POSSIBLE ACQUISITION OF WHITE INN
FRED RADIO SYSTEMS FOUNDER RETURNS
FREDONIA HOSTS RUTERBUSCH 5K
SUMMER HEATWAVE — FALL INDUCED FRENCY
Fredonia eyes possible acquisition of White Inn

VICTOR SCHMITT-BUSH  
Assistant News Editor

Fredonia would use state tourism grant dollars, if awarded, to acquire and repair the property and would partner with a hotel management company to run the operations of the White Inn.

It's owned by far away private bankers who have a vested interest only in making a profit. For all Kearns knows, it could be sold to the highest bidder.

“No one wants it to fall into hands where it can be broken up into apartments and deteriorate,” said Kearns. “[Its owners] are not from here, so I think it's in the community's best interest to have local ownership where there is an investment, not just money, in terms of doing the right thing for the community.”

The White Inn has been collecting dust since early 2018, and if nothing is done, it will be celebrating its 100th anniversary as a closed business. Kearns said that it would be a shame to have such an occasion in its current state.

“If we are involved, we would ensure that it’s kept up and maintained as a quality option for people coming to visit,” he said. “Our large interest is to make sure that it’s preserved as a jewel in the community whether or not we ultimately take ownership.”

Around the time of its foreclosure in winter 2018, things got pretty dicey with the public, especially people who made reservations. According to Susan C, a reviewer and member of the website, TripAdvisor, The White Inn ruined her trip.

“My family and I made reservations a year in advance for three rooms so we wouldn’t have to deal with the hassle,” she said. “Since April 1, we have been trying to call...” 

continued on page 4

On the Cover:

Fall begins to show off its colors on the Fredonia campus.

Kristin Johnson/Special to The Leader
Stephen Kershnar is right, speech regulation provides bad incentives

- ANALYSIS -

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has kicked off this year’s Brown-Bag Lecture Series with a discussion on free speech and college regulation of free speech. Two opposing views were presented by Stephen Kershnar, professor of philosophy and Jennifer Hildebrand, professor of history.

Kershnar argued in favor of unmoderated speech from a legal and moral perspective while Hildebrand discussed the effects unmoderated hate speech can have on an individual, especially of a minority group.

Kershnar spoke effectively to four moral arguments in favor of free speech:

First, the marketplace of ideas. Kershnar argued that to obtain a truer understanding of an idea the discussion of the topic cannot be regulated. “To have . . . a robust discussion of ideas, we can’t have the state shutting down, regulating or burdening the discussion of ideas,” Kershnar said. He compared this to the economic system, as people compete in the marketplace with better products, so too do people share ideas in attempts to reach a more profound truth.

Second, the idea of autonomy. Drawing from his first point, Kershnar said that for people to discover who they, themselves, are as a person, they must not be restricted to topics that are deemed taboo. Every individual needs to have access to the open marketplace of expression and ideas to come to a better understanding with themselves.

Third, Kershnar pointed out multiple instances of universities enforcing speech codes that are overreaching and tyrannical. He mentioned that some students have been punished in other universities for expressing views such as “the Jewish people use the Holocaust to justify Israeli policies towards the Palestinians,” during class discussion. He also mentioned other arguably unpopular beliefs about homosexuality and affirmative action. “You might agree or disagree with these [examples], but they . . . certainly should not be something that the person is worried about being punished on campus for expressing these ideas,” Kershnar argued. “Particularly when the ideas are discussed in the context of a classroom discussion.”

The last: the bad incentives of banning hate speech. Kershnar argued that banning speech that people find offensive provides an incentive for people to be over-sensitive to ideas, “and you’re also setting up a heckler’s veto.” He referred to an instance when a mob, more or less, disapproves of a speaker’s views and will commit acts of violence until the speaker is silenced.

This type of mob injustice has been seen at places like U.C. Berkeley, the center of free-speech proliferation in the 1960s, when controversial speakers like Ann Coulter and Milo Yiannopoulos have tried to speak there. In instances like these, free speech usually prevails but when tensions are too high and intolerant protesters have torched enough property, some speeches are cancelled by law enforcement.

I agree with Kershnar in saying that toleration of mob rule of free speech is intolerable. People need to develop tough skin and face such a marketplace of friendly and unfriendly ideas.

Incentives on the administrative and cultural levels should not advocate for banning speech. On the administrative level, reports of offensive and controversial things being said by teachers need to be looked at objectively for legitimate wrongdoing rather than how hurt someone’s feelings are. On the cultural level, people should not be seen as heroes for trying to disrupt free speech. Do not feel proud of yourself throwing rocks at a protest against Milo Yiannopoulos and don’t glorify a man who kicks a woman for disagreeing with him (in reference to a viral online video). I agree with Kershnar, incentives should not proliferate intolerance.

“Every individual needs to have access to the open marketplace of expression and ideas to come to a better understanding with themselves.”
about our reservation and even traveled to the hotel to alter it. But, there was no response.”

Even so, the White Inn still has a rating of four stars on its official site on Facebook. Based on the opinions of 63 people, those who rested at this small, 24-room hotel were more than pleased with the experience. “I stayed in the presidential suite and was very happy,” said David Freeman in June 2017.

As a business owner at Dave’s Diner, Freeman gave the White Inn a five star rating. “Two bathrooms, king bed, two couches, dining set. I viewed a single king room, also very nice,” he said. “Not much on the free breakfast, milk, juice, cereal, but that’s OK. It was included at no charge.”

To reopen the White Inn and to bring it back to its original grandeur, Kearns believes that it’s going to need renovations, among other things. “That’s the biggest thing, or the first is to make sure that the accommodations are maintained at a high level,” he said. “We don’t want it to just be a place where you can crash, but rather a place that attracts visitors, where people want to stay.”

What separates the White Inn from other hotels is that it’s a piece of history. It’s also much more personal because of its modest size. “It’s charming, and I think the popularity of AirBnB [is increasing], bed and breakfast, you know, people want a more personalized experience, like a historic inn as opposed to a modern hotel,” said Kearns. “There’s twenty-something rooms. That’s different than an 800-room hotel.”

Kearns said that it could be a promising new accommodation to Fredonia visitors because it provides some upper-middle accommodations that the campus just doesn’t currently have. It would also help to converge the campus community with the surrounding village. “I would simply say that it’s important for the Fredonia campus and the village to be more intertwined,” he said. “Whether it’s through having the White Inn, or through other means, as parents, alumni and others are coming back, that it’s more of a college town as opposed to a village near a school.”

Kearns said that anything could happen, but he is hopeful that things will turn out in the school’s favor soon. “We’re talking probably weeks, we’re not talking a long time here,” he said. “It could be a week. It could be three weeks, but I think we’ll know something very soon.”
Nikki Haley resigns as UN ambassador, revolving door of Trump admin. keeps on turning

JOSH RANNEY  
News Editor

Another one bites the dust, as this past week, United Nations ambassador to the United States, Nikki Haley announced her resignation.

Haley said she plans to leave the position by the end of the year.

President Donald Trump said Haley has done “a fantastic job and we’ve done a fantastic job together,” during a press conference in the Oval Office.

Trump said that Haley’s announcement was not out of the blue for him. Haley told Trump she wished to step away approximately six months ago.

Contrastingly, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and National Security Advisor John Bolton reportedly received the news unexpectedly.

According to reports by CNN, many within the White House are questioning Haley’s timing to announce her resignation publicly, considering it had been discussed with Trump for at least six months prior.

The announcement comes just on the heels of an extremely controversial confirmation process of Justice Brett Kavanaugh. A process that mobilized millions of women and women’s advocacy groups because of Kavanaugh’s sexual assault allegations.

Also, the departure of such a high level figure in the Trump administration just a few weeks before the midterm elections is peculiar.

Haley is just the latest to leave the White House in what has been a revolving door of Trump cabinet and senior administration officials since the first weeks of his presidency in early 2017.

Notable departures have been former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, National Security Advisor Mike Flynn and FBI Director James Comey.

The latter two of which were fired.

Almost immediately, names of possible replacements started to come up.

The first that caught fire quickly was U.S. Ambassador to Germany Richard Grenell.

Trump said, however, “He is doing so well in a position that is so important. Ric is doing so well that I wouldn’t want to move him. I’d personally rather keep Ric where he is.”

The second, was senior advisor and Trump’s daughter, Ivanka Trump.

A CNN report said that a senior Trump administration official laughed when they heard this, but Trump contradicted them when he said Ivanka Trump would be “incredible” in the position.

“I’ve heard a lot of names,” said Trump, “I’ve heard Ivanka. How great would Ivanka be? I think Ivanka would be incredible. It doesn’t mean I’d pick her because I’d be accused of nepotism. Even though I’m not sure there’s anybody more competent in the world.”

Haley said that serving as U.N. ambassador has been the honor of her life but government officials need to know when it is time to step aside.

“ать want to make sure this administration, this president, has the strongest person to fight,” Haley said.

Haley dispelled rumors that she was resigning to prepare for a run for the White House in 2020.

Sitting next to Trump in the Oval Office, Haley said, “I can promise you what I’ll be doing is campaigning for this one.”

“...the departure of such a high level figure in the Trump administration just a few weeks before the midterm elections is peculiar.”
POLICE BLOTTERS

UNIVERSITY
Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018
Property was stolen from the Williams Center food court. The property was recovered but the victim declined to prosecute.
Property was stolen from the area between Nixon and Chautauqua. An investigation is on-going.
Thursday, Oct. 11, 2018
12:27 a.m., Trevor Galpin was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. An appearance ticket was issued.
3:29 a.m., Keizer Smith was charged with unlawful possession of marijuana. An appearance ticket was issued.

FREDONIA
Wednesday, Oct. 3, 2018
Sunshine J. Carroll, age 45, was charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree and unlawful possession of certain ammunition feeding devices. Bail was set at $10,000 cash and $20,000 property.
Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018
Timothy M. Nelson, age 56, was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.
Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2018
Donald L. Tolbert, age 44, was charged with two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree, aggravated unlicensed operation of a vehicle in the third degree and failure to use a designated lane.
Julio A. Quiñones, age 50, was charged with burglary in the third degree and criminal mischief in the second degree.

Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018
Lauren E. Layfield, age 20, was charged with speeding in a zone. A uniform traffic ticket was issued.
Joshua Doud, age 37, was arrested under the ruling of a bench warrant.

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.
If you've ever walked into McEwen Hall, odds are you've heard Fredonia Radio Systems playing music or interviewing a guest outside near the entrance.

Fredonia Radio Systems (FRS) is campus's own student-run radio station.

In 2017, FRS's WCVF 88.9 was awarded "Best College Station in the Nation" at the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System's 77th annual conference. In 2018, they won the title again.

Before FRS was nationally ranked, it was just a local AM station.

Dan Berggren, the station's former faculty advisor, has helped FRS reach its current status. He worked as a professor at SUNY Fredonia for 28 years.

In 1978, Berggren helped create WCVF and served as its faculty advisor until 2004. In that time, he helped teach students how to run a radio station efficiently and effectively.

"The radio station's national ranking tells me that current students have direction, energy and willingness to strive for excellence," said Berggren. "It also means that former members' efforts to lay a solid ground work have been significant and have been rewarded . . . It is very encouraging to see such progress continue."

Aside from being one of the stations founders, Berggren also helped create the school's audio-radio major and in 1984, started High Noon Friday.

High Noon Friday is one of the longest running radio shows in college radio history; it is broadcasted every Friday from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

This variety show includes sports commentary, current events, live interviews and weekly news. The fact that High Noon Friday still airs is special to Berggren.

One episode in particular holds a notable spot in his memory.

"One of High Noon Friday's most challenging remotes, and possibly its first, took place on April 25, 1986," said Berggren. "This is when the planting of the WCVF Radio Tree took place. This idea began with an offhand comment made during a production meeting when we realized that Arbor Day landed on an upcoming Friday. Somebody said, 'Hey, let's plant a tree live on the air!'"

"That is exactly what they did.

The station had a lot of work on their hands to successfully put on this event.

They had to call a nursery to find a tree, ask the current college president to toss the first shovel of dirt, ask a local company that made memorial stones to engrave "WCVF Radio Tree" into a slab of marble and book musicians and guests for the special occasion.

In the end, the show was a success.

"It's the radio tree, itself, that stands as a living example of accomplishment through imagination, cooperation and hard work," said Berggren.

After his time as a professor, Berggren's main focus became his music career. His passion started at a young age, growing up in a home that was always filled with music.

When he was young, he also spent time singing in an all boys' choir and playing guitar.

"Songwriting became my passion after several years of studying and writing poetry, and then wondering what I was going to do with my poems. I figured that if I wrote songs instead, at least I could sing them," he said.

Berggren developed a love for folk music due to its uniqueness and authenticity. He found this genre as a useful creative medium to help him tell stories.

Berggren finds insight for these stories everywhere.

"I find inspiration in stories of struggle and perseverance . . . I find it in strong people who I call 'big beams' like our parents, grandparents, teacher and elders," he said. "I also find inspiration in the natural world and in our environment. Lately, I've been writing songs that, rather than inspired, have been provoked by politics and the downright disbelief in climate change."

Today, Berggren travels around the world performing his work at different venues. One of his most anticipated locations is The Fredonia Opera House.

"Fredonia is the biggest chunk of my life," he said. "It's where I raised my family, made lifelong friends, and honed my career as an audio producer . . . The most exciting thing about coming back to Fredonia is singing for all my old friends. It's a genuine homecoming."

Berggren's Homecoming Concert will be held this Saturday, Oct. 20. This concert will not only feature his original music, but also help celebrate FRS's anniversary.

All funds raised will go towards the Excellence in Audio & Radio (EAR) Scholarship.
Fredonia Department of Theatre and Dance presents Michael Frayn’s “Noises Off”

ERIKETA COST
Staff Writer

Imagine watching a play unfold as seen from backstage.

But nothing is going right, and there are several quarrels and love triangles going on, too.

“Noises Off,” written by Michael Frayn, features an act of that and more.

Think slapstick humor, doors slamming, zany characters and fire axes.

The SUNY Fredonia Department of Theatre and Dance is presenting this play-within-a-play.

The characters in “Noises Off” are all actors approaching opening night of a different production, “Nothing On,” and they are all extremely unprepared.

Their play opens in the fictional Grand Theater in Weston-super-Mare, England.

The first act takes place the midnight before opening night, and none of the actors are getting their cues, lines, or entrances and exits.

A month later, with the play still underdeveloped, Act II shows the cast backstage as they perform their Wednesday matinee a month later.

A look into the chaos backstage shows relationships being broken, romantic rivalries and quarrels among cast members. These quarrels continue throughout the act, slipping on and offstage.

In the final act, the cast begins a performance close to the end of their 10-week run.

With all the chaos and ruined relationships, the very distracted group of actors ends up losing the plot halfway through, forcing them to ad-lib their way to the end.

Many of the characters’ personalities on-stage completely differ with their off-stage personalities, creating a comedic conflict.

Fredonia cast members have been enjoying each other’s company and making each other laugh throughout the learning process.

“We get to laugh every night of rehearsal with each other. The play is funny in the first place and these nine actors are hilarious. The combination of the play and the actors is a surefire recipe for merrymaking and a delightful evening in the theater,” said Director James Ivey.

Junior acting major Calvin Staropoli is understudying Garry, the leading character in “Nothing On,” and Tim, the technical director in “Nothing On.”

“I like understudying them because they’re both very different characters,” said Staropoli. “Garry is very absent-minded and tries to seem much smarter than he actually is. Tim is overworked, tired, and just trying to keep this show together. They both have a lot of hilarious moments.”

Although the play is full of humor and laughs, it teaches an important message of sticking with a project and delivering, even when things go wrong.

“In theatre, you have to keep the show going no matter what goes wrong. Even if it’s a disaster, it is your obligation to the audience to put on a show for them. In this show, everything that can go wrong does, and yet the actors still try their best to keep it together because it’s their job,” said Staropoli.

But “Noises Off” may also have audience members walking away with a more light-hearted perspective on life, and a lighter pressure on themselves.

“If this play has any message at all, it would be to not take yourself too seriously,” said Ivey.

To experience a night of humor and witness physical comedy and slapstick on stage, check out one of the performances from Oct. 19-27 in Marvel Theater.

To purchase tickets, visit fredonia.edu/tickets, or call the Ticket Office at 673-3501.
Fredonia’s Homecoming Talent Show kicks off alumni weekend

STEPHEN SACCO
Staff Writer

Homecoming weekend is approaching and it’s time to welcome back Fredonia’s alumni. If you’re looking for a way to celebrate, campus life will be hosting their Homecoming Talent Show this Friday, Oct. 19.

Many organizations and clubs will be performing like Pep Band, The Fredonia Cheerleaders, The Guerillas, Blue Ice Step Team, Enfusion, Envied Xpression, Rince: Irish Dance, Some Like It Hot, Premium Blend, Dance Team and Fredonia’s resident halls.

Among the many performing groups, the show will also include foods, raffles and giveaways.

Rachel Martin, the assistant director of campus life, notes the importance of Fredonia’s Got Talent show,

“The Fredonia’s Got Talent show is a celebration of the talent we have here at Fredonia by highlighting our student organizations and teams. It is Homecoming tradition to host a pep rally, and this is Fredonia’s take on a spirit event,” said Martin.

For the many students and alumni who attend, this event will be reminiscent of the energetic high school pep rallies that united schools together when we were younger.

It is a lively gathering that will bond current students and alumni together.

Martin also noted the changes in this year’s homecoming compared to the past few years traditions.

“Last year we tried something new. The residence halls had smaller talent shows in their halls, and then the winners performed on the stage at the talent show,” said Martin. “This year, residence halls are putting together cheers to show their school spirit. We have always had club performances, but the interest has really grown over the past few years.”

Dorming students now have the ability to go see their RAs perform some cheers to represent each of their residencies. No matter their differences, both current students and alumni will be able to come to this event and join together over their mutual love for Fredonia. There’s no better way to welcome past students back home.

This event will be held in the Steele Hall Fieldhouse from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Voting for homecoming king and queen will be open starting on Oct. 15.

The winners will be crowned at this year’s celebration.

LA band makes way to BJs

GIOVANINA VANCHERI
Special to The Leader

Hey Thanks! is making their third stop on their northeastern fall tour in Fredonia.

The show will be held at BJ’s in downtown Fredonia on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m.

The event will be one of BJ’s regular Wednesday night shows.

Hey Thanks! is originally based in Lafayette, LA. Their genre ranges from pop punk to emo.

They also provide a hint of “boot state pop,” as they like to refer to their home state’s original genre.

The band consists of Travis Opal on lead vocals, Joe Folse on lead guitar and Trevor Lee on drums. Alongside them is Alex Rodrigue on bass guitar and Jaron Dufrene on rhythm guitar.

Their first album, “One Step Forward, Two Steps Back,” was released on Jan. 29, 2016.

After the release of their first album in 2016, they were invited to play Vans Warped Tour in July of that year.

They are currently working on their second album. It is set to be released in the winter of 2018.

Alex Vasiloff, a junior music industry major and general manager of Last Call Entertainment, is “stoked” to welcome Hey Thanks! to the BJ’s stage.

Vasiloff has attended “pretty much every show” since he was a freshman here.

His favorite part about the shows?

The audience.

“No one is afraid to dance or jump around or even from the singer and let the mic loose,” Vasiloff said. “The life everyone brings to the shows gets recycled into the performances.”

Kill the Clock will be joining them on their tour across the northeast.

Kill the Clock is a punk rock band from Buffalo, NY. Their members include Dan McCormick, Joe Morganti, Mike Tomasulo and John Vaughan.

Keep Flying will also be performing. They also fall under the emo, pop punk and punk rock umbrella. Their members are originally from New Jersey, Long Island and Pennsylvania.

The event is hosted by Last Call Entertainment.

It is open to everyone 18 years and older. The cost of the event is $5 at the door for those 18 plus and $1 for everyone 21 and up.

For those who are over 21, BJ’s will be having their mason jar drink specials with $6 well drinks and $3 Pabst Blue Ribbon cans.

For admission purposes, please have your ID easily accessible at the door.
Joey Conti: A not so average 22-year-old

GIOVANINA VANCHERI
Special to The Leader

Joey Conti isn’t your average Fredonia student.
In fact, he’s not a student at all, though he gets mistaken for one often.
Walk around Fredonia’s campus and you won’t see Conti going to class.
But, you may see students decked out in sweatshirts or hats with “J.
Conti Photography” embroidered on them. You may see his name listed on a Delta Chi fraternity composite as “honorary member.”

There is a good chance you are going to hear his name come up in conversation. You’ll definitely see his photos pop up on students’ phones as they scroll through social media.

Though he’s not a student or even a faculty member, his name is one of the most recognized across campus.
The 22 year-old (or “22 years young,” as he puts it) has built quite the name for himself as a professional photographer.
He’s travelled across the world to countries like Thailand, Singapore, Iceland and Japan. He has even toured with artists like the band Nickelback.
Conti’s career is something he’s worked towards since he was in the sixth grade when he started taking sports pictures for the local newspaper. His name is starting to make its way outside of the Fredonia confines, too.
Conti has taken his talents across the globe, seeing places that most people only get to dream about.
His favorite country that he has gotten to see, so far, is Singapore.
“It was out-of-this-world-cool,” he said. “It makes us look like we’re a hundred years behind in the United States.”
You may be wondering how he avoids going stir-crazy in a small town like Fredonia after seeing so much of the world.
It’s not a tough decision for him, though.
He loves the familiarity the town provides, and he “honestly can’t think of a better community to grow up in,” he said.

Joey Conti gets a shot of Nickelback’s performance.

He feels a sense of comfort in knowing that he can see a familiar face no matter where he turns.
“Walk into the bank, teller knows you by name. Walk into the bar, bartender knows your drink,” said Conti. “If something ever happens, you can literally just turn around and someone is going to be there to help you, no matter the situation.”
While he is clearly an accomplished photographer and businessman, those who know him would say his friendship is his greatest quality.
Spencer Sticek, co-founder of Wolfpak Clothing and a longtime friend of Conti’s, really admires “how genuine of a person he really is.”
When Sticek and his brother were developing their company, Conti taught him how to do photoshoots to advertise their products.
Sticek believes Wolfpak Clothing wouldn’t be as successful as it is today if it weren’t for Conti’s help. One of his favorite memories with Conti is a roadtrip to Pittsburgh the two once took together to take photos for artists on tour.
Not only was the trip a blast for both of them, Sticek sees it as a true testament to Conti’s dedication to his work.
“On the way back at like 2 a.m. he’s editing the photos for the artists to have immediately while I drive the three hour trip back,” said Sticek.
While Conti’s work ethic is something his friends look up to, he feels it’s a quality he wouldn’t posses if it weren’t for his father. He credits his father, owner of Darwin’s Health Club in downtown Fredonia, as the reason he is so dedicated to his work.
“I’ve never met anyone who works harder,” said Conti of his father, who works 12 to 15 hour days regularly.
When he isn’t seeing the rest of the world, Conti continues to help manage the business with his father.
Zack Crandall, a junior business finance and marketing major at Fredonia, considers Conti one of his longest friends.
Another title he holds? The Business Manager of Joey Conti Photography.
“I was going to school in Texas and he called me eight times,” Crandall said. “When I finally called him back, he informed me that I was going to be taking a year off from school to travel around Asia with him.”
It was Conti’s passion and determination that prompted Crandall to say yes.
Stories like these are what make him stand out to everyone who meets him.
Jake Lilly, a Fredonia-based musician, has known Conti since kindergarten, and they’ve been “brothers” for years.
“I admire his outlook on life,” said Lilly. “All his life, if he wanted something, he’d go get it. He works hard for everything.”
Conti has also made it his mission to help those who are pursuing their own passions.
Erin Plunkett, a junior communication major, has recently accepted an offer to do makeup for his photoshoots.
“I didn’t really get into learning how to do makeup as a potential career path until I got to college,” said Plunkett. When Conti reached out to hire her, she didn’t know him for very long.
But after working for him, she said she can already tell he has a “top-notch personality.”
“He has made a great career for himself that I feel lucky to be able to be a part of now,” she said.
It’s clear that he’s left an impact on the Fredonia community, which will always have a special place in his heart.
As for his future? Conti’s sense of wanderlust isn’t going anywhere.
From a career perspective, he feels it would be best to relocate to a bigger city. He can see himself living in Fredonia half-time and going down south in the winter for his “working season.”
No matter how far away he ends up, the Fredonia community will always welcome him home.
From the Desk of Aidan Pollard, Sports Editor

What is a sport?
The dictionary defines it as “an activity involving physical exertion and skill in which an individual or team competes against another or others for entertainment,” but other definitions expand the term to include “games” as well.

That may seem like a purely semantic change, but it effectively opens up the discussion to include basically anything into the definition. Or basically nothing other than the most major conventional sports.

Does darts count as a sport? Probably not. But what about golf?
There’s pretty much no “physical exertion” in golf except for walking to the ball or to the next hole. But that’s been all but eliminated with the use of golf carts.

We still treat golf like it’s a sport, though. So already the term has been expanded to include less-than-athletic feats.

So then what about darts? Or bowling? Or archery? It’s in the Olympics, isn’t it? So is ping-pong. And curling.

You could totally argue that those examples aren’t sports at all by the traditional definition. You could argue that they’re skills.

I have personally heard the argument that baseball, yes baseball, is a skill. Not a sport.

I know.
So here are the two extremes of the argument: sports have to be so athletic and exhausting that baseball doesn’t even count. Or the definition is so broad that basically anything that can be scored counts.

Well, both of those are stupid. And bad. And wrong.

But what is right?
What if we use the Olympics as the gold-standard?
At a first glance, that would make sense. It’s internationally recognized, it describes its events as sports and it’s basically the pinnacle of athletic competition.

Using the Olympics to determine the definition of a sport would bring a healthy mix of athleticism and skill-based competitions into the category of sport. So it’s solved, right?

Wrong.
American football is not an Olympic sport. And football definitely counts as a sport. It’s the most watched sport in America.

So the Olympics aren’t a reliable metric for what counts as a sport. At least not absolutely.
This is why eSports are so tricky. I mean, sports are in the name, so by their own standards they are definitely counting themselves. But that doesn’t really matter until they get accepted into mainstream society.

And, to be fair, they’re well on their way.
ESPN covers "League of Legends" (LoL), "Overwatch" and "Hearthstone" just to name a few.
But here’s the big problem: LoL is a multiplayer online battle arena (MOBA) and "Overwatch" is a team-based shooter. "Hearthstone" is a card game.

MOBAs are team-based games where the objective is a race to destroy the opposing team’s base. LoL’s game map is a long rectangle, viewed from a third-person top-down perspective that has three lanes (top, middle and bottom) that connect the two bases. Teams will play positions using these lanes. Top position covers the top lane, mid position covers the middle and bot takes the bottom. Sans the athleticism, LoL and other MOBAs are played exactly like sports.

"Overwatch" is pretty similar in that regard. There are multiple characters to choose from, and each one has special attributes and abilities that can add to a team dynamic. Essentially any character picked will act as a different position on the team. So again, the game is strategized the same way a sport is.

This problem has two layers; eSports covers a wide variety of both games and game modes in each game, and eSports recognizes a card game as a sport, which means poker would have to be recognized as well.

I refuse to recognize poker as a sport.
The best solution to this is probably breaking up eSports into different categories.
There are reaction and quick thinking style games like LoL and "Overwatch," and then there are games like "Hearthstone" which are strategy-based games in the same vein as chess.
But they still all fall under the umbrella of eSports, which is why this is so complicated.
Is it wrong to pick and choose which games get to fall under the category of sports, especially if their organizations categorize them the same way?
On one hand, categorizing none of them as sports would leave the players who play games that require split-second reactions and frequently adapting strategies left to the wayside, even though what they are doing is strategized the same way any sport is. But on the other hand, calling them all sports would open whole other floodgates to allowing any and all card or board games into the category of sports.

eSports still treats each of its events like a sport, though. eSports events are covered on cable television in some cases, and they are always covered in a very sport-like set and tone. They will almost always have live commentary and analysis.

This goes for "Hearthstone" as well as "Overwatch" and LoL. They’re all treated just like any other sport. There are even collegiate eSports teams popping up all over the US.

eSports are treated exactly like any other sport.

The only thing left to do is learn how to move the games and events out of the eSports umbrella and into more specific areas.

Maybe the term can be split up into categories like MOBAs, real-time strategies (RTS), shooters and strategy-based games like "Hearthstone."

Each category would get coverage that was separate the same way that basketball and hockey get separate coverage. Because some of these eSports games really are just as different from one another as basketball and hockey.

And if all of the games are going to be removed from being lumped into the same term and start being spread into multiple categories, I see no reason why we shouldn’t include speedrunning.

Speedrunning is pretty simple, the only objective is to beat a game or a level of a game as fast as possible. Sometimes there are extra rules and parameters. But the spirit of every speedrun is the same, get the game finished as fast as possible. It’s the eSports version of track.

All of these games and events get treated and covered by the community the same way ESPN or any other sports channel covers sports. There’s really no stopping them from becoming part of the mainstream anymore.

So do eSports count?
Hot take: yes.
It’s just a matter of figuring out how to treat them; as one entity or as a group of completely different sports.
VERBATIM

“What is the best drink at Starbucks?”

Emily Schepisi, senior social work and political science major
“The best drink, I think, is a caramel macchiato.”

Matthew Davidson, sophomore music applied major
“The passionfruit one. I think it’s passionfruit with a strawberry açai base.”

Nicholas Williams, senior music and theatre major
“I am really fond of the pumpkin chai latte.”

Nataleigh Threlkeld, sophomore adolescent education major
“For me personally, I get the cotton candy frappuccino. It’s like a vanilla frappuccino with a raspberry shot. It’s very good.”
Fredonia hosts the on-campus Ruterbusch 5K

AIDAN POLLARD
Sports Editor

Alumni weekend means a lot to the Fredonia campus. It especially means a lot to the Fredonia Athletics department.

It’s the one weekend every year where all of the Fredonia athletes get to see and catch up with their graduated friends and teammates. In the middle of the blur of a time that Alumni weekend is, there is a beacon of hope for the Fredonia community’s physical health.

On Saturday morning, Fredonia will again host the Ruterbusch 5k, which is open to all students, alumni and community members looking to make up for the way they treated their bodies the night before.

The event is put on by the Fredonia track and field and cross country program.

“It’s a great chance to participate in a fun sport and kick off your weekend and give you something to celebrate going into the Saturday night of alumni weekend,” said sophomore cross country runner Ryan Dunning.

The course spans Ring Road, Academic Ave. and the Phillips-Ulrich campus trails.

The course is mostly road with a short 400-600 meter stint in the trails. The run goes through the trails specifically to commemorate ex-Fredonia coaches Phillips and Ulrich who led the Fredonia track and cross country program to their best years on record.

Both the Fredonia men’s and women’s cross country teams will be running the race at 10 a.m. alongside Fredonia Athletic Director Jerry Fisk.

So if nothing else, it should be a spectacle.

“The Ruterbusch gives you a chance to see the very nice new trails that were put in last year. You get to see all your old teammates and friends, and you get to do some good running,” said sport management major Merlin Joseph, who is helping organize and run the event.

Future Bleak for Bills

RYAN DUNNING
Special to the Leader

The Bills have started to show a theme as they come within two weeks of the midpoint of the season and that theme is inconsistency.

It seems like no two aspects of their game can work well at the same time. Some weeks their defense is on fire, but their offense is stagnant. Other weeks, Josh Allen looks like the savior but their defense is an embarrassment.

Week five against the Titans became the second victory of the season for the Bills, an upset against the AFC South leaders.

But, in classic Bills fashion, it was a really sad game to watch. With a final score of 13-12, and only one touchdown scored, most of the game was spent just waiting for the final whistle.

Josh Allen was exceedingly average, going 10/19 for 82 yards and one interception. He did add 19 yards and a touchdown on the ground, but Bills fans are still waiting for him to become the passer they drafted him to be.

LeSean McCoy was by far the best player for the Bills in week five, adding 105 all-purpose yards for the team. This is a huge relief, as he hasn’t yet done much for the team.

Special teams was also solid for the Bills, with kicker Steven Hauschka hitting two field goals, including the game winner. Punter Corey Bojorquez averaged 43.8 yards per punt, doing well to put the Titans in bad starting field position.

The defense forced three turnovers, while not allowing Marcus Mariota and the Titans to score any touchdowns. Being the most consistent aspect of the Bills game, the defense definitely won this game for the team.

In week six, the worst nightmares came true for Bills fans.

First, Kelvin Benjamin refuses to practice routes with Josh Allen in pre-game, the second player controversy for the Bills this season. Luckily, Benjamin did not retire at halftime, and led the team in receiving yards.

Then, in the third quarter, Josh Allen left the game with an injury to his throwing arm.

Upon further inspection, it was found to be an elbow injury, and Allen would not return to the game.

But wait . . . what? Nathan Peterman did what? A real life touchdown pass from Nate Peterman?

After only six points in the first three quarters, Peterman tossed a beauty to Zay Jones in the back of the end zone shortly after the start of the fourth quarter to take a 13-10 lead.

Unfortunately, the magic didn’t last long. After exchanging punts, the Bills committed pass interference on a strike to the end zone, setting up a field goal. This was followed by a Nathan Peterman pick six to put the Texans up ten.

On the next drive, Peterman threw yet another interception. Classic Nate Peterman.

The Bills went on to lose the game 20-10. Josh Allen went 10/19 for 84 yards before leaving the game, and Peterman went 6/12 for 61 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions.

LeSean McCoy led the team in rushing, gathering 73 yards on 16 carries.

MVP of this week goes to the defense, who again forced three turnovers, and held the Texans to only 216 yards. They also held the Texans to 3/13 on third down.

The LVP for the week has to be the special teams unit. With one muffed punt, and allowing a punt to be blocked, the special teams were demolished by the Texans.

Playing the 1-5 Colts next week could prove scary for the Bills if Peterman is the starter.
Fredonia sports roundup

AIDAN POLLARD
Sports Editor

This week saw competition from the Fredonia tennis, men's and women's soccer and volleyball teams.

The Blue Devils' tennis season came to a close this weekend after a record-setting season. The tennis team fell to the New Paltz Hawks on Saturday in a shutout. The Blue Devils set a new record for wins this fall, ending the season 12-4.

Men's soccer lost both of their games this weekend, to Cortland and Oswego. Cortland shutout Fredonia 1-0 on Friday with a goal in the first half, to which Fredonia never responded. Fredonia was also outshot 7-5 in the game.

On Sunday, Fredonia fell to Oswego in a 2-1 decision. Fredonia's Matt Cullen scored the first goal of the game in 56th minute of play. Oswego responded with two unanswered goals to eliminate the Blue Devils from playoff contention.

The Fredonia women had a slightly better week with a win, a loss and a tie that kept them in playoff contention. Outside of conference play, the Blue Devils beat St. John Fisher on Tuesday. They went on to suffer a 3-1 loss to Cortland on Friday with the lone Fredonia goal coming from Erín Pratt off of a rebound from a corner kick in the 14th minute of play to tie the game 1-1. Cortland went on to score two more, leaving Fredonia with a loss to head into Saturday's game against Oswego. Fredonia and Oswego tied 0-0 in Saturday's game which kept the Blue Devils in contention for the SUNYAC playoffs. Fredonia goalie Abbey Monahan made eight saves to keep the Lakers out of the net.

The Fredonia volleyball program saw two wins this weekend that will propel them into three matches this week.

The Blue Devils bested both SUNY Canton and Houghton College this weekend in Dods Hall. Fredonia swept both teams in the Saturday double-header.

Fredonia will look to blow through conference play in the remainder of the season and make it to the SUNYAC playoffs beginning Oct. 20.

The upcoming weekend will see most of the in-season SUNYAC teams in play.

The first Fredonia hockey game will take place in Buffalo against Buffalo State tomorrow, followed by the first home game in the Steele Hall Arena against Chatham on Oct. 26.

Volleyball will see two games against New Paltz and Plattsburgh tomorrow and Friday.

Men's soccer will play the last two games of their season on Friday against Potsdam and on Saturday against Plattsburgh.

Women's Soccer will also face Plattsburgh and Potsdam, but they will be looking to continue their season in the SUNYAC playoffs afterwards.

Yankees season over, but the future's still bright

ANTHONY GETTINO
Special to The Leader

The Yankees lost the ALDS to the Boston Red Sox this last week in four games with the series ending 3-1 in Boston's favor.

This team underperformed. The pitching underperformed. Stanton underperformed.

This team should've had an easy road through the entire season, and through the playoffs. Instead of that, this team became one of the hardest teams to watch win 100 games. The season's dog days lasted longer than summer break. They almost didn't make the playoffs after being tied for the league lead for wins in July.

How does that happen? No one on this earth would say that the Tampa Bay Rays are a better team than the New York Yankees when looking at them both on paper. Especially when you take into account that the Rays sold at the deadline and the Yankees bought.

This is a super team. You have two of the games best sluggers at the moment batting for you. It should've been the best lineup in baseball by far.

Gary Sanchez was a shell of himself this year; Aaron Judge got hurt at a bad time and Giancarlo Stanton was a hot and cold hitter all season.

The starting pitching staff underperformed the second half. Luis Severino imploded the second half of the season and the rest of the staff was inconsistent at best during that span.

The thing that makes this ok is that this team is still young. They still have the baby bombers under team control for multiple seasons.

The guys who didn't perform up to the standard that they have shown they can play at before will run out in pinstripes next year. Gary Sanchez is a slugger; possibly the best offensive catcher in the MLB at this moment when he is healthy.

Luis Severino should come back into form. He is more of the pitcher from the first half of the season than the one in the second half and should bring his ERA back under 3.00 and closer to that 2.00 mark.

They have a very solid and young infield with the young stud Gleyber Torres playing second, Miguel Andújar playing third, Didi Gregorius at short and most likely Luke Voit at first. That is an infield featuring two 2018 rookie of the year candidates, a slugging first baseman and an anchor and leader at short.

The outfield will once again be loaded with Aaron Judge and Giancarlo Stanton switching between playing right field and designated hitter, Aaron Hicks playing center and Clint Frazier playing as the presumed starting left fielder.

Overall, the Yankees look fine for 2019. The bullpen is still going to be a gauntlet for opposing batters to navigate through after the 7th inning begins. The one hole is the starting pitching depth.

In the offseason, the Yankees will look for starting pitching to plug in to the rotation with Severino and Masahiro Tanaka. If they can do that, they should be one of the favorites to go to the World Series once again.
Summer heatwave has fall fanatics falling into fitful frenzies

“Tis the season for pumpkin spice lattes, mustard yellow and the chunkiest sweater one can find. In most places anyway. Here in ye ol’ Fredtown, the technical beginning to the best season ever does not necessarily mean that the weather is going to play nice with the good samaritans that have been waiting patiently to order coffee in its true form instead of the iced “meh” version required during New York heatwaves.

When the temperature finally broke below 60 degrees, hipsters across campus immediately threw on their best thrifted finds including the ugliest old man sweaters, scarves, hats with little pom-poms on top and basically every other layer they could think of. They walked around blissfully, carrying Starbucks cups in their chilly hands while listening to Hozier on repeat.

The next day, adorning their carefully crafted outfits, they stepped outside only to find themselves sweating profusely immediately upon breathing in the humid, stagnant summer-esque air.

Raging, and already late for class, they stuck it out. What was originally just a disappointing morning where the weather was failed to be checked, turned into a full-on social movement.

Fall fanatics everywhere have decided to continue to sport sweaters and fuzzy socks regardless of the temperature outside. Essentially protesting Mother Nature and global warming, the sweaty social justice warriors are urging fall to stay by dressing for the windy autumnal days, despite the fact that the sun is blistering and humid thunderstorms are happening continuously.

“I can’t put a pair of shorts on again, man. I just can’t. I’ve missed my skinny jeans so much, there’s no way I could do that to them,” said Thomas Eliot, voice cracking as he wiped sweat from under the brim of his beanie.

Some students have even resorted to taking up an autumnal religion in hopes of appeasing Mother Nature’s fury.

“I buy a pumpkin spice latte every single day and make sure to step on every crunchy leaf that I see. Maybe if Mother Nature sees people appreciating the season changing she’ll actually make it cold out,” said Emma Austen as she was waiting in line at Starbucks.

Professors in Fenton are getting especially concerned for their students partaking in the protest.

“We don’t have air conditioning in Fenton and I’ve already had two students pass out because they were wearing too many layers. This is really getting out of hand. We can’t fix global warming in just one day, but maybe we could try to update this building sometime soon?” The professor wished to remain anonymous but thanked our reporters for covering such an important issue.

While the protests have been going on for several weeks, it seems like the valiant efforts of these fall advocates might actually be paying off. The weather is finally taking a turn for chillier temperatures and seems to be steadily decreasing as the weeks progress.

Make sure to thank any particularly damp student you see as they have been fighting non-stop for the season to actually start.

Also be sure to wear your cutest fall outfits sooner rather than later since fall took so long to get here. It’ll be snowing before we know it.
An inspiration to all: student brings typewriter into professor’s ‘device-free’ classroom

TRAVIS LEFEVRE
Editor in Chief

Chaos struck the campus last week as Jaclyn Font shook the entire fabric of professor Jacobson’s ENGL 345 classroom.

“It happened so fast, I didn’t even have time to review my syllabus to see if I was wrong,” said professor Jacobson, a veteran member of the English department who’s had a “device-free” policy in place for the better part of 20 years. “She just walked into the room with this shit eating grin on her face and the next thing I knew I transported back to the 1920s with all that ringing and dinging.”

Font, a sophomore creative writing minor, scoured through professor Jacobson’s syllabus just looking for the loophole she needed to strike.

“I’ve had him for a few classes and I’m a very technology oriented person. My handwriting is garbage so I rely on my laptop so I can read what notes I take down,” Font said. “When I saw his policy on no devices back when I was a freshman, he immediately made my shit list.”

Font admitted she spent months concocting her plan to get back at her slightly likable professor. According to Font, “he’s a good guy as a whole, but this just isn’t okay.”

Over the summer, Font broke out her old investigative kit and began reading the fine print of Jacobson’s syllabus to find the most irritating way to get back at him.

“Oh my God, I felt like I won a million bucks when I found out I could inconvenience him without breaking his policy. And the best part? Typewriters are annoying as fuck.”

According to Jacobson’s current syllabus, “no computers, tablets or phones are allowed in the classroom.” Once Font took note of that, the rest was just “too easy.”

Jacobson has since updated his syllabus to include typewriters, effectively squashing Font’s attempted coup. “Just wait until he sees the printing press I ordered on Amazon,” Font said.
MISSING

have you seen this fairy godmother?

Age: ???  Height: ???  Weight: ???

REWARD: 1 MILLION

If you want to see Fairy Godmother safely returned, please tweet #FredFairy with questions or comments on The Leaders social media.

Twitter @LeaderFredonia
Instagram @leaderfredonia
The Procrastinator’s Guide to Studying:

I feel the need to mention that I am writing this literally on the day that the paper needs to be sent to print so you can absolutely, definitely trust me to give you good procrastination tips. Definitely.

1. While this may seem fairly obvious, do not utilize the three weeks your professor is giving you to work on that assignment. Wait until the day before it’s due to even think about it. Your fingers will move so fast across your keyboard, it will seem almost magical.

2. You absolutely deserve to binge watch Netflix. You’ve been so stressed about all of the work you have to do, lately. Kick back and rewatch the last season of “Riverdale.” A few more hours of procrastination can’t hurt.

3. No one likes to start an essay and then go back to it a few days later. The thought process just isn’t the same. Wait until the morning something is due and spend the entire day working on it. You have no choice but to write like your life depends on it so there will be no disconnection in your paper.

4. Use Google. It has all of the answers so you definitely don’t need to do the readings. You’d be surprised what great quotes you can pull out of your ass when you’re on the verge of a stress-induced mental breakdown.

5. Diamonds are literally made by being put under intense pressure. Keep putting shit off and shine bright, baby.

Well, I’m only giving you five tips for college-ing like a pro procrastinator because I’ve got like 75 other assignments to do. I think this turned out pretty great so it proves that my methods are, indeed, fool-proof. Put them to the test and thrive!
Watch out for squirrels dropping acorns this week. They’re aiming at you.

Someone will profess their undying love to you this week. Get the restraining order ready.

You’re going to receive news this week that you won the “Ginny Horvath lookalike” competition.

Be careful, no matter how much you may brag, you can’t do three backflips at once. At least not a baby like you.

You’re going to have the “Baby Shark” song stuck in your head. I’m so sorry.

Your conservative parents called. They said they’re voting democrat in the upcoming midterms. Give yourself a pat on the back, Virgo.

Halloween is coming up. Use this opportunity to buy a banana costume before anyone else.

Be proud of the fact you’re the only zodiac sign with ‘corn’ in its name.

Watch out for squirrels dropping acorns this week. They’re aiming at you.

Only four weeks behind in work. You’re fine to take a nap; you’ve got time.