and downtown Fredonia for 165 years is now a charred and blackened skeleton.

The call came in to the Fredonia Fire Department around 6:30 p.m. this past Friday. The fire station, which is roughly a block from the church at 19 Church Street, responded to the scene quickly but the fire tore through the old steeple rapidly.

According to The Buffalo News, the dispatch was originally a one-alarm call to the Fredonia Fire Department, but a second alarm was sent out and fire crews from Dunkirk, Cassadaga and Brocton responded with assistance.

The huge fire attracted a couple hundred onlookers who were partaking in the “Not-Fred Fest” activities of the weekend.

“Before that, I was hearing firetrucks [and] their sirens and I just thought it was for something party related. When I went to see what my friends were talking about, I could see the steeple on fire.”

Fischer said about 200 shocked and scared people, including Fredonia students and local business owners, were out looking up at the blaze.

“At that point the situation was so fresh that there were no police on our side of Main Street,” said Fischer. “I’m sure if I was in Barker Commons they would have told me to stay back.”

Former Fredonia Village Attorney Samuel Drayo told The Buffalo News the Fredonia Family Church was built in 1853 as the First Baptist Church.

“The clock was originally purchased for the Village Hall, but upon delivery it was found to be too large,” said Drayo.

The clock was installed in the church tower where it was maintained by the village. The church was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1978.

Scott Wise, the associate pastor of the Family Church Fredonia, said that a $1.3 million renovation was recently completed in the church and funds were being raised to renovate the clocktower as well.

The Dunkirk Observer reported on Saturday that Fredonia Police believe loose gutters on the church building hit power transformers in the high winds on Friday, sparking the blaze.

The fire was started in the attic area and was contained to the steeple, but there is smoke and water damage to most of the building.

In a Facebook post on Saturday the Family Church Fredonia said, “Community outreach has been incredible! Volunteers have been here from other local churches, and chairs were donated for use by Family Church Corry and Family Church South Dayton. What a fantastic community we live in, and a good, good God we serve!”

Church services were held Sunday morning at an alternate location at 45 Lakeview Avenue, where nearly every seat was filled, according to Spectrum News.

The message and mood was not one of sadness or downheartedness, but rather happiness and thanks.

“We’re excited for what’s ahead because even though it was something that was sad, we’re not robots, we do feel sadness. At the same time, we are choosing to rejoice because we know the end result is going to be good,” said Family Church Fredonia Music Director Mercy Homer.

“We’re people of faith,” said Wise, “The Bible tells us to be joyful in all circumstances. We’ll rebuild it better than it was.”

The Leader reached out to the Fredonia Fire Department but was told the department had no prepared statement. As of Sunday evening, an investigation is on-going with the Chautauqua County Sheriff’s Office.
‘We need to simply reach out. That’s the one most important, most powerful message of that film.’

A recap of ‘Suicide: A Ripple Effect’

VICTOR SCHMITT-BUSH and ALEXANDRIA SMITH
Assistant News Editor and Special to The Leader

Approximately 99 percent of people who jump off the Golden Gate bridge don’t make it. Over the course of 80 years, more than 2,000 people have jumped off of the bridge — only 36 people have survived the fall.

According to suicide survivor, public speaker, author and film director Kevin Hines, in those final seconds after putting their hands on the guardrail and hoisting themselves up to jump, every single one of them will have regretted it.

Fredonia recognizes this and takes suicide prevention and mental health seriously. To show the extent to which they care, the campus’ Engagement and Economic Development (EED) department hosted a public airing of "Suicide: the Ripple Effect," a documentary about Hines’ miraculous survival.

The message in his story was clear: there is always hope, and people do care.

“We are our brothers’ and sisters’ keepers,” Hines said. “We aren’t here for our own betterment or gain. We’re here for each other.”

The event was held in the Kelly Family auditorium of the Science Center. The room was filled, not just with people, but with tears, too.

According to speech pathologist Kevin Kearns, who is the president of the EED, Hines’ story was bound to affect everyone in the room in an unspeakable way.

“He is leading a cause that matters. He has impacted so many people positively,” said Kearns. “He still struggles with bipolar disease. He still struggles with all of those mental health issues, but with help and with work, he’s turned his life to a very positive place.”

Despite the pain that he has endured, Hines has found a way to show his gratitude for his second chance at life. He has become the one and only suicide survivor off of the Golden Gate to speak openly about his story and he credits faith, friends and family for his recovery.

Hines noted that people typically have a very limited understanding of mental health issues, and that they are often stigmatized. Even he stigmatized his own bipolar disorder before it began to settle in and take full effect.

“I didn’t believe that I had the disease,” he said. “I didn’t want it. I didn’t like it. I didn’t want to have the label of bipolar.”

According to Kearns, on the day that Hines decided to jump, there wasn’t a single stranger that was willing to help him. Hines was giving off clear signs that something wasn’t right. He didn’t want to die, but the voices in his head were so loud that he felt at the time that he had to do it.

“One of the things that clearly comes out in the documentary is that he was in so much pain, that he couldn’t say, ‘I need help,’” said Kearns. “He was waiting and waiting and hoping that someone would say, ‘Are you okay? Can I help?’”

But no one did.

“What his story showed everyone who came to the event is that all of us have a responsibility to be there when we see someone in distress,” said Kearns. “We need to simply reach out. That’s the one most important, most powerful message of that film.”

Kearns said that a common thought people with suicidal tendencies have is believing that they are a waste of space.

It happens every day at a rate this is always increasing, but if we work together, maybe we can reverse it.

“Every 40 seconds someone dies by suicide,” he said. “[But] positive effects can spread, too.”

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POLICE BLOTTERS

UNIVERSITY

Thursday, May 3, 2018
9:40 p.m. David Crescente was charged with underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.

Saturday, May 5, 2018
1:00 p.m. Caleb Thompson was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana and underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.
1:00 p.m. Preston Murphy was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. An appearance ticket was given.
6:40 p.m. Scott Miles and Glenda Artica were charged with open container. Appearance tickets were given.

Sunday, May 6, 2018
A fraudulent ID was found in McGinnies. An investigation is pending.
12:08 a.m. Matthew Evans and Nicholas McDonald were charged with open container. An appearance ticket was given.
1:04 a.m. Marissa Macpeek was charged with underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.
1:55 a.m. Kevin Geesler was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. An appearance ticket was given.
4:01 a.m. Messiah Ames was charged with criminal possession of stolen property, fourth degree grand larceny, criminal mischief and underage possession of alcohol. He was held for bail.

VILLAGE OF FREDONIA

Friday, May 4, 2018
Chelsea Robillard, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. Appearance tickets were given.
Hannah Pegg, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. Appearance tickets were given.
Adianna Wechter, age 20, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. Appearance tickets were given.
Nicholas Burdick, age 23, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.
Gina Hall, age 21, was charged with open container. She was held for bail.
Nicole MacDonald, age 21, was charged with open container. She was held for bail.
Ajayi Valentine, age 22, was charged with open container and unlawful possession of marijuana. He was held for bail.
Zachary O'Shea, age 21, was charged with open container. An appearance ticket was given.

Saturday, May 5, 2018
1:00 p.m. William Marile, age 20, was charged with open container, underage possession of alcohol and unlawful possession of marijuana. He was held for bail.
Michael Zito, age 20, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.
Michaela Morrison, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.
Brandon Stuart, age 23, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.
Kelly White, age 20, was charged with littering, underage possession of alcohol and open container. An appearance ticket was given.
Joshua Ruda, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. He was held for bail.
Christian Russell, age 19, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. He was held for bail.
Ana Roman, age 18, was charged with open container and unlawful possession of marijuana. She was held for bail.
John Anderson, age 21, was charged with littering and open container. He was held for bail.
Matthew Fischer was charged with underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.
Patrick Woods, age 20, was charged with underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.
Sarah Gerass, age 20, was charged with underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.
Gabrielle Berry, age 20, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. An arrest was completed.
Saturday, May 5, 2018

Bradley Degroff, age 21, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.

Poet Rophone, age 19, was charged with open container, littering and underage possession of alcohol. She was held for bail.

Robert Narcavage, age 19, was charged with open container, littering and underage possession of alcohol. He was held for bail.

Jarod Seagrave, age 18, was charged with underage possession of alcohol and open container. An arrest was completed.

Justin Capuano, age 22, was charged with disorderly conduct. He was held for bail.

Conner Peterson, age 20, was charged with disorderly conduct. He was held for bail.

Nicholas Huyck, age 25, was charged with obstructing government administration, harassment in the second degree and disorderly conduct. He was held for bail.

Thomas Gruenthal, age 25, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.

Doran Okon, age 19, was charged with underage possession of alcohol and producing a fictitious license. He was held on bail.

Zachary Wegman, age 23, was charged with open container and littering. He was held on bail.

Nicholas Longo, age 19, was charged with underage possession of alcohol. An appearance ticket was given.

Kaillyn Kist, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. She was held on bail.

Kately Hilton-McCarthy, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. She was held on bail.

Andrew Delles, age 21, was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana and open container. He was held for bail.

Kullen Willard, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. She was held for bail.

Jenna Nanula, age 21, was charged with open container. She was held for bail.

Sidney Oshei, age 21, was charged with open container. She was held for bail.

Zachary Schung, age 21, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.

Kevin Wilson, age 19, was charged with littering, open container, producing a fake license and underage possession of alcohol. They were held for bail.

Carter Clarke, age 19, was charged with littering, open container and underage possession of alcohol. He was held for bail.

Keegan Boncure, age 22, was charged with open container. He was held on bail.

Evan Domiano was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. He was held for bail.

Marissa Nappo, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. She was held for bail.

Julia Haley, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. She was held on bail.

Connor Weimer, age 21, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.

Anthony Marinelli, age 19, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. He was held for bail.

Alex Buczynski, age 18, was charged with underage possession of alcohol and open container. He was held on bail.

Latham Dunn, age 20, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. An arrest was completed.

Alexis Gigliello, age 21, was charged with open container. An arrest was completed.

Natalie Picarazzi, age 20, was charged with open container and underage possession of alcohol. She was held for bail.

Nicholas Mucci, age 21, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.

Devin Drummond, age 19, was charged with underage possession of alcohol, open container and littering. He was held for bail.

Sarah Brady, age 21, was charged with open container. She was held for bail.

Morgan Nicholas, age 18, was charged with underage possession of alcohol and open container. She was held for bail.

Emma Horuay, age 19, was charged with underage possession of alcohol, open container and littering. She was held for bail.

Nathan Crassi, age 22, was charged with open container. He was held for bail.

Eric Barker, age 21, was charged with disorderly conduct. He was held for bail.

Alijah Jones, age 20, was charged with disorderly conduct. He was held for bail.

Ameah Jones, age 21, was charged with disorderly conduct. She was held for bail.

Michael Granata, age 26, was charged with disorderly conduct. He was held for bail.

Dante Davenport, age 21, was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting an arrest. He was held for bail.

Jeremy Campbell, age 29, was charged with disorderly conduct. An arrest was completed.

Anthony Gallo, age 19, was charged with underage possession of alcohol. He was held for bail.

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.
ELYSE GRIECO
Assistant Life & Arts Editor

On April 27, 2018, the Fredonia community lost a teacher, friend and amazingly talented musician.

Bernard Woma was only 51 years old when he lost his battle to cancer.

Woma hailed from Hiineteng, a village located in Northwestern Ghana.

By the age of two, he was already exposed to his love for music when he started playing the Gyil, also known as the Ghanaian Xylophone.

He eventually became known as a master of the instrument and in 1989 joined The Ghana Dance Ensemble at The University of Ghana as the solo gyil artist.

Since then, Woma’s achievements have been astronomical.

He has shared the stage with artists like Yo Yo Ma and Maya Angelou.

He also had the honor of being the cultural resource person for the Obama family when they visited Ghana in 2009.

One of his greatest achievements was his establishment of The Dagara Music Center (DMC).

DMC is a private school in Ghana that takes pride in teaching the ins and outs of African music and dance.

He soon became a renowned mentor to young African musicians through his teachings.

In 2008, Woma received a bachelor’s degree in international studies with a minor in art administration and history from SUNY Fredonia.

Thomas Bingham, one of Woma’s colleagues at Fredonia, still remembers how he felt the first time he saw Woma perform.

“I remember seeing him in performance before I met him. My first impression at that time was something [along the lines of] the order, ‘Wow! This guy’s the real deal!’ I was used to hearing authentic African polyrhythmic drumming on recordings from the Ethnic Folkways label. But most African drumming and percussion I had heard in person, mostly by American drummers, had been rather tepid, lacking the energy and authority of the recorded music I had heard,” said Bingham. “Bernard’s performance ranked alongside these ethnomusicalogical discs, adding the power and lifeforce that I came to recognize as being the very fiber of Bernard’s being.”

Woma taught African music and ran the African music program at Fredonia.

“He also helped establish a Ghana study abroad program and collaborated with the school’s dance program.

Bingham said, “I doubt the Fredonia School of Music would have developed and sustained its rich delvings into world percussion to the extent that they have… With the encouragement and facilitation of Dr. Stonefelt, Bernard opened the door for increased attention to the world’s music at Fredonia.”

Shelyce Fitzgerald, a sophomore applied music major with a concentration in voice, recalls seeing Woma around Mason Hall.

“‘Among the things I admired about Bernard Woma was his open personality, his sense of humor, his willingness to give of himself, his tireless advocacy to pass on his knowledge,’” said Bingham. “It’s difficult to to accept that someone with so much energy and commitment had to leave us at such a relatively young age.”

Although Woma was not originally from Western New York, he was more than just a visitor.

“I think it’s important to note that he loved Fredonia,” said Bingham. “Oh, he would joke about the cold wintry weather in ‘Freeze-onia,’ but he got a couple undergrad degrees here while still teaching and performing, some of his family members still live in Fredonia, and he continued to return to Fredonia whenever he could. He was from Ghana, of course, but he was also from Fredonia.”

Woma’s legacy is one that will not be forgotten.

Fredonia held a special event, “Fredonia African Drumming Ensembles: Dedicated in Memory of Bernard Woma” on Tuesday in his honor.
Making a difference through music

‘It’s On Us’ concert brings awareness to sexual violence

ERIKETA COST
Special to The Leader

Bringing the community together with music is one way to start a conversation about sexual assault.

Fredonia’s musical fraternity, Phi Mu Alpha, and STEPs (Students Teaching Equals Positive Sexuality) held their “It’s On Us” concert last Friday.

A capella groups, jazz groups and other performers came together to bring unity within the community.

The event’s focus was on spreading awareness of sexual assault and creating a discussion. It was in correspondence with the national “It’s On Us” movement.

“It’s On Us’ sparks discussion about sexual assault among communities with hopes to end the violence.

The campaign emphasizes that solutions to ending sexual assault begin with joining the conversation through creative ideas, grassroots organizations and involvement.

The Brothers of the Rho Chi chapter of Phi Mu Alpha created the event to encourage students, teachers and other members of the Fredonia community to join the conversation and sign the “It’s On Us” pledge.

Mario Marrazzo, vice president of Phi Mu Alpha, sat at a table informing students and encouraging them to sign the pledge.

“The pledge is all about being responsible and spreading awareness,” Marrazzo said.

The pledge involves four key words: recognize, identify, intervene and create.

“It’s important to recognize that there is a non-consensual act, identify situations that may occur, intervene in those situations and create a safe environment,” Marrazzo said.

The event also encouraged participation in raffles that raised money for The Salvation Army Anew Center for sexual assault and domestic violence victims in Chautauqua County.

“We are located in Jamestown, but serve all of Chautauqua County,” prevention educator of the Anew Center Leslie DeSantis said. “We have 24/7 shelter available to anyone who may need help for sexual assault victims and domestic violence victims, and we also have 24/7 hotlines.”

STEPS e-board member Shana Gordon spoke about the musical aspect of the “It’s On Us” concert.

“Phi Mu Alpha wants to celebrate that we are all trying to make a difference,” Gordon said. “Since Phi Mu Alpha is a music fraternity, they figured the best way to do that was through music.”

The music aspect of the event can also encourage the community to come together in a relaxing and enjoyable environment.

“Some people think that learning about assault is intimidating, so adding that fun music feature is good,” Gordon said.

The event featured The Riveters, Some Like it Hot, Tom Gestwicki, Robbie Reeve, Wyatt Watson, STEPS, Phi Mu Alpha, Fred Mills and Soul’r Inc.

"The campaign emphasizes that solutions to ending sexual assault begin with joining the conversation through creative ideas, grassroots organizations and involvement."
This past Wednesday, STEPS (Students Teaching Equals Positive Sexuality) held their annual spring equality carnival. Every year, the club dedicates their carnival to a different organization in hopes to raise awareness for that cause. This semester, STEPS decided to pick RAINN, the Rape Abuse & Incest National Network. RAINN is the United State's largest anti-sexual violence organization. It is their mission to help spread the word about sexual assault to help reduce the amount of instances that happen every day.

Selena Ragland, a junior biology major, is a member of STEPS. She agreed that it is crucial to hold these types of functions to help enlighten campus about the issue at hand.

“I think it’s important that we have events like this to really raise awareness and spread awareness of the resources that are there. A lot of people don’t even know about local resources, nonetheless large ones that are nationwide,” she said. “I think in order to make change happen, we have to educate first and that’s really what STEPS is about.”

The club decided to incorporate carnival elements to help attract more people and make it as fun as possible.

The event included musical performances, a magic show, face painting and games that helped teach about consent.

One game, called “The Drunk Relay,” showed how to effectively put on a condom in 13 steps while wearing drunk goggles and completing other tasks.

This game helped demonstrate how uncoordinated someone under the influence is and how it can lead to problems with safe sex.

There was also an ice cream stand providing cold treats for the hot weather and free t-shirts for the first people who came to support the cause.

Nicole Moy, a senior applied music major, is the president of Dynamic Intonation, an a capella group on campus.

She was contacted by STEPS and asked if the group would perform at the carnival.

“I think it’s really important that there are a lot of events on campus that are easy to integrate campus life with. I feel like it’s kind of hard sometimes,” Moy said. “I think this event is awesome. It’s right in the springtime, everyone is outside and people can hear the music and it makes them want to come. This is a great cause and it’s what we love to do so it’s awesome to come sing and be able to support it.”

If you or someone close to you has experienced sexual assault, do not be afraid to speak up and seek help.

For more information about STEPS or RAINN, please visit their websites, www.fredsteps.com and www.rainn.org.
Brews Under Review

May the ‘fourth’ be with you: Redeye Jedi

MELISSA FUCHS
Staff Writer

This past Friday, while many Fredonia students were partaking in off-campus Fred Fest, I decided to take a trip to the local watering hole — after all, what better way is there to celebrate “May The Fourth”? Given the reputation of Fred Fest’s sort of infestation quality that I had seen and heard so much about, I was admittedly surprised by the refreshing quiet on this particular adventure to EBC West.

As my time in Fredonia rapidly comes to an end, I’d be wrong if I didn’t share how much I will miss EBC’s brilliant marriage of comforting atmosphere with great food and drinks. I plunked myself down at the copper bar I’ve grown accustomed to and took a gander at the beer list representing my nerd love affair with George Lucas’ brainchild. In my Empire t-shirt, I opted for the beer with the most midichlorian in its blood: the Redeye Jedi.

Described as “a Coffee infused IPA Brewed with Zythos hops, Sumatra Mandheling and French roast coffee with premium gourmet,” Redeye Jedi looks like it aligns itself with the Force’s darker Sith Order with its reddish brown color.

This brew also smells refreshingly like ground dark roast coffee beans, another intriguing aspect of this IPA. Redeye Jedi has an ABV (alcohol by volume) of 6.0 while this IPA’s IBU (international bitterness units) rings in at 57.

This IPA presents a smooth full taste that embodies its coffee base. Starbucks stand aside, the coffee force is strong with this one. There is a slight aftertaste reminiscent of a medium roast coffee that refocuses your taste buds to this IPA’s coffee roots, tempting you for another sip as easily as falling into a deep Star Wars marathon.

Being admittedly one of my first forays at having an IPA, I would say there’s no need for any jedi mind tricks here. This brew is a real winner and an excellent way to introduce yourself to IPAs.

The wise Grand Master Yoda once said, “Do. Or do not. There is no try.”

While the fourth may have come and gone faster than the Millennium Falcon, there’s still time to awaken the force and show your nerdy side with this stellar coffee-based brew.

But this IPA brew is seasonal, so don’t miss your chance to check it out before it goes back into the vault. No need to search the Dagobah Swamps far and wide — this is the beer you’re looking for.

“There is a slight aftertaste reminiscent of a medium roast coffee that refocuses your taste buds to this IPA’s coffee roots, tempting you for another sip as easily as falling into a deep Star Wars marathon.”
Hidden gems in Chautauqua: a review of Frosty Treat

With summer being less than a month away, everyone is heading to the ice cream stands. A lot of you may be familiar with Big Dipper or Yotality in Dunkirk, but how many of you have actually heard of or been to Frosty Treat in Irving before?

Locals always look forward to Frosty Treat, which opened on March 23 for the 2018 season. It is known for having friendly staff, fair prices and a wide variety of flavors — including vegan options. They also feature weekly specials for both soft-serve and sundae lovers. This week, the flavor of the week is coffee and the sundae is caramel cocoa mocha.

Their soft-serve is my favorite, especially the banana flavor. It’s the one and only fruit that I like and it’s not available everywhere. Whether you are a fan of their special flavor of the week or not, they also have their usual flavors for everyone to enjoy.

If you are interested, grab it while you can since they close September 16, during the first few weeks of school.

Operating business hours are Monday through Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and Sunday from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Don’t forget! It’s cash only.

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“"It is known for having friendly staff, fair prices and a wide variety of flavors — including vegan options."
I shoved my last sweatshirt into a bin four years ago and sat on it so it would close, tears streaming down my face. I was not ready to come to Fredonia, I was terrified to start college.

I cried the entire drive from Rochester to campus, and I cried even more watching from the window as my parents pulled out of the Nixon parking lot and left me to begin my new life here.

Letting go was never my strong suit — it still isn’t.

I find myself now in the same position I was in four years ago: not ready.

As I’ve looked around my house on White Street the past few days, I’ve started to imagine it as empty. Empty of the miscellaneous pens strewn around the living room leftover from someone’s homework. Empty of the Delta Phi Epsilon banners tacked to the walls. Empty of the lawn chairs on our porch that we sit in while catching up on our days or eating a quick lunch together. Empty of my best friends and the memories we’ve made here. It’s almost impossible to imagine.

Fredonia has become home for me, and it’s never easy to leave home. In many ways, I’ve grown up here.

When I first moved into my kitchen suite in Eisenhower back in 2015, I couldn’t even tell you how to boil an egg. Before I started working for The Leader, I had no idea how to format an article. I have come a long way, but I imagine that I still have far to go.

Back when I found out that it’s tradition for the editor in chief to write the final “From the Desk Of” of the semester, I knew I wanted to use the space to thank those who have made this small town come to mean so much to me.

To 28 White: Thank you for being the greatest house and the greatest friends, despite the shit we’ve all had to deal with — you know what I mean. I couldn’t have survived the past four years without you.

To Jess Tompkins, Ben Rockafellow and Travis LeFevre: Thank you, thank you, thank you for making my job easy and continuously giving me reasons to laugh while we spent hours putting together the paper every Monday.

To the Communications Department and The Leader: Thank you for shaping me into the writer that I am today.

As I was sitting in the backseat of my mom’s car four years ago, I remember Jason Mraz’s “It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday” playing through my headphones. “And I'll take with me the memories to be my sunshine after the rain. It’s so hard to say goodbye to yesterday,” he sings.

Four years later, it’s still hard to say goodbye to yesterday.
Why teacher pay is complicated and why education majors should stay here

SETH MICHAEL MEYER  
Staff Writer

From West Virginia to Colorado, teachers have been striking across the country demanding more compensation for their work.

Starting back in February, teachers in West Virginia staged a widespread strike that finally resulted in a pay raise of 5 percent. Similar events have since taken place in Kentucky, Oklahoma, Arizona and Colorado, and these strikes are just beginning.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the median annual salary for a high school teacher in 2016 was $58,030. Reported by The Economist, the average American teacher makes less than 60 percent that of other equally-educated professionals. And sadly, teachers aren’t getting any richer: “In inflation-adjusted terms, teachers’ salaries have fallen by 1.6% over the past two decades.”

With this being said, doesn’t this mean that teachers are underpaid? Well, that depends on the state.

In Oklahoma, a teacher makes about half ($42,460) of what a teacher makes in Alaska ($82,020). To say that all teachers are worse off is ignoring the influence of state governments.

To all education majors out there I must warn you: if you have interest in teaching, you must have an interest in politics because teachers’ salaries are largely controlled by the government.

According to the projections of the U.S. Department of Education, by 2021, 91 percent of students in the preK-12 levels will be enrolled in public institutions. Democrats and Republicans argue year-in and year-out over the massive public service’s funding.

Fortunately, most of the government control of education is reserved to state officials (rather than federal ones), which makes for a 50-player market for education.

Kaitlin Mulhere writes in Time “Money” that the average 1.6 percent decrease in salary “hides wide state-by-state discrepancies.” Mulhere elaborates that “teacher salaries in Arizona, Indiana and North Carolina have fallen at least 12 percent . . . while teachers in Massachusetts, North Dakota and Wyoming have seen double-digit increases.”

This vast distribution spread can only be described as the supply and demand effect of the teaching market.

A specific example: New York. The New York State Teacher Retirement Program reports that within the next five years, 270,000 members could be eligible for retirement.

In preparation for the future, New York has moved mountains trying to retain fresh teachers.

The highly disputed Excelsior Scholarship provides massive tuition breaks for students willing to stay in New York after graduation. This coupled with one of the highest median salaries for teachers in the country, New York has shown its commitment to attract workers by means of incentives.

With that said, I must also note that not every state is a teacher haven like New York. It is hard to examine each state, let alone each municipality, but a determining factor in cuts and raises to education is expenditure. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that, on average, states spend $10,700 per pupil on education. This distribution is also widespread, the lowest expense being $6,555 in Utah to $19,818 in New York. This goes to show how differently each state values education.

To be a teacher you may also have to be a traveler so that you can follow the money. In some instances, you may just need to work in a neighboring district to earn a few more Gs. Or you may find that the state you live in really doesn’t compensate teachers well, and you might want to think about packing up and moving out. Luckily for you, New Yorkers, you’ll be just fine.

For those aspiring teachers in the worse-off states, stop supplying said states with teachers and then watch them scramble to increase incentives.

"To all education majors out there I must warn you: if you have interest in teaching, you must have an interest in politics because teachers’ salaries are largely controlled by the government."
What is the craziest thing you saw during Fred Fest?

Vicky Maldonado, junior international studies, Spanish and philosophy major
“The weirdest thing I saw at Fred Fest was Jacob Santos dressed up in all Canada gear marching down Canadaway.”

Samantha Larson, junior business and theatre major
“I saw people throwing around a dildo.”

Dulcinea Lord, senior theatre major
“I was at home and saw Trevor Noah on the fourth. If I were here, the church fire would be the craziest thing.”

Austin Gallego, sophomore English major
“Probably the big fight outside Maria’s Friday night. Some dude was getting his head kicked in.”
Hope for Buffalo sports

Between Josh Allen, Tremaine Edmunds and Rasmus Dahlin, the 2018-2019 year could be an exciting time for Buffalo sports.

"It couldn't have fell any better," said Buffalo Bills General Manager Brandon Beane in an interview with the Buffalo News, regarding the team's ability to take Edmunds after getting Allen to the number seven spot. "It was funny. I was very excited about getting Josh at seven. I was fine with what we gave up. We got a guy that we believe in that warranted that pick."

Josh Allen needs to be taken with a grain of salt, though.

Allen left high school with no scholarship offers. He played one season for a community college before being noticed by Wyoming's coach, Craig Boehl.

He has only two games with over 300 passing yards, both against lower-level teams an NFL prospect should be able to dominate. He also threw 44 touchdowns and 21 interceptions in his 27 games at Wyoming.

To top it off, he's lost all three of his games against Power Five schools Nebraska, Oregon and Iowa, throwing only one touchdown and eight interceptions between the three.

Beane spoke in defense of Buffalo's pick of Allen again with the Buffalo News.

"We put in a lot of time, energy, effort, sleepless nights," Beane said. "I can't tell you how many times I've watched these guys. You see their highlights, and I go, 'I know what's happening here. It doesn't matter, what team, what the score was, whatever, I've seen it over and over and over.' There's a lot of emotion invested in that. So we thought that was the right move for our team."

For a team looking to continue their upswing, though, the Bills really need a consistent quarterback and they could have very well just found that in Allen.

Speaking of consistency, the Sabres may have gotten a pivotal break in their win of the NHL draft lottery.

The Sabres now have the first chance to snag Rasmus Dahlin, Swedish defenseman and top 2018-2019 NHL draft prospect.

It's hard to be hopeful about the Sabres at this point, but grabbing Dahlin would be massive to say the least.

This isn't to say that one player is going to fix the Sabres, because it won't. We all know it won't.

The Sabres just need somewhere to start.

After the New Jersey Devils got the first round pick in 2017, they moved up 27 points with the help of Nico Hischier. Likewise, the Toronto Maple Leafs moved up 26 points in 2016 after getting first round pick Auston Matthews.

Rasmus Dahlin will not fix this program — no individual player will. However, he could spark a change in the culture of the team, which is exactly what the Sabres need.

If the Sabres can start to have any glimmer of chemistry next season and not just rely on Dahlin to carry the program, they may just be able to sneak back into relevancy.

Buffalo sports have long been a disaster, but maybe it's finally time for a change.
“As long as you know and believe in what you want to accomplish, nothing should get in the way of that”

Justyn Haines becomes conference champion, wraps up his senior season

JORDAN PURVIS
Special to The Leader

This past weekend, SUNYAC hosted their two-day men’s and women’s outdoor track and field championships event in Geneseo, NY.

Last season, the Cortland men’s track and field team won their league title after winning the 2017 championship with 191.5 points. However, Geneseo took the 2018 State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) men’s outdoor track and field championship crown with 208.16 points.

In the end, the Blue Devils finished in sixth with 48 points. Most of the points came from senior star Justyn Haines, who finished the 4x100 coming in seventh in 44.21 — as well as securing conference champ in the pole vault by clearing 4.55 meters (14 feet, 11 inches).

Before the championship, Haines was No. 12 nationally among NCAA Division III men. Later on this month, he will be participating at the national meet.

“My goal for the remainder of the season is to go to nationals, place top eight and win All-American status. Since I came to Fredonia, I’ve also had my eye on the school record,” said Haines.

When asking Haines what kept him focused and confident throughout his collegiate career he said, “My brother is my biggest mentor. He is always there for me and believes in me every step of the way. I think he gets more excited about my good performances than I do sometimes,” he said, jokingly. “He is the reason I started pole vaulting from the beginning, and he is a huge factor in what I have achieved so far. All of my coaches have had huge impacts on my life as well. From Coach Wayne Wadhams in high school to Coach Tom Wilson and Coach Ryan Pericozzi currently, their influences and lessons make me look forward to my future and what I will be able accomplish.”

As he transitions from taking off his jersey for the last time to moving on to the next phase of his life not relating to sports, he plans on pursuing a career in law enforcement.

“I will need to take a few more tests, but my sights are set on becoming a state trooper,” he said.

Embarking onto the next chapter of his life, Haines will be leaving behind great coaches, teammates and friends.

“My advice to my teammates is to stick with it. It is easy to develop bad habits. As long as you know and believe in what you want to accomplish, nothing should get in the way of that.”

He later added, “Keep grades up and trudge through the hard semesters. Time flies, so use every season as a building block for the next. Don’t think you are trapped if you start plateauing, just find a way around whatever might be holding you back.”

Haines moved up to No. 2 on the Fredonia Outdoor Top 10 performance list. In addition, Division III Men’s and Women’s Outdoor Track and Field Championship will be held May 24-26, 2018 at La Crosse, WI.
Trump schemes with long lost twin to get North and South Korea back together

“Donald, you and I are like . . . twins!”

A disturbing but otherwise entertaining series of events has resulted in President Donald Trump accidentally reuniting with his long-lost twin brother, Donald 2, at summer camp. Though their relationship was initially bumpy — “The guy dumped chocolate syrup all over my head,” Donald said — they became best friends once they realized what they had in common.

“I have a ripped photo of Kim Jong Un on my nightstand,” Donald said, his mumbly and just-can’t-form-a-real-sentence voice similar to Donald 2’s, except Donald doesn’t have a British accent. Donald 2 had a similar ripped-up photo of Moon Jae-in. The truth finally came to light when Donald 2 thought it would be smart to push the two ripped-up photographs together. Donald had gasped and said, “Donald 2, we’re like brothers!”

“No, Donald,” Donald 2 had said. “You and I are like . . . twins.”

Somewhere, far off in the distance, sirens blared.

The two decided to cause some double-trouble by scheming to get North and South Korea back together. As for why they want North and South Korea to get back together, the twins “just want everyone to be happy again. No threats, no fights, no incriminating videos, no nuclear wars,” they said as they practiced their new and elaborate secret handshake involving dancing and hip-bumping.

“This is the goodliest plan, the greatest plan,” Donald said before staring at deli meat for a good 10 minutes. “We’re gonna pretend to be each other. Trust us, we know what we’re doing.”

“I don’t think they know what they’re doing,” one concerned camper said, shaking his head. “I mean, Donald has the crappiest British accent I’ve ever heard. No one is going to fall for this.”

“It looks like literally everyone fell for the world’s most unbelievable trick orchestrated by a 70-year-old man-thing and his sort-of-British twin brother. Still, according to recent tweets from “President Donald Trump” (Donald 2), the plan is not working as well as they had hoped.

“This whole Russia thing is totally out of control!” Donald 2 whispered over the phone to a very lost and confused Donald, who was wandering around London looking for Moon Jae-in and a very sassy Simon Kunz. “I can’t do this anymore,” Donald 2 said. “We have to abandon the plan.”

“Just keep firing people,” Donald offered as a solution. “No one will ever suspect that you don’t know what the hell you’re doing if you just keep firing people.”

No word yet on whether or not Donald and Donald 2 have switched back, but they are in talks with Disney for a movie deal.
Student signs deal with the Devil to raise GPA

*With some repercussions*

**PATRICK BENNETT**
Staff Scallywag

In the wake of a devastating semester to the student body GPA, there have been multiple deals with Lucifer himself in order to increase what has been perpetually lowered throughout the semester. A couple students have made the brave decision to tell their stories on just what led to their horrible GPA and what the Devil received in the deals.

“I was super into the first Rugrats movie on VHS. Like, all I did in my dorm this semester was watch the movie while role playing as Tommy Pickles, diaper and all. You could say I lost track of my classwork. Thank God I made the deal with Lucifer to increase my bottomed out GPA,” sophomore Tim Harrison said via high-end text-to-speech technology. Harrison was reluctant to discuss the bargain, but we all knew what was going on. The Devil had removed his larynx, rendering him unable to speak without technological assistance.

Many students suffered from a low GPA due to circumstances that were more common and less specific as Harrison’s.

“I straight-up didn’t go to class. The idea of a classroom is basically a dictatorship. We gotta sit there and listen to some lady or man that has themselves a degree spew some garbage out their cake holes? Lemme ask you: What is that degree really worth, man? It’s just a piece of paper,” Jared McEdgeLord said, burning a dollar bill.

After McEdgeLord gave his interview, he fully admitted that he made a deal with the Devil to appease his mother and “dumbass” stepdad Chet. The terms of the deal entailed that McEdgeLord must give up chasing scene girls and making $5 from drinking Bud Light off his roommate’s butt-crack.

When deals were said and done, Lucifer packed his bags and traveled to the next college campus, eager to make more GPA deals. Multiple parents and caregivers of the young adult students have decided to sue the Devil. Parents are suing since the Devil didn’t comply to the terms of the deal. Ultimately, half of Fredonia’s student population has been kicked out of school for horrendously low GPAs.

"The idea of a classroom is basically a dictatorship. We gotta sit there and listen to some lady or man that has themselves a degree spew some garbage out their cake holes? Lemme ask you: What is that degree really worth, man?’ said Jared McEdgeLord."
The long wait for the release of Marvel's newest installment is finally over. The dust has finally settled on the MCU and everyone who has seen it has one thing in common: they need to take a few days off, at least, from reality.

Apparently, Fredonia officials feel the same.

Students across campus have received emails excusing those who have seen the movie from class, allowing them some time to "take it all in."

Those who need counseling in order to wrap their minds around the movie will also have someone available to them. Last week, we here at The Scallion interviewed a handful of students who have already seen the film. Their reactions were the same: They were just looking forward to enjoying the Fred Fest activities so that they could get their minds off of the emotional weight of the plot.

Health professionals thought it would be a good idea to watch the movie to get perspective on what students might be going through. This, of course, lead to the need of the counselors needing counseling of their own. This has started a seemingly never-ending chain that has caused a major meltdown of the counseling infrastructure worldwide.

Now that more than a few days have passed, there is a new symptom that has been afflicting the campus: Those who have finally accepted the ending of the movie are starting to realize that they have to wait a whole year before seeing the second part of "Infinity War;" and, unlike most two-part movies, you can't just force yourself to read some dumb book to figure out what will happen in the next installment!

Many of you might be thinking, "Well, you could just read the comic books, you know!"

The problem with this idea is that the movie is a hybrid between a few comic book stories, so even if you did read all of those comics, what is actually going to happen is anyone's guess.

For those of you who are reading this, do not be deterred! This movie is well worth the pain that will be inflicted on the soul and the deep-seeded depression that you will more than likely carry around with you for the next year!

11/10 would watch again. For those of you who have already seen it and are still suffering, try watching it again. Maybe it will make things better or worse, but who knows? I would say it's worth the risk!
Hal Scallion cannot believe that his first semester at SUNY Fredonia is almost over. What better way to end the semester, Hal thought, than to enjoy the warm weather and go for a hike. Some of his friends warned him not to take the journey because he's a wee bit smaller than everyone else in the Allium family, but Hal was determined to have his first slice of an off-campus experience.

Before he could even take his first steps onto Temple Street, a strong gust of wind picked him up and away he flew. Boy, it was windier than he had anticipated, but nothing could deter Hal. He landed near a grocery store called “Fredmart.”

“What is this place?” he asked. He walked inside and saw tons of food families imprisoned on shelves.

“Oh my! Maybe I shouldn’t be here,” Hal thought. Then he heard a voice, “Hey, Hal!” Hal looked up and around and there he saw his cousin, Simmy Garlic.

“We all thought you had moved to a kitchen suite! What happened?” he asked her.

“I guess I’m a little bit too smelly, and my owner couldn’t stop sneezing and brought me here instead,” she said.

Hal hopped up to her shelf.

“Here, I can help you,” he said as he bit into the bag she was tied up in, releasing her. “Why, thank you, Hal,” she said, “I’m surprised to see you off campus!”

“It’s my first time! I’m headed to a park a little ways from here. Want to join me?”

“Of course I do,” Simmy said.

Together Hal and Simmy quickly rolled down off the shelves, and Hal lead Simmy out of Fredmart.

Now, however, large water pellets were falling from the sky. “Rain,” Simmy whispered. She told Hal that the best way to get through rain was to tuck and roll. The cement was cold, and Hal decided he really did not like the rain.

Him and Simmy rolled up to the police station, and the rain started to lighten up. Suddenly out from the door came a person with a large dog, and Simmy and Hal stopped. “Oh no!” Simmy screamed, and Hal covered her mouth. ‘Shhh!’ Stiff as cucumbers, Hal and Simmy stayed as the dog trotted past them. “Phew!” Hal let out a sigh of relief.

“Look, Hal, I can see the park!” Simmy nudged him. Sure enough, there it was, the beautiful town park he had only ever heard about. As they walked over, the sun started to come out! Then once again they came to a stop by a large street, where cars whizzed right by them.

“How do we cross?” Simmy asked. Hal looked up at the colors of the stoplight. When the light turned red, Hal grabbed Simmy’s hand and they ran across to the other side.

“We’re here!” Hal screamed. Just as he stepped foot on the grass, he saw all his friends and family from back on campus.

“How’d you all get here?” he asked them.

“We were worried letting you go off by yourself and realized we should have all gone together!” one of his friends said.

“Simmy?” Hal’s cousin Cal Onion ran up to Simmy and hugged her.

“I was trapped in Fredmart, and I wouldn’t have gotten out if it weren’t for Hal!” Simmy exclaimed. Everyone was overjoyed.

Hal spent the rest of his day in the park and enjoyed the calming walk back to campus safely.

“What a great way to end the semester,” Hal thought.
Work for
THE LEADER

Positions Available
In writing, reporting, art, photography, editing and more

Come to our office!
S206 in the Williams Center
Email us at leader@fredonia.edu
Me? worried? nah. I’m totally prepared and ready for this semester to end on a smooth, relaxing note. I’m fine!

Kid Ink concert
Photo courtesy of Lori Deemer.

Members of Spectrum
Photo courtesy of Lori Deemer.
The Family Church Fredonia steeple burns late Friday afternoon.  
Travis LeFevre/Managing Editor

The Dunkirk Fire Department helps fight the church fire.  
Travis LeFevre/Managing Editor

Photo courtesy of @SUNYParyPhotos Twitter page.