

THE

# LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S  
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

10.19.2021  
Issue 4  
Volume CXXIX

## Dead Birds of Rockefeller

**FSA Food Concerns  
Continue to Roll In**

**Athlete Profile:  
Jackson Retzer**

**Tall Tales & True Terrors:  
Spooky Stories**

**Halloween Costume  
Suggestions**

**Menace That Munches:  
Local Groundhog**

# THE LEADER

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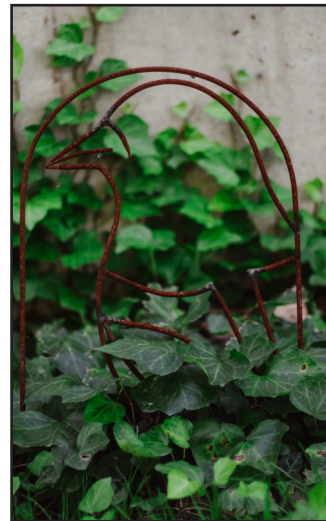
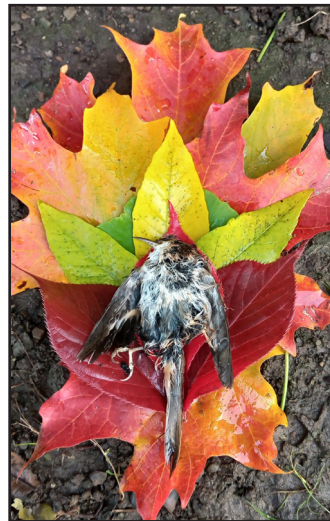
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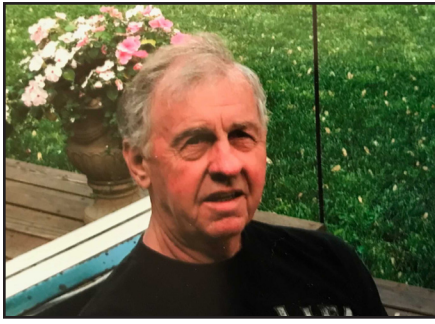
Front cover: Bird carcass found under Michael J. Rockefeller Arts Center north wing. Photograph by Justine Bloom.

Back cover: Bird grave memorial under Rockefeller north wing. Photograph by Derek Raymond.



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You can fight fire with more fire, just know it's going to burn / people can repeat mistakes, doesn't mean they're gonna learn.



This issue of The Leader is lovingly dedicated to Donald K. Smith, who was an avid reader of this paper and many other newspapers. His curiosity, kind spirit and generosity will never be forgotten.

Nov. 12, 1938 – Oct. 13, 2021  
 “Wherever a beautiful soul has been, there is a trail of beautiful memories”

## Career Development Office to host 13th annual Graduate School Week

### CHLOE KOWALYK

News Editor

Beginning on Monday, Oct. 18, SUNY Fredonia’s Career Development Office (CDO) and Graduate Studies will be holding their 13th annual Graduate School Week and Fair.

On Tuesday, Oct. 19, the second day of Graduate School Week, a Graduate School Fair will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to showcase more than 70 institutions offering graduate programs.

These institutions are from both New York and other states, and offer both graduate and professional programs in various careers such as business, education, medicine, law and science.

SUNY Fredonia’s own graduate programs will be showcased at the fair as well.

The goal of Graduate School Week is to prepare students for graduate school.

Throughout the week, various presentations and workshops will be run to help students prepare to apply for graduate school.

Wendy Dunst, graduate admissions coordinator, is in charge of running all the workshops, including writing a strong statement of intent, how to apply to SUNY Fredonia’s own graduate programs and a workshop for speech pathology applicants.

Dunst also allows students to bring in drafts of their work for her to review and edit.

The CDO is doing a presentation on all things graduate school, which will have both a counselor and a graduate

assistant present to help guide students through the process of researching and applying to graduate schools.

Christopher LaGrow, assistant director of the CDO, says that the CDO and Graduate Studies run this event because “a lot of students want to go to graduate school. Students want to go on to become doctors and dentists, some students may want to get their MSW (Master of Social Work) in social work,” LaGrow says.

“There’s a lot of different majors that send students to graduate school and we do this to help them get there,” he continues.

Dunst adds that “the workshops also help with [graduate school applications], because they focus on specific aspects of the grad school experience.”

However, this year, as the result of the ongoing pandemic, the event will be held virtually on Zoom — just like last year.

Dunst says that “a lot of people really liked [being online] because they could attend at that time and ask questions as if they were in the room, or they could view the recording later.”

The events taking place during Graduate School Week are open to everybody — students, community, faculty and alumni.

“We definitely want to bring the event back to campus for 2022 if we can,” says LaGrow.

LaGrow and Dunst explain that they can help anyone who is looking to go to grad school with interviewing, reviewing letters of intent and their resumes; they urge students to take advantage of this opportunity.

Those interested can RSVP in FREDNetwork for each of the available presentations and workshops.

More information is available on the CDO’s website, [fredonia.edu/student-life/career-development-office](http://fredonia.edu/student-life/career-development-office).



Career Development Office logo.

# Dead birds of Rockefeller:

## A student's dedication to decrease the deceased



Dead bird on the pavement outside of the northern wing of Rockefeller.  
Photograph by Peter Tucker.

## JULES HOEPTING

Managing Editor

During the first week of the fall 2020 semester, Justine Bloom walked around campus and came across the carcass of a bird. The body was on the concrete below the northern wing of the Michael C. Rockefeller Arts Center building.

Bloom, a sophomore Earth studies major with an environmental studies minor, walked past the building the next day and noticed two more dead birds. Two days later, they found two additional bird carcasses. They instantly became dedicated to decreasing the number of deceased birds.

“Every day it felt like I would come back and there would be another bird. It was bad the first couple of weeks last year,” Bloom said.

They brought up the matter with Biology Professor Jonathan Titus, who ran the greenhouse internship Bloom was taking. Titus told Bloom he had been noticing the dead birds for years and, despite efforts, he had a hard time convincing the campus to take any precautionary measures; the project had to be student-led, and he was willing to help.

“I had the moment of ‘Wait a minute ... I have four years. That’s a lot of time for me to be a thorn in their side about this,’” Bloom said.

Bloom and Titus did their research. They found 3–5 dead birds outside the northern wing of Rockefeller weekly. For each bird, they estimated there were another 10–20 birds that were not seen, because many birds land in the ivy below the northern Rockefeller wing. “There’s a chance that the bird will hit the glass and they’ll be stunned, but they’ll be able to fly off back into the woods and there they’ll die,” Bloom explained.

A spectrum of birds are affected by the windows, from small finch-sized birds to robin-sized birds. Most of the birds killed are migratory birds.

The majority of the bird collisions occur during the mid-seasons of fall and spring. “That’s when your major migratory patterns start picking up because we are in the middle of a major

migratory route ... There is a higher concentration of birds passing through, which is why we get such elevated numbers of bird strikes around Rockefeller in particular,” Bloom said.

Another reason the carcasses are accumulating at Rockefeller is because its windows are significantly more reflective than the other windows on buildings on campus. Birds see the reflection of their habitat — the campus woodlot — and think they can fly through the frames.

When examining options to prevent window collisions, several solutions emerged. Some options included an expensive type of glass with a pattern invisible to humans but helpful to birds, the installment of zen curtains — spaced strips placed outside windows — and the application of white opaque

**“It’s not a difficult issue, but there’s so much red tape that goes on in trying to make any substantial change on campus.”**  
- Justine Bloom

line or polka dot vinyl stickers. The chosen option was the dot stickers, which needed to be a quarter-inch or more in diameter and spaced two inches or less apart in order to be effective.

“The birds don’t see the glass, they see a space they can fly into or a reflection of their habitat. So, when you put the dots there, you’re breaking up the space and then they’ll see the dots and they’ll look at the space inbetween the dots and consider [if they] can fly between [those] dots,” Bloom explained.

Once Bloom had the numbers and a solution, they started “absolutely plastering the hell out of the Rockefeller Arts Center with posters.” These posters used “assertive, some people will say aggressive” language and a visual of a bird carcass to capture viewer’s attention.

Bloom also sent out emails to “people

[who] are either campus authorities or faculty in the department where [the dead birds] would be relevant, like the art department. And a couple people on the sustainability board.”

Barbara Racker, Marion Art Gallery director, contacted Bloom after seeing a poster. Racker sympathized with Bloom’s frustrations and wanted to help Bloom find grant money to bring awareness to the issue.

After Titus consulted several bird enthusiasts, Scott Weidensaul, a renowned ornithologist, was selected as a guest speaker to lecture on the astonishing features of migratory birds. Sponsored by the Carnahan Jackson Fund for the Humanities of the Fredonia College Foundation, the Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery and the Department of Biology, the lecture brought in over 70 people from the Fredonia campus and community on Sept. 23, 2021. In addition to taking the audience on an imaginative tour around the world via wings, Weidensaul was sure to mention Rockefeller was a migratory bird killer.

In fall 2021, Jason Dilworth, an art professor teaching Graphic Design 5, presented his class with an assignment: create awareness about the dead birds.

“I was interested in having art students approach it and say ‘What is the problem? How can we utilize design to help create action?’” At the end of the semester, the students will be assessed on how well they used their design skills and if their efforts led to any results.

Bloom spoke to the class on the topic and inspired the students so much that “even though the project is [now] over in class, the students are still working on it and [are] passionate about the project,” according to Wilson Thorpe, a senior graphic design major.

Dilworth had been aware of the dead bird issue for years. The class’s project came after a meeting Dilworth attended where students, professors and faculty discussed the ongoing bird deaths.

The following people attended the April 8, 2021 meeting: Bloom; Titus; Chloe Petry, a science major who graduated in spring 2021; VANM professors Dilworth and Pete Tucker; Sarah Laurie, director of Environmental Health

**Continued on next page.**

Continued from previous page.

and Safety and Sustainability; Markus Kessler, director of Facilities Planning; and Michael Metzger, vice president of Finance and Administration.

Dilworth's takeaway from the meeting was that specific local evidence was needed in order to get stickers put up on a window, despite plenty of existing national data that windows nationally kill billions of birds. He understood that the project needed to be student-led and wanted his students to generate awareness.

claim that the added weight of the film caused the seal failure. This would then put the replacement and repair costs of the failure as the responsibility of the campus."

Bloom questions how often this warranty is actually used.

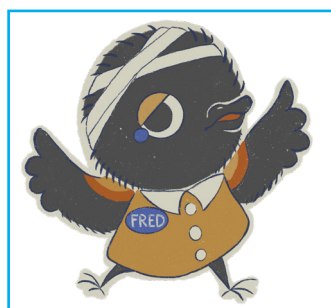
Adding stickers to the windows would also have to be approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Because Rockefeller was originally designed by the famous architecture firm I.M. Pei and Associates in 1965, "SHPO will take an interest in and need

Circle facing the length of the building. The second camera is in a tree near the northwest end of the building facing the length of the building.

According to Laurie, as of Oct. 15, 2021, the trail cameras have "recorded zero bird strikes."

"We've gotten a few birds perching on the building or checking out the camera, but none flying into the windows," Laurie says.

To make the task more challenging, projects funded by the state are significantly more expensive than projects



Graphic Design 5 students Jessie Stahlman, Olivia Dursi and Sean Marchant created a bird mascot called Bonkie as a response to birds being attracted to windows with lights behind them.

Instead of "getting a job at a major multi-national corporation, I'd rather see a student saving birds," Dilworth said.

### **If the solution was as simple as putting stickers up on windows, why was it so hard to do?**

The Facilities Planning staff created an entire report addressing the application of Bird Strike Film, or vinyl polka dot stickers. Within that report, multiple concerns were raised.

In 2019, a Rockefeller window project included the replacement of the windows on the second and third floor; A 10-year warranty was submitted for the glass of the windows. The application of stickers would violate the warranty because the stickers would add an abundance of weight to the windows.

According to the Bird Strike Film report, "If there were to be a seal failure on one of the insulated glass units after the installation of a bird strike film, the window/glass manufacturer could claim that the seal failed due to something that occurred during the film's installation or

to be consulted on the selection of the pattern for any applied window films," according to the report. "SHPO's review process allows for one month of their review prior to comment of approval after the date of submission."

In addition to warranties and SHPO, there is the issue of funding the sticker purchase and application. If the project was to be funded through state university money, the project would have to be approved by people outside of SUNY Fredonia. In order to get the project approved, there would need to be proof that a significant amount of birds were dying from Rockefeller window collisions.

On May 20, 2021, two cameras facing each other were installed on Rockefeller to monitor bird collisions. As soon as an object crosses a certain line, the cameras take pictures and send those pictures to Sarah Laurie, health and safety director.

After conducting research, the cameras were carefully selected and installed by Laurie and staff members of the ITS Service Center. The first camera was installed on the northeast corner of the Rockefeller building near Symphony

funded by the college.

According to Markus Kessler, the director of Facilities Planning, this is because state projects have a cornucopia of requirements, such as paying employees working on projects a certain wage and contracting out work to a certain percentage of minority-owned businesses. Furthermore, prices are raised because the contractors working on the project would be using their own equipment as opposed to utilizing equipment already on campus.

The Bird Strike Film report states purchasing and applying vinyl stickers would cost between \$69,000 to \$76,000. That is a lot of money to ask for when there are no recorded bird strikes in over six months.

Another approach would be to use SUNY Fredonia's funding or other funding. The overall cost would be lower if the university utilized their own staff and equipment to purchase and apply the stickers.

Racker had offered to help pay for the stickers with Marion Art Gallery funds if she is able to "call it an art project and involve students." Racker has even

Continued on page 9.

# BIRDS ON CAMPUS ARE DYING

## REPORT THEM ONLINE

HELP SOLVE THE PROBLEM

**OUR CAMPUS HAS A LOT OF LARGE GLASS WINDOWS**

BIRDS CAN'T SEE GLASS  
THEY CRASH  
THEY DIE



**PLEASE TAKE A CARD >**

**FOR INSTANT ACCESS TO THE CITIZEN SCIENTIST REPORT SHEET**

We have support from the school to add window decals that have a high success rate to prevent birds from colliding with windows.

We need to record which windows are causing deaths.



# Are you tired of seeing DEAD F\*CKING BIRDS all over Rockefeller's sidewalk?

Campus authorities know about the issue AND the solution, and have refused to address it.



## It doesn't have to stay this way.

Become a part of the solution today.

- Email [birdsneedhelpfredonia@gmail.com](mailto:birdsneedhelpfredonia@gmail.com)
- Talk to your professors and voice your concerns
- Check out the QR codes below for more info



(Cornell Article)



(Quick Explanatory Comic)



Continued from page 6.



View from camera 1, northeast corner of the Rockefeller near Symphony Circle facing the length of the building.  
Provided by Sarah Laurie.



View from camera 2, located in a tree near the northwest end of Rockefeller facing toward the building.  
Provided by Sarah Laurie.

gotten a \$27,201 quote for the purchase and application of the vinyl stickers from Southpaw Signs and Stripes in April of 2021.

This solution may seem simple enough, but applying the stickers is more difficult than it seems. According to Kessler, the stickers come in individual rolls as opposed to large sheets. If the stickers are applied incorrectly they might not last as long as they are supposed to. If the college provides its own application, there is no warranty in place if anything happens to the stickers. Thus, there is a strong chance the stickers will need to be applied again sooner than if the stickers were applied by professionals — hence why going through state funding is still strongly considered an option.

In order to put up stickers with Fredonia's funds and labor, the project would need to be passed by Michael Metzger, vice president of Finance and Administration. On Oct. 15, 2021, Metzger's response via email to a question about the status of sticker proposal was the following: "We installed trail cameras outside of the windows to monitor. The cameras have been installed for about six months and to date not one bird has hit the windows. In addition, we periodically check the ground below the windows. We will continue to monitor."

Kessler stressed that the facilities staff believe people when they say they are seeing the dead birds on the sidewalks near Rockefeller. People's natural assumption is that the birds hit the window and fall to the ground. But how do the observers know the carcasses were not moved from where they originally

landed? Where is the evidence?

Students and faculty dispute administration suggestions that the birds are not dying or that they are being moved from elsewhere. They also recall that spring and fall are the primary migration periods, rather than summer.

Dilworth and Racker both believe humans created the dead bird problem by putting up the building and it should be the responsibility of humans to fix the problem. They both believe humans need to do a better job of living in harmony with nature instead of prioritizing humans over everything else.

"The Earth is not solely for man," Dilworth said.

Dilworth stresses that the campus has made sustainability-focused improvements, specifically highlighting the establishment of native plant gardens and no mow zones — designated areas on campus that are not mowed to allow growth of natural plants and species. "I think it's really important that students understand what's being done on campus that is helping out," Dilworth said.

"I don't think too many people in the administration don't want to solve [the dead bird issue], but they don't want to do it if it's going to take up any time or cost money," Titus said.

He also points out most environmental change "comes from aesthetic reasons" as environmental change rarely has "immediate consequences."

"People come up with the science all the time" but "it doesn't matter that it affects the ecosystem" or people's health, "people's opinions are because of aesthetics," Titus said.

He believes "The way this is going to move is through student actions, making the administration think this is something they need to work on."

### So, what can students do?

Bloom advises students to "be aware of the birds on the ground. Record them as you see them. Make a fuss."

Students should photograph bird carcasses exactly where the bodies are found and send the image and a specific description of the carcass location to Bloom (bloo0218@fredonia.edu). The birds should be documented as soon as they are seen because some bird carcasses remain on the ground longer than others.

Bloom advises students to pull down the blinds and turn off the lights when they are not using a room because this can help prevent bird collisions, although stickers are more effective.

More than anything, students need to continuously talk about the bird death issue so that it cannot be ignored. Dilworth recommends visiting 3billionbirds.org to learn more about the topic from a national perspective.

"Justine is a catalytic type person — she makes things happen," Titus said.

"This is something I really do care about and I want to see success and I want dots on those windows by the time I graduate," Bloom said.

But Bloom cannot do it alone. The sticker project will only happen if many students continuously pressure the administration.

# FSA food concerns continue to roll in

## News Analysis

**CHLOE KOWALYK**

News Editor

Nearly a month after *The Leader* exposed moldy, cold food and other issues regarding FSA's dining services, more and more students have come forward with their experiences of undercooked food, a lack of attention towards allergic triggers and inedible looking food. Students are feeling frustrated.

If a "bad product" gets through every once in a while, why have so many students, including alumni, had a bad experience?

One student, Jasmyne Ponder, says "[Willy C's] pizza is such a hit or miss. I got a box of pizza a few weeks ago and it was so raw. I thought it was cheese at first, but obviously it didn't taste right. So I looked at it closer and it was just straight up raw dough."

Ponder wasn't the only student to be served undercooked food.

One student lamented about how their friend got served raw chicken, and how they "found mold in [their] food multiple times."

Dylan Empric, a former SUNY Fredonia student said that during his time on campus at SUNY Fredonia, his food was often undercooked and his orders were often forgotten.

Student complaints regarding FSA food continue a trend that goes back years: one student, who wishes to remain anonymous, said, "I got a salad and inside there was hair and lint, as if it was picked up off the floor." The student hasn't eaten a salad since this incident, which happened four years ago.

One particularly shocking story was that of Nadia Stiell. Stiell, a student on campus, has a nut allergy.

A few weeks ago, Stiell and her friends went to Cranston Marché, a dining hall on campus, for some pizza.

While eating her meal, Stiell and her friends noticed that the pizza was green, indicating that it may have pesto on it.

This posed a pretty big potential problem for Stiell, as pesto contains pine nuts — an allergen she needs to avoid.

Stiell felt that "there's no way they'd [FSA] have nut pizza and not say anything," since this was not made clear when she ordered.

To clarify if the pizza contained nuts or not, Stiell went up to the counter and asked an employee. The employee she asked did not know, and asked another employee nearby.

Troublingly, the other employee did not know either.

Stiell says this was "frustrating and nerve-wracking" because she wasn't sure if she was going to have an allergic reaction or not.

As a precautionary measure, Stiell took some Benadryl, an antihistamine used to treat allergic reactions, and went to the emergency room.

After going to the hospital, Stiell explained that her body had no reaction to the pizza, but it is unknown whether or not this is due to the reaction being masked by the Benadryl, or if the pizza didn't actually contain nuts.

Stiell also explained that she has witnessed cross-contamination happening in Cranston Marché with their spoons when serving ice cream.

Cranston Marché also serves pistachio ice cream, which proves that cross-contamination can be a big issue for students with nut allergies.

Allergic reactions are no joke either. Those suffering from an allergic reaction may face tightened airways making it hard to breathe, shock with a severe drop in blood pressure, swelling of the lips, throat, tongue and face, nausea, vomiting and severe abdominal pain.

Stiell's story reveals several issues about FSA policies regarding food allergies.

Troublingly, allergen information is not readily available for students to retrieve, despite FSA director Darin Schulz's assurance that FSA is on top of this issue. Schulz explained "there is a guide to avoiding allergens online." However, I have yet to locate this guide.

The only other indication of allergy recognition is small stickers by ordering counters that advise students with food allergies to let staff know they have allergies.

However, in Stiell's case, the staff did not know whether or not the food they were serving contained a certain allergen.

This seemingly places the responsibility to know which allergens are in which

dishes on the students.

Unfortunately, allergen information is not readily available for students to access. Allergen information for the food on campus does exist, but cannot be accessed unless students reach out to Dean Messina, the director of Dining Services.

The students interviewed for this story found this is absolutely unacceptable.

This places avoiding an allergic reaction in the hands of the FSA staff rather than the students.

Even more troublingly, the FSA website is not updated, and contains several spelling and grammatical errors. Nowhere on the website is the allergen information posted.

In Willy C's, another dining service on campus, students order their meals on kiosks, where they can customize their orders.

Ordering off computers sets up a great opportunity for a filtering feature, where students can filter out foods that contain the allergen they wish to avoid.

However, there is no way to access which ingredients contain their allergen without reaching out to Messina.

Brochures that contain guides for eating vegan and vegetarian, and for avoiding gluten are on campus, however, these menus do not provide any allergen information.

There are also a few vegan options available at Willy C's, Blue Devil Grill and Cranston Marché, and the brochures are mostly geared towards helping students find substitutions for non-meat proteins.

A student who has worked for FSA at Willy C's for six semesters and works as a student leader training new employees reached out to *The Leader*.

The student, who wishes to remain anonymous, gave significant details regarding the training workers get for both health and safety and allergen concerns.

"It has been extremely difficult training new students this semester; more than usual," they said.

"We are normally at least two people understaffed, with the people who are there being newer students. With that in mind, we have not been able to give students the training we usually do. We ensure that the important things are

talked about — i.e. gloves, allergies, station cleanliness — but our new students are slower to start out since they are not getting the personal attention we wish they could have,” they continued.

The student also explained that there are specific procedures in place for allergies and intolerances, such as changing gloves and cleaning stations as well as attempting to prevent cross-contamination.

there be a much stronger outreach attempt than a single email?

Regarding training for allergy and intolerance concerns, I would argue that there is not enough.

Woods explained that she brought up issues regarding vegan options in the past and explained that she was made aware of concerns of cross-contamination, yet no changes have been made.

Depending on the severity of the al-

cerns need to be addressed in greater depth immediately.

The student employee acknowledged that many of these problematic issues derive from understaffing and training problems.

“It’s overwhelming and the quality of our food may suffer,” they said.

Woods explained that the lack of quality in food has not been brought up by other board members during FSA board meetings.

The student further explained that with proper staffing, the quality of food should improve.

So what needs to be done? Further training regarding allergies and an increase in efforts to improve staffing are absolutely needed. A minimum of adding the allergen information to, and updating the website, would be a great starting point.

The student FSA worker has also included a few tips to help make the ordering process easier for both students and employees.

“Please listen for your number,” the student said. “When we’re calling numbers two or three times we’re just wasting time where we could be starting the next order.”

The student also wanted to remind their peers to wear their masks, to protect both union workers and student employees, as some may have family members who are immunocompromised or who are too young to be vaccinated.

If ordering something quick — i.e., not a milkshake or sub

— students are encouraged to use the express kiosk, as it pushes orders to the top of the screen, allowing employees to get the order out faster.

Regarding an incorrect or insufficient order, the student also says, “If there is an issue with your order please let us know. We will remake, replace, or refund you ... please be patient with the workers, students or union, especially at night. Being understaffed and busy is not the ideal work conditions and we are just doing our best.”

Students deserve action from the FSA board of directors to improve these issues: staffing, training and quality of preparation. We’re paying attention.



Jackson Lasher stages disgust for Willy C's chicken strips. Photograph by Jules Hoepfing.

It’s no secret that FSA is understaffed, and the lack of proper training is in no way the fault of employees.

Instead, we must turn our attention to FSA.

If students are unable to get proper training, shouldn’t something be done?

According to Jenna Woods, a student representative on the FSA board, three weeks ago an email was sent out to all students that FSA is hiring.

However, this is the only recent outreach that was made to address understaffing concerns.

If understaffing is such a major issue, which it most definitely is, shouldn't

lergy, an allergic reaction could threaten a student’s life.

I myself have had two reactions so far, and I am in my third semester. Stiehl already had at least one scare herself.

This begs the question, how many other students have had similar experiences?

With both employees and students unsure of which foods contain which allergen, the potential for an allergic reaction is unknown, which can be terrifying for students who have food allergies.

If understaffing results in improper training for employees as the student employee suggests, then understaffing

# Update on the **construction in Barker Commons**



Construction on Church Street. Photograph by Analise Healy.

## CLARE NORMOYLE

Special to The Leader

In recent months, Fredonia hasn't been itself.

Sidewalks have been torn up, roads have been blocked off and lots of unfamiliar people with hard hats on have been walking the streets.

This is due to the Downtown Placemaking Project, Fredonia's newest ongoing renovation. Although this project is mainly affecting Barker Common, it'll also upgrade the streetscape around Fredonia's Opera House, the public library and the surrounding businesses in the area.

The project began back in November of 2020.

Thus far, the company in charge of the project, the Buffalo Construction Consultants, have replaced storm drains, torn up and replaced the sidewalks and curb/handicap walk offs, added new lighting, incorporated more parking and even repaved the roads around both parks.

"In the next two weeks we will be starting lighting, and milling and paving the roads," said Buffalo Construction Consultants Superintendent, John Gallo.

The Village of Fredonia's website has been consistently updated since the start of the project, to help keep those curious in the loop.

The most recent update to the website stated that as of Sept. 17, "...we will have most of the colored concrete paving complete along with sidewalks in front of One Park Place. Next week we will be starting new storm drainage. Most of the work on Day Street is complete. Some construction has been started [in] front of Village Hall, along with work on Church Street in front of Family Church Fredonia and First United Methodist Church."

The Downtown Placemaking Project has caused several events that usually take place downtown to be moved to other locations.

The most recognizable event being the weekly farmers market that has previously been held on Church Street.

The market was relocated to the parking lot behind Darwin's fitness center on Water Street for the remaining summer weeks; the market is now at it's Winter Market site in the Masonic Temple on East Main Street.

That said, some Fredonia residents are fed up with the ruckus this project has caused within the Fredonia community.

SUNY Fredonia student and village resident Samantha Garcia said, "[the construction] does cause a lot of traffic build up and definitely can make me feel a bit agitated."

With no word on whether or not the project is moving forward ahead of schedule, a date for when the construction is projected to finish has been loosely set.

"The project end date, which isn't set in stone, is Oct. 30. But you can't really ever have that with construction because it's very give or take," said a spokesperson from the Village of Fredonia's Clerk's office.

If all goes according to plan, downtown Fredonia could be back to better than normal as early as Halloween.



The Department of Theatre and Dance  
presents a Walter Gloor Mainstage Series event



A steamy prohibition tale, steamrolling and roaring its way across the stage, Andrew Lippa's *Wild Party* was an Off-Broadway gem that garnered an array of industry accolades, including Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle and Obie awards. Based on Joseph Moncure March's 1928 narrative poem of the same name, this darkly brilliant show features one of the most exciting, pulse-racing scores ever written. **FOR MATURE AUDIENCES ONLY.**

Fri., Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m.      Thurs., Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sat., Oct. 23 at 7:30 p.m.      Fri., Oct. 29 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sun., Oct. 24 at 2:00 p.m.      Sat., Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m.

**MARVEL THEATRE, ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER**

*Current Covid protocol requires cloth masks in all campus buildings regardless of vaccination status. For more information regarding Covid-19 policies visit [fredonia.edu/rac](http://fredonia.edu/rac).*

**Campus Ticket Office, Williams Center  
673-3501 or [fredonia.edu/tickets](http://fredonia.edu/tickets)**

**THE 2021-22 LAKE SHORE SAVINGS SEASON**

# Life & Arts

## Costume cleanout: Vests, tights and frills



"Thursday: Costume Rack" by ohsarahrose is licensed with CC BY-SA 2.0.

### LYDIA TURCIOS

Art Director

The Department of Theatre and Dance hosted a Costume Cleanout last week, Friday Oct. 15, to fundraise for the Laurel Walford Costume Scholarship. The event lasted from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and took place in the Rockefeller Arts Center Atrium.

The atrium filled up with prospective buyers for the racks of old theater costumes and bric a brac. The price tag was well within the means for the average student was encouraged to stuff as many items as you could into a standard sized reusable grocery bag for 10 dollars per container.

Many of the pieces had names scribbled on the tags, some crossed out, some intact. Besides the logic of getting a bunch of new clothes at once for cheap,

would it not be nice to bring home some mementos of fellow students' stints in the theatre department? It might not be apparent when you look at them, but there were a lot of memories hanging off of the racks. It seems appropriate for the costumes to benefit the theatre department one more time by bringing in revenue for a scholarship.

Clothing exchanges and blowouts like the Costume Cleanout encourage sustainable fashion over fast fashion. Sustainable fashion is a movement in which the end goal is to produce garments and accessories in a more socially and ecologically responsible manner. Fast fashion puts production over being responsible for fair labor practices and environmental health. Swapping clothes, thrifting and giving away large amounts of garments lessens the amount of fast fashion accrued by individual people

and reduces its overall effect on the fashion and textile industry.

The garment selection available at the cleanout was extensive. Including accessories like caps, shoes and gloves to actual outfit pieces such as piles and piles of jeans and dresses. Not only was it a wide selection of clothes to round a wardrobe out in, the size range was accessible to a wide range of body types and sizes. That sort of accessibility can be hard to come by for cheap or without resorting to fast fashion.

A significant amount of the garments could be used as everyday wear and such pieces were taken more quickly. But the flashier pieces have their place too. Do not be surprised if Halloween on campus incorporates brightly colored capes, big shiny buttons and period dresses this year.

# Best Halloween jams

**JORDAN BUDD**  
Special to The Leader

Whether you're carving pumpkins, munching on candy or dressing up to go out, you'll need a playlist of spooky tunes to get you in the mood this scary season.

This 10 song list is meant to include the perennial Halloween favorites, but also highlight some lesser-known musical haunters.

## 1. "Psycho Killer" by Talking Heads (1977)

Inspired by Alice Cooper's shock rock and the character of Norman Bates from the 1960 classic horror flick "Psycho," David Byrne set out to make a song that could take listeners into the mind of a serial killer. This classic new wave song is an otherworldly experience that dips in between French, English and gibberish in its hook that dazzles listeners with unearthly lunatic catchiness.

## 2. "Thriller" by Michael Jackson (1982)

Well... it had to be here. This legendary track is simply the most essential Halloween anthem, whose funk and disco blend still echoes throughout the night each Oct. 31. The cultural phenomenon of a song features the perfect balance of bone chilling sounds fit for a haunted house and brighter moments of synth and trumpet flourishes that lighten the mood.

## 3. "Goth" by Sidewalks and Skeletons (2015)

Witch House just might be the perfect genre to score your ghoulish shenanigans. This dark electronic microgenre is known for its horrifyingly eerie artwork and aesthetics. Sidewalks and Skeletons' Spotify biography is fittingly prefaced with the line "Music for you to listen to while you walk through cemeteries alone at 3 a.m." Enjoy the propulsive raving energy of "Goth," a brighter track from this artist's 2015 project "White Light."

## 4. "This is Halloween" by Danny Elfman (1993)

This song scores the introductory moments of Tim Burton's imaginative and fantastic film "The Nightmare Before Christmas." The many fictional residents of Halloween Town growl, scream and snarl their way through this threatening, hair-raiser of a tune. The song is also featured on Just Dance 3, if you'd like to dance a jig while listening to the song.



Bobby "Boris" Pickett Monster Mash 7-inch US vinyl. From [Wikipedia Commons](#).

## 5. "Nightmare" by Offset, Metro Boomin (2017)

Released on Halloween in 2017, "Without Warning," the surprise collaborative mixtape between 21 Savage, Offset and Metro Boomin feels like being dropped into a horror movie soundtrack by the best trap music of the 2010s. The monster in this scene, Offset, has a cutthroat, murderous delivery that satisfyingly contrasts Metro's ghostly synthetic bells and rumbling 808s.

## 6. "Halloween" by Phoebe Bridgers (2020)

This deep cut from the Grammy award-winning album "Punisher" by modern folk icon, Phoebe Bridgers,

uses the idea of people dressing up on Halloween as a metaphor for a dead relationship.

## 7. "Monster Mash" by Bobby "Boris" Pickett, The Crypt-Kickers (1962)

This cooky novelty Halloween song is narrated by a mad scientist who tells an entertaining tale of his hit dance move called the Monster Mash. The groovy fictional dance move "caught on in a flash" and "was a graveyard smash." Enjoy this lively 60s number one hit that is now a choice tune heard every spooktastic holiday. The number also happens to be featured on Just Dance 2, where the Frankenstein-esque dancer boogies to the beat.

## 8. "Psycho" by Slowthai, Denzel Curry (2019)

Denzel Curry and Slowthai both possess the unique talent of displaying controlled chaos and rage in their music. In this fittingly aggressive hip hop collaboration, the two MCs take turns trading hard hitting lines over the spine-chilling horror movie violin screeches.

## 9. "Ghostbusters" by Ray Parker Jr. (1984)

Both the theme song for the supernatural comedy and jingle for the business of the Ghostbusters themselves, this one is still a proton pack of ghostly fun in 2021.

## 10. "Monster" by Kanye West, Jay Z, Rick Ross, Nicki Minaj, Bon Iver (2010)

This posse cut from one of West's most well reputed albums is nothing short of a grisly slugfest of hyped-up verses from a star-studded repertoire. Each participant's contributions feel larger than life, but Minaj's all out barrage of fierce flows and freakish lyrics about "eating brains" and "rocking gold teeth and fangs" simply washes the competition. Minaj takes the song's theme of monsters to the next level, using a rapid-fire flow that builds from an aggressive growl to an eldritch screech.

# Top 10 movies to watch during this **spooky season**

**NIKKI INDELICATO**

Staff Writer

It's become that time of year again where the leaves are changing colors.

The wind starts picking up and there is a chill in the air.

The sky becomes darker and the glow of pumpkins are lining the street.

The spooky season is upon us, and there are numerous movies to help get into the spirit.

One of my favorite parts of Halloween is getting to watch all the movies inspired by the holiday.

These are some of my favorite movies that I watch every year to get into the spooky spirit.

## 10. **A Quiet Place (2018)**

While this movie isn't about Halloween, it definitely can give anyone a good thriller. This is personally my favorite horror movie that I have seen.

The movie follows the Abbott family where they live in a post-apocalyptic world where they can no longer make a sound.

As soon as a sound is heard, a big monster — reminiscent of Demigorgon from "Stranger Things" — comes and kills that person.

This movie makes you sit on the edge of your seat and in silence because even yourself could make a sound with the fear that the monster will kill you.

The movie stars John Krasinski and Emily Blunt with newcomer Millicent Simmonds as their daughter, who is also a deaf actress.

In May 2021, the sequel to this film debuted in movie theaters.

This movie is a great thriller that will have you holding your breath at all times with the hopes that no one will get caught making a sound.

You can watch this movie streaming on Paramount+ at no additional cost.

## 9. **House of Wax (2005)**

This horror film will be enough to make anyone feel uneasy as they watch but in a good way. It is a modern remake of the 1933 film "Mystery of the Wax Museum."

You follow a group of teenagers as they are headed to a football game but end up arriving in a ghost town called Ambrose where they visit the local "House of Wax" museum.

These figures are not what they appear to be though.

This movie is full of jumps and visuals that can make you shiver, but your eyes are constantly stuck at the screen looking to see what will happen next.

"House of Wax" stars Chad Michael Murray, Paris Hilton and Jared Padalecki.

This movie will give you the perfect scare to watch with any of your friends.

You can find this movie streaming on HBO Max at no additional cost.

## 8. **Trick R Treat (2007)**

This thriller movie takes place right on the night of Halloween. In the style of a comic book, we meet four different plots that all end up coming together in the end due to one common foe.

In comparison to "House of Wax" and "A Quiet Place," this film doesn't deliver the same jump scares as them, but it does deliver the thrills.

We meet the night's evil foe Sam, who spends the night torturing houses he visits as he is trick or treating.

If you are looking for a film that also has werewolves and vampires, you are in the right place.

You never know where Sam may start stalking his next victim on All Hallow's Eve and that makes the film all the more thrilling.

This movie is streaming on HBO Max at no additional cost.

## 7. **My Bloody Valentine (2009)**

Another scary slasher film to add to your Halloween movie watchlist. Debuting in 2009, the film starts with a flashback to Valentine's Day 1997 where a bunch of coal miners were working on their job. After an underground explosion occurred, officials were only able to find one survivor, Harry Warden.

Even though this adventure takes place during Valentine's Day, it gives the same amount of jump scares and spine tingling scenes as any Halloween horror

movie would.

In its initial film release, the movie was titled "My Bloody Valentine 3D." A lot of the graphics are designed to pop out at you as if it was in 3D, but it doesn't hit the same.

"My Bloody Valentine" stars Jensen Ackles as Tom Hanniger.

This movie takes you through twists and turns that you won't see coming.

You can find this movie on HBO Max at no additional cost.

## 6. **The Addams Family (1991)**

We join the infamous creepy, kooky, mysterious and spooky families that we all grew up loving. As a classic Halloween family, this puts you right in the spirit.

This Halloween comedy delivers the right sense of spook with laughs constantly. This isn't your ordinary family and they don't strive to blend in.

While this family doesn't follow any adventures that they are used to going on, instead they portray this movie with their own sense of individuality.

We follow Gomez as he meets his brother Fester who ended up being adopted from a loan shark and was trying to take the entire Addams fortune.

This cast features the iconic Anjelica Houston as Morticia, Raul Julia as Gomez, Christopher Lloyd as Uncle Fester and Christina Ricci as Wednesday Addams.

From the success of this film, two years later the sequel "The Addams Family Values" came out.

You can purchase this movie from anywhere on demand.

## 5. **Ghostbusters (1984)**

"When there's something strange in your neighborhood ... who ya gonna call?" This classic film of the 1980s is another Halloween classic.

In a town overrun by ghosts, just listen for that iconic siren and they'll be there to bust them. This movie has the right amount of spookiness with ghosts and comedies to be a Halloween film you can watch with all your friends and family.

The film stars Dan Aykroyd, Bill Murray, Harold Ramis, Sigourney Weaver and Rick Moranis.

"Ghostbusters" became a cult phenomenon and ended up receiving a sequel and a cartoon television series following the initial film.





"The Sanderson Sisters from Hocus Pocus (Birds of 'Play)" by PatLoika is licensed with CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

In 2016, the franchise was rebooted starring Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones as the Ghostbusters. The film received some controversy with it starring an all female cast, but still did pretty well in the box office.

In November 2021, a long awaited sequel to the original "Ghostbusters" film is being released to theaters titled "Ghostbusters: Afterlife." The new movie will star a new cast as well as bringing back some iconic characters from the original.

"Ghostbusters" can be found on the Freeform app with a cable provider.

#### 4. Beetlejuice (1988)

Say his name three times and he'll appear. "Beetlejuice" is a staple in Halloween films that can be watched on TV every year.

This Halloween film takes us to the place after death as we join Barbara and Adam Maitland figure out how to navigate their new life.

We meet Lydia Deetz with her family as they move to the Maitland home. Lydia would like to do anything else but live there, especially with her dad and new stepmom.

As Barbara and Adam try to function their new lives as ghosts, they team up with Lydia to try and scare the family away. It's only until they meet Beetlejuice that chaos ensues.

In a world with ghosts and hauntings, this is the perfect adventure to get your Halloween on.

You can purchase "Beetlejuice" from anywhere on demand.

#### 3. Halloweentown (1998)

This Disney Channel Original Movie is a staple of my childhood. This classic DCOM is the fourth ever original movie and the first installment of the franchise.

We start this film meeting 13-year-old Marnie Piper as her grandmother Aggie comes for her annual Halloween visit.

Little does Marnie know, both her mother and grandmother are actually witches.

Aggie wants to teach Marnie all about the world of witches but her mother objects.

After following her grandmother back home, Marnie and her brother Dylan learn that she lives in a place called "Halloweentown."

Every part of Halloween that we love from werewolves, to vampires, to skeleton taxi drivers all live here.

The movie became a success and ended up having three more movies to follow it ending with "Return to Halloweentown" in 2006.

"Halloweentown" is available on Disney+.

#### 2. The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

This Tim Burton classic film has become a notable Halloween and Christmas film.

"The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a stop-motion film made with great poise.

Jack Skellington is Halloweentown's great Pumpkin King who accidentally visits Christmastown.

Completely enamored by all the decorations and bright lights, Jack decides that he wants to become Santa this year and deliver presents to children all over the world.

This movie delivers Christmas but with a Halloween twist. The songs throughout the film are catchy and memorable and move you right along through the story.

This film is a great way to bring in the spooky season. You can stream this movie on Disney+.

#### 1. Hocus Pocus (1993)

"Hocus Pocus" has become one of the most iconic Halloween movies of all time.

Every year, Freeform has this movie on more than any others during their "31 Nights of Halloween" special.

The movie starts off in the year 1693 in Salem, Massachusetts where we meet Winifred, Mary and Sarah Sanderson as they wreak havoc on the town trying to keep themselves young forever.

The sisters get caught and hanged, but not before Winifred is able to cast a spell stating that on All Hallows' Eve when a full moon is shining, a virgin needs to light the black flame candle and the sisters will be resurrected.

Fast forward to 1993, where Max and Dani Dennison along with Max's crush Allison bring the sisters back 300 years later.

This film brings us iconic moments and lines from all three of our antagonists as our heroes try to defeat the Sanderson Sisters once and for all.

This film also features the iconic song "I Put a Spell On You" sung by the Sanderson Sisters.

This cult classic stars Bette Midler as Winifred Sanderson, Kathy Najimy as Mary Sanderson and Sarah Jessica Parker as Sarah Sanderson.

This movie is not one to be passed on during the Halloween season.

It is a must watch every single Halloween season and my favorite film.

A sequel is in development to come out in 2022 on Disney+ with the original Sanderson Sisters returning to cast a spell once more.

You can find this Halloween classic streaming on Disney+.

# Creative costumes for Halloween



Illustration by Ash Maloney.

## LYDIA TURCIOS

Art Director

Halloween is rapidly approaching — pumpkin spice is everywhere, the leaves are falling among the crisp fall air and this semester is nearly half over.

Luckily, Oct. 31 falls on a Sunday this year. Be sure to celebrate all weekend — safely — and spend plenty of Hallows Eve out and enjoying the holiday if the weather is nice, and inside with some scary movies and your favorite candy if it is not.

Last year was lacking in opportunities to flex your creativity and pop out in a fun costume, so why not go all out this year? There's a lot to choose from, so let's keep it respectful.

Here are some costume suggestions, so the brainstorming is done for you:

### Squid Game staff, or contestant

“Squid Game” has been the buzz recently and for good reason. Why not toss some good psychological horror and gory thrill into your Halloween spirit? If you really wanna get creative, try going as the giant murder doll.

### Slasher of your choice

Creepy, classic and cost-efficient. You can't really go wrong with this one, especially with several series making a resurgence this year — Michael Myers is about to die yet again, and Chucky returns to wreak more havoc on suburbia.

### Ghostbusters

Yet another classic that could use some revisiting, the old favorite will be getting a rebirth soon with “Ghostbusters: Afterlife.” Maybe it's time to jump in that white jumpsuit and hit some ghosts — just make sure it's not one of your classmates!

### Plague doctor

Let's be honest, is there ever going to be a cheekier time to bust out this outfit? Do it just to say you did. If the whole get up is a bit out of your measly medieval serf budget, you could always just go as the bring out your dead guy. Anybody got a wheelbarrow?

### The Ghost of Failed Exam's Past

Midterms should be done and graded by the time Halloween rolls around, so hear out the idea first. Imagine you throw a white sheet over your head and have a friend scribble a giant red “F” on the front for you to tote around all day. Just don't get jumped by the Ghostbuster.

### Your favorite faculty member

Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery — and the funniest. It's a Sunday, so the chances of getting caught are low. When in doubt, just pretend that they walked in front of a mirror.

# Fall fun in Fredonia

**LYDIA TURCIOS**

Art Director

It's that time of year again folks! Time to enjoy that two week span between fainting like a Victorian maiden in the heat and using skis to get to class. You got a bullseye-sized timeslot to enjoy it before the time is swept away by blustery winds and hail golf balls, how are you going to spend it?

Without further ado, a list of fall activities you can do on or near campus in no particular order:

## See a play: "The Wild Party"

Running from Oct. 22 to Oct. 30, this play is a mystery tale set in the prohibition era and will be performed at the Rockefeller Marvel theater here on campus.

## Apple & pumpkin picking

We're within driving distance of several farms due to being in western New York, such as Meadows Farms — a 13 minute drive. If you live in a dorm building, see if in-season produce picking is on the schedule for reslife activities in your building. If it's not, try suggesting it!

## Have a potluck

Get together with some friends and pool your resources to have a nice dinner together, whether that be in a common space in a dorm building or outside while the weather allots. This can be a "Friendsgiving" event before Thanksgiving break, or just any free weekend you want to stuff your face with food.

## Decorate

Have you participated in the door decorating contests in the dorms for Halloween yet? It's worth doing at least once, and even if you don't feel like entering the contest, some holiday appropriate decor might brighten up your mood. If Halloween isn't your speed, taking advantage of the fall scents and stocking up on fuzzy blankets can make your dorm more comfy.



**Pumpkin chocolate chip muffins.**

Photograph by Justina Eodice.

## Halloween recital, pottery sale and other campus events

The Halloween Spooktacular POPS concert with Western New York Chamber Orchestra will be performing Friday Oct. 29, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. They'll be playing season appropriate pieces such as Michael Jackson's "Thriller," so put on a costume and enjoy the show! The Annual Pottery Sale is also coming up Nov. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be set up in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Williams Center. There are also always club specific events being planned, so keep an eye out for posters hung across campus and check out [fredconnect.fredonia.edu](http://fredconnect.fredonia.edu) to get in on them.

## Craft room

The Disney Hall craft room — open from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. — always has fun seasonal activities to do, both in the room and as take-home kits for your dorm. For fall, the crafts include a Paint Your Own Pumpkin Bank from Oct. 25 through Oct. 28; a Craft Room Meet Up: Paint Along Pumpkin from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Oct. 29, Gratitude Turkeys from Nov. 15 to Nov. 18 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.; a Homemade Neck Warmers from Nov. 28 to Dec. 2 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

## Recipe: Pumpkin chocolate chip muffins

**JUSTINA EODICE**

Special to The Leader

Makes: 12 muffins

Prep Time: 35 mins

Cook Time: 30 mins

Total Time: Around 1 hr 10 mins

### Ingredients:

1 cup pumpkin puree

2 eggs (Vegan option: you can use an egg replacement or  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of plain applesauce)

$\frac{1}{2}$  tsp baking powder

1 tsp baking soda

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup brown sugar

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup chocolate chips

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups oat flour (You can make your own by taking some instant oats and putting them in a food processor until it becomes a flour like consistency)

1 tsp pumpkin pie spice

1 pinch sea salt

1 tsp vanilla extract

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup Greek yogurt, plain (Vegan Greek yogurt can also be substituted here)

### Directions:

Mix the wet ingredients: Add the pumpkin puree, Greek yogurt, eggs, brown sugar and vanilla extract to a mixing bowl and whisk together until well combined.

Add the dry ingredients: Stir in the sugar and then add the oat flour, baking soda and pumpkin pie spice.

Fold in the chocolate chips: Stir the chocolate chips into the batter until everything is well combined.

Fill the muffin tin: Transfer the batter to a greased muffin tin and fill each muffin well two-thirds of the way full.

Bake the muffins: 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted in the center.

Serve warm.

I like to let them cool for just a few minutes before diving in. These muffins are my favorite to make every fall to really get myself excited for the season! And when I make them I feel like such a professional baker. They taste so good and using the greek yogurt really helps keep them super moist.

# SPORTS



University Stadium. Fredonia Admissions Virtual Tour.

## Fredonia sports update

**ANTHONY GETTINO**  
Sports Editor

Written Oct. 17, 2021.

This past week, Fredonia had five teams in action. Both men's and women's soccer teams, men's and women's cross country teams, and women's volleyball.

Men's soccer was unable to claim a victory in their two matches over the weekend. The first game was a 0-1 loss to New Paltz. In the final minute of play, the team had a chance to tie the game, but the ball hit the top bar of the goal post.

In the team's last home match of the 2021 season, the Blue Devils faced nationally ranked Oneonta. They lost by a score of 0-3. This match was considered to be the senior night for the 10 seniors on the squad.

The team will go on the road to close out their season, first facing Brockport on Friday before traveling to Geneseo Saturday.

The women's soccer team won one, lost one and tied one in their three games.

The first game was a 0-2 loss to Penn State Behrend on the road. This was an out of conference match.

The Friday afternoon game resulted in a 1-1 tie after 2OT against New Paltz on the road. Sophie Richiusa scored Fredonia's lone goal of the match in the 8th minute of the match.

Saturday resulted in a road victory against SUNYAC squad Oneonta. The final score was 1-0.

Katie Sellers was the Blue Devil to score in this match.

With this win, the team was able to clinch a spot in the SUNYAC playoffs. They currently are the fourth seed.

The regular season will finish with home games against Brockport Friday and Geneseo Saturday.

Women's volleyball was unable to continue the great momentum they had from the weekend before, losing in straight sets to both Geneseo and Brockport last weekend.

Against Geneseo, the team was unable to find rhythm until the third set, where they took the hosts to the final point before coming up just short.

The match against Brockport also saw the Blue Devils unable to get much

going offensively, with all three sets lost by double digits. The great news to come from the weekend was that the team will be in the SUNYAC playoffs.

This weekend, Fredonia will host the Fredonia State Tri-Match and will face Hilbert on Friday and Case Western Saturday.

Both the men's and women's cross country teams traveled to Oberlin for the Inter-Regional Rumble Saturday. The women's team did not place as they didn't send a complete team, although those who did attend ran well. Ally Battaglia was the first Blue Devil to cross the finish line in the 6,000 meter race, coming in at a time of 25:25.5. Elizabeth Gloss, Vanessa Ryhal and Kristin Kelemen were the other runners from Fredonia to race.

The men's team placed 21st of 35 teams. Kyle Campbell finished the 8,000 meter race in 27:38.1 to lead Fredonia. Other scorers for the team were Josh Walters, Anthony Ruiz, Ethan Pocock and Vincent Mendez.

Both teams have this weekend off before traveling to Cortland for the SUNYAC Championships.

# Athlete profile: Jackson Retzer



Jackson Retzer, left. Photographs by Ron Szot.



Jackson Retzer, State University of New York at Fredonia.

## ANTHONY GETTINO Sports Editor

After a long pause due to COVID-19, fall sports have finally begun to have competition again this season. Although the teams missed just one competitive season because of the pandemic, it seems like forever since the sports season got to go in full swing.

One of the teams that was affected was men's soccer.

Although the team had lost the opportunity to compete last year, the players from that team had the option to come back to school and complete their eligibility.

That's what senior Jackson Retzer decided to do, and it's paid off.

Retzer is a senior business administration major with a minor in sports management. Retzer is an alum of Williamsville North High School.

Before this past weekend, the Blue Devils were sitting at 6-8 overall and 1-5 in the SUNYAC. Depending on

how the rest of their conference games shake out, the team has a chance to compete at the SUNYAC playoffs.

Retzer said making the playoffs "would mean absolutely everything to me. In my four years here, I've never gotten a taste of the playoffs. I came back due to COVID and this has all I've been thinking about for a full year. These last two weeks are going to be a grind, but I can feel the energy in the locker room and at practices. Everyone wants success and it's a really good feeling to be around a culture like the one we have."

The team seems ready for the challenge that this may prove to be. Retzer said, "with four games remaining in the SUNYAC regular season, our goal is to win as many as possible for a really good chance to make it into the playoffs. We've been in every league game that we've played this year and that just drives us to believe that we can do anything."

If the team had a bit more luck, they may have an easier path toward reaching their goal of the SUNYAC playoffs. When asked about the overall play of the team so far this season, Retzer said, "this is a weird year, the team as a whole has played very well. Our record isn't quite showing it, but we haven't been able to find lucky bounces like our opponents have been. That being said, my teammates have helped me to perform to the best of my abilities."

These close games have helped them in other ways, even disregarding the record in these matches.

"All these close games have created a culture throughout the team that emphasizes fighting for every minute of every game," Jackson says.

Jackson believes that "soccer is 100% a team effort." It will take an entire team effort to overcome the odds and make it to their first SUNYAC playoffs in five years, but the entire Fredonia State campus is rooting for it to happen.

# Derek Raymond: Pretentious Pumpkins





# SPOOKY STORIES

from our readers

## True terror: Unhuman faces in the dark

According to the author, all of the story is true and none of the pictures have been altered from their original form.

**KATHERINE HILTON**  
Special to The Leader

In May of 2021, my best friends and I were staying at Allegheny State park in one of the old rentable cabins.

We had been having a good time drinking around the campfire that night and went to bed around 2 a.m. I was sleeping in the upper bunk directly across from the fridge and the cabin's front door. I rolled over in the middle of the night and opened my eyes to see my friend crouched on top of the fridge between the fridge and the ceiling.

At that point I was awake.

I yelled, "Jordan, get off the fridge!"

Jordan replied from the bunk bed next to me, "Katherine what are you talking about!? I'm right here."

I turned my head in the direction Jordan spoke. When I looked back, whatever had been on top of the fridge was gone.

If I had to describe the creature's physical characteristics, I'd say its face was a human face — my friend's face — but its body was inhuman in nature and super skinny — almost malnourished-looking.

My friends and I talked about it in the morning. Jordan confirmed we had had a conversation in the middle of the night; we both remembered it. Since I am not a sleep talker, we were not sure what the creature could have been.

But it gets creepier.

Not even a month ago in September, something weird happened again.

I was with the same two friends and we were having a campfire at one of their houses. We were sitting around the campfire telling real spooky stories about murders, radios going off without anyone on the other end and other bad things that had happened around the Fredonia area.

We were also discussing what had happened back in May and still debating what kind of creature it could have been.

We took some pictures by the campfire because the fire was really big. The next morning when we looked at the pictures we found something in the background of one picture — a face that wasn't human and looked like it had sharp teeth.

The original photo is below next to a zoomed in look at what was found behind me in the picture. What do you think it could be?



Photographs from Katherine Hilton.



# Tall tale: The silent driver

**OLIVIA CLAMP**  
Special to The Leader

It is Jonathan's last night in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, so he and his friends decide to have a rowdy last night bar hopping around the city. The humid August air hits Jonathan as he leaves the pub. He will not be visiting for another few months and is reluctant to leave the historic city.



Illustration by Lydia Turcios.

Soon, his taxi will be arriving to pick him up to bring him to his hotel, The Gaslight Inn Bed and Breakfast. Jonathan says goodbye to his friends when his taxi pulls up to the curb. He enters the vehicle and notices the inside of the cab smells of musty cologne.

"Hello, sir, can you take me to the Gaslight Inn Bed and Breakfast on Middle Street?" Jonathan asks.

He receives no response. Jonathan is confused but shrugs it off as the taxi driver begins to pull away from the curb. The taxi driver is wearing an old jacket with a blue cap on his head. Jonathan finds this odd but figures the driver must be an older gentleman.

"So, have you had a lot of people to drive around tonight? It is a beautiful night."

Silence. Jonathan figures the taxi driver is tired of talking about the weather and where he

has driven, so he instead tries to get to know the stranger by asking him about Gettysburg.

"I was wondering, have you ever been on one of those ghost tours? I have heard great things about them, but I don't believe in ghosts so I don't know if I should attend. I heard the employees mist smells in the air and carve shelves and gutters to look like the shadows of ghosts. What do you think about it all?"

Once again, Jonathan receives no response from the taxi driver. He begins to feel uncomfortable as he feels he is talking to a wall. Although Jonathan grew up in New York City with snobby taxi drivers, he has never been in one where the conversation is nonexistent.

Instead of coming up with another topic to discuss, Jonathan stares out the window. The sky is dark, but the moon is big and beautiful. Jonathan looks at his phone to see how much longer he must endure the car ride. According to the GPS, he still has three and a half more miles in the vehicle.

Shortly after checking his phone, the car begins to slow down and eventually stops. Jonathan looks out the front window and sees a large bridge with vehicle blockades directly in front. The bridge has a few spotlights shining onto it. The looks of the red bridge give Jonathan the creeps. He waits patiently in his seat, wondering why the driver has stopped. The driver then takes the keys out of the ignition, implying that Jonathan is at his destination.

"Excuse me, sir, but I think we still have a few more miles to go," Jonathan says politely with a quiver in his voice.

No answer.

"Sir, it's late, and I have to

wake up early tomorrow, so I don't miss my flight. Can you please continue driving," he says with more urgency.

Silence.

"Can you say anything? I will report you to your taxi company."

This time Jonathan is outraged as he has no idea where he is.

Nothing.

Annoyed, Jonathan gets out of the taxi and throws his money at the taxi driver. The atmosphere is off, and the smell of cigars fills the air. He looks at the taxi driver who has not moved since he left. There is no trace of where the odor is coming from. He decides to investigate and moves past the vehicle blockades to see where he is. In the middle of the bridge, Jonathan finds a bronze plaque.

The beginning of the plaque discusses the historical impact of the bridge, which Jonathan skims over. It isn't until the last few sentences when Jonathan takes in the words of the plaque, which reads, "While this bridge is a beacon for the ghosts of confederate soldiers, another legend takes place. Numerous visitors of Gettysburg report getting into a taxi with a silent driver. The taxi rides are eerie and do not end up where the visitor expects. The traveler is dropped off here, the Sachs Covered Bridge. Once they leave the vehicle, the taxi will disappear."

Fear sends Jonathan to race to the taxi and the driver; however, they are no longer waiting for him. In disbelief, Jonathan searches for tire tracks and finds none. He did not hear the engine start nor see the headlights begin on the taxi. While coming up with a logical reason for where the driver and his car went, the smell of cigars grows stronger, and he hears gunfire in the distance.

# THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia



## THE MENACE THAT MUNCHES:

### WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE NEW LOCAL GROUNDHOG



Groundhog underneath the gazebo near Tim Horton's patio.

Photograph by Jules Hoepfing.

#### MATTHEW BAUM

Scallion Editor

It's no surprise to me that we have invasive operatives amongst us.

What!?! We live in a perfect society where nobody has special interests in our college student lives!? In your wildest dreams!

No, it makes perfect sense to me that there are forces out of our control, sent out to watch our every move.

Where we go, what we do, who we love — all of these factors can be carefully plugged into an advertiser's algorithms to sell us on the most unique, most delightful, most insidious form of complacency. By doing too much to keep us comfortable, the heads of corporations that set the world around its axis can go about their day unhindered by our commercially-nullified voices that yearn for a truly equitable world.

Anyway, all this to say I think the groundhog that hangs out around the Fredonia campus is a spy that has been sent to watch us and tell her higher-ups our cultural habits. This is to better improve targeted marketing, leading us down an ever-more-slippery slope towards pure consumerist hellscape.

I had wanted to get an exclusive report from the groundhog herself, ~~but I was afraid the little bastard would bite me~~ she wasn't available for an exclusive. So, I have asked my Scallywag Jay Byron to follow up with her, and to keep an ear open for any more talk about large arboreal rodents that are joining our community.

Stay vigilant, folks, and be sure to not mention your spending habits around any large arboreal rodents. They can hear everything.

# A MESSAGE TO THE CEO OF KELLOGG'S

**OLIVIA SYLVESTER**

Guest Scallywag

Really? You're going to reject my proposal? Do you know how hard I've worked on this? How long have I spent?

All I want is for the Kellogg's Froot Loop cereal straws to be brought back. I've dedicated my life to this cause.

Now this may mean nothing to you, but it is everything to me. I remember that day in the grocery store when my father asked me what I wanted to do when I grew up. I was only 12, I couldn't possibly know. We walked to the cereal aisle to get my favorite snack, Froot Loop cereal straws, and were greeted with empty shelves and a single note: "Discontinued."

At that moment, I finally knew what I wanted to do with my life. I wanted to bring these Kellogg's Froot Loop cereal straws back in any way I could.

As soon as I turned 16, I got a job at a Kellogg's factory, in hopes I could work my way up — and I did.

In three short years, I was working in management at that same factory, juggling college at the same time. It was difficult, but

I just had to remember what I was working towards. I finished college with a bachelor's degree in business and a concentration in food management. Perfect. I would be working corporate at Kellogg's in no time — and I was.

In just one short year after graduating, I landed an entry level position here. All according to the plan.

For six years, I played your game of loyal office worker. I worked overtime, took on extra projects and earned promotions. All leading to the point earlier this week, where I, [NAME REDACTED], pleaded to you, the CEO and board of directors, to take up my proposal of reintroducing Froot Loop cereals straws back into the market. And you all denied me.

I am publishing my story in any newspaper I can get my hands on, to send you, and every little one of your puppets a message: You will regret this, for as you know, I'm nothing but determined. Consider this a two weeks notice — two weeks for you to reconsider my offer. And if you do not give me what I want by the end of those two weeks, let's just say, it'd be a miracle if your building consisted of more than ashes.



"fruit loops friends" by Thuy Pham is licensed with CC BY-ND 2.0.

# PUMPKIN CARVING IS ON THE RISE: GOING UNDER THE KNIFE FOR HUMAN BEAUTY

**JULES HOEPTING**  
Managing Editor

Pumpkin torture by means of carving needs to stop.

This method of antagonizing is going stronger than ever; within the last month, over 60 million pumpkins were tortured by carving.

In order to empathize with the pain millions of gourds face every year, I spoke with Steven Philks, a pumpkin who is currently dying from carving-induced problems.

“I grew up in a pumpkin patch governed by humans. During my budding, everything was great. The farmers specifically sprayed us with insecticides and pesticides so that we wouldn’t get diseases — that’s what they said! I believed ‘em; I even used to tell my friend Billy Roberts how lucky we were to grow up in the patch because we got to grow up with other pumpkins and got to be buddin’ up healthy and strong. Oh, sometimes we fought each other for sunlight and teased the pumpkins that were really little, but when I look through Heinze’s sight, I see fond memories.

“Then, out o’ the blue, those farmers — the ones that I loved — started pickin’ some of us. They frank-o-ly cut us off our stems and hauled us onto ‘eir human thing-o-majigs! It was horrifying. No gourd could sleep at night — pumpkins kept havin’ night terrors. All gourds could think about was who had been picked and who was the next one that was gonna get picked. I remember how those farmers took Billy a day or so before they took me. It was so tragic to see your friend of 106 days hauled away, slashed right off o’ his stem. Then they came for me. The picker looked at all o’ us real careful, inspectin’ us, then decided I was the pumpkin to be picked. The human started walkin’ towards me. I screamed in silence. A sharp, shiny object dangled from the human’s hand and they slashed it across my stem. I expected it to be painful, but it wasn’t. All my senses o’ pain were numb once my stem was off. But I was still slowly dyin’... I knew I could never live as long as I could have if I was still connected to my stem.



**Jules Hoepting, human, sits down to interview Steven Philks, a pumpkin who had suffered from carving.**

“The ride in the thing-o-majig was bumpy. All o’ us pumpkins talked to each other ‘bout what we thought might happen. Susie Magee thought we were gonna be made into pumpkin pie, which is such a gruesome conception. But what really happened was so much worse.

“They took us off o’ the thing-o-majig and put us on to flat wood. Put us on different sections, based on size. I was average. They took out ‘eir water sprayer and blasted us ‘till all our dirt fell off. Can you imagine? They even took our dirt! But we had each other. O’ so we thought. Soon enough, humans we’d never seen before thrust ‘eir hands ‘round whatever pumpkins they pleased and stuck us in ‘eir thing-o-majigs. Susie was one o’ the first to go; figures — she was tragically pretty. After the sun came and went a few times, some humans decided they owned me. They picked me off o’ the ground and stuck me in their thing-o-majig. It was dark and smelled like some offal impression o’ fern trees in there. I rolled ‘round quite a bit, wonderin’ what tragic thing was goin’ to happen to me next.

“The human placed me on a flat surface pell-mell with sharp, shiny objects. I was so scared I couldn’t move. The

human took a triangular, sharp, shiny, cold thingy and stabbed it in my head. Oh, the horror, the horror! The human started cuttin’ ‘round my dehydrated stem. They ripped out my knob and a portion o’ my bones that came with it. Oh, it couldn’t get worse — that’s what I told myself — but I was fibbin’ to my thinkin’ fibers. The human scooped out all o’ my insides. Every single seed and mush that went with it. They stuck some sharp thing through my skull and made some weird kind o’ marks and holes. As if I weren’t already some effigy of myself, the human put me outside so the whole entire world could behold the damage done to my corpulent!

“Oh, it got worse. After the sun came and went a few more times, the human placed fire — real fire — inside of me. Light shot through my wounds. My damaged corpulent was glowin’. When the moon came, humans kept walkin’ up to me and gawkin’ at me with applaudin’ faces. Yes, you heard me right; those humans thought my wounds were awe-strikin’.

“Anyhow, when the sun started to come again it o-ccurred to me maybe the torture was the humans’ way o’ showin’ appreciation for pumpkins. It

It occurred to me maybe the humans weren't tryin' to torture us; maybe humans were enhacin' us to some style o' human beauty. I thought to myself, maybe it wasn't so bad after all, having a human-caused premature death. I got to be displayed as a sign o' beauty. Isn't that a nice thought? To think the pumpkins who get carved are the lucky ones?"

After hearing the story-equivalent of a five MPH turn on a 55 MPH road, I needed time to adjust.

I paused Philks to ask him how he developed such a drastic change in view. Philks's response was that his experience was indeed horrifying until he realized it wasn't.

"If cutting holes in pumpkins is a p-o-pular thing to you humans, then lots o' pumpkins are gonna end up with holes in 'em. So why should pumpkins live 'eir lives in fear of what's gonna happen when they can live much more peacefully knowin' that it's all for a good cause: human beauty standards."

I was astonished with Philks' remarks; I reminded him that the intention of my article was to raise awareness about the torture humans caused pumpkins by carving them.

I reminded him that gourds do not read newspapers and he would not relieve the fear of any pumpkins by sharing his realization.

If less people carved pumpkins, less pumpkins would have to go through the traumatizing experience of being carved. Philks's sustained expression told me he did not care.

I am a busy person with many social causes; I simply did not have enough time to find a different pumpkin whose thoughts were in-line with my reporting bias.

My deadline for an article with 1,000 words was an hour after I interviewed Philks, so I worked with what material I had. I apologize for the misleading title and opening paragraph.

Perhaps pumpkin carving really isn't as bad as I thought it was.

**UPDATE:** Steven Philks rotted to death the day this article was originally published online (Oct. 26, 2020).



SCAN FOR AN  
AUDIO PSA ABOUT  
PUMPKIN CARVING



Above: right to left, Jules Hoepting poses for a selfie with Steven Philks in front of Alumni Hall.  
Below: PSA poster with a fake website created by Jules Hoepting in Microsoft PowerPoint.

**Every year, 60 million  
pumpkins die from  
carving-induced rot.**



**StopCarvingPumpkins.org**

# COMICS

NICOLE THORSON



ASH MALONEY



# HOROSCOPES

## HOW CLOSE THE SIGNS ARE TO LOSING THEIR MARBLES THIS WEEK AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT IT

JAY BYRON - Staff Scallywag

Hi guys this is my first time writing horoscopes so please be kind. However you must BE AWARE. I know a lot.

### ARIES

not close to losing your marbles at ALL. you have burger wednesday. you'll be fine.



### TAURUS

you have one more marble left to lose and you're holding onto it for dear life. order d.p. dough cinnamon stix.



### GEMINI

you're stealing other peoples' marbles?????? chill out???? go file your fafsa!



### CANCER

you lost all of them because you kept willingly giving them to other people. PLEASE DRINK WATER AND LAY OFF THE WHITE CLAWS. THEY'RE NOT THAT GOOD.



### LEO

you're not that close to losing your marbles, but you can help yourself even more by touching grass.



### VIRGO

all of your marbles are intact! beware because i know you're gemini's next target. btw, eat an orange or you'll get scurvy.



### LIBRA

you have five marbles left. why do you keep looking at oncourse every ten minutes? turn off your computer for a while and play just dance via youtube video.



### SCORPIO

gemini has been stealing your marbles but you enjoy it for some reason? do downward dog into child's pose RIGHT NOW.



### SAGITTARIUS

you haven't lost any of your marbles but you should have! have you taken a look at your upcoming huge project that you need to do? i think not. gotcha.



### CAPRICORN

you have half of your marbles left and it's because you think you have COVID. go get tested. and buy that thing you've been wanting to buy. you deserve it.



### AQUARIUS

gemini took a marble but then you bit them. sing the song of your people in a mason practice room.



### PISCES

did you give some of your marbles to virgo?? where are they? whatever. sit at a tim hortons table after ordering a large vanilla cold brew like you're the main character.



