

05.04.2021

Issue 9 | Volume CXXVII

THE

LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

**Academic Integrity
Violations Rise**

**SUNYFEST:
Kesha and AJR**

Bryant Estate Has Left Nike

Fredonia Squirrel Club

**Open Letter About
Communism and the
Uyghur Genocide**



THE LEADER

S206 Williams Center
Fredonia, NY 14063

www.fredonialeader.org

Email leader@fredonia.edu

Twitter @LeaderFredonia

Instagram @leaderfredonia

Editor in Chief

Jessica Meditz

Managing Editor

James Mead

News Editor

Alisa Oppenheimer

Asst. News Editor

Chloe Kowalyk

Life & Arts Editor

Alyssa Bump

Asst. Life & Arts Editor

Open

Sports Editor

Anthony Gettino

Asst. Sports Editor

Open

Scallion Editor

Matthew Baum

Asst. Scallion Editor

Open

Web Editor

Ryan Dunning

Asst. Web Editor

Griffin Dombroske

Design Editor

Jules Hoepting

Asst. Design Editor

Open

Art Director

Open

Asst. Art Director

Lydia Turcios

Photo Editor

Alexis Carney

Asst. Photo Editor

Derek Raymond

Copy Editor

Anna Gagliano

Asst. Copy Editor

Open

Business Manager

Kemari Wright

Asst. Business Manager

Brett Hall

Ad. Sales Manager

Open

Social Media Manager

Hawa Tejan-cole

Asst. Social Media

Open

Adviser

Elmer Ploetz

What's in this issue?

News - 3

- This Semester in COVID
- Violations of Academic Integrity Policy Rise with Online Learning

Life & Arts - 6

- Empathy: The Showpiece of Resumes
- Keshia and AJR Take on SUNYFEST
- Student Art Sale Raises Record-High Donation for The Literacy Volunteers
- Music Industry Club Presents Soulstice Jam

Sports - 12

- Fredonia Spring Sports Season Winds Down
- Bryant Estate Has Left Nike

Opinion - 14

- FTDO James Mead
- FTDO Jessica Meditz
- Open Letter About Communism and the Uyghur Genocide
- What Fredonia Student Mental Health Looks Like

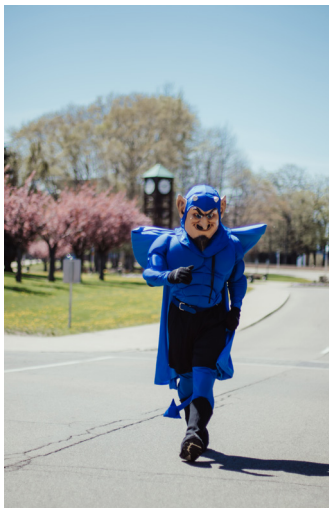
Photography - 20

- Derek Raymond: Blue Skies with the Blue Devil

Scallion - 28

- Catching Up with the Gecko Student
- MTG vs. AOC: Smackdown of the Century
- Fredonia Squirrel Club
- Horoscopes

Cover and Back Photo: The Blue Devil smiles as he walks toward his future. Photographs by Derek Raymond.



The Leader is funded through advertising revenue and a portion of the mandatory student activities fee. It is published by the students of SUNY Fredonia. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means except as may be expressly permitted in writing by the editor in chief. All opinion writings in The Leader reflect the opinion of the writer, with the exception of the editorial, which represents the opinion of the majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor must be 350 words or less and have a deadline of 4 p.m. on Friday. The Leader is printed by the Post-Journal in Jamestown, New York and is distributed free on campus and in the surrounding community. Press run is 1,000.

What's up? The sky? But the sky is also down.

A full look at this semester in COVID

MADISON BLASZ

Special to The Leader

We all know that the college experience has been transformed by the pandemic, but how did this spring semester go at SUNY Fredonia?

Under the circumstances, the whole campus did better than last semester: cases were cut by half.

President Dr. Stephen H. Kolison, Jr., said, "I think we did a lot better than last semester. We remembered what we had learned from last semester, which is the best practice. It has helped us to have a better semester."

Last semester, Fredonia had over 200 positive cases, but this semester that was cut in half with only 110 positive cases.

Cases would have been lower, but due to the weekend after St. Patrick's Day, 54 cases came back positive.

Fredonia has done a better job with the isolation process after that weekend and the campus now only has eight positive cases.

"We've done a better job, how to take care of students, faculty and staff. Even when it comes to instruction, our faculty is doing this for a second time, compared to the first semester not knowing what to expect," said Kolison.

Testing provided on campus each week helps the campus keep COVID-19 under control. Through testing, Fredonia is able to identify people very quickly.

Kolison said, "If someone tested positive we are able to try to address that much more rapidly, so that it is not spread. Having testing every week keeps people safe."

Everyone on campus is taking precautions during this pandemic, whether it be going to testing every week, washing their hands or getting the vaccine. This



Photo illustration. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

all helped Fredonia stay open for the entire semester.

"I have to give credit to students. Yes, we had some cases here and there, but for the most part, I think every student played a role in trying to keep COVID-19 under control," said Kolison.

Having most classes virtual this semester and some on campus played a key role in helping cases stay low. Many other universities closed their campus completely.

But Fredonia saw there was a sincere desire to go to school without having to close, and is aggressive in trying to stay open.

Every Thursday, Kolison sends out emails to the students and the campus, reminding everyone when case numbers came in and what they were, constantly making sure our campus is sanitized and to remind people to go to weekly testing.

The campus works very hard, and with the help of students that makes a big difference.

"I'm very proud of our students, faculty and staff for really rising to the

occasion. You know, it was difficult, I know that for a fact because I get all the complaints, I hear people. Everything comes to me by email, whatever the case may be. But I give credit to the fact that this campus really came together. Everybody was careful. Everybody kept in mind that we didn't want to go too close," said Kolison.

As the spring semester starts to wind down, what does Fredonia want in the future?

Between now and the end of summer, the hope is that the majority of the university will be vaccinated and that students, faculty and staff will take advantage of that vaccine.

"I think that's one way to be sure that we can have a regular fall semester. I hope that this coming fall we'll be back on campus and we will have more face to face, extracurricular activities, athletics and musical performances. These are the kinds of things that make this campus really alive," said Kolison.

Fredonia hopes students will all return back to school in the fall, and have a fresh start and a great year.

Violations of Fredonia's Academic Integrity Policy rise as a result of online learning

ALISA OPPENHEIMER

News Editor

In a campus-wide email, students were recently reminded of our school's Academic Integrity Policy and some of the common ways they might be violating this policy without fully being aware of the consequences.

This is because there has been a spike in violations of the Academic Integrity Policy this year.

The email reads: "Unfortunately, there has been an increase in reported violations of the Academic Integrity Policy this academic year. As a result, students have been required to attend academic integrity hearings for alleged violations, and academic sanctions have been given, including a grade of F for courses in which a violation to the Academic Integrity Policy has occurred."

There are a number of ways in which the Academic Integrity Policy could potentially be violated, but some of the more common ways that have been occurring recently include collusion, or unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism and cheating.

Could this have to do with many classes being virtual this year?

Professor Andrea Zevenbergen believes this could be a contributing factor.

Zevenbergen, Chair of the Academic Integrity Review Board, is fully involved in the student disciplinary process and has recently revised the relevant policies.

"Students may feel more anonymous because they haven't met their professors face-to-face," she said.

Although not being in a physical classroom may make it easier for students to cheat or plagiarize, there are certainly other components to these actions.

"The types of infractions we have been seeing this year nearly all relate to use of websites such as Course Hero and Chegg," said Zevenbergen.

"Students have been posting answers to exam questions and also plagiarizing answers from such sites."

Chegg and Course Hero are both websites that operate as online learning platforms, that offer services like textbook rentals, textbook solutions, study guides and online tutoring.

But more often than not, students are taking advantage of these services and not for the better — although both sites state that they do not condone these types of actions.

According to Interim Provost, Keavin Kearns, the increased

number of these commercial sites has a lot to do with it, along with having class virtually.

"Students are used to communicating and sharing information online and that, combined with the expanding availability of commercial sites, creates an environment that makes it easy to obtain information," he said.

"I suspect the anonymity of the online world contributes to the temptation to violate the integrity policy," he continued.

Through the recent high numbers of reported violations,

both Kearns and Zevenbergen feel as though students may not be fully aware of the integrity policy, and/or may not be fully aware of the extent of the consequences.

"The Academic Integrity Policy is included within the Student Code of Conduct and is part of the academic catalog, but students may not have read that policy carefully or recently," said Zevenbergen.

"Sanctions range from receiving a grade of zero on the assignment, to receiving a grade of F in the class, all the way up to suspension," she said.

The Academic Integrity Policy lists four categories of academic dishonesty and these include cheating, plagiarizing, colluding and fraud.

The two main changes recently made to the policy that will be in effect by fall have to do with how faculty handles these violations.

"First, it has been made easier for faculty members to submit Academic Integrity Incident Report Forms as the whole process is now electronic, including signatures," said Zevenbergen.

"The second change is that if even a single Academic Integrity Incident Report Form is submitted about a student, the student's advisor will be informed. This is to be able to have the advisor talk with the student about the violation to the policy, to try to prevent further incidents."

According to Zevenbergen, Fredonia's ultimate goal for the future is to prevent violations of the integrity policy from happening before they ever do.

In order to achieve this, students must do their part and make themselves aware of how the integrity policy can be violated and the consequences that come along with it.

For a full look at Fredonia's Academic Integrity Policy, students can search for it on fredonia.smartcatalogiq.com.



"Phones R Good 4 Cheats" by Mr_Stein is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.



FredoniaLeader.org

Positions available in:

- Writing
- Editing
- Photography
- Graphic Design
- Business
- Social Media
- Layout

Contact via email
leader@fredonia.edu



Life & Arts

Empathy: The Showpiece of Resumes

MADISON BLASZ

Special to The Leader

Did you know that empathy is an important skill that will serve you well in many areas of your life?

Most people do not know that you can show empathy within your resume and even your workplace.

When you're empathetic toward those you work with, you may notice a big difference in your interactions and overall job success.

On Wednesday, April 28 the Fredonia Honors Program and Career Development Office sponsored a virtual event, with guest speaker Dr. Irina Filonova.

Helping people from over 40 countries find jobs across the globe, Filonova presented *Empathy: The Showpiece of Resumes*.

She is a postdoctoral development specialist and career coach at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology who translates the value of empathy across multiple disciplines and cross-cultural communication.

Filonova focuses on how empathy is one of the most sought-out traits when it comes to employers searching for new hires.

Although there are multiple definitions of the word empathy, Filonova said, "It is a social and emotional skill that helps us feel and understand the emotions, circumstances, intentions, thoughts and needs of others so we can offer sensitive perspective and appropriate communication and support."

We now know that empathy is a skill that we as individuals can develop. It is not only about emotions, but empathy is outward-looking as well because we want to offer something at the end.

Filonova said, "If we're using empathy skills it has three components. According to researchers the three components are emotional, cognitive and responsiveness."

When we listen to stories and feel emotions, we are using our empathy skills. Filonova said, "When I told you about stepping into something slimy, you probably felt disgust and this is what we're talking about emotional empathy."



Photograph by Andrea Piacquadio from Pexels.

The next component, cognitive, is where we can understand that other people are different from us, and we can think through our feelings.

"Cognitive empathy is pretty much perspective talking, and for it to happen, we need to be developed, cognitively and behaviorally. We need to understand something that's called the theory of mind that other people are different from us, and they have different thoughts, feelings and emotions intentions," Filonova said.

The last component is responsiveness, which is also called empathetic concern, and it is how quickly and positively we

react to something.

Filonova said, "What are you going to do about this, no matter how big or small that action is. When we're showing empathy, we hope our action would be compassion towards the world and towards ourselves."

We need to make sure we do not confuse empathy with sympathy. Sometimes we do use them interchangeably, but they're a little bit different.

"Sympathy is the feeling of pity or sorrow for someone else, but empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another," Filonova said.

She made it clear that sympathy creates distance between individuals. Empathy, on the other hand, makes people feel closer to one another.

You are probably wondering how does this all relate to the workplace?

Let's say you wrote your beautiful resume, and it has shiny bullet points with empathy skills in disguise because that's what employers want.

Now you need to go networking, and go to interviews, and this is where empathy helps you a lot in relationship building.

Filonova said, "In interviews, it's not about interrogation, it's about a conversation. Empathy is social glue, people with higher empathy ratings come up as trustworthy, kind, good team players and good leaders because empathy holds us all together."

So, whether it's an interview or resume writing, we always want to think about other people and deliver what they want from us very clearly, and that is what empathy is all about.

Kesha and AJR take on SUNYFEST

CHLOE KOWALYK

Asst. News Editor

For the first time ever, SUNY featured a system-wide virtual music festival on Saturday, April 24.

A few weeks before the concert, all SUNY students were sent a survey where they could vote for the opening and main acts for the event.

The virtual concert began with a message from SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras.

Malatras described his own experiences with SUNYFEST, detailing how he always wanted to perform.

After Malatras' nostalgic story, the focus shifted to SUNY schools.

With over 40 campuses joining in, SUNYFEST began with student performances from various SUNY schools.

Two of Fredonia's own students performed, Natalie Marino, who lit up the stage with a fire spinning routine, and Zach Liddick, who put on a musical performance.

After many other SUNY schools showcased combinations of singing, dancing and other artistic performances, the scene changed and it was time for the opening act.

Opening for the main event was the band AJR, who recently released their album "OK OR-CHESTRA" on March 26 of this year.

The band was set on a stage with dancing lights and microphones.

Seeming as if they were right where they belong, AJR gave a stellar performance.

They performed a combination of older and newer songs, such as "Three-Thirty," "Way Less Sad," "Sober Up" and "Bang!"

AJR captivated many of the students, who were able to communicate with each other via a live chat.

Students across SUNY chatted with each other about the



Top: Kesha. Bottom: AJR.
Photos from SUNYFEST website.



band and their favorite songs. AJR even had an interactive segment in their opening act.

To really engage the audience, they showed how they use a soundboard to create their songs.

This set the beat for the next song, and helped the band connect with the virtual audience.

After AJR finished up their performance, Kesha took the stage.

With an amazing stage presence and upbeat attitude, Kesha put on a great show.

Much like AJR, Kesha performed a mix of her older, classic songs, and a few more recent she's been working on lately.

Kesha's setlist included songs such as "We R Who We R," "Woman," "Timber" and "TiK ToK."

She was very active with the audience, and even told the students to dance along at home.

Kesha's portion of the virtual concert was very well-received by the SUNY community.

Students in the live chat expressed their excitement and gratitude for SUNY setting up such a fun event.

In light of the pandemic, SUNY wanted to organize something fun for the students.

Watching Kesha dance around on stage just for us made many students feel special.

Although it wasn't a live concert we could attend in person, getting to see two amazing artists perform for SUNY as well as watching SUNY students perform was a great experience, and it made for a fun Saturday night.

Student art sale raises record-high donation for The Literacy Volunteers

ALYSSA BUMP
Life & Arts Editor

Every semester, Fredonia art students organize an art sale in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Williams Center.

This semester, it took place on April 19 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Thirteen tables were set up with products to sell that ranged from ceramic pieces, art prints, stickers, t-shirts and more.

Going from table to table, each one had its own theme with unique pieces of art.

Also, 30 percent of proceeds were donated to The Literacy Volunteers.

Angeline Ginsberg, a junior ceramics major, helped coordinate the sale with two fellow ceramics majors: Jonah McGrath and Francesca Olivo.

The sale is not organized through a club, but rather independently by these students.

"Basically the students that came before us last year passed down the paperwork. We just edited it and had a lot of COVID-19 updates," said Ginsberg.

Last semester, each table could only have one person, but for this year's sale, two people were allowed to be at a table.

This was the set up for Keri Manne and Kayla Prigg.

Manne, an animation and illustration major, and Prigg, a drawing and painting major, each had their own side

of their table with their products.

Manne specializes in using oils on canvases as well as digital illustration.

"I do a lot of commissions with digital because they are more affordable and I can do them faster," they said.

Manne mostly sold prints and some "studies," which are small, practice paintings on paper that they create before doing a large-scale painting.

Manne also sold two original paintings.

"I definitely find that the cheaper items are the ones that are selling the most which is totally understandable. It's mostly students coming in here, and they can't really afford a big piece," said Manne.

Beyond finding a buyer who is willing to pay the price for an original piece, it can also be hard for the artist to part ways with their work.

"You put part of your heart into your work, you know? Especially the originals because you've spent so many hours on it." They continued, "My painting professor always encourages us to sell because we are always going to be making more... if it's in a good home, it'll be more appreciated."

As for Prigg, she also specializes in oil paintings. She also had some prints and stickers of her self-portraits from her "FREAK" collection.

The original pieces from this collection were recently featured in the Emmitt Christian Gallery.

Getting a chance to sell their work came at a first-come first-serve basis.

"We actually had too many people [that wanted to sell their work] where we had to actually make cuts this semester," said Ginsberg.

Because the sale raised a bit over \$1,400 last semester, which broke the previous record for how much money was donated, Ginsberg believes that more people were interested in participating this semester.

With the high number of sales from last semester, many students also wait in anticipation for this sale.

"There are people who literally look forward to this day... they'll save their money up for this specific reason and then spend \$50 to \$100 on everyone's stuff," said Ginsberg.

Having a chance to get people to appreciate the hours of work put in to create these pieces is extremely special to these artists.

"It's great to see people who want to buy it and are interested in it. The community comes in and a lot of the union workers will come in. It's just great to see the involvement," said Ginsberg.

This semester's sale broke the previous record of \$1,400 by raising \$2,215 for The Literacy Volunteers.

It is great to see that despite the COVID-19 guidelines, the campus and local community came out to support these talented artists.



Photographs by Derek Raymond.



The Weather Might Say Otherwise via Instagram @twms0.



Kiddie Pool via Instagram @kiddiepoolband.



Jacob King via Instagram @enteringorbitrecords.



Ashford via Instagram @ashfordbflo.



Viewers watching Jacob King. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

Music Industry Club presents spring '21

Soulstice Jam

JORDAN BUDD

Special to The Leader

On April 24, the Music Industry Club hosted their annual Soulstice Jam, which has been described as a “staple of the MIC agenda.”

The event is usually held in Dods Grove, but considering the pandemic, it looked a little different this year.

Performers turned in videos of their show which was projected onto the screen in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Williams Center. Here, viewers and club members gathered safely.

Kenny Haller, the president of the Music Industry Club, described how this version of the event was certainly not the first plan of action.

Nevertheless, he was excited to get back to some sense of normalcy as it had been an entire year and a half since the club had the chance to put on an event. He mentioned how rewarding it was to see everyone’s hard work pay off, especially his fellow E-board members.

The versatile and prolific artist, Jacob King, gave the audience a warm entry of acoustic tunes. His silky voice and melodious falsetto floats throughout his well-crafted songs.

Furthermore, his impressive guitar work shines through in extensive instrumental sections. This strumming talent was present in his unreleased closer, which he wrote just a week prior to his performance.

King’s songs often feature eye catchy titles like “Stranger Whispers the Name of My Generation’s Leader.” He expressed how naming songs and albums is an important part of his creative process as he often starts with a title as the foundation and then builds off that.

His influences range far and wide as he embraces everyone from Neil Young, to Frank Zappa, to Ty Segall to Yoko Ono.

When entering a new project or song, he said he tries to combine a couple influences into his own concoction and often dreams about what one person can do with sound as a solo act.

King was quickly followed up by the all-girl band, Kiddie Pool, for their live

debut. The first song was an indie slow burner, titled “F*ck You,” whose power came in its deliberate sensitivity.

The main vocalist, Megan Munro, reflects on a relationship on the rocks, but by the end, can’t help admit that she would kiss them back if they made the first move. They played in a basement show setting that many of us miss during these troubling times, which was a bittersweet touch that fit the ruminative music.

Their final song, “Cut Your Bangs,” had more of an acoustic indie folk feel to it. The polite and mellow trumpet solo from bassist, Hannah Batsford, was gentle and pleasing to the ears.

This added instrumentation came to a climax just before the band rolled into their final chorus. It seems Kiddie Pool’s knack for portraying emotional stories will be their key to success.

The emo rockers, The Weather Might Say Otherwise, were full of personality, performing in an almost music video like setting that was all decked out with art and posters.

The band members were witty and quick to come up with lead jokes that introduced their songs. Their fuzzy guitar sound and catchy riffs introduced an edginess to the event.

Damian Brown, their lead vocalist, poured his heart out across the expeditious drums and guitars in “I’LL DRINK TO THAT” while sporting a button up sweater and turtleneck. He came across as a modern-day emo prince with his dark hair draped over his face, and a vocal delivery reminiscent of early 2000s alt rock.

I can’t help but associate these images and sounds with Gerard Way of My Chemical Romance, yet it’s important to mention that the Fredonia band isn’t defined by this MySpace era.

They seem to focus on a more casual, emo revival aesthetic as well. Besides, these are no shots targeted at a lack of originality, as their authenticity should have an asterisk next to it as one of their most relatable and redeeming qualities.

Zach Richardson’s drum fills pushed the songs forward and the bassist, Tanor Morrison’s, background vocals were a

solid touch. They closed their set with a cover of the generational, yet seemingly evergreen anthem, “Mr. Brightside,” that incited singing and hums throughout the Williams Center.

The pop punk goofballs from Buffalo, Ashford, took listeners further down the event’s fun spiral into emo music and the scene subculture in general.

The band featured multiple vocalists including brothers Trevor and Tom Balbierz, and Nathan Kohler in the mix as well. Their harmonization blended well amidst the band’s edgy sound.

They took the stage — or rather the screen — with “Perennial,” a track from their latest project, “Patterns.” The feedback from this song moodily dragged out for a moment until the drummer launched them into the following, high-speed tune, “Before.”

On their terminal song, “Wasn’t Worth It,” Trevor’s raw scream lit up their electric set with a bang. It was clear that he put everything into this, as he recuperated in the aftermath.

Looking physically tired, he admitted “I’m dying,” before praising the college town and its associated venues.

A Fredonia favorite, Fernway, was the last band to hit the stage.

Their blend of alternative, emo, pop, rock and some light elements of jazz culminate into a familiar, but unique sound. Their song, “XXIII,” had a nice bounce to it and a synth melody that hung about the pop rock instrumentation.

It is clear to me why the band’s warm sound characterized by twinkling guitar melodies is near and dear to Fredonia students’ hearts. Each instrument was given a moment to shine in their song, “I Have to Return Some Video Tapes,” in which the lead singer’s accessible coo was a nice change of pace within the event’s diverse group of artists.

Fernway closed out the night appropriately, and surely continued to grow their audience in Fredonia.

Haller took the screen one last time to thank everyone for coming out and hoped for an exciting return to a live and in-person Soulstice Jam 2022.

SPORTS

Fredonia spring sports season winds down

ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

This past week saw many of our Blue Devil squads finish out their regular season schedules and begin to prepare for the SUNYAC Championships. Men's and women's track and field, softball, baseball and tennis had competitions.

With their regular season finale canceled against Geneseo, Fredonia's tennis team concluded with a 6-3 loss to SUNY Brockport.

Bella Surma was the lone victor of a point for the Blue Devils, sweeping both sets. The team's other two points came from no contests.

The team will know if they will qualify for the SUNYAC Tournament after Sunday's contest between Oswego and Brockport.

Softball has kept their playoff hopes alive this week after a roller coaster weekend set. The team dropped both games of its double header to Buffalo State on the road before sweeping Geneseo at home Saturday.

In the first loss to Buff State, the team couldn't pull off a last inning rally, tallying only one run in a 10-9 loss. Delana Thomas and Marisa Sultana each had three hits in the game and Syd Merkley had three RBI.

In the second game, the team was only able to get the bat on the ball three times, with two of those off the bat of Nicole Kumro.

On senior night, the team seemed to find a new level of play. The first game ended in a 3-0 shutout for the Devils behind Katie Yudin at the mound. Evelyn Webster, Alyssa Piniewski and Kumro each drove in a run in the fourth inning.

The second game showed some swagger, as the team came back from a 4-0 deficit to win 6-5, with all six runs coming in the third inning.

Sultana drove in three with a long double, Alyssa Piniewski had an RBI single, as did Amber Piniewski.

The softball team has a double header Wednesday and can

still qualify for the SUNYAC playoffs.

The baseball team also split the week, although they did so in the opposite fashion. Alfred State came to town Monday and was swept by the Blue Devils.

Sam Cestra pitched the complete game in 85 pitches and received run support off of two errors and a sacrifice grounder. The team had just three hits in the game.

The second game had a 6-3 outcome in favor of the Blue Devils. The bats came to life in this one, with 10 hits total. Three of these were from Tylor Murphy and two others came from Zach Hemphill.

On Saturday, the team took two losses at the hands of Oswego on the road. The first game ended in a 17-6 score while the second was 9-2.

Murphy and Ryan Hann had four of the team's five total hits in the first game, while five different players each recorded one hit in the second game's five hit effort.

The Blue Devils close out their season with a Wednesday double header at Brockport before their senior day Saturday, May 8 versus Cortland State.

Both the men's and women's track and field teams had their regular season finale at the Brockport Invite this past Saturday.

On the women's side, Morgan Ashton and Ali Dixon took first and second in the 400 meter hurdles in 71.74 seconds and 75.64 seconds, while Vanessa Ryhal was able to win her heat of the 800 meter race in 2:35.15 seconds. MaryClaire Haseley took second in her heat of the 1500 meter in 5:16.4 seconds. Eleanor Clarke placed fourth in the javelin with a 30.55 meter throw.

On the men's side, TyeRyan Burke ran a season best 51.22 second 400 to place fourth, Collin Barmore ran a season best 800 meter race in 1:56.93 to place second and Mark Schneider ran a season best in the 5k of 16:24.46 to win the event. Toby Onuoha took a second place finish in the high jump with a 1.85 meter jump.

Both squads will travel to Cortland for the SUNYAC Championships on Saturday.



Photograph by Derek Raymond.

Bryant estate has left Nike

SOBAN FAISAL

Special to The Leader

Tom Brady, Dwayne Johnson, Kobe Bryant, Serena Williams, Drake, Eminem, Rihanna, Jay-Z, LeBron James and Lionel Messi. What do all these people have in common?

They have all shaped the 21st century and those who have grown up in this century.

Now imagine you are at home with your mom and siblings watching television while your dad and younger sister are on the way to her basketball game. Your show is interrupted by a piece of breaking news that your dad and younger sister were in a crash with no survivors.

This tragedy is what the Bryant family went through on January 26, 2020. Kobe Bryant was an extremely influential person who shaped the lives of millions throughout his lifetime.

The five-time NBA champion, 2008 Most Valuable Player and future Hall of Famer has gone above and beyond off the court.

Dominick Roman is a junior at SUNY Fredonia and perfectly explains how Kobe Bryant inspired the youth worldwide “by influencing basketball as a sport in general.”

He explains, “Growing up, you hear kids shooting paper balls into the garbage can in class yelling ‘KOBE.’ Just the fact that everyone knows that or has even done that shows how much he was well known.”

Bryant loved helping children of all races and ethnic backgrounds. Kobe Bean Bryant has appeared for Make-A-Wish over 100 times through two decades. Bryant and his family have been very outspoken on youth homelessness, which led him and his wife, Vanessa Bryant, to team up with My Friend’s Place and Step Up on Second to fight homelessness in the Los Angeles area.

Kobe Bryant is a superstar on and off the court everywhere globally, not just



“Kobe Bryant, Nike Kobe 11 Launch Event, Los Angeles”
by edtrigger is licensed with CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

in the United States. The same month that he won the NBA championship, he created the Kobe Bryant China Fund to raise money for education, sports and culture programs for children of both China and the United States.

He took part in the NBA Cares initiatives, where he stocked food pantries, supported reading initiatives, built homes and basketball courts. In his MVP year, he became the spokesman for Aid Still Required, which helps areas destroyed by natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. Back in Bryant helped raise over \$80 million for cancer research, according to The Undefeated.

Kobe Bryant does not just make changes in a suit and tie starting organizations. He lived his everyday life to help others. On a cold and foggy December 13, 2019, Bryant left his car in an intersection. He saw a wreckage, so as he does, he talked to the victims and helped direct traffic until the police came.

After Kobe Bryant’s retirement from the NBA in 2016, he had signed a five-year contract extension with Nike that just expired this past Tuesday. Vanessa Bryant and the Kobe Bryant estate decided not to renew their partnership

with Nike. Rumors are that the Bryant estate has been annoyed with the decrease of Kobe product availability after his retirement, especially after his death.

Vanessa Bryant and the Kobe Bryant estate reportedly will not settle for anything less than a “lifetime” deal, such as with LeBron James and Michael Jordan. Nike does not seem to have the same idea in mind. It looks like the Bryant estate will be flirting with other companies to reach the deal they want, which includes their branch brand named “Mamba,” the famous nickname bestowed upon the late great Kobe Bryant.

Bryant deserves at least that much. He has influenced the NBA immensely. Kobe Bryant introduced the low-top shoes and soon after he wore them,

roughly half of the players started wearing low tops. Some players such as Devin Booker, P.J. Tucker, DeMar DeRozan, Buddy Hield, Isaiah Thomas and several others have created their player-exclusive colorway of Kobe shoe models, according to ESPN.

Jordan Purvis is a senior and resident assistant at SUNY Fredonia.

In response to whether the Bryant estate deserves a ‘lifetime’ deal, Purvis said, “What? That shouldn’t even be a question. Kobe has done a lot for Nike, and his family deserves to see a return from them.”

As for whether the Bryant estate should go to a different company if Nike doesn’t offer that deal, however, he said, “No, I’m afraid I have to disagree — the reason why is because they don’t have a connection to Kobe on or off the court.”

Kobe Bryant is a top 100 most influential person for our generation. On the court, players wanted to be him. People want to emulate his work ethic. He has shown the perfect way to balance work and family. Bryant has shown us the good in humanity and that our children need to be protected. He deserves for his legacy to be safe.

OPINION

From the desk of **James Mead**, Managing Editor



From the desk of **Jessica Meditz**, Editor in Chief



Four years ago, if you told me that my college years would've been like this, I would've looked at you like you had 10 heads.

And no, I'm not talking about a certain virus that shall not be named (entirely).

I'm alluding to all of the things that I've accomplished and all of the hurdles I've jumped to become the person I am today.

I came to Fredonia on a whim as a confused high school graduate from Queens. My grades were subpar at best during high school.

I was mentally damaged from attending four years of pre conservatory dance training: anxiety, depression, disordered eating, bullying, low self esteem and self worth, perfectionism, comparison, unhealthy competition, teachers who didn't believe in me — you name it, I had it going on.

Coming to Fredonia with nothing but my laptop and a new major (journalism) that I hardly knew anything about was difficult beyond belief.

I'll never forget the first news article I had to write for Mike Igoe's foundations in journalism class that required an interview. I freaked out; my social anxiety got the best of me and I probably got one decent quote out of the guy I talked to.

Now, I'm graduating with honors and I'm the editor in chief of this very quaint, yet amazing newspaper that will be like my baby forever. Oh, how the times have changed.

Being the editor in chief of The Leader has been interesting, to say the least.

At times, I felt like I was leading a watchdog organization; but most times, it was blissful knowing that I had such a talented, dedicated team behind me. I was able to watch myself grow as a communicator, as a journalist, as a woman — all through leadership.

As messed up as this academic year was, the one thing that I learned is to be ready and accepting of change.

During my first three years at Fredonia, I watched the upperclassmen I knew dread leaving college and going into the "real world." I was prepared to be the exact same way.

Despite everything, I was optimistic for my senior year. Things went south quickly, however.

I didn't feel safe or valued in the university I once called home, I didn't have the same craving for knowledge I once had and I came to the simple realization that not everyone is going to have as good a heart as me.

As a result of all that, I spent this spring semester at home in NYC (a remote editor in chief, imagine that) ...

It's been hard and I'm still not done with school at this point in time, but I like to think I got through it.

And I certainly didn't get through it alone; thank you to my parents, my sister, Stephanie, all of my amazing professors and friends old and new, James Mead, my managing editor and my editorial partner in crime, Alyssa

Bump, my amazing friend and upcoming editor in chief (good luck, girl!) and of course, Elmer Ploetz, who has acted as a mentor (and a therapist, sometimes) through it all.

My point is that sure, it's going to be at least slightly bittersweet to say goodbye to Fredonia forever (capstone taco Thursday, I'm talking about you).

But I'm ready to move on.

I'm ready for new opportunities and experiences, new like minded people I have yet to meet and new, bigger ways to pursue my passion: journalism. I mean, I'm from the greatest city in the world for crying out loud!

And this is coming from the same girl who left in the middle of class to cry on the phone with her mom that her college years were ruined when the governor announced schools will close.

Of course I get sad sometimes that things didn't go as planned. But in the grand scheme of things, I am very lucky.

Dedicated healthcare workers, like my aunt and my cousin, saw the worst of this virus unfold in front of their faces. So many people struggled financially to debilitating degrees. Some, unfortunately, did not make it out of this pandemic alive.

But I'm here, I'm fully vaccinated and I'm feeling as strong and confident as ever.

I'm ready to make the world a better place by helping out little by little, spreading truth through the power of my words.

The Uyghur Genocide: An open letter to the international communist community

JOSHUA HORCH

Special to The Leader

The American/international communist community has equal contempt for both left and right political parties in the U.S.

A typical liberal in the U.S. is considered far right by the communist community. Most communists look to China as an example of how a country should be run.

Being a serious contender to the U.S. as a global power, while following communist principles, the Chinese Communist Party is glorified by the communist community.

Due to this, there is a pattern within the community of pushing aside the questionable practices of the CCP to achieve an end of a unified nation under one party, including the current crisis in the province of Xinjiang.

This letter is a call-out to the communist community: Leninists, Marxist-Leninists, Stalinists, Ararco, Maoists, etc. to condemn, or at least question, the current practices.

About eight months ago, I finished a book called “The Gulag Archipelago” by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

The book painted a picture of the Soviet-forced labor camp system during the first half of the 20th century. After finishing this book, I became fixated on trying to have a better grasp of communism.

I felt that a lot of what I had been taught about this ideology was biased. I don't think I ever truly had an objective opinion about it. I didn't like this ideology because that's what I was taught to think growing up, but I never took the time to truly understand the fundamentals and values of communism.

I found myself spending quite a bit of my free time studying this doctrine and becoming involved in the communist community. So far, I still disagree with most of the concepts. However, giving the credit where it's due, I will say there

have been several ideas within communism that I have found convincing arguments for, and have, in fact, argued for them.

Still, there is not enough to embrace it.

With that being said, there is one particular topic in the international community of communism that I fundamentally disagree with: the glorification of the Chinese Communist Party and the denial of the genocide of the

The imam (an individual who leads prayer in a mosque) of the Sidiuweiqi mosque in Hetian prefecture, said: “Because they are unemployed, Uyghur women and youngsters have turned into prostitutes and vagrants. Pray Allah to save their souls, to give them jobs. Let the sound of our tears move Allah. A crowd of one thousand were thus led to cry loudly.”

The Xinjiang's Party secretary, Wang Lequan said in 1991, “The major task



“urumchi genocide” by Uyghur Turkistan is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

Uyghur population that is taking place in the Xinjiang province of China.

What we are seeing in Xinjiang is all too familiar. This is a modern-day genocide.

The CCP maintains that religious persecution has no place in China and allows individuals to practice freely.

However, the slow and methodical restriction of practicing Muslims contradicts this claim.

Ramping up in the '90s, the CCP justified these new laws under the shroud of combating religious extremism.

What constitutes extremism? The Human Rights Watch attained a report from the highest political authority in Xinjiang that shows an example of religious extremism.

facing the authorities in Xinjiang was to manage religion and guide it in being subordinate to... the central task of economic construction, the unification of the motherland and the objective of nation unity.”

I ask, what exact means are required for an end of managing religion to be subordinate to the motherland?

One step at a time, the laws became stricter and stricter towards the Uyghur population.

This was never known by the international community because the CCP passed a law that classified almost all national religious or minority matters as “State Secrets.” Hence, the persistent lack of information and transparency in the autonomous region of Xinjiang.

A detailed report by The Human Rights Watch carefully tracked the slow and methodical persecution of the Uyghurs. In 2001, the laws regulating what constitutes normal religious practice became more specifically defined: all citizens who profess a religion were required to declare support for party leaders, registration of religious organizations became stricter, control over religions publications became tighter and these laws all came with heavier sanctions and penalties: “a 2,000 yuan fine (more than the average income of a Xinjiang resident), cancellation of registration of religious activities, or even a charge of endangering state security.”



“urumchi genocide” by Uyghur Turkistan is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

Next, came “A Manual of Urumqi Municipality Ethnic Religious Work” (Urumqi is the capital of Xinjiang) that outlines illegal religious activities. Some such activities are: “Compelling people to believe, compelling people to participate in religious activities, privately organizing religious study schools, beautifying, revamping or enlarging places for religious activities without obtained authorization, printing religious propaganda material without authorization, going abroad to study religion without authorization, privately setting up a religious spot and conducting proselytism without registration, slandering the authorities, stirring up trouble.”

The broad wording and poorly

defined restrictions gave the CCP the unchecked ability to persecute most religious activities.

These laws slowly chipped away the rights of the Uyghurs, and were just the beginnings of the laws limiting Uyghurs.

They became marginalized, dehumanized and ultimately made them more dependent on the government. They have not stopped.

Does this sound familiar? It does to me.

When Hitler rose to power, his first step was not the gas chambers. No, he understood that genocide is a slow, strategic and methodical game of inches. A game of chess.

In 1933, choosing the slow stroke of a pen over a gun, he cast his first anti-Jewish legislation. It was small, but it was only to test the waters.

Over the next decade, armed with an army of lawyers, he waged a campaign of anti-Jewish legislation. This slowly limited the Jewish community on how to live and worship. All under the shroud of legal legitimacy, he pushed Jews away from society.

In a civilized world we must have rules. However, as we have learned, the rules don’t need to be embedded with moral and ethical justifications for them to be implemented. They simply need to be articulated and legitimized by a governing body.

If the rules are slowly and methodically implemented and followed, no matter how inhumane, a good-hearted individual can justify the inhumanity to themselves, and ultimately obey.

That has been, in my opinion, the playbook that the CCP has followed.

Fast forward to now: what is happening to the Uyghurs? Something that should be unthinkable in the enlightened world that we claim to be living in.

The Canadian Human Rights Commission detailed the survivors’ stories in an extensive report.

Nearly two million Uyghurs are detained in what the CCP has labeled “Re-education camps” for no other reason than their ethnicity.

The lucky ones who have escaped explain that they are not allowed to speak their native language, are forced to praise the Chinese government and are abused physically, sexually and psychologically.

The Canadian Subcommittee also reports that “The Government of China is collecting DNA information from detainees, without their consent, to determine the compatibility of their organs for later harvesting.”

This is something that China has been notorious for in the past.

The Australian Police Institute has reported extensively on the forced labor that the Uyghurs are subjected to.

They estimate that nearly 80,000 Uyghurs were transferred to factories around China for forced labor between 2017 and 2019.

This was hidden under the CCP poverty reduction initiative.

According to Vicky Xiuzhong Xu, some of the factories where Uyghurs work include Apple, BMW, GAP, Huawei, Nike, Samsung, Sony and Volkswagen.

The Canadian Human Rights Committee, along with many other agencies, have highlighted several alarming and atrocious acts committed against women and young girls throughout this region.

For example, the CCP has used forced contraception, such as IUDs, that can only be removed through surgery.

“Eighty percent of all new IUD placements in China took place in

Xinjiang, despite Xinjiang representing less than two percent of the population in China,” the Canadian Subcommittee reported.

Additionally, women are forced and coerced into sterilizations and abortions and are injected with unknown substances that cause them to lose their menstrual cycles.

In an article for The Jamestown Foundation, Adrian Zenz reported that population growth in the two areas of China with the largest Uyghur population fell by “84 percent between 2015 to 2018;” one area had a “near-zero birth rate.”

China proudly claims this is because women are being empowered through education and contraceptives offered by these re-education camps.

The most troubling reports are the ones of widespread systematic rape within these “re-education camps.”

Personal accounts recite this as being a daily occurrence for women and young girls.

The BBC interviewed and reported on several women who escaped different camps. One explained how, “Women were removed from the cells every night and raped by masked men.” Other victims who escaped recited countless horrendous incidents of young women being violated by men and objects — stories that I will not share in this piece.

A simple search on the internet will show innumerable testimonies of victims explaining these tragedies.

Going back to Nazi Germany, January, 1942 at the Wannsee Conference in Berlin.

Several of Hitler’s top ranking officials gathered to discuss the final solution to the Jewish question. There, they decided how to systematically kill millions of Jews.

How did it get to that point? It was an accumulation of a slow and methodical plan to turn the Jewish community into “others.”

Common statements ranged from: “There is something wrong with them,” “They need to change,” to “They are not fit for the society we want,” “Silence.”

What’s happening in China is a mod-

quite fit the criteria to be murdered and forcing the Uyghurs to work to help China to become a powerhouse in the economic war between the West, as the Jews were used in the camps to help the war effort for the nazis making guns, ammo and supplies. And ultimately, and most tragically, the rape and killing of Uyghurs, just as the Jewish community was subjected to.

To my communist friends: I know most of this information had little value to you. I understand your distrust for Western media and your worry of imperialist influence.

I am not here to attack your ideology or demand a fundamental change. I just ask that you consider the possibility that reports of what is happening in Xinjiang might have some truth.

I would argue the extreme unlikelihood that the thousands of reports of these crimes are all false. At the very least, we should get some transparency.

I lived in China. I know that transparency is not something the CCP advocates.

But these claims are serious, and I think the CCP has an obligation to prove unequivocally to the international community that they are false. If they are, then we can all sleep comfortably.

However, if these claims are true, I challenge you to stand against the CCP. You cannot claim to be for the people if you push these allegations aside. No one deserves this, regardless of whether it furthers the ideology or unifies the people.



“urumchi genocide” by Uyghur Turkistan is licensed with CC BY-NC-SA 2.0.

ern-day genocide — an updated version of what we saw 70 years ago.

We aren’t at the point of gas chambers yet, I don’t think, but we are displaying the symptoms of genocide: laws marginalizing the community and restricting their religious practices, a police state that values secrecy over transparency, moving the Uyghurs to “re-education camps” away from society, as the Jews were moved to ghettos, forced sterilization of Uyghurs, as the Nazis forced part-Jewish women and men to be sterilized who did not

What does **student mental health** look like at Fredonia?

CHLOE KOWALYK

Asst. News Editor

The past few semesters have not been easy for the majority of college students.

The combined stress of COVID-19, the fights against racial violence and the immediate switch to online learning and isolation have had detrimental effects on the mental health of college students.

According to a recent survey I conducted on 94 college students to examine student mental health during the pandemic, 92 percent of students rated their stress levels as high.

Ninety one percent of these students rated their anxiety as high, and 86 percent of students said their stress and anxiety levels are higher this semester compared to semesters not affected by COVID-19.

SUNY Fredonia students are no exception to this sharp decline in mental health.

This semester, Fredonia made the decision to have class for 14 weeks straight with no breaks.

The decision was made to avoid students going home or traveling in hopes of avoiding spreading the virus.

Unintentionally or not, SUNY Fredonia has taken part in the nationwide blaming of college students for the increase of positive cases.

Rather than acknowledging that the rising case numbers may be due to an increase in positive cases in the community or simply as a result of the failure of the campus health plan, many colleges blame college students for partying, thus spreading the virus.

Akshay Syal, a reporter for NBC, suggests that colleges should employ “harm-reduction approaches instead of imposing abstinence-only-type policies, teaching students how to safely socialize with friends.”

Many Fredonia students, who feel they are being blamed, hope to see these

approaches next semester.

With the constant classes with no breaks, many students feel overwhelmed.

Ninety two percent of students responded to my survey saying they feel unmotivated and burnt out.

One SUNY Fredonia student, Hunter Halterman, said he is feeling exhausted and wishes the university would “not smush an entire semester into a shorter

However, SUNY Fredonia students hardly got a break.

One student lamented, “We have twice the amount of work than ever and even less days off, it’s not fair to anyone.”

Another student said that they wished SUNY Fredonia would give students “an actual break, not two random mental health days.”

Many students ended up using these days as a way to catch up on work, rather than focusing on relaxing and improving their mental health.

The mental health days were held on a Tuesday and a Wednesday, respectively.

The choice of dates once again contributes to student-blaming.

Choosing days toward the middle of the week would prevent students from going home on a long weekend.

However, SUNY Fredonia has instituted another means of improving the mental health of their students.

Each Monday, Enrollment and Student Services sends out an email on behalf of Student Well-ness and Support.

The emails have the subject line “FSUFREDWELL” and include information about how students can manage any stress or anxiety they are feeling.

The FREDwell program also offers several destressing events, including coloring, rock painting and KanJam. There is also a FREDwell lounge in the Williams Center where students can attend peer-led groups to manage mental health, stress and coping techniques.

Unfortunately, according to a poll conducted on The Leader’s Instagram page, a vast majority of students don’t utilize the FREDwell lounge.

Fredonia’s student body hopes for more emotional support services and the recognition of the importance of student mental health next semester.



An empty FREDwell lounge. Photographs by Jules Hoeping.

time with the same amount of work and no breaks.”

After a student-created petition circulated the campus advocating for a break from classes, Fredonia reluctantly selected two dates — April 13 and April 21 — which they called “mental health days” where no classes were held.

In a statement regarding the two added mental health days, President Kolison said, “Students, I encourage you to use these days to de-stress, and take a breath.”

Blue skies with the Blue Devil

Photographs by Derek Raymond

















THE SCALLION



Catching up with **Geraldine**, SUNY Fredonia's first **gecko student**

MATTHEW BAUM

Scallion Editor

It's been over a year since we've had the luxury of meeting and talking with Geraldine Wilcox and her former roommate, Savannah, and we at the Scallion wanted to hear how this dynamic duo has been handling the 2020-21 school year, given all that's happened.

When we last spoke with the Wilcoxes, Geraldine was a history major, living in a modified double and going around campus in a customized Class Cart.

Since then, Wilcox has changed her major to creative writing, and modified her course load so that she only has to take virtual classes from her apartment in Queens. Savannah, whom she used to share a suite with, is living off-campus with her partner and chose not to respond when we reached out.

In response to the world turning upside down when the COVID-19 pandemic hit the U.S., Wilcox leaned into her passion for adult fiction and began publishing an ongoing series of historical fiction novels entitled "The Demands of Sir Kipling's Court," which has earned her much virtual praise. There are even talks of the first novel being nominated for a Booker Prize for Fiction, a major award in the literary world.

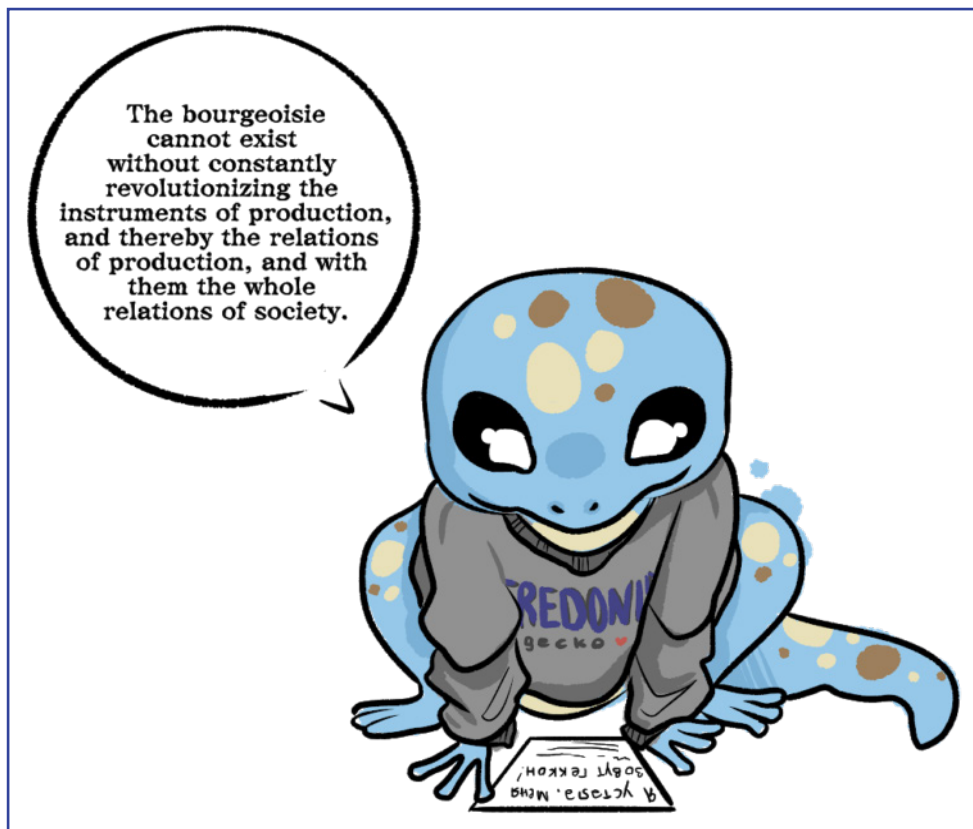
In a written statement, Wilcox said that she was "trying to find a tasteful balance between bold and careful, just like everyone else on this balance beam of life."

Apparently, she has made a choice to put a down deposit on an apartment building in Lau-

relton for young artists to call home, while staying on track to graduate with the class of 2022.

All of this, while trying to stay afloat in a sea of responsibilities regarding mental and physical health, familial obligation and the ever-rising price of pygmy shrews, would be a lot for many to take on, but 15-year-old Wilcox says she's up to the challenge.

"It's fascinating to me, the way my whole life has shifted in the last year. I used to think I had a future in leading people on museum tours. Museum tours! Could you even imagine? No. This life, the life of creativity and expression, is the life for me, and I wouldn't have it any other way."



Graphic by Simon Duncan.

MTG vs. AOC:

The smackdown of the century is coming up



Graphic by Lydia Turcios.

MATTHEW BAUM

God of the Ocean

A little while ago, which feels like centuries thanks to the 24-hour news cycle acting like it's a fun perk of the capitalist hellscape we live in, representative Marjorie Taylor Greene challenged representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to a debate about the Green New Deal that Cortez had proposed.

I don't believe that this dishonorable glove-slap debate has happened, but again, things are so bad all the time that it might have and I didn't notice.

What I do know, however, is that we are rapidly approaching the stage in American politics that lead to immature shouting matches, petty partisan posturing and eventually fistfights breaking out on the Congress floor.

To say that I'm not looking forward to this coming era of tumultuous squabbling would be a lie, but I propose that we kick off the all-out two-party slugfest with an official cage match between representatives Ocasio-Cortez and Green.

The way I can see this shaking out is by AOC accepting the debate invitation, streaming it on Twitch and Facebook Live, and whoever loses the debate in terms of who was donated less to during the stream (which would probably be MTG, because between you, me and the wall, I don't see a lot of fascists having a super-clear understanding of the rules) would get to pick the venue for the fight, as well as the form of combat.

Greene's a big fan of MMA? Fine, we'll give them each two weeks with a professional UFC fighter after fulfilling the requirements of their dayjob.

MTG wants to go for longsword duelling? Fine, we could probably find some hobby HEMA experts to give tips and tricks about the mighty claymore.

Regardless of the style of combat, after a few weeks of prep, the fight is premiered on CSPAN, Instagram Live and Netflix. For three rounds, these two representatives duke it out. There will be healthcare professionals and referees on location, to ensure that there's no funny business in hurting each other too seriously, and every member of Congress must be in live attendance for moral support.

I can hear the complaints now. "Oh, Matthew! Oh, Matthew! Violence isn't going to solve anybody's problems! We need to talk through our differences, not fight over them!"

You know what? 2017 me would have agreed with you 100 percent. The thing is, we've had to go through a veritable sh*tstorm of negligence and futile communication thanks to society's higher-ups, and talking through each other's differences has not panned out well for anybody involved.

The two-party system is a sham, each member sharing metaphorical sideways winks as they quarrel over questions that should have an objective answer to ensure that the empowered stay in power and the disenfranchised remain at the mercy of the patriarchy.

So, yes. Cage match it is.

Fredonia student starting squirrel club

JULES HOEPTING

Design Editor

Jodee Doe was sipping on coffee on the Starbucks patio when she beheld a sight that inspired her: a squirrel perched on a bicycle while consuming bread.

The squirrel's fascinating behavior reminded Doe of her friend, John Smith, who chose to attend Cornell University over SUNY Fredonia because Cornell had a Squirrel Watching Club. It was something Cornell was proud of; the campus tour guides made sure to mention the club because it highlighted the diversity of student interests.

As Doe watched the squirrel turn the bread around in its tiny hands, she thought about starting a squirrel watching club on Fredonia's campus. There were plenty of resident friendly squirrels and they were a diverse bunch: grey squirrels, black squirrels, fat tailed squirrels, stubby tailed squirrels. A club promoting more diversity wouldn't hurt.

She also thought about how the pandemic had put a damper on campus life. Clubs could not host most indoor in-person events. But watching squirrels — no, admiring squirrels; watching is too subjective — admiring squirrels could take place outside. It could be a way for students to socialize on campus in a safe way.

Doe began to jitter with excitement. She stood up and walked over to the squirrel nibbling on bread and asked the squirrel what it thought. The squirrel let her get pretty close to its body, then gave her a cautious glance and scurried up a tree.

"I wonder how much humans would have accomplished by now if we moved as fast as squirrels," Doe thought to herself.

Since the squirrel provided no input on forming a club to admire — no, that wasn't right either — to worship the squirrels, Doe decided to ask members of the campus what they thought about squirrels. To her surprise, the campus was divided.

Several students deemed the campus squirrels "adorable" and "cute." Others reduced them to "rodents with bushy tails." One student named Olivia Rokosz even told a tale about accidentally kicking a squirrel without feeling much guilt afterwards.



Friendly campus squirrel. Photograph by Jules Hoepting.

To quote Rokosz, "I felt its body beneath my boot."

Luckily, the kicked squirrel left the scene unscathed.

Doe sensed her brilliant idea would come across as nutty as squirrels' favorite snack to many people. She sighed loudly for dramatic effect as she sat down on the Rockefeller patio. A black squirrel and grey squirrel chased each other up a tree, then stopped out of confusion when they momentarily couldn't see each other. Doe smiled and snapped a photo to preserve the moment forever. And to post it on the squirrel nook of the cat-crazed internet.



HOROSCOPES

The signs as stuff in Fredonia

HANNAH BLIDY - Staff Scallywag

ARIES
Sunny's



TAURUS
strawberry lemonade from Starbucks



GEMINI
Uppercrust



CANCER
Reed Library



LEO
the clock tower



VIRGO
Canadaway Street



LIBRA
overpriced sweatshirt at the bookstore



SCORPIO
Muldoon's



SAGITTARIUS
Tuscany



CAPRICORN
the F in Fredonia that got stolen that one time



AQUARIUS
dog food smell



PISCES
post office



