

THE

LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

11.09.2021

Issue 5

Volume CXXIX



FREDONIA
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

FSA Responds to Concerns on Food Quality



Worries Swirl Around Fredonia Drinking Water Quality

Battle of the New Bands Begins

Winter Sports Preview

Beavers Parachute onto Campus

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Front cover: Gabe Gonzalez looks at the Faculty Student Association's Meal Plan pamphlet. Staged. Photograph by Derek Raymond.
Back cover: Joe Marciniak looks suspiciously at a slice of pizza purchased at a FSA dining facility. Staged. Photograph by Derek Raymond.



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FSA attempts to mitigate students' concerns regarding food quality

CHLOE KOWALYK

Managing Editor

Ongoing student concerns regarding the inconsistent quality of FSA food on campus – resulting in upset stomachs, allergic reactions and overall dissatisfaction – have sparked efforts by FSA administrators to intervene. FSA has blamed staffing shortages for the problems and has recently taken steps to hire more workers. Whether these efforts will resolve the issues raised, however, remains to be seen.

Just a few weeks ago, Kelly Protz, a sophomore theatrical production and design major who is allergic to tree nuts, had a severe allergic reaction after eating at Blue Devil Grill.

“I got a white chocolate cookie during Mexican week last week and looked at the menu board to see if there were any of the symbols next to it and there wasn't, so I got it instead of my normal peanut butter one,” she explained.

Protz is referring to the menu board at Blue Devil Grill, which lists specific symbols next to each menu item, indicating whether or not they contain a specific allergen, or are vegetarian or vegan-friendly.

“I had the cookie the next day before my first class of the morning and I felt the texture that nuts have, and I turned to my friend and said ‘this cookie has nuts in it... I have to leave,’” Protz continued. “I was out for almost the entire day because of anaphylactic shock.”

Anaphylactic shock is the body's response to a severe allergic reaction in which the body releases a flood of chemicals that induces the person to go into shock. “I couldn't breathe without a coughing fit, I had severe chest pain, my throat hurt,” said Protz. They took Benadryl, and stayed with a friend to make sure that if their symptoms got worse, they could get to the hospital.

Unfortunately, Protz is not the first of SUNY Fredonia's students to suffer from an allergic reaction due to FSA food and mislabeling. One student, Nadia Stiell, told her story in a The Leader article



A student looks concerned about the food they purchased from Willy C's. Staged. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

published online on Oct. 25 in which she ended up in the Brooks Memorial Hospital emergency room after eating dinner at Cranston Marché, and having an allergic reaction due to improperly labeled food.

In response to recent scrutiny by The Leader and other students this semester, FSA has added allergen information to

its website, complete with labels for each allergen. Darin Schulz, FSA executive director, said in a Nov. 5 email interview, “we have recently completed an upgrade for the menus on the FSA website that has been in the works for several months. Now, allergen information is available to everyone on campus for every item of food we produce, with one

click on your mobile device.”

Although this allergen information is finally uploaded online and easily accessible after years of it not being this way, students are still required to download a PDF file for every single dining hall on campus. FSA could instead print out and laminate these menus, and place them outside of each dining hall for easier access.

In the past few weeks, several other students have come forward with stories of raw or undercooked food, moldy food and allergic reactions. The hit or miss quality of food on campus has even led Allyson Youngs, a junior public relations major, to focus her blog, Fredonia Food Fest, an assignment for a social media class, on her experiences with campus dining.

Youngs thinks that the food on campus is mostly decent. In regards to specific food concerns, “the only thing I find frustrating is getting food that is under or overcooked,” Youngs said. “I’ve had friends who have hit their fried pizza logs on the table and they sound like a rock. We pay all this money and it is just frustrating to get food like that.”

Although Youngs is generally satisfied with the food service FSA provides, she said, “I just feel that there should be more of a uniform understanding on how to properly cook food” and cited an incident where she ordered a warm quesadilla-like wrap, and was only given a cold brick of cheese within a cold tortilla. “I couldn’t eat it,” she said.

Youngs does believe that more can be done to address allergen concerns, however, especially labeling certain allergens on the ordering kiosks at Willy C’s. Currently, there is no way to filter out allergens on the kiosks, despite the fact that FSA has the allergen information for each menu item available to them, and even has these same labels on the menu at Blue Devil Grill.

From her experience writing the blog and interacting with students who have had similar experiences as her, Youngs would like to remind students to “just be mindful of the fact that this isn’t home... just find something you like and try to opt for a safe menu item you know you like.”

Schulz also noted that students can bookmark fsa.fredonia.edu/Dining-Services/MenuComparison.aspx for an updated list of food options and

allergen concerns for each meal at each dining facility. He also said, “during every incoming student orientation, FSA encourages all students with any type of food allergy or dietary restriction to reach out to the Director of Dining Services, Dean Messina, who will help them navigate dining on campus.”

Previously, Schulz and FSA attributed the poor quality of food to understaffing concerns. One email was sent out to students on Sept. 21, 2021 advertising positions available. Checking through the Dunkirk Observer’s job listings, and plugging in keywords in their search tool such as “FSA,” “food” and “SUNY Fredonia,” no openings for FSA popped up.

“With most on-campus students required to pay thousands of dollars for a meal plan each semester, they should expect a proper meal without mold, dead flies or getting sick due to the presence of avoidable allergens.”

I then looked at SUNY Fredonia’s Human Resources page to check for employment opportunities within FSA. To check FSA’s employment opportunities, select “Other Campus and Community Employers” under the employment opportunities tab. A list of companies is included on this page, including FSA. However, clicking on the FSA link takes you to an old, outdated page on FSA’s website.

This webpage advertises job openings for working at “Centre Pointe,” which is the former name for Willy C’s that was changed around three years ago, and Cranston Marché. The webpage also lists that there are only openings for Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m., and says that “most positions are filled within the first few weeks of each academic year.” For an organization claiming severe understaffing, updating the webpage and advertising for positions locally would seem to be appropriate steps.

FSA Board of Directors student member Marc-Anthony Bullock said that “to combat the understaffing issues we are facing, [FSA has] to make the

jobs appealing to the students. Most of the current staff are either adults or students,” Bullock continued. “There’s a ton of students on campus who have a lot of free time and could use extra money for school and other personal things. FSA needs to advertise that they need new staff members instead of just saying it,” he said.

FSA workers currently get paid minimum wage. In an Oct. 21, 2021 email from Susan Cortes, director of campus payroll services, minimum wage is increasing to \$13.20 per hour, effective on Dec. 23, 2021. What remains unclear is whether FSA must comply with the state and SUNY-approved increase in the minimum wage since the email was addressed to “Supervisors of non-FSA Student Assistant and College Work Study employees.”

According to Schulz, FSA has increased its student staff in the past two weeks. “Our successful employee recruitment efforts across campus helped FSA bring student staffing back to normal levels,” Schulz said. “We are excited to welcome this new group of student-workers, who have received in-depth training on all aspects of food preparation, including avoiding allergens and maintaining proper temperatures.”

Training is indeed an issue about which students have voiced concerns this semester. In a Leader interview published Sept. 23, 2021, a student who used to work for FSA who wished to remain anonymous, said “I personally don’t think we had proper training for sanitation and health.” The student explained that they, along with other employees, were just told to do certain things, and said that some students didn’t even know how to properly make sandwiches at the sub station in Willy C’s.

Additional student employees have told The Leader in recent weeks that it has been “extremely difficult training new students this semester; more than usual” and that staff have “not [been] able to give students the training we usually do.”

Despite these workers’ claims, Schulz insisted that new student employees have been introduced to an “in-depth” training procedure. “Along with their training, FSA student employees have a hierarchy of people around them

while on the job to guide and support them, including student leaders, FSA unionized workers and managers,” Schulz said.

Bullock feels that the food on campus “needs to taste good as well as look good.” With most on-campus students required to pay thousands of dollars for a meal plan each semester, they should expect a proper meal without mold, dead flies or getting sick due to the presence of avoidable allergens.

Schulz said “despite our team’s best efforts, occasionally an item of food is served that does not meet standards. It is the exception, not the rule, considering the thousands of individual food items or meals prepared on a daily basis.”

Schulz encourages students to let FSA know if they encounter such experiences. “We encourage students, instead of simply posting a complaint on social media, to bring them to the attention of an FSA manager, who will deal with the situation immediately,” he said.

Bullock explained that the board is “aware of these concerns, and as far as [he knows] they are planning to fix them.” “I don’t know exactly what the plans are but I guarantee it will be discussed at future meetings,” he said.

FSA faculty board members were contacted for this story, but declined comment. We reached out to FSA student member Jenna Woods for an update on FSA’s reforms, but due to a family emergency, we were unable to get a response. The Leader will report on the recent FSA board meeting in the next issue.

SUNY Fredonia students are hoping to see changes in FSA operations soon, including better training, greater accessibility to allergen information and a sustainable hiring plan to prevent further staffing shortages and improve the overall quality of food.



Students are concerned about FSA meal plans. Staged. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

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A comparative analysis of Fredonia's meal plan system to other SUNY schools

CASEY HUBER

Special to The Leader

How would you rate the on-campus food out of 10?

"6. It's fine," one student said.

"6," another student said.

"6.5. The lack of options makes having any dietary restriction difficult," another student said.

"5. I wish they put more time and love and effort into the food," another student said.

These student reviews mirror the score assigned by college ranking organization Niche, which scored SUNY Fredonia at a middling C.

How the system works

At Fredonia, there are two predominant food money types: "meals" and "points."

Meals are a bit complicated. The actual value of a meal swipe is different depending on where you go to eat.

At Cranston Marché, one meal swipe is equivalent to \$11 at dinner time. This means that you could pay either in one meal swipe, or in currency such as cash or credit card.

However, at Starbucks a meal is \$5.50, therefore your meal swipe is worth a lesser amount of money.

Points are much simpler. They are equal to the amount of money, in cash, you put into them. If you decide to add 300 points to your card, it costs about \$300.

The problems with the system

Let's hear some student perspectives on the meal plan systems and Fredonia's food distribution in general.

"I feel like they should have more of a variety of options to choose from," Fredonia student Amarah Gori said.

Gori said that she would expect that the number of meals per week would be 21, or three meals per day. She also commented that more eateries on campus would be beneficial.

Other students have similar perspectives that the food quality is lacking and that the food distribution system needs revamping.

"The only food [on campus] I enjoy eating are Starbucks and Tim Horton's," Fredonia student Karie Hawkins said. It is important to note that both Starbucks and Tim Horton's are franchise restaurants and are therefore not directly run by the Faculty Student Association (FSA). "I think it's kind of unfair that people that have the all-points meal plan can only spend 50 points a day. People that have the all-points meal plan should have at least 100 points per day."

Some students try to circumvent the problems by avoiding cooked food altogether.

"I try to stay away from things that are cooked at Willies," Fredonia junior Rachel Mayou said.

"I usually go to the C-Store for lunch, and occasionally after practice I can go to Cranston."

When asked about how the meal system worked for her, Mayou felt there were too few meals.

"For an athlete, I think it's absolutely ridiculous. I think you get 17 meals [in Plan 1, which is required for first semester, on-campus freshmen] which isn't three meals a day for a week. I would run out of meals halfway through the week because I was swimming, and you eat a lot of food for swimming."

What other SUNY colleges are doing

To better understand whether SUNY Fredonia is doing things as best as it can, we should compare and contrast with other SUNY schools.

The question: Can I find a default meal plan for freshmen that is both cost effective and flexible?

The methodology: Take several SUNY schools at random and compare their introductory meal plan systems.

The selection: I used SUNY Fredonia, SUNY Buffalo (UB), SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Cortland to compare and contrast. Note that UB is significantly larger than the rest of these schools with close to 30,000 students. This will be elaborated further in the results section.

Before we get into the table below, allow me a moment to preface that I am not a statistician, and the potential for an unfair comparison between two meal plans is possible.

However, I was careful in my methodology to use what is presented as the default, "Plan 1" meal plan and to compare them as such.

The numbers are derived from the campus websites, each reporting what their default meal plan for freshmen is, as well as what is included in that meal plan.

College Food Quality Ranking (by Niche)

 SUNY Fredonia	C
 SUNY Buffalo	A
 SUNY New Paltz	C+
 SUNY Cortland	C+
 SUNY Brockport	B

Graphic made by Alyssa Bump.

Our first comparison is the college food quality ranking by Niche. Here, we see that the schools are pretty close to each other with one exception; SUNY Buffalo (UB) is well above the others.

We will discuss what this exception might mean in the results section above.

These results are from student-pollled surveys collected by Niche.

They suggest that, for the most part, SUNY schools are about on the same level in terms of food quality.

This could mean several things.

Smaller schools tend to have less money to spend on things

like food preparation or extra staff to manage additional food venues, therefore the smaller schools would have a lower overall quality of food.

However, it is also important to consider the fact that large schools like UB also have to produce much more food than small schools like Fredonia. Therefore, one could argue that the quality of food should be less in the bigger schools.

While the data does not show this phenomenon, our sample size was too small to illustrate a pattern if one were to exist.

Our goal here is to get the students thinking about what you want out of Fredonia's food.

Continued on next page.

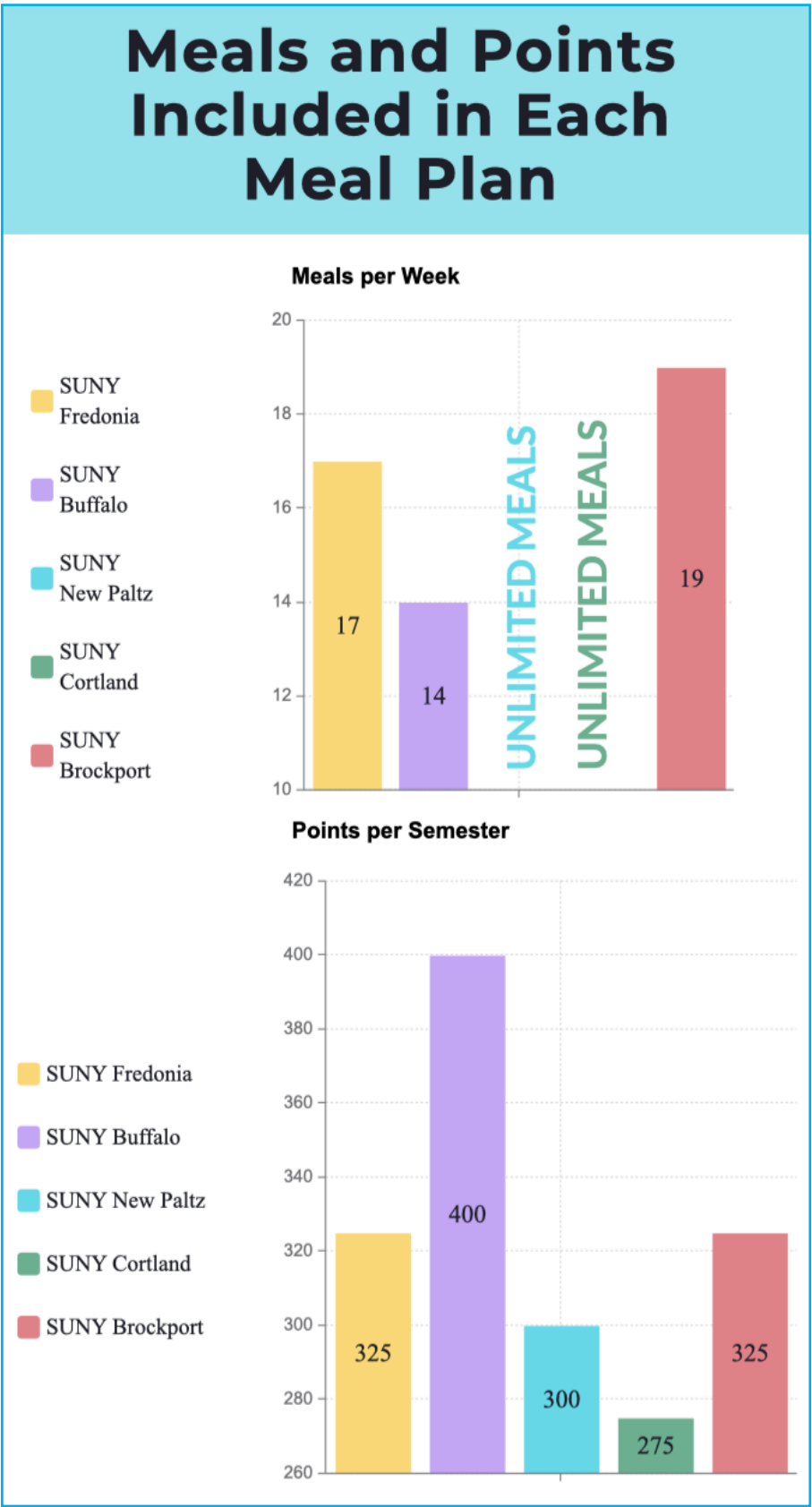
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Next, we will compare and contrast what is included in the default freshman meal plan, namely meals per week and points per semester.

An interesting development here is the unlimited meal plans by SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Cortland. This makes the cost breakdown in the next section a bit more difficult, but for comparison purposes, these are good examples to include.

Once again, our goal with this comparative analysis is to get the students thinking about what they would like to see their money go towards in Fredonia's food.

Do you want more or fewer meals? Would you use an unlimited meal plan?



Graphic made by Alyssa Bump.

Now we get into the nitty-gritty number crunching, so bear with me.

The cost breakdown has five components: cost of the default freshman meal plan, minimum value of that meal plan, maximum value of that meal plan, the average value of the meal plan and the cost effectiveness of buying that meal plan (calculated by dividing the average from the cost).

Note that a negative cost effectiveness suggests that the student would theoretically save money by not buying that meal plan.

However, SUNY campuses, including Fredonia, make the freshman meal plan mandatory for first semester, on-campus students. For many on-campus freshmen, there is no avoiding it.

It is also important to note that the minimum is assuming that students use all of their meal swipes on the lowest value meal equivalency, such as at Starbucks.

The actual average, and therefore the actual cost effectiveness, may be significantly lower if the student doesn't use all of their meals. This also applies to the maximum.

Cost Breakdown of Each SUNY Meal Plan

	Cost	Minimum Value of Meal Plan	Maximum Value of Meal Plan	Average Value of Meal Plan	Cost Effectiveness
SUNY Fredonia	\$2,865	\$1,727.50	\$2,237.50	\$1,982.50	-31%
SUNY Buffalo	\$3,250	\$1,765	\$2,762.50	\$2,353*	-28%
SUNY New Paltz	\$2,400	Unlimited meals	Unlimited meals	Unlimited meals	Incalculable
SUNY Cortland	\$2,440	Unlimited meals	Unlimited meals	Unlimited meals	Incalculable
SUNY Brockport	\$2,815	\$3,782.05	\$4,323.55	\$3,962.55	+41%**

*This average was calculated using the sum of the variant meal plan maximum values divided by the total number of values (5).

**Only one dining hall had meal values listed on their website, so this result is likely too high.

Graphic made by Alyssa Bump.

Interpreting the results

Now that we have these numbers all in front of us, let's analyze them.

University at Buffalo had the highest overall meal quality according to Niche, but it is important to remember that UB is significantly bigger than most SUNY schools.

The current total enrollment at UB is just short of 30,000, compared to SUNY Fredonia's almost 4,000 student body.

So what exactly does this mean for UB's results? Well, one could argue that it skews the results in either direction.

Allow me to explain.

If you consider that the quantity of food being purchased, processed and served to students is significantly higher than at, say, Fredonia, you might be inclined to think that the "A" attributed to food quality is actually much harder to achieve than at a small school like Fredonia.

However, you could also argue on that same point of food quantity that UB would have more money to invest in the food preparation process, therefore their score should be around an "A," or else they are doing something wrong.

Neither interpretation is necessarily incorrect, both have their merits.

Logging around Fredonia reservoir: Concerns for Fredonia's drinking water quality



Fredonia Reservoir.

JULES HOEPTING

Managing Editor

The Fredonia Reservoir has been filling up with sediment for decades. Many Fredonia citizens are concerned the logging of trees near the Fredonia reservoir will further increase the sediment in the reservoir and result in more occurrences of unfit drinking water.

The Village of Fredonia and SUNY Fredonia receive drinking water from the Fredonia Reservoir, located about two miles south of the village near Spooden Road off State Highway 60. Forecon, a forestry consulting firm, created a forest management plan that involves logging trees near the reservoir. Although this plan had been discussed with the public and approved in 2019, then put on hold due to COVID-19, the final steps of implementation have recently sparked concern among many citizens. Several SUNY Fredonia professors from various departments voiced their concerns at the Village of Fredonia meeting on Nov. 1, 2021.

Vegetation such as trees and grass help keep soil in place by absorbing water. The less vegetation there is, the less absorption occurs and the easier it is for particles of soil and other sediments to slide away, also known as erosion. These particles end up elsewhere, often into the nearest body of water, and settle based on the particles' size and weight, a process called sedimentation. Thus, the less trees that are near the reservoir, the more erosion occurs and the more sedimentation accumulates in the reservoir.

According to biology professor and researcher in plant ecology Dr. Jonathan Titus, there is evidence the same logging activity approved by Forecon in 2019 was "undertaken in the 1970s and 1990s [and] is what led to the problems with sedimentation in the reservoir today."

Titus further noted that "the forests surrounding the reservoir are located on steep slopes and, in some cases, highly unstable soils that are particularly susceptible to landslides. These same forests ... do an excellent job of filtering rainwater, slowing down overland flows and retaining sediments on site." Titus is also concerned that forest dirt roads will increase sedimentation once they are used for logging; these roads already experience erosion from illegal ATV usage.

The more sediments there are suspended in water, the more turbid, or cloudy the water will appear. With the exposure of steep slopes prone to landslides, it is likely lots of particles will slide into the Fredonia Reservoir. Due to years of natural sedimentation accumulation, with large sedimentation deposits during major storms, there have been multiple instances of high turbidity that led to undrinkable water for Fredonia citizens.

"Given that the majority of students currently on campus recall the nearly three-week span last year, Sept. 10–30, when we couldn't drink the tap water without boiling it, we should all be informed [of the logging]. The water advisory was due to concerns about water quality in the Fredonia water reservoir and high turbidity," said Dr. Tracy Marafiotte, communication professor.

**"We know full well the importance these properties have to protect and clean the village's water supply" and that "strategic harvesting is critical to the protection of all resources, especially the water."
- Forecon,
Forestry Consulting Firm**

According to a 2016 study on the Fredonia Reservoir and treatment plant conducted by the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services, since the reservoir was constructed, it "has lost 43% of its volume to sedimentation; ongoing erosion processes and other storms have also deposited large amounts of sediment in the reservoir."

This is problematic, according to VANM professor Margaret Urban, because the sedimentation in the water "stresses the water filtration system in the treatment plant that provides the water supply for the village." Because of the decreasing amount of room for water in the reservoir, it takes less time for reservoir water to warm up in the summer than it did in previous years.

The shallower, warmer water provides ideal growing conditions for algae which further stresses the filtration system and "jeopardizes" the village water supply.

Urban, whose design work explores the connections between communities and ecosystems, is especially concerned about sedimentation build up as the reservoir's dam has been listed as "severely inadequate" since 1980 and is prone to dam failure in the case of a large storm.

"One of the few things that we know greatly diminishes soil erosion is the presence of a forest with developed root structure ... With so many uncertainties in our future as a community, region, nation and planet, why willingly relinquish one of the few things we know will help moderate some of those unknowns?" Urban asked.

Several citizens found themselves asking why the village approved the logging during the Nov. 1 public hearing, and suspected there was a monetary incentive.

Village of Fredonia Trustee Eva Dawn Bashaw assured that the money that would be obtained from the logging was really not that much. Bashaw assured that the only money Forecon would receive, and has received, is for the forest management plan the company put together. The logging would be outsourced to another company and overseen by Forecon to ensure correct implementation.

Bashaw fully admits there is a sedimentation issue in the reservoir and that dredging — the removal of built up mud, weeds and garbage at the bottom of a water system — has been needed but not implemented for decades. According to the Chautauqua Health and Human Services 2016 report, "dredging projects were planned in 1965, 1972, 1999 and 2001 but were never completed."

Bashaw assured citizens at the meeting that Forecon, which the village had been working with for years, did a thorough analysis of the forests around the reservoir and the consequences of logging. She stressed that because the studied area was near a public drinking source there were extra precautions taken, as is required by certain laws. She also stressed that the management plan is intended to take place over the course of 15 years; trees will not be logged

Continued on page 15.



The studied area for logging around the Fredonia Reservoir.
Image with outline taken from "Village of Fredonia Watershed Properties Forest Management Plan 2020-2034" by Forecon.

Continued from page 13.

all at one time. Bashaw explained the village had discussed and approved the forest management plan during public meetings in 2019, which are available to watch on the Fredonia Access YouTube channel, and that the greater public concern around the logging is more recent.

It is important to note that, according to a staff member of the Village of Fredonia office who wishes to remain anonymous, the logging project was initiated by former mayor Athanasia Landis and an almost entirely different board of trustees in 2019. Thus, there are current officials of the village who lack an extensive background on the forest management project.

The report had been available in the village office for public viewing, but was not uploaded to the website until after the Nov. 1 meeting.

Village trustee and SUNY Fredonia English professor Dr. Scott Johnson admitted in a Nov. 2 email, the day after the meeting, he knew “next to nothing” about the logging plan because it had been approved by a different mayor and board. He said he would know more about the issue after Forecon presented its findings to the public in a few weeks.

Forecon’s 119-page “Village of Fredonia Watershed Properties Forest Management Plan 2020-2034” report can be found on villageoffredoniany.com by clicking “Watershed Properties Forest Management Plan” under “Public Announcements” on the homepage.

The report covers all of the different stands, or zones, within the studied area — an estimated 285 acres. Each zone has a detailed report on the topography of the zone, all of the species present within the zone, whether or not the

trees present would be ideal for harvest, the effects of the removal of the trees, the estimated liquidated value of the lumber, the year of the last forest harvest, the invasive species present in the zone and the management plans for the invasive species.



Embankment of Fredonia Reservoir.



View of island in Fredonia Reservoir.

In the report’s own words, “Management recommendations are intentionally conservative to improve the quality, health and long-term value of the timber asset as a first priority so that the forest can be a productive source of revenue indefinitely.”

The report also notes, “Care should be taken with harvesting along creeks and [water] drainages, around any spring seeps or large vernal pools [temporary pools that only form in spring], and on or near soils and steep slopes that are more erodible — slightly higher stocking levels [more trees within an area] should be maintained along creeks to minimize overexposure to sunlight to keep the water temperatures cool, keep the soil along the banks stable and minimize erosion.”

In the forest management agreement signed by the previous mayor on Aug. 8, 2019, Forecon stated “we know full well the importance these properties have to protect and clean the village’s water supply” and that “strategic harvesting is critical to the protection of all resources, especially the water.”

The Nov. 1 village meeting asked for approval to grant the logging company with the highest bid, meaning the company that would offer the most money for the lumber; permission to carry out Forecon’s logging plan. Because of the public’s concerns, this approval has not been granted, and experts and representatives from Forecon will present their reasoning to the public in a few weeks: this presentation date has not been set as of Nov. 5. After this presentation, village officials may decide not to accept the

plan’s recommendations, in which case the village would abide by the terms of contract with Forecon for not implementing the plan. Forecon has already received payment for putting together the report.

The Leader will continue to update this story as it develops.

Low mow zones:

How doing less can benefit the environment



Low Mow Zone in front of campus woodlot, facing Ring Road. Photograph by Jules Hoepting.

JULES HOEPTING
Managing Editor

Sometimes doing nothing is the best way to help the environment.

A “no mow zone” is a designated section of land purposely not mowed in order to encourage native plant species growth. If left alone for a century or longer, the lawn will transform into a forest.

In 2012, science education professor Dr. Michael Jabot was able to convince SUNY Fredonia’s administration to try out a no mow zone on campus, since the lack of mowing would save costs on labor and fuel. The first no mow zone was established next to the campus woodlot facing University Stadium, which, according to biology professor Dr. Jonathan Titus, was an area “wet and steep and tricky to mow” anyways.

The administration appreciated the sustainability appeal and the financial savings the no mow zone created, and implemented more low mow zones in 2017 and 2020, according to Kevin

Cloos, director of facilities services.

In 2018, all no mow zones were renamed “low mow zones.” As opposed to “no mow” zones which are never mowed, “low mow” zones are mowed based on land management plans: once a year, once every three years, once every five years, etc. Low mow zones are mowed just enough so that woody plants cannot turn into trees and the zones do not become forests.

According to Cloos, a few of the low mow zones previously added have been removed “due to the appearance and pests creating lawn damage.” Although low mow zones can have problems with pests and invasive species, Titus said “almost all the time, invasive species are not going to be an issue with no mow zones. It’s just something that happens sometimes, and then you have to manage for that,” adding that usually when people “stop mowing, nice plants will come along.”

Low mow zones are ideal habitats for insects and small animals and become rich with species. Titus takes his Intro to

Ecology and Evolution class out to the zones for educational purposes.

In addition to low mow zones, there are several native species gardens around campus. Some of these locations include near the clock tower between the Michael C. Rockefeller building and the campus woodlot, and in front of Jewett Hall. Native species are species believed to be present in New York before the arrival of Europeans and include New York ironweed, goldenrod, asters and many other plants. Titus said the native species garden outside of Jewett Hall has “60 to 70 species in it” which makes up a “really nice color palette” when in season that is “great for pollinators.”

In general, Titus recommends people plant native plants as opposed to planting popular ornamentals like mums, petunias, pansies, irises, tulips, etc. “Many non-native plants don’t have nectar [and] don’t attract pollinators” and provide “no ecosystem value.” Many non-native plants are “just like having a piece of paper that you painted in terms

of what they do for the environment,” said Titus.

Titus further advises the planting of native trees, like sugar maples, as opposed to non-native trees, like Norway maples, which often struggle to thrive in the Fredonia area.

Besides planting native species and not mowing, there are other ways to help out the environment by doing less. Titus advises using fewer pesticides, clarifying that pesticides are an “extremely valuable, incredible tool,” but that much of pesticide use is “unnecessary.” Particularly, using pesticides on lawns is frequently unnecessary.

Titus also advises residents to stop raking leaves in their yard, or to make mulch out of leaves in their yard.

“You can put your leaves in a pile and you mow them and you make a mulch. Then you can use the mulch instead of buying mulch,” said Titus. The concept of raking leaves, putting them in a bag and having that bag go to a landfill strikes Titus as “weird” and a waste of time.

“We could do huge things for the environment, like massive, if we just did less,” said Titus.

On our Instagram, we asked our followers...

Do you know what low mow zones are?

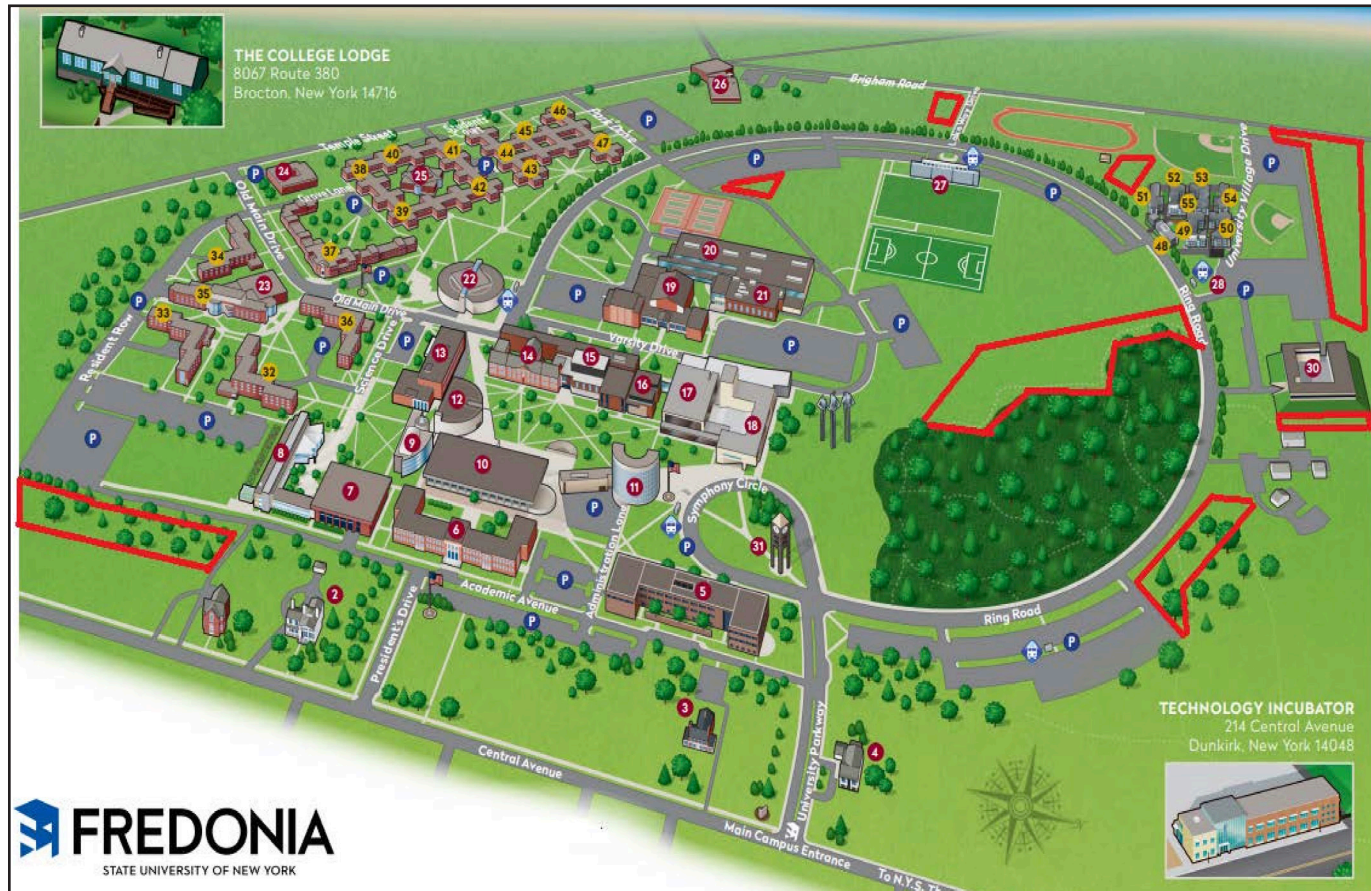
45
people
voted yes,
32 voted
no

43
people
voted yes,
37 voted
no

Did you know there are low mow zones on campus?

Follow our Instagram @leaderfredonia to participate in future polls.

Graphic made by Alyssa Bump.



Campus map outlining current low mow zones. Courtesy of Kevin Cloos.

Life & Arts

Mary Louise White Visiting Writer Series: Matthew Salesses

MEGAN MUNRO
Special to The Leader

On Nov. 3, the Mary Louise White Visiting Writers Series hosted its last visiting writer of the semester. Students were given the exciting opportunity of hearing from the novelist Matthew Salesses. Salesses received his Ph.D. in Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Houston. He gave a very detailed craft talk, and then on Nov. 4, he gave a reading from his novel, “Disappear Doppelgänger Disappear.”

During the craft talk, Salesses effortlessly discussed his writing style and revision process. He shared examples of how his real life experiences connected to his knowledge as a writer, and how his personal experiences helped him learn about writing.

Salesses shared an anecdote about how he was adopted from Korea. When he later returned to Korea, he turned the pages of a manga, or a graphic novel, from left to right, as we read books in the U.S., which is the opposite of how manga is read. His partner then informed him he was reading the book



Matthew Salesses.

Image retrieved from events.fredonia.edu.

wrong. Salesses connected this experience to the way readers can often expect a story to go a certain way, and when an author denies the expectation of the story in the writing, the reader will defy that denial. They gather what they choose to acknowledge from the text, and that tip can be very useful for writers because it can be easy to forget about the perspective readers have of one’s story while writing it.

Kaitlyn Woodard, a student that attended Salesses’ craft talk, recommended that students interested in writing go to other craft talks in the future. “This access you have to professional authors is a valuable tool — whether it be that you’re a writer yourself or you just enjoy stories in general. Each person has their own perspective on what’s best for them and the only way to reach a place where you feel fully comfortable is to explore and be open to new ideas,” said Woodard.

The Mary Louise White Visiting Writer Series will continue in the spring semester.

The calendar of upcoming events hosted by the English Department can be found on the Fredonia English Department webpage under the “events” tab.

'WILD PARTY' Theatre Review



Wild Party. Photograph by Czerton Lim.

LYDIA TURCIOS

Art Director

The doors of SUNY Fredonia's Robert W. Marvel have burst back open with passionate and campy aplomb, thanks to the efforts of the Department of Theatre and Dance in producing Andrew Lippa's "The Wild Party," directed by Professor Jessica Hillman-McCord.

Much like the musical's leading characters Queenie and Burrs, the Department of Theatre and Dance met its perfect match in Broadway choreographer and SUNY Fredonia alumna Jennifer Cody, who returned to her alma mater as the choreographer for "The Wild Party."

A simple glance over her IMDb page reveals that students have received guidance from a seasoned industry professional, having provided the voice of Charlotte in Disney's "Princess and the Frog," played various parts on Broadway such as "Rumpleteazer" in "CATS," and — if you take a look at the original off-Broadway cast recording of

"The Wild Party" — the part of Mae in the original Andrew Lippa production.

With insight like that, it's no wonder that "The Wild Party" smashed into great success as a top example of Fredonia talent and capability.

"I'm incredibly proud of this group of students and faculty who have put endless hours of work into this project," said Hillman-McCord, after being reached for a comment through email. "We've faced adversity and come through with a great production we're really proud of."

"It is great to be back in the theatre with a live audience. I am also grateful to see how many people have come to see the show, and are supporting the theatre department," said Alyssa Ferris, the production's charge artist and senior theatre design student. "It's been difficult working in theatre during COVID-19, but I'm happy to see things slowly coming back."

While getting back into the swing of things may be slow "The Wild Party" is anything but. It is a pulse-pumping story set in the prohibition era with all

the trappings that come with that time period — vaudeville humor, drugs and a colorful cast made up of the odds and ends of society.

The show, reserved for mature audiences only, deals with dark and difficult subjects of abuse, addiction and sexual violence all handled with tact as well as the utmost respect and safety in regards to the actors. The heavy subject matter is bellowed by sharp turns towards comedy and wraps up with a bittersweet yet hopeful tone.

"It's not the kind of show you could have at a more conservative college," said Matthew Spencer, a senior theatre design student and attendee. "So I appreciate the opportunity to explore heavier productions like this."

The cast did indeed take full advantage of the opportunity, filling the stage with brilliant chemistry and embodying characters fantastically. "The Wild Party" was an emotionally compelling mainstage comeback for the Theatre and Dance Department.

Music Industry Club's

BATTLE OF THE NEW BANDS BEGINS



Battle of the New Bands, 2019 competition. Photographs retrieved from @micfredonia on Instagram. Taken by @nataliemusic11 on Instagram.

JORDAN BUDD

Staff Writer

The Music Industry Club (MIC) is hosting Battle of the New Bands once again. After missing last year due to COVID-19, the student-run organization is excited to continue the long-running event.

This year's competition started on Thursday, Sept. 23, when MIC held a mixer for the event. Potential performers and managers excitedly gathered in S204ABC in the Williams Center for a presentation from the MIC executive board, led by club president, Emily Rasulo.

Rasulo explained the many facets of the event, such as the scoring systems for auditions, the managers' duties, crowd voting, the judging panel during the finals and the potential prizes for managers and artists.

Past judges of the finals include Kathleen Fisher (manager winner),

Jonah Rosel (band winner) and one of Fredonia's music industry professors, Dr. Stuart Shapiro.

The e-board decided to bring in 2019 participants, Beach Tower, their manager Connor Bessey-Nolan, and Tsunami Surprise's Cameron Bunch. These past competitors held a Q&A session that was both informative and comforting for the newcomers.

They made it clear that although it is a competition, once your band is assembled, you've already won. Beach Tower and the lone Tsunami Tsurprise member expressed that even though they lost the competition, their engagement with the event not only inspired them to start a band, but also thrust them into the local scene. After the band, Marmalade Joe, was announced the 2019 winner, the two "losing" bands quickly got booked for their first performance at the North Pole Strip Club, "probably the most legendary house venue in Western NY."

After the Q&A session was complete, the mixing started to happen. Potential band members and managers milled about the room, while connections strengthened within the group of participants and groups were formed.

Registration forms for managers and their respective bands were due Oct. 14. Three bands and one solo artist signed up for the event. Auditions were held Oct. 29, which decided the three finalists who will perform on Dec. 3 from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Williams Center. In the audition, each band or artist played two original songs and one cover.

As we await each act's first live performance on Dec. 3, be sure to follow the participants on Instagram and the Music Industry Club (@micfredonia) to stay tuned on these up-and-comers in the Fredonia scene.

A definitive guide to Battle of the New Bands 2021

JORDAN BUDD
Staff Writer

Members: Solo artist under her real name
Manager: Jazmine Torres
Genre: Pop and R&B
Audition Cover: "High" by Miley Cyrus
Instagram: @meadowviscusomusic

MEADOW VISCUSO



Fun Facts:

- Viscuso is a freshman from Buffalo, New York who has a passionate drive to be in the entertainment industry in the near future.
- Since childhood, her idol has been Ariana Grande.
- Her bio on Instagram is adorned with an illustrative message reading, "My music's purpose is to uplift others on a spiritual level with a soulful and soothing sound, I hope it gives people a sense of belonging and comfort."
- The third song during her audition was acapella.

EDELWOOD CREEK BAND

Members: Hunter Lares, Michael Tumbaco, Mike Perry, Dennis McAndrew and Alex Salmeron
Manager: Jaina Berardi
Genre: Metal, post-hardcore
Audition Cover: "The Downfall of Us All" by A Day to Remember
Social media: @edelwood_creek



Fun Facts:

- The group's name is pronounced AY-delwood, not EE-delwood Creek.
- Their name originates from the Cartoon Network animated miniseries, "Over the Garden Wall." Their lead singer, Lares, expressed his enjoyment of the Edelwood trees in the show's fictional universe and how they represent "the loss of hope for some and the only source of hope for another."
- Creek was tacked on because Lares had a conversation with a potential bandmate about the Edelwood trees and their accompanying message of duality at the infamous Canadaway Creek across from Fredonia's campus.
- Every member of the band has been playing since they were in middle

Members: Lucas Cottet, Jacob King, David Moran and Jonathan Zareski
Manager: Jackson Moeller
Genre: Indie rock
Audition Cover: "Panic Switch" by Silversun Pickups. Also outside of their audition the band has covered "Heretic Pride" by The Mountain Goats and "Heavy Metal Drummer" by Wilco for their Instagram reels.
Instagram: @the_science_behind_it_band

THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT



Fun Facts:

- All four members have recently performed at The North Pole Strip Club this semester. On Oct. 22, Cottet played trumpet with Beach Tower, which includes the dual band member Zareski, while later in the night, Moran provided a steady beat for the band, Tooth. Most recently, Jacob King and the Wired Band performed on Nov. 5.
- This science themed indie rock band can be found on almost every social media platform you could think of. Check out the expansive Linktr.ee in their Instagram bio.
- All of the performing members are Sound Recording Technology majors except King, who is an English major and every member including their manager, Moeller, are juniors.

SPORTS

Athlete profile: Kyle Campbell

ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

It has been two years since Kyle Campbell laced up for a cross country regionals race.

Saturday, Nov. 13, that's going to change.

"My individual goal for the regional meet is to go All-Region. As a team I want us to place in the top 10."

Campbell is a senior sport management and criminal justice major with a minor in coaching who's on the men's cross country and track and field teams.

While many would probably assume that COVID-19 would take work ethic out of most, it actually helped to strengthen Campbell's.

This past summer was the hardest Campbell has trained going into a season in his life. And it paid off.

Trading off with Anthony Ruiz as Fredonia's top runner all season, Kyle was able to race his way into the top 15 in the SUNYAC Championship meet in Cortland, earning him third team All-SUNYAC honors.

"Making the All-SUNYAC team means so much to me because of all the hard work and dedication I put into this sport. I'm thrilled with what I accomplished but the jobs not done yet," Kyle said.

Campbell hopes to come in the top 35 individually this Saturday at the Niagara Regional Championships in Geneseo to



Kyle Campbell. Photograph by Leah Bisgrove.

earn All-Region honors.

When asked how he was able to improve, Campbell praised his teammates. "Having that inner team competition definitely helped me become a better runner. I have to give props to my training partners Anthony [Ruiz] and Josh [Walters] because we push each other day in and day out."

Kyle's All-SUNYAC performance was able to help the Blue Devils to their best finish at the SUNYAC Championships since 2016, with the team placing 5th overall.

"I feel like it was a team effort behind our improvement since the last time we ran at SUNYACs because one person can't make a team. For most of these guys this season was their first time running 8ks or even competing at the college level and we still placed better than we did last time SUNYACs were held. It just shows the potential this team has."

Campbell was quite vocal about what the future of the team could look like. Kyle will be using his eligibility from the lost COVID seasons to return for an entire year of both cross country and track and field to complete his two majors and minors.

With his return and minimal losses, Campbell says the hope is for a top three finish at the conference level. He also says his individual goal will be to place in the top five at the race, which would give him first team All-SUNYAC honors and an induction into the SUNYAC Hall of Fame.

For track, Kyle is hoping to find the event that fits his running type best and roll with it. Making the SUNYAC and Regional Championships is his current goal for the upcoming track season.

Fredonia Athletics winter sports preview

CLARE NORMOYLE

Special to The Leader

After having their season cancelled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fredonia's winter sports athletes are ready to get back out there and play.

Because of the cancelled season, many athletes missed out on their senior season.

Michael Wright, a former student athlete for Fredonia's men's soccer team and now the assistant men's soccer coach for his fifth year with Fredonia's athletic department said, "The expectation for this winter sports season is high, and I believe everyone in the department would agree with me when I say we have been waiting a long time for this."

So, for the remaining student athletes to get another chance at playing, even with the pandemic still going on, a lot of the athletic department is feeling grateful.

"Something we've all emphasized is our gratitude for being able to compete again and just being able to get out there. With that being said, we are still

looking to push the boundaries in each individual program and put the necessary work in to get to each program's respected postseason," said Wright.

The teams that will be playing during this winter season are men's hockey, men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's indoor track and field and Fredonia's cheer team.



Illustration by Lydia Turcios and Ash Maloney.

The men's hockey team honored the late Tanner Kahlau, 10 months after he passed away, on Nov. 6. The team has named him as one of the captains for this season in remembrance of him.

The upcoming game will sell jerseys with the number nine, Kahlau's number,

on the back and a "C" on the front for captain, and the money raised will go to an endowment fund set up by the Kahlau family.

Three days later, the men's basketball team opened up their season versus Allegheny. There is extra anticipation for this season as we have yet to see what Sean Smiley brings to the table. Smiley, the former University at Buffalo guard, was hired to coach the Blue Devils in April 2020 and has yet to coach a game due to the pandemic.

Other than pushing for people to attend all winter sports games, Wright said that the conference games are the best ones to attend.

"I would say [the] games worth watching are most SUNYAC contests. We have a rich history with the majority of schools in the SUNYAC, going back decades. As well as SUNYAC contests, [they] are the most important because they dictate who will go to the post season to earn a chance at the NCAA tournament," said Wright.

Fredonia Athletics is working hard to make sure that this approaching winter season will run as smoothly as possible.

Fredonia sports update

ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

This past week marked the end to most of Fredonia's fall sports seasons and the true beginnings of our winter seasons.

Women's volleyball lost to New Paltz Tuesday evening at home 0-3. While each set was close, the Blue Devils were just never able to take and hold control during the match. Brinn Shaughnessy and Emily Jones led the team in kills with nine and eight respectively.

Wednesday saw the women's soccer team's comeback attempt fall just short. On the road for the second time in the SUNYAC playoffs, the Fredonia team fell to the first seeded Geneseo squad 2-3. After trailing 0-3 at the half, the Blue Devils were a completely different team, with better opportunities on shots and more chances overall. Maddie Payne and Katie Sellers were the two scorers for Fredonia in the match.

The last two teams to compete from

the fall season are the men's and women's cross country teams. Both teams had this past weekend off and will travel to Geneseo for the Niagara Regional Championships.

Women's basketball started their season this past weekend facing off against Hilbert at home. The team was able to start off on the right foot, winning 68-47.

Morgan Davis led the Blue Devils in scoring with 14 points off of the bench. Mary Culeton put up 10 while Katie Pitcher and Renee Park each tallied nine points in the game. The team travels to Allegheny Saturday afternoon.

The men's basketball team will see their first action of the season Tuesday evening at home against Allegheny. This will be Coach Smiley's first game as head coach of the Blue Devils program. The team also plays St. John Fisher on the road Saturday.

Men's and women's swimming and diving hosted Grove City and Geneseo Saturday. On the men's side, the team was unable to record a top three finish

in any event, leading to losses to each team. The women's team fared better, with McKayla Polowy winning the 200, 500 and 1,000 yard freestyles individually. Kayla Hagen placed third in the 100 yard backstroke and Rachel Mayou placed third in the 1,000 yard freestyle. Both teams will travel to Rochester to face both the University of Rochester and Alfred Saturday afternoon.

Men's hockey hosted Trine for two games this past weekend. The first was Friday evening, where Fredonia won 4-0. Cam Birkeland scored two goals, while Jake Blackwell and Kurri Woodford each added one. Saturday afternoon, the team played Trine in the Tanner Kahlau Memorial Game. Tanner was a member of the hockey team whose life was tragically cut short last January. The team named Tanner as one of the captains for this season in remembrance.

The team travels to Morrisville on Saturday.

OPINION

An open letter to the Faculty Student Association

To the Faculty Student Association,

We understand it is impossible to please everyone. We understand there will always be complaints. We understand operating under a budget is frustrating. We are not asking for major overhauls, we are asking for small changes that significantly improve the lives of our fellow students. Fredonia's administration wants to increase student recruitment and, more importantly, student retention. We believe these improvements would significantly enhance that effort.

We understand there are staffing issues and that serious consequences result from this. But, we do not accept "staffing issues" as a blanket excuse — anyone who has worked at a restaurant with fewer hands than needed knows this. We want to know what FSA is doing and plans on doing to resolve staffing issues on a long-term basis. We would like to be aware of what training protocols FSA plans on putting in place for new and long-term employees to help decrease the amount of student complaints concerning the quality of food. Procedures particularly on allergy safety need to be emphasized; no student should have to experience an allergic reaction because food was not prepared properly. Employees should be able to catch when an item is overcooked, undercooked or prepared inadequately before it is served to a student.

We noticed FSA added allergy information on their website so that students could have easier access to it. We appreciate this positive change. However, if students are paying thousands of dollars to have meal plans, they should not have to download a document for every dining facility on campus. They should be able to pick up a pamphlet near any campus dining facility that describes allergen concerns in all campus dining facilities. Physical pamphlets and symbol signage on some menus for vegan and vegetarian options already exist, so we do not anticipate this to be a challenging implementation. To save costs on printing, signage with QR codes to the online pamphlets could be made as well. Students should not have to worry about having an allergic reaction because there is not readily available allergy information.

We appreciate FSA's consideration and effort to add a variety of vegan options to the food items they sell — many restaurants lack this option, further alienating vegans and those with dairy allergies. Although there are options available at every dining facility on campus, the minimal number of options can become pedestrian for students. We suggest taking the vegan items already sold in cafes and the Convenience Store and additionally selling them in Willy C's. The reasoning behind this is that Willy C's is open later than any dining facility on campus and selling those items would extend the availability of a greater variety of vegan and gluten-free options. Furthermore, these items are already made on campus, so it would be a matter of making more of the food items already prepared and sold as opposed to finding new recipes.

Our final request is that the FSA website, FSA.fredonia.edu, is thoroughly copy-edited to ensure the information provided is up-to-date, that there are no typos and that the spelling of words is consistent. For example, as of Nov. 4, 2021, the FSA Employment Current Openings page refers to the dining facility Willy C's as Centre Pointe. Centre Pointe was renamed to Willy C's over three years ago. Furthermore, the page about Willy C's spells the dining facility two ways: "Willy C's" and "Willey C's." Numerous other factual, spelling and grammatical errors can be found throughout the website. Considering FSA is associated with an institution of higher learning and that the website represents FSA, noticeable errors are unacceptable. We suggest partnering with an editing class or giving internship credit to a qualified student to resolve the text issues on the website.

Putting more effort into finding, maintaining and training staff, making allergy information more easily available, increasing the amount of spaces to purchase vegan food, and updating and copy-editing the website comprise our primary requests. We do not think these asks are unreasonable to implement and hope FSA takes our suggestions seriously. Students of SUNY Fredonia are FSA's employees and FSA's customers, after all.

Sincerely,

The E-board of The Leader

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Jules Hoepting: Grandpa's Farm





THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia



THE SCALLION WANTS ME TO KILL THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND. I'LL EXPLAIN.

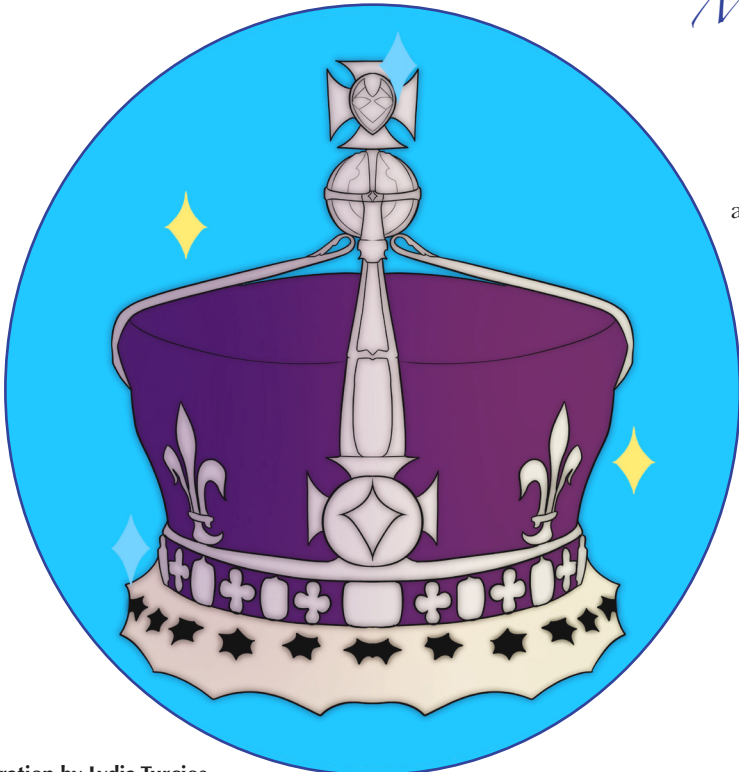
BRIAN CECALA

Staff Scallywag

Hey readers, it's Brian Cecala here with a new article. Now the last time I wrote about a member of the royal family (See: "Things at Fredonia that would probably kill Prince Philip"), that member of the family died. Now, this was not intentional on my part! I cannot truthfully say that I have the power to kill the people who appear in my articles ... but I also can't say that isn't the case either. My boss and Editor for The Scallion, Matthew Baum, asked me to take round two to the royal family and see if The Scallion is the Death Note and I am Ryuk. With this in mind, I promised Matt to make this legally binding statement.

"I, Matthew Marc Baum, do solemnly and in clear conscience take full responsibility for the death of Queen of England Elizabeth II should her untimely passing come at the same time as this article. Brian Cecala is clear of all legal proceedings and punishments and I, Matthew Marc Baum, will in place be held accountable for the actions of my writer."

Matthew Marc Baum



The following passages will be my submitted article about the Queen making it officially part of The Scallion's articles. So without further ado, here is my article unedited, uncensored, and uncut:

Hey guys, wouldn't it be funny if the Queen of England slipped on a banana peel and bonked her head?

The End.

The Scallion will keep its readers informed on the outcome of this experiment.

WHY WE SHOULD PARACHUTE BEAVERS ONTO THE FREDONIA CAMPUS

JAY BYRON
Staff Scallywag

The other day, I was scrolling on my phone like any zoomer might do. I checked every single social media account for something to catch my eye, but alas, I was brought to boredom. Nothing was doing it for me. Why is this world so boring? I just needed something — anything — to make me feel alive.

Finally, when I went back to my home screen, the glorious Apple News notification awoke me to a new adventure with the headline, “Why beavers were parachuted into the Idaho wilderness 73 years ago.”

Now, you could say I was “excited,” but that would be a disgusting understatement. I was drenched with utter ecstasy. I didn’t need any further explanation — in fact, I didn’t even need to read the dang article. I was so entranced with the thought of beavers floating down onto the ground via parachute. Do beavers know how parachutes work? Apparently so. Do I know how parachutes work? No. Do I understand parachutes less than a beaver does? Absolutely.

I’m just saying, we could all learn a little something from these fine fellows. Beavers are geniuses in disguise. I know what you’re thinking: “But Jay, they’re just stupid rodents with pancake tails.” A week ago, I may have agreed. Now, I must convince everyone on campus of an idea that may change the world forever.

We should definitely parachute beavers onto the Fredonia campus.

With the information received from this article title, we can come to the conclusion that beavers have a basic understanding of the wind and geography. Otherwise, no scientist would have let them do that. I’m hypothesizing that the beavers actually planned this themselves, at first as a coup d’état, then as a way to make peace between them and humans. How did I come to this hypothesis? Well, do you know how to use a parachute?

Beavers are way smarter than we give them credit for. If we made half of the Fredonia student population beavers, our average GPA would skyrocket. I swear to beaver Jesus — I would never lie about this.

I know this may not mean much for the students, but let’s ruminate for a minute. If we have beavers everywhere, we can partner with newfound rodent peers in classes and force them to do the work for us. Our grades will be the highest they have ever been before. We could get some use out of the

Learning Center, given that the beavers want an extra buck for their brains. Even if you don’t wanna get smarter, imagine telling people you got tutored by a beaver. How silly and quirky is that!

Fundamentally speaking, I know how difficult it may be to acquire so many beavers. I also understand that, given our



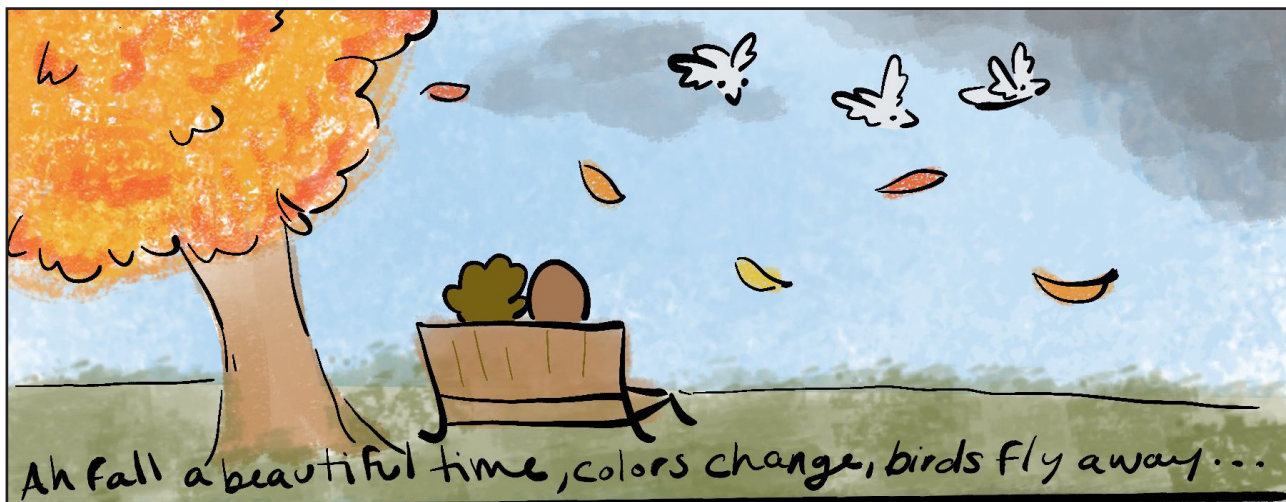
Illustration by Lydia Turcios
and Ash Maloney.

budget — especially if The Scallion is funding this — it may be ... difficult, to say the least. To acquire so many parachutes. I know you’ve heard the phrase “teamwork makes the dream work” before, so this is your opportunity to make it happen, babe. Hand a Scallion Scallywag a dollar and we will be a step closer to our goal. Before you ask, I have no plan, but we are getting one step closer every single day, in theory.

Hand seen a beaver? Ever met one? Ever held a beaver’s hand gently while the sun set in front of you? I think not. Now’s your chance, Fredonia.

COMICS

NICOLE THORSON



HOROSCOPES

WHAT LEFT OVER CANDY GIVES OFF THE SAME VIBE AS YOUR SIGN.

MATTHEW BAUM - Scallion Editor

ARIES

You give off big Milky Way energy. You have a tendency to approach things in your life very head-on, and that's fine, but some will be taken aback by your straightforwardness.



TAURUS

You're off the beaten path a little bit, you're like... a Chunky bar. You can find them on the thruway most of the time. Some people may be confused by you in the kickoff, but they'll soon learn that you've got some charm to you.



GEMINI

Twix. Left, right they're twins, whatever.



CANCER

A very safe sign, and a very safe candy. Nobody doesn't like Starburst, but it's not exactly redefining the candy game these days, so it's a safe bet.



LEO

Oh-ho! Look at you, fancy-pants! You probably go trick-or-treating in Silicon Valley, and your little goodie bag is full of Ghirardelli truffles, like an a**hole.



VIRGO

I cannot explain it, but you give Payday vibes. You're going to have to discover for yourself what that means.



LIBRA

Smarties. last-resort candy that, once you unwrap them, you remember how much of a treat they are! Oh, what a hoot you are, if not a little quiet to begin with.



SCORPIO

Ooooooh, very dark chocolatey, I think. A little challenging, a little refined, a real treat for those who know you.



SAGITTARIUS

You are... Vexing. An enigma. A truly deceptive being, one capable of eternal mutation. For this, you are the very concept of chocolate. Nay, you are the original Cocoa Bean. One to lead them all. You. Have. The. Power.



CAPRICORN

I'm a capricorn, and my favorite candy is Twizzlers, so we're all Twizzlers. Easy.



AQUARIUS

You're like the pretzels that some people hand out on Halloween. I said what I said! I'll never forgive you! You know what you did!



PISCES

I can't stress this enough. Swedish. Fish. Sure, it might be low-hanging fruit, but your sign is literally named for fish.



