

THE LEADER

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I know everyone's
panicking about this
whole coronavirus thing,
but has anyone seen
my pants?

The Leader

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Are fish pets or glorified decoration?

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

Fredonia's clubs got to show their stuff at activities night

OLIVIA BEILEIN
Special to The Leader

Originally published Feb. 4, 2020

FALL 2020 DISCLAIMER: Due to the fact that this semester will be unlike any other, Activities Night will be held remotely on a platform called Flipgrid. Students have been asked to submit a short video explaining what their club is all about. Specifics regarding date and time will follow. SUNY Fredonia students and faculty are working hard to ensure that incoming students will receive the best possible experience despite current circumstances.

For students returning to Fredonia after a much needed winter break, the new semester can be a fresh start for many. Aside from new classes, there is the opportunity to look into new interests or discover people who share the same ones.

Activities Night, which happens in both the spring and fall semesters, is a chance to do just that.

The semesterly gathering hosts over 170 of Fredonia's recognized clubs and is open to not only students — but also the Fredonia community.

For new students or someone who has never been to Activities Night before, the atmosphere can be intimidating.

It can be said that Activities Night is almost like a competition among the clubs to attract new members, and see who can stand out the most.

Clubs that stand out the most have a lot to do with the members present and how they brand themselves.

As someone looking to join a club, many prospective students say what draws them in is how the club uses their creativity in their table presentation.

Aside from table decorations and complimentary items, the enthusiasm of a group is also very important.

If current club members are just standing there waiting for those who are bold and interested to approach them it is less likely they will have much success. Whereas having someone reach out to you as you walk by could be what pushes a prospective student to sign up and feel encouraged.

Some of the largest organizations on campus are Fredonia's Greek life.

Among these groups there are three sororities, three fraternities and one co-ed fraternity.

All of these Greek groups attend Activities Night in hopes people will sign up for what they refer to as "rush" week, which is the following week after Activities Night.

It is important to note that signing up at Activities Night does not guarantee



On the Cover:

Fredonia's Bell Tower

Dante Lasting, Former Sports Editor

you a spot in the group but rather an opportunity to be accepted after going through their decision process.

Clubs such as the Philosophical Society of Fredonia encourage anyone who wishes to “answer life’s biggest questions” to join, said executive board member Noah Teijeira.

Teijeira, who has been in the club for two semesters, also mentions how they have been revamping the club in hopes to find people who are willing to learn and better educate themselves on hot topics.

Having opportunities like Activities Night is a chance for this newly rebooted club to get their shared interest in philosophy out there for those who may be interested as well.

Fredonia is popularly known for being a sought-after music school, but for those who wish to keep their musical interest a hobby, joining a music-oriented club may be something perfect for them.

The Percussion Guild on campus has been around since the early ‘90s and explores the different kinds of percussion instruments.

Mclain Hinkler is a sophomore percussion major who encourages anyone to join. “Having a wide variety of students in the club who share a love for music through percussion is the main goal,” said Hinkler.

The Percussion Guild holds master classes and clinics often on campus for those interested.

Besides social clubs, there are also many academic clubs that can be helpful as students go onto their future careers after graduating from Fredonia.

The Public Relations Student Society of America, also known as PRSSA, is a great opportunity for public relations majors to gain

reputable experience.

It is also encouraged for people in any major to join because, “in almost any career someone does, there is some form of public relations,” said sophomore member Melena DeBoe.

Katie Lenda, who is the public relations chair for PRSSA’s executive board, works hard to promote the club and runs all their social media accounts.

Throughout the week leading up to Activities Night, Lenda went to a few communication classes to speak with potential new members and answer any questions prior to the first general body meeting.



Activities Night in Steele Hall | Alexis Carney, Photo Editor

Fredonia's new president appointed — Dr. Stephen H. Kolison, Jr.

ALISA OPPENHEIMER

Assistant News Editor

Fredonia's new president, Dr. Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. was officially announced this afternoon over a virtual SUNY Board of Trustees' meeting.

The formal meeting took place at 1:15 p.m. and was made viewable to the public on the official SUNY website.

Dr. Kolison was introduced by Chancellor Dr. Kristina Johnson, where she stated that he has served as Executive Vice President and Provost at The University of Indianapolis since April 2017.

His contributions there include the addition of 10 new degree programs, the establishment of three new faculty tracks, developing — as well as executing — an improved academic plan and more. This helped lead to the restoration of the university's status as a Carnegie Community Engagement University.

Prior to this, Dr. Kolison also served as Associate Vice President for Academic Programs, Education Innovation and Governance at The University of Wisconsin Administration from 2008 to 2017, where he worked his way up through various leadership positions.

Dr. Kolison gained his Bachelor of Science from the University of

Liberia and his master's and PhD degrees in forest economics from Iowa State University and holds four post-doctoral certificates from Harvard University in topics such as educational management and negotiations in leadership.

Dr. Kolison was welcomed to the meeting by other members of the board.

"Thank you for this tremendous opportunity and confidence," said Kolison.

"You see, for a man who was told in the second grade that he would not amount to anything because he suffered from dyslexia, this appointment is remarkable, and I hope it will inspire all students everywhere to never, ever give up."

Kolison also addressed Fredonia students along with faculty and members of the community in his speech expressing his excitement in being the university's new president.

"I am overjoyed to have the opportunity to serve you regardless of your background... The State University of New York at Fredonia is your university, you belong," said Kolison.

"I will work hard each day to ensure that you are successful in your endeavors. To faculty and staff, you are my partners in the advancement of our university, and to the citizens of the city of Fredonia and in neighboring communities, I am going to be one of you and a strong partner in a way to advance our region," he said.



President Dr. Stephen H. Kolison Jr. | State University of New York at Fredonia

Fredonia students' safer reopening plan endorsed by University Senate, has yet to be enforced

KATIE LENDA

Staff Writer

Originally Published Aug. 5, 2020

On July 1, SUNY Fredonia released a reopening plan for students, faculty and staff returning to campus this upcoming fall semester.

Classes will be quite different from previous semesters with precautions such as social distancing, limited capacity in buildings and mandated face coverings being put into effect.

Various institutions are requiring students to be tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus. However, this is not being enforced at Fredonia.

Fredonia students Brad Brown, Elizabeth Hahn and Ava Knapp have written an open letter to SUNY and to Gov. Cuomo expressing their concern for this lack of testing.

A petition to advocate for a safer reopening plan is circulating online and is close to reaching 1,000 signatures.

Brown, Knapp and Hahn discussed the letter and petition with administration during the University Senate meeting on Monday, July 27.

The University Senate voted 42-1 to endorse the petition, however this does not mean testing will be mandated prior to students' return to campus.

This means that the Senate supports the petition, but as of now, **the requests in the letter are not being enforced.**

Outside of Fredonia, junior exercise science major, Ava Knapp, and senior biology major, Elizabeth Hahn are organizing congressional meetings with Partners in Health Engage in order to organize an outbreak prevention plan.

Fredonia's reopening plan does not follow all of the reopening guidelines from the United University Professions; therefore, Hahn and Knapp collaborated with Brown, a senior biochemistry major,

to compose the petition and letter. The United University Professions, according to their website, "is the nation's largest higher education union, representing the faculty and professional staff of the SUNY system."

Their guidelines for reopening were "developed carefully" with union representation, and align with Gov. Cuomo's NY Forward plan.

A subsection of their reopening plan is devoted to the importance of testing for all students and faculty prior to their return to campus.

Hahn said that behavior-based prevention is not enough to keep Fredonia's small population healthy.

A combination of social distancing and wearing face coverings along with adequate and regular testing will significantly decrease the likelihood of an outbreak on campus.

Brown, Hahn and Knapp believe that "SUNY Fredonia remains ill-prepared to handle inevitable outbreaks of COVID-19 on campus. The decision to bring students back to campus without any testing is shortsighted and purely motivated by profits and a complete disregard for the safety of our students, faculty and community."

This letter and petition were sent to a plethora of leaders and administrators at Fredonia, including SUNY's Interim Chancellor, Robert Megna, Interim Provost at Fredonia, Dr. Kevin Kearns, SUNY Fredonia President, Dr. Stephen Kolison Jr. and Vice President for Enrollment & Student Services, Dr. Cedric Howard.

The goal in writing this letter and petition is to ensure that SUNY Fredonia administrators reassess the reopening plans, which "directly contradict the best practices and guidelines for COVID-19 testing that were laid out by the New York State Reopening New York Higher Education Guidelines and the United University Professions," Brown said.

In Summer Memo #4, however, Fredonia said that the CDC does not recommend entry testing of all returning students, faculty and staff for COVID-19 because it has not been systematically studied.

Despite this statement from the CDC, some private institutions in New York State such as St. Bonaventure University, Syracuse University and Cornell University are all mandating testing for returning students and school personnel.



Students entering University Commons | Lori Deemer

COVID-19 cases are increasing and spreading among people in their 20s and 30s, and many of these people are asymptomatic.

Without adequate testing, students may return to campus unknowingly carrying the virus, thus spreading it throughout the campus community.

Senior molecular genetics major, Emilee Stenson, has also been a strong advocate for this issue.

She stressed the importance of continuing to call for proper testing despite Fredonia's statement on the issue.

Stenson said that advocacy for this cause can be demonstrated in other ways.

For instance, students can continue to show their support for COVID-19 testing by speaking with administration and staying informed through credible, scientific sources.

Stenson recognizes that socializing is a major part of the college experience, but said that public health needs to matter more than economic profits and social discomfort.

"I urge the administration to seriously consider what could happen if testing is not provided to catch cases early on and the high likelihood that students may not follow

guidelines," said Stenson.

"Keep us safe, test the student body and wear masks."

Senior political science major and class of 2021 president, Lylens Lubin, said that although he believes testing plays a pivotal role in maintaining a healthy campus this semester, SUNY is still hesitant to enforce testing due to the uncertainty of its effectiveness.

Lubin suggested that students take initiative and get a test prior to their return to campus, regardless of whether it's mandated or not.

"The only people that can ensure the safest possible reopening are ourselves," said Lubin.

"We should all have the human decency to keep each other and ourselves safe from exposure. Masks are here to protect us, not control us. The media has contaminated this situation with a bunch of false narratives that have turned it into a political problem rather than a human health problem," he said.

If you believe you are having symptoms or have been in direct contact with someone who has COVID-19, please contact your primary care provider and locate a free testing site near you.

Life & Arts

A Fredonia grad's bucket list

GIOVANINA VANCHERI

Special to The Leader

Originally Published May 10, 2020

As a graduating senior whose final college semester was cut short, I have spent quite a bit of time thinking about what I am going to be missing out on.

Award ceremonies and banquets, commencement or Azteca with Professor Ploetz...

Like all other seniors, I didn't realize that all of my experiences at school would turn into "lasts" so soon.

I was functioning under the assumption that I had two more months to do everything in Fredonia I could one last time. Unfortunately, that time was cut short. Fortunately though, I know I'll get to go back again at some point in the future to visit.

I don't think I'm alone in my hope to make a return trip to Fredonia to experience all of my favorite places in my home for the last four. Here are all of the places I'm going to hit up as soon as I get the chance to return to Fredtown:

1. Top floor of Maytum Hall/Roof of McEwen/Three Man Hill

It might just be me, but I can't resist a good sunset. The highest points on campus are, in my opinion, the best places to watch it.

During my time living on campus, one of my favorite things to do from time to time was watch the sunset from one of these places. I love getting to see the view of campus and take everything in.

Plus, I'm a sucker for sky pictures, and you can get pretty good ones from here.

2. BJ's

This is a place I will definitely miss. As soon as I go back, I'm getting a corn-dog and playing a game of darts.

I have countless memories there, and it is one of the only places that I've consistently loved.

It's always been a go-to for my friends and I, and I honestly can't imagine what my Saturday nights are going to look like without it in my life.



Arkwright Falls | Giovanina Vancheri

Upper Crust Bake House | Giovanina Vancheri



3. Arkwright Falls

This was truly one of the coolest places I've hiked. The falls are about a 20 minute drive away from campus and the perfect activity for a nice day.

I only got to go there twice, but both times I went with a group of friends and had the best time.

The hiking is challenging and exciting and the falls are huge and beautiful. There's also a little brook to go swimming in along the way.

I was really looking forward to making another trip once the weather got nicer, but I will have to make a special trip sometime this summer.

4. Upper Crust Bake House

Not much of a "hidden gem" since it's everyone's favorite off-campus cafe, but hey, it's a favorite for a reason.

They have great house-made baked goods and drinks, and they've really expanded their food menu in the last year. They're an amazing local spot with healthy options and a great atmosphere, and one of the best places for photos in Fredonia.

5. Rhythm & Grooves Record Store

Since the store didn't open until my junior year and I didn't learn about it until later, I only got the chance to go there once during my time at school. I wish I could've spent more time perusing the shelves there.

They are college-budget-friendly, and while the record stores here in Rochester are massive and awesome, they can be expensive. I'm definitely going to go back to add to my collection.

6. The Dunkirk Pier

Ahh, nothing beats that view of the dog food factory. All jokes aside, it is definitely one of the prettiest spots in town (if you don't look at that factory for too long).

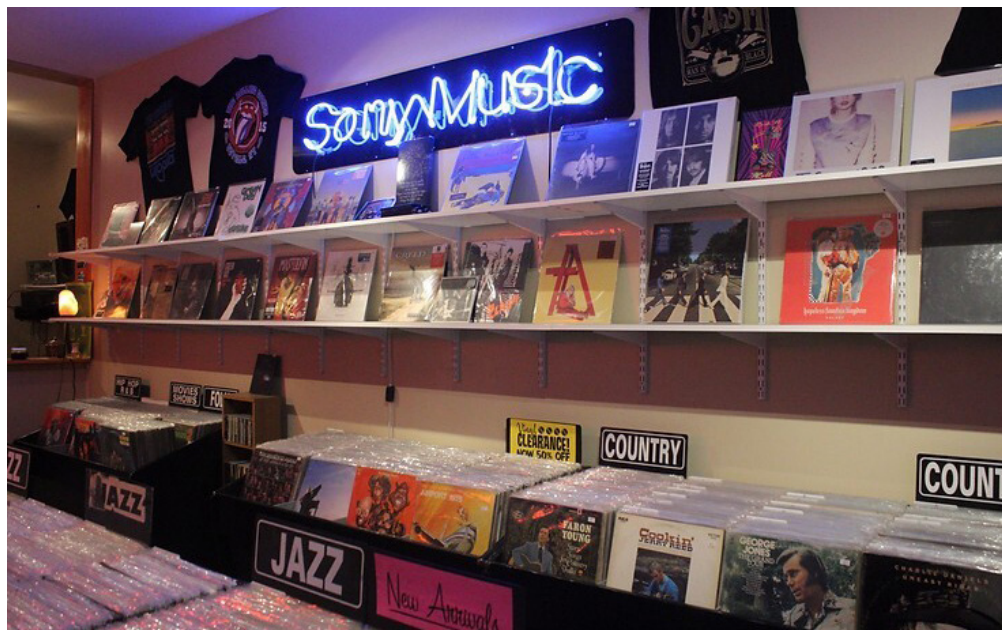
It was a place my friends and I liked to visit when we just needed a few minutes to get away from campus and be reminded of the rest of the world outside of us. Plus, there's a bunch of cute shops and restaurants that line the pier.

7. Big Dipper

Another off-campus favorite that I'll miss simply for the memories.

The ice cream parlor was always a place my friends and I made a point to trek out to.

While it's not much different or any more special than the average ice cream shop, it is definitely a special aspect of the Fredonia community. I'll definitely have to stop there for a cone of soft serve when I come back.



Rhythm & Grooves Store | Giovanina Vancheri

Point Gratiot Beach | Giovanina Vancheri



8. Starbucks

Okay, don't hate me for this one. Yes, I understand that I can go to any Starbucks I want at home (and anywhere in the world), but I spent a lot of time in the one in University Commons.

I've had some of my best and worst moments there. Had friend dates, crammed before tests, spent hours writing papers and fueling my caffeine addiction. It was the one place on campus that was always there for me... okay I'm done.

9. Sunny's

For nostalgia purposes only, I have to make at least one more trek to the Hot Spot in my lifetime.

As much as it may actually be one of the worst places in the world, it has a special place in my and nearly every Fredonia student's heart. We'd all be lying if we said we wouldn't miss it, at least a little.

10. Point Gratiot Beach

Definitely my favorite place to visit off campus. There's really nothing like going to the beach to watch the sunset.

The view of Lake Erie is beautiful, and honestly it surprises me every time that something so pretty exists in Fredonia. If you haven't climbed up the big rock to take in the view, you're missing out.

There's so much beauty in this little college town, and it's full of hidden gems that are easy to find, as long as you're looking.

As much as I complain about it while I'm there, Fredonia will always hold a special place in my heart. I can't wait to go back.

A BJ's Review: Cooler, Marquee Grand & Fortunato

BRENTON NEWCOMB

Staff Writer

Originally published Feb. 26, 2020

On Feb. 19th, BJ's hosted its regular bi-weekly music series with Last Call Entertainment — something that has become a staple of Fredonia's music scene and has garnered sort of a cult status due to its repeating acts and fans.

Joining together this week were three exciting bands including Cooler, Marquee Grand and Fortunato.

The show began with "Fortunato," a group out of Rochester with a specialty in spaced out and vibey post punk instrumental music.

The group played longspanned instrumentals that were heavy and not like that of a normal jam band. Often they would have samples in their songs or spoken word audio introducing the songs.

The group described their sound to be sonically driven "from contemporary post rock bands like Caspian, Explosions in The Sky or Russian Circles."

Other influences that don't reflect the groups sonic nature include everything



from The Beatles, to Deafheaven and author Kurt Vonnegut who has, according to the group, "Piqued some of [our] interest in sci-fi, but his themes of social equality and the paradoxically barbaric nature of modern society inform our worldview."

Interestingly, the band set up like no other group I have seen, with two members on the stage and the other two in front of the stage near the audience. This, they said was more out of necessity for the amount of gear they had.

Speaking with them later after the show, I learned that it was not only their first time playing in Fredonia but was also their first time sharing a lineup with the other groups.

They said of the fellow groups, "We hadn't played with Marquee Grand or Cooler before, but we certainly hope to again in the future. They're good people who make good music and we couldn't believe how fortunate we were to share the stage with them."

Next to take the stage was Marquee Grand, the first local band to sell out Rec Room in Buffalo during their album release show just this January.

The EP that is responsible for the record-breaking debut channels The 1975 as well as Blink-182 and features a healthy dose of catchy choruses.

The alternative rock group cites Gin Blossoms, Green Day and The Wallflowers as

musical influences during their founding in 2015.

At BJ's, Marquee Grand's performance was a very crowd participatory event that called for a lot of singing along and dancing in the crowd.

Cooler, who has played at BJ's more in the past, wrapped up the night and played a fantastic set decked with their own light show including a neon lit flamingo and parrot.

The 3-piece group gets a heavy sound that seems unimaginable for three instruments to take on but is somehow achieved.

Last year, when I reviewed a BJ's show that Cooler was playing, their single "Metal Moths" had received over 175,000 streams.

The group has well surpassed that now and has over 230,000 streams on the catchy tune. The group remarked of the tune during the show that it was about, "Saying some sh*t you can't take back."

Cooler has recently come out with a new single, titled: "Gentlemen," which is a truly catchy song with ambient guitar and chill vocals.

The group played an incredible set and was a perfect end to the night for all in attendance.



Photos taken by Jessica Meditz | Editor in Chief

Jiggy By Nature: Fredonia-born brand plans to take over the world

JESSICA MEDITZ
Editor in Chief

Originally published June 30, 2020

While walking around Fredonia's campus and being involved in the community, you may have noticed a spark in social media presence for the student-run business, Jiggy By Nature.

You might've also come across the name on stickers around campus, on students' laptops or across the chests of some students' sweatshirts.

But what is the vision behind the name?

We live in a world that places an importance on materialistic things — a world where our "worth" is determined by the brands we wear and the clothes on our backs.

Everyone has their own personal style and should express that to feel good about themselves, but the reality is that we don't necessarily need a Supreme t-shirt, Yeezy sneakers or Gucci accessories to do so.

Abdullah Yusuf, Andre Cowan, Lloyd Ansah and Mamadou Diallo had this epiphany when they were just freshmen at Fredonia, inspiring them to start up their clothing brand, Jiggy By Nature.

The men behind Jiggy By Nature, also known as JBN, continuously update and revamp their collections, products and ideas to fit the trends. Their designs include items such as hoodies, graphic t-shirts, sweatpants, shorts, hats and more.

Jiggy By Nature doubles as a clothing and lifestyle brand, initially seeing success and winning the hearts of many with their focus on positivity and comfort through their social media presence.

The slogan listed on their website, "Defining true expressions of fashion through music and comfort," shows their audience the true meaning of Jiggy By Nature, which is "more than just a brand," according to Yusuf.

He emphasized the fact that Jiggy By Nature initially started out as "just clothes," but the brand has grown to become more than that. Their newest addition, Cozy By Voice, exemplifies this.

Diallo said that Cozy By Voice was a suggestion for the brand by Ansah.

"It is an entertainment company that markets not only Jiggy By Nature, but music itself through fashion," Diallo said.

"Fashion and music go hand-in-hand... with that being said, representing your style of fashion and your taste of music together in your everyday lifestyle — that's what our generation lives for," he said.

Jiggy By Nature takes great inspiration for Cozy By Voice from influential modern artists, including A\$AP Mob and A\$AP Rocky, who market clothing brands alongside their music.

Ansah said that the goal for the artists associated with Cozy By Voice is to help with networking, to use their platform to update their audience with new releases and music videos and to promote their social media accounts.

These promoted artists include Ansah himself (NY LLOYD), Buddha Man and YoungRichoo.

Cozy By Voice is also the home of The Plug Radio, which provides their audience with, "all the latest updates in music, pop-culture and NYC's underground talent."

According to Yusuf, Jiggy By Nature is working to showcase the efforts of various up-and-coming creators and entrepreneurs, stressing the importance of networking. The brand has networked and taken other contributors under their wing for the sake of expanding to different genres of art and fashion.

One of them is Messiah Hill, who has helped Jiggy By Nature tremendously in terms of creative design and contributing new ideas.

"He's basically our first official designer outside of the founders. From making multiple logos to doing photoshoots and more, he has been a huge addition to our brand and we are grateful to have him," said Yusuf.



The founders of Jiggy By Nature. From left to right: Abdullah Yusuf, Andre Cowan, Lloyd Ansah and Mamadou Diallo.

The men behind JBN are aware of the platform they have and the power they hold to continue to keep their audience informed about the current social climate.

"We're using our social media as a way to talk to the people," said Cowan. "We posted a lot of things about the [Black Lives Matter] movement, we're showing that we care because we are Black men. Our words speak to a lot of people."

The Jiggy By Nature team agrees that the sentiment of having conversations and seeing people's real-time reactions to today's issues is far more valuable than putting something on a t-shirt.

Ansah said that people find comfort in Jiggy By Nature's message and story alone.

"Our skin is our nature. We are four Black men... in some spaces that we enter, some people will look at us a certain way, or look down on us in a sense. So I think our brand, designs and message overall show where we stand and who we are," he said.

Yusuf said that he feels the brand has evolved to "set an example" for the Black community in Fredonia, in the same way they previously looked up to upperclassmen. He also expressed the importance of representing the potential of aspiring entrepreneurs, no matter their age or skin color.

Jiggy By Nature hasn't let the pandemic stop them — there are a lot of things in the works for them, or "everything you could think of," said Diallo.

"We're working on skateboards, lighters, stickers, keychains, face masks and shorts right now. We want to have something for everyone; everyone deserves to be a part of JBN," he said.

He encouraged fans of Jiggy By Nature to sit tight and stay tuned because there are "big things in the works" for the brand that cannot yet be shared.

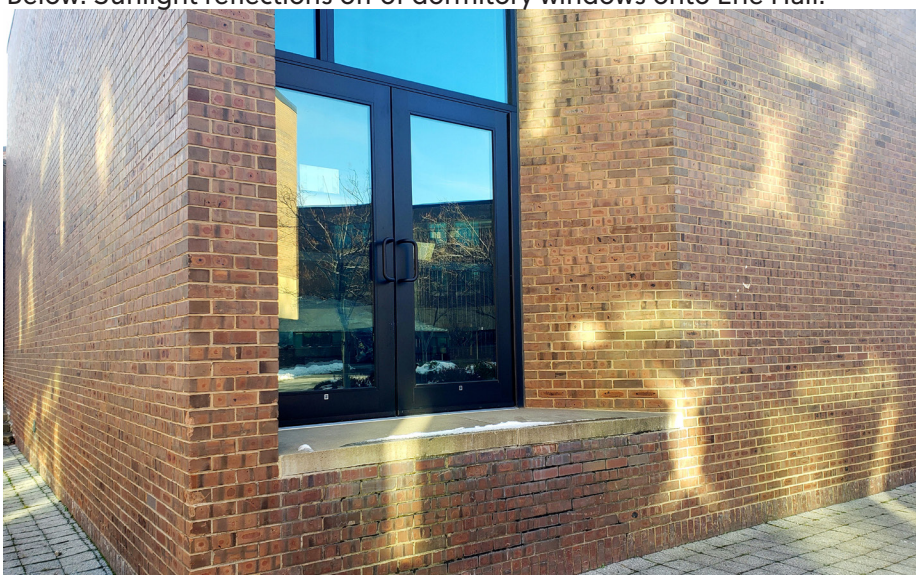
You can check out JBN products on their website, or follow their Instagram for more information and updates.

Images to remember Fredonia by

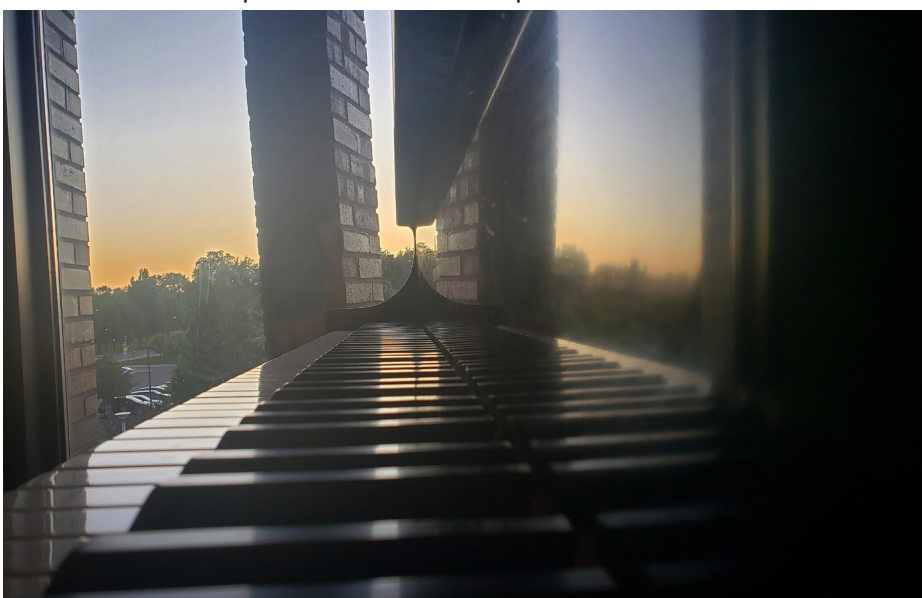
Jules Hoepting
Design Editor



Above: Waves crashing upon the Dunkirk shore.
Below: Sunlight reflections off of dormitory windows onto Erie Hall.



Below: Sunset on a piano in a Mason Hall practice room.



Above: Optical illusion in Reed Library.
Below: Shadows of a tree cast upon Erie Hall.



Below: Spider web on Rockerfeller staircase handrail.





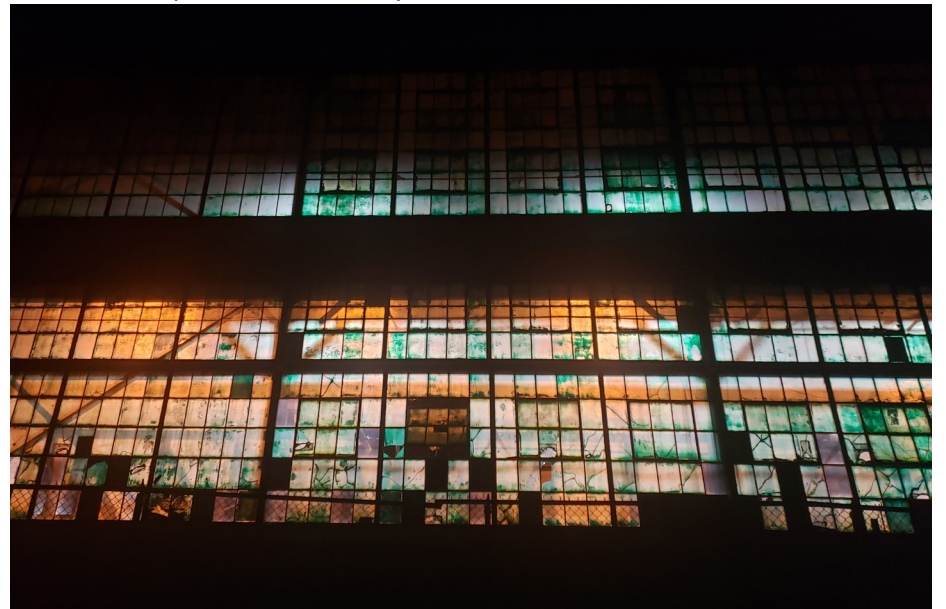
Above: Half-shoveled McEwen staircase.
Below: Autumn leaves outside of the Science Center.



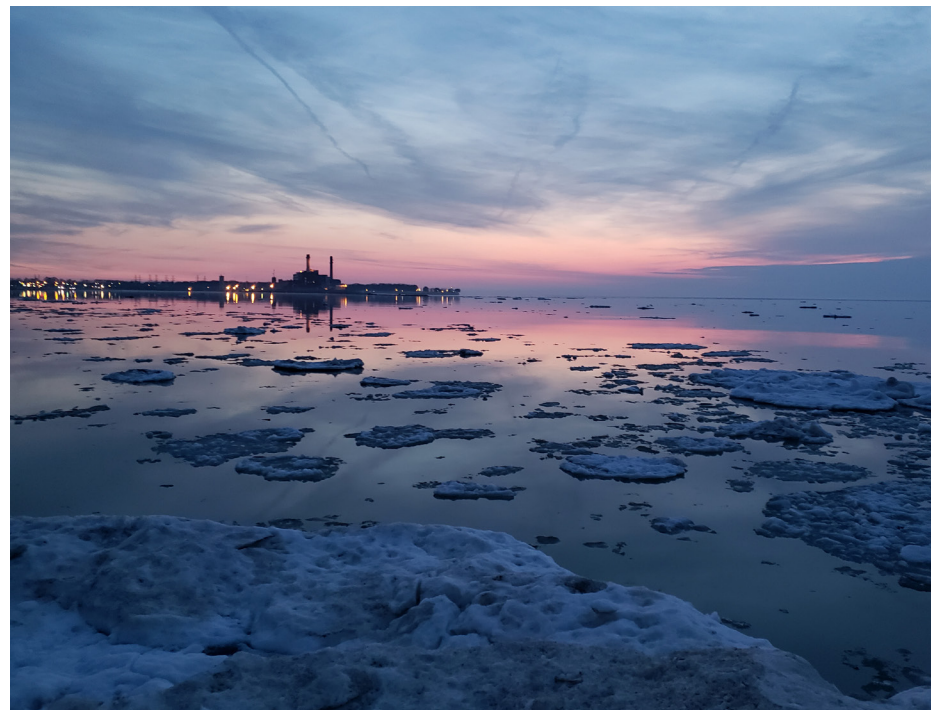
Below: Night time in Reed Library, second floor.



Above: Jules Hoepting imitating the statue in the Reed Library garden.
Below: A lit-up building on Temple Street at night.



Below: Sunset along Lake Front Boulevard, Dunkirk, NY.



What I wish I would have known as a freshman

ALYSSA BUMP

Assistant Life & Arts Editor

No one really talks about the transition from a teenager to adult, even though this time is often nerve-wracking and composed entirely of change.

Questions spiral in a high school senior's mind: "What college should I go to?" or "What do I want to do for the rest of my life?"

These types of questions can be agonizing if they remain unanswered. The stress of the unknown has the potential to swallow someone whole.

Because of this pressure, some choose a path knowing it is not their destiny. Others will wonder if they chose correctly, even if they were certain at first.

The truth of the matter is that the future itself is unknown.

If people could go back to 2019, I doubt anyone would've guessed that a pandemic would be running rampant, destroying the economy and lives worldwide.

Personally, I come from a small town. My graduating class consisted of 60 people.

Leaving home was something I never had to do. I grew up with the same kids in the same small town for the entirety of my childhood.

This added onto the pressure. Choosing the right major, the right college, finding the right friends, joining clubs and maintaining above a 3.2 GPA made me nearly keel over.

But what I did not know was that it is okay to not know how my future would turn out.

Living in the digital age is hard. Instagram models, YouTubers and TikTok stars seem to have perfect lives.

When comparing millionaires to the average person, it's inevitable that the regular people will feel inadequate and insecure.

Nearly everyone presents a fake persona to the world online, trying to only show the best sides of themselves.

It's often hard not to fall into a pit when being surrounded by people that seem to have their lives together.

But just because something seems perfect, it does not mean it necessarily is.

Knowing this has the potential to change everything. Knowing that it's okay to be uncertain, confused and lost is an important step in finding how to get back on track.

Entering college as a freshman feels like a fever dream at first. Everything is so different from what it once was.

Stepping onto a new campus with thousands of new people is scary for most, if not terrifying.

In the fall 2019 semester, 1,006 first-time first-year students stepped onto Fredonia's campus, all of them experiencing many of

the same emotions without even knowing each other.

One-thousand six newcomers entered a campus that has a total of 4,463 students.

Yet Fredonia is considered a small campus.

Transitioning from a class of 60 people to about 1,000 was difficult, but not impossible.



Outside of the Williams Center | Dante Lasting

It was hard; I won't lie. Sometimes I'd find myself overwhelmed with stress from classes and clubs, all while trying to balance a healthy social life.

At the end of the day, I'd often look in the mirror and ask myself, "Am I enjoying what I'm doing?"

Most of the time, I didn't have an answer.

I knew I should be, and I knew I wanted to be. Yet, I was instead filled with self-doubt.

But once I decided to participate in clubs, activities and classes I actually enjoyed, I became so much happier.

I wish I could have gone back and reassured my first-day freshman self that virtually every other freshman was just as stressed out as I was.

Once I adjusted and became comfortable with my surroundings, I joined the Applied Communications Association and The Leader.

Not only are these clubs enjoyable, but they also benefited my academic experience at Fredonia.

I wish I could go back and give myself the confidence I desperately needed.

At first, I honestly felt that I would not be successful in my major,

which is journalism.

Once I dedicated myself to these clubs and immersed myself in extracurricular activities, I realized that not only was I doing what I love, but I was also good at it.

A lot of freshmen try to pick a major that they think will benefit them financially in the future.

However, Confucius once said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never work a day in your life."

Strive to accomplish your dreams and goals. Try to do something you love. College is all about self-discovery and exploration.

The worst that could happen is the discovery that what you once thought was meant to be wasn't. But that in itself leaves room for a new aspiration.

In order to determine whether or not your desired major is fitting, submerge yourself in the opportunities Fredonia offers.

It may be scary at first to join clubs and other organizations, but if you speak to current students, most will inform you that it's worthwhile.

Upperclassmen in clubs will often try to assist you in your experience at Fredonia. I have many upperclassmen I owe a thank you to for bringing me out of my shell and assisting me.

My first semester, I attempted to join the TV station at Fredonia, WNYF. I was convinced that I wanted to be a broadcast journalist.

However, I soon realized that path was not fit for me. In fact, I soon realized that I was horrified to be broadcast on live television.

I didn't give up, though. Instead, I joined The Leader, Fredonia's campus newspaper.

I realized I had a love for speaking on topics that I felt were important, (and most of the time, didn't get enough coverage) through my writing.

Through this club, I have reported on stress among college students, album reviews, events hosted by other clubs on campus (specifically the Black Student Union and COVID-19) and social, current events.

Opportunity awaits you at Fredonia. Allow yourself to be uncomfortable at first but reassure yourself that you have the potential to become your best self.

College is truly what you make it. Aim to learn and grow, both mentally and academically.



Outside of University Commons | Dante Lasting

SPORTS

How the new eSports Lounge got paid for

DANTE LASTING
Former Sports Editor

Originally Published Feb. 25, 2020

At the end of January, the university unveiled a new eSports lounge in Shultz Hall. This lounge is home to a lot of new hardware, including an Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch, two TV screens and 13 gaming computers.

But with all the talk about program cuts because of SUNY Fredonia's budget problem, how did this state of the art eSports lounge get paid for?

The eSports lounge is a big hit with gamers and a welcoming new home for the eSports club on campus. While the club will meet there, the fully furnished lounge is open to all students. The club will be hosting events throughout the entire semester. The university is also becoming one of the first to offer a two-credit course on eSports.

While the idea of an eSports lounge on campus has been tossed around for a while, the planning and development of the space only took about three months. This project could not have been completed at the pace that it did without the help of university facility services, electricians, carpenters and

eSports club Advisor Mark Mackey. Mackey is the residential technology coordinator for the university and pushed for the lounge to get finished in a quick and timely manner.

So with all the financial struggles that the university has faced recently, how did this new project get paid for?



Outside the eSports Lounge

According to Mackey, they got lucky with getting the funds for the lounge.

"In this year's budget, we had planned to add a printing station in all the residence halls but we ended up with some end-of-

year funds last year so that paid for the printing stations," Mackey explained. "We then used the \$20,000 we had in this year's budget to pay for the [eSports] lounge."

It seems that they were able to keep all the costs around the given budget. For all the computers, consoles and TVs, Mack-

ey said that it cost around \$17,000. On top of that, they still had to pay for the lounge to

be renovated and they had to buy furniture to put in it. Not a cheap project at all, but the lounge looks very clean, inviting and a good place to hang out.

For more information about the eSports club, visit the eSports lounge located in Shultz Hall.

There is an eSports competition hosted by Campus Life and the eSports club in the Williams Center MPR. It is Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At this event, there will be a Mario Kart tournament where you can race against President Hefner and Dr. Howard. In addition, there will be a few

other gaming consoles around the MPR to play a variety of games. There will also be a nacho bar to enjoy while you play.

For additional details, visit the Campus Life website.

Fredonia Sports Update: Pink the Rink

ANTHONY GETTINO

Assistant Sports Editor

Originally Published March 11, 2020

This weekend brought along a huge weekend for Blue Devils athletics.

There were many important contests that happened, but none were bigger to the community than the Pink the Rink game that happened Saturday night. The crowd at the game was electric for such a great cause.

Pink the Rink is the Fredonia Athletic Department's way of supporting breast cancer awareness, as many people are affected by the disease every year. The home game this past Saturday represented the 14th annual Pink the Rink here at SUNY Fredonia. The crowd and the team raise awareness by wearing pink, as that is the color representative of breast cancer awareness. Members of the community are encouraged to make a donation to this cause during the game. Jersey sales became available at the end of September, and for a donation of \$250, anyone would be allowed to place the name of a cancer survivor on the hockey player's nameplate. Instead of wearing their own name that night they will be representing the cancer survivor whose jersey they will be wearing. At the end of the game, the donor will get the game-worn jersey from the player during an on-ice ceremony. The game is played in February due to that being National Cancer Prevention Month.

Facing off against Potsdam proved to be a challenge, but one that the team wouldn't back down from in their pursuit of a playoff spot. Scoring for the Devils on the special night was Bryce Witman, Tommy Martyn and two goals by Victor Tracy. The game ended in a tie in overtime at a score of 4-4.

As for some of the other teams that competed this weekend, it was a mixed bag.

The men's basketball team lost both road contests, the first a 65-71 loss at Plattsburgh followed up with a 71-76 loss at the hands of Potsdam. The leading scorer against the Plattsburgh Cardinals for the Blue Devils was De'Quan Smith with 12. The most points scored against the Potsdam Bears were by Dyd Bryan with 16. They play New Paltz on Friday night and against Oneonta Saturday afternoon right here at Dods Hall.

As for the women's basketball team, they won both of their games with Anna Chiachia leading the way with 21 points in a 70-58 win over Plattsburgh. The next day the Blue Devils won an overtime thriller against Potsdam 94-87, with Katie Pitcher and Audrey Craffey both scoring 27. The women's team will also play New Paltz Friday night and Oneonta Saturday afternoon at home.



Alexis Carney | Photo Editor

Both the men's and women's swimming and diving teams had their meet canceled at Cortland Saturday.

They have the SUNYAC Championships February 19-20 in Buffalo.

The women's track and field team competed at the Utica College Blue and Orange Invitational this past weekend. Many solid performances at the meet, including Maddie Sohl in the triple jump, with a seventh-place finish, as well as a seventh-place finish in the 4x400 meter relay by Sarah Buckley, Emily Fish, Morgan Ashton and Ali Dixon.

As for the men's track and field team, they too traveled to Utica with some solid performances themselves. Collin Barmore ran a 1:57.16 in the 800-meter race, taking third place overall and qualifying for the regional championship. He was also a part of the 4x400 meter relay that took second place, along with Will Guagliardo, Toby Onuoha and Alec Wright. Onuoha also took fourth in the high jump and fifth in the triple jump. Other scoring performances include Daniel Sudyn taking sixth in the triple jump and a sixth-place finish for a second 4x400 relay team consisting of Ivan Torres, Griffin Dombroske, Matt Erman and Topher Elkins.

Next up for the Men and Women's Track and Field team is the SUNYAC Championships hosted at Brockport University on Friday, February 28 at 3 pm and Saturday, February 29 at 10 am.

For all final scores, stats, team schedules and information visit <https://fredoniabluedevils.com>.

Super Bowl LIVE and in person

DANTE LASTING

Former Sports Editor

Originally Published Feb. 11, 2020

For football players, getting to the Super Bowl is not an easy thing to do and is every player's dream. For me, it was an experience of a lifetime and it was a trip I will never forget.

The game on Sunday was amazing, as anyone would expect, but the real work started the day we got into Florida.

We arrived on the morning of Jan. 29 and did not have much time to relax once we got in. We had to check into our motel in Dania Beach then get to the volunteer headquarters in Miami before getting to our first shift of the week at the Super Bowl Experience. It all started to really sink in that we were going to be a small part of the biggest game of the year after we checked into the headquarters and got our credentials.

Along with those came with a lot of free stuff from the host committee to wear throughout the week. We received a dry-fit polo shirt along with a quarter-zip sweatshirt and a windbreaker. The Miami host committee paired up with clothing brand Perry Ellis, who designed all the volunteer gear.

After that, we made the journey over to the Super Bowl Experience. The Experience was housed in the Miami Beach Convention Center. With traffic in and around Miami being very hectic, it would take about an hour to go 20 miles or so. Once we arrived at the experience we received another set of credentials, a Swell water bottle and a teal long-sleeve that we needed to wear while we worked.

The Miami Host Committee and the NFL did a really nice job with the Super Bowl Experience. It was perfectly placed at the spacious Miami Beach Convention Center where for the week before the Super Bowl it was transformed into an NFL fan heaven. From the moment I stepped into the enormous main showroom my inner fan came out, and I was like a kid in a candy store.

For the fans who bought tickets, there was so much to do and you could really spend the entire day there. From current and former players signing autographs, to taking pictures with the Lombardi Trophy, every Super Bowl ring and some Hall of Fame bronze busts. There were also more interactive activities from being able to walk across the NFL Draft stage, walk into your favorite team's locker room and test your skills at every part of the NFL combine.

A few of the members of our group were stationed at the 40-yard dash, which was one of the more popular activities. There was a lot of running around that night, and not just from those competing but from me as well.

My job was to bring the runners' phones, wallets and bags down to another volunteer by the exit, so they did not have to worry



about hanging on to it while they ran. As the night went on, more and more runners wanted me to film them as they ran the 40-yard dash with their family and friends.

By the end of the night, our whole group realized how much time and effort that goes into just one day of Super Bowl week.

Thursday, Jan. 30 was another long day as we were all up early for a three-hour training at Hard Rock Stadium from 8:30-11:00 a.m.

The training was a lot of common sense information that most of us already knew, but we did get what we were to wear on Super Bowl Sunday. We all received another polo, a gray rain jacket, and a Super Bowl hat. After that we got a bite to eat at Cafe Metro before another shift at the NFL Experience from 1:00 to 6:30 p.m.

With all these Super Bowl events spread out between Miami Gardens, downtown Miami and Miami Beach, public transportation was not an option. The whole group split into two, and we filled up two minivans driven by Professor Becker and Dr. Fischer. At all times, getting in and around the Miami area was filled with traffic which meant that we spent a lot of time driving which led to some crazy conversations.

On Friday, we had time in the morning to enjoy the South Florida weather because we did not have to be in downtown Miami until 1:30 p.m. It was a nice change of pace because instead of being at the Convention Center we were volunteering at Super Bowl Live.

Super Bowl Live was an outdoor fan festival located at Bayfront Park. There were a lot of different activities and sponsored events along with food and live music. This was a free event for anyone to attend, which was different from the NFL Experience, which you had to buy a ticket to get into.

Our group was spread out all over the park, and I was placed at the NFL Pro Shop with Alexandra Walsh. We both were placed at the exit of the shop interacting with people as they left.

Saturday was a lot more of the same as we were back at the Convention Center for the Super Bowl Experience. It was the last day of it being open, so there were a lot of people there trying to get as much in before it closed for good. For that shift, they had me stationed at the NFL FedEx Air Challenge. This was where the fans had three attempts to throw footballs at three targets at different distances.

Super Bowl Sunday might have been the longest day out of all of them, but it was the most amazing experience.

Now the company that was in charge of all the volunteers was not the most organized and when we got to the

stadium in the morning, there was a lot of confusion and standing around. But once they placed us where we needed to be, my excitement started to pick up.



They split up our big group so that two people were on the 100 level, two people were on the 200 level and the remaining eight people in our group were on the 300 level. The 300 level was where most of the media were stationed and where they set up to watch the game. So our job was to greet the media and fans as they came up to our level and guide them to where their section was.

We mostly stood and explored a little bit until around 2:00 p.m. when they opened the gates. To see all the excitement on fans faces as they entered the stadium and came up to their section was unlike anything else. I saw little kids bright-eyed and in awe of where they were and older people who

had waited 50 years to see their Chiefs make it to the big game.

Once the game started there wasn't any foot traffic on our level, so we were able to go in the aisle and watch parts of the game. To be able to experience the Super Bowl, the halftime show and the trophy ceremony after was unlike anything I have been able to be a part of.

The game itself was great, and it is something I will never forget. I am so grateful for the opportunity I was given to go on this trip, and I would not trade it for anything.





THE SCALLION

Satire for modern Fredonia

I know everyone's panicking about this whole coronavirus thing, but has anyone seen my pants?

JOSEPH MARCINIAK

Bumbling Editor of the Scallion

Hey everyone, I know we're all panicked about this coronavirus thing, but I could really use some help with my pants situation. I placed them down somewhere and now I can't find them!

They're a pair of Levi's blue jeans, really nice, size 36-32. They're laying around here somewhere, right? Can't just disappear!

No, seriously guys — I can't lose them. If my mom finds out I lost my new pair of jeans, she'll kill me. Mom, if you're reading this right now, I swear this article is just a joke. I know exactly where my jeans are.

Last thing I remember, I was watching Space Jam on my VHS player, and I placed the jeans on my bed. I figured I'd put them on after I shower, I think. Well, my shower is



The pants in question | Illustration by Elyse Grieco

done, but where's the jeans?

Listen, I know you guys are all busy panicking about this pandemic or whatever is happening right now, but I think this is just a tiny bit more important. Just take a two second break from running around screaming to look for my jeans.

In fact, if you find them, please let me know by sending me an email at marc6930@fredonia.edu. Put the subject as "Big Jeans, Big Heart" so I know what you're emailing me about. Then in the body of the email please include a picture of said jeans so I can know you're for real, and not just messing with me like that rat Bobby keeps doing.

Bobby, if you're reading this, shame on you. Stop sending me pictures of jeans off Google images because you think it's funny to tease me, you asshole. I'll see you in Hell.

Widdle Adam Schiff uwu, puh-wease don't wook into tha whistlebwower!

JOSEPH MARCINIAK

Long-Suffering Editor of the Scallion

Hi everyone. Here at the Scallion, we strive for the finest articles. We sit for hours, discussing what is socially and politically relevant, and most of all, what is funny.

At our weekly meetings on Mondays, I had an idea. I wrote down the idea, and the title you see above was my idea. After a week of staring at my computer screen, I realized the terrible mistake I've made. After almost two decades of me living on this earth, I was still unable to gain the wisdom to realize that this article was indeed a bad idea.

But hey, this is a great learning lesson.

I'm not going to double down and deny it. I at one point thought

"Hey, this would be a good idea to put in the Scallion." Do I regret my choices? No, I do not. I learn and grow, as we all do.

Here I am typing this article with tears in my eyes as I realize the choices I must make. Someone will pay the price for this mistake. Dom Magistro, if you're reading this right now, you're fired for letting this article get this far.

Dom has been a valued writer, and currently serves as our assistant editor. However, he will deal with the consequences, since I don't feel like it.

Thank you for reading, and I promise this will never happen again.

"Wait you're wearing a **MAGA** hat as a social experiment? That's so profound, please have sex with me right now."

DOM MAGISTRO
Staff Scallywag

Fredonia, NY - Charles Watts was seen wearing a red hat with the famous slogan "Make America Great Again" printed in large block letters on it around campus. Watts walked confidently across campus Thursday morning, alone.

Known to be a very social person and rarely, if ever, separated from at least one friend, Watts' solitude was heard loud and clear. No one on the local campus wants to associate with anyone who could even remotely be interpreted as supporting Trump.

Even eating at Willy C's was a chore for poor Watts. His food took an extra long time to be prepared (a whole 20 minutes longer than normal!) and patrons threw garbage at him at regular intervals. One patron was cited as saying "that guy is a real jerk."

Now, my friend, what sort of reporter would I be if I didn't do my due diligence and have a conversation with the poor, malodorous lad? That would be appalling, almost as repulsive as the smell of body odor



Illustration by Carl Aldinger

wafting off of poor Watts. I tell you, dear reader, as I approached the lion's den of Cheetos and NRA bumper stickers, I could hear Fox News blasting from Watts' dorm room.

"Don't worry bro, it's just a social experiment. I wanted to see who would let something so dumb like what lying politician we like get between us. It's really like Marvel and DC movies, bro. We like what we like and one is clearly superior, but it has no effect on what we're like. I'm a nice guy!" said Watts.

Immediately, the smell of body odor became tolerable, perhaps even pleasant. I felt my heart racing and Watt's patchy neckbeard became something alluring. The way it accented his jaw as he slurred out "it's just an experiment to see who's really my friend" drove me crazy.

Ladies, gentlemen, and anyone else, I am here to tell you without a doubt in my mind that Charlie Watts is in fact very attractive, not a Trump supporter, and perhaps even going to vote blue no matter who. This is excellent news for anyone with a blind date with him later this week as this blind date will in fact not cause you to go blind.

Fredonia to introduce alternative transportation for inclement weather

MATTHEW BAUM

Staff Scallywag

The students at this university have been put through the weather wringer, with wind, waves, and whiteout wreaking havoc on the commute from one end of campus to the other. To combat this stress, Jess Tuitt, the head of the university Department of Transportation, has set in motion a plan to for more-efficient transport for students.

During the winter months, the bus system that makes its route around campus will be replaced by teams of sled dogs, according to Tuitt. Then, as the weather gets warmer, and the heaps of snow inevitably melt into water and flow down the street, the dogs will be given warm shelters, and a gondola will be utilized to get students from academic buildings to residences, and vice versa. Both of these units of transportation will be manned by the lovely drivers here at Fredonia, and they are currently in classes to become certified commercial gondoliers and dogsled drivers.

Tuitt, who was introduced as the head of Fredonia's Department of Transportation 8 years ago, said that she was waiting for an opportunity like last week's weather to finally arise.

"I'm so glad that conditions have fluctuated so violently in the last several days," she said when she was asked about her enthusiasm for the project. "I've wanted to replace the bus system since I first joined this lovely school, and all of my suggestions are more

fuel-efficient and clean than the current system."

Along with the dog sleds and gondolas, the bus route will change into an eight-seat bicycle route during the more temperate months, where if a student wants to catch a ride, they have to pedal to the metal. Not only will this be an easy and productive way to burn calories, but it will also provide a scenic view of up to seven other tired and bored students, as each seat faces into the middle of the vehicle.

Tuitt has also suggested a few alternatives to the transportation of students off-campus as well. She has started speaking to the mayor of Fredonia about installing a massive ski-lift-style chair conveyor from the top of Maytum Hall to the Walmart parking lot if students ever need to get away from their stresses while also having three hours free in their schedules. Similarly, there are some early discussions about providing Segways students can sign out, for when they feel like cruising around the nearby towns in an especially ridiculous way.

It's an exciting time to be a student without a car in SUNY Fredonia. Fingers are crossed that no tornadoes or hurricanes hit us anytime soon, because they may lead to paragliding and/or liferaft options to get from one place to another.




Illustration by Olivia Connor

HOROSCOPES

HANNAH BLIDY
Staff Scallywag


ARIES
i know you're sad about BJ's being closed, but you still have to go to class.




TAURUS
you're doing amazing sweetie!!!!



GEMINI
stop crying about the gyms being closed.



CANCER
i'm so sorry for your diagnosis. i heard dumb baby disease is fatal.



LEO
sagittarius looks suspicious to me.



VIRGO
don't forget your frat boy tropical shirt when packing to come back.



LIBRA
talented, brilliant, incredible, amazing, show-stopping, totally unique, completely-not-ever-been-done before.



SCORPIO
you're one of those people who doesn't wear a mask, aren't you?



SAGITTARIUS
how's that cough?



CAPRICORN
stop hexing the moon! she didn't do anything to you!



AQUARIUS
expect a starbucks date when we get back ;)



PISCES
you're the physical embodiment of t. swift's new album.





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