Could Logging Around Fredonia's Reservoir Lead to Murky Drinking Water?

On-Campus Quarantine Concerns

Battle of The New Bands Finals

Three Times Testing Positive for COVID-19

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

“I took the train of the thought to the Justification Store / to stock up on excuses, been using more and more” - J.H.

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.
Positions available in:

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

Contact via email
leader@fredonia.edu
Could logging around the Fredonia Reservoir lead to murky drinking water?

JULES HOEPTING
Managing Editor

Note: Visiting the Fredonia Reservoir without permission from the Village of Fredonia is considered trespassing.

Water Concerns
Murky water, or water with high turbidity or a high concentration of sediment in it, has been a problem within the Fredonia Reservoir for decades. The reservoir provides drinking water to over 10,000 people in the Village of Fredonia, SUNY Fredonia and some residents in Pomfret, according to a 2016 study on the Fredonia Reservoir and treatment plant conducted by the Chautauqua County Department of Health and Human Services. Because high levels of sediment stress water filtration, there have been multiple instances where the reservoir’s water was deemed unfit to drink due to high turbidity, including a nearly three-week span last fall.

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. Steep slopes and storms further increase erosion. These sediments end up elsewhere, often into the nearest body of water, and settle based on the particles’ size and weight, a process called sedimentation.

According to the Chautauqua Health and Human Services 2016 report, since the reservoir was constructed in the 1930s, 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.” “Dredging projects,” the removal of built up mud, weeds and garbage at the bottom of a water system, “were planned in 1965, 1972, 1999 and 2001 but were never completed,” according to the report. Furthermore, the reservoir’s spillway has been listed as “severely inadequate” since 1980 and is prone to dam failure in the case of a large storm.

Thus, due to the reservoir’s history of high turbidity caused by increasing sedimentation and because the steep slopes around the reservoir naturally accelerate erosion, many residents are concerned the proposed logging around the Fredonia Reservoir will further detriment the water’s quality, which could lead to more instances of undrinkable water.

Forest Management Plan
Three years ago, the previous Fredonia mayor, Athanasia Landis, and an almost entirely different board of trustees approached Forecon, a forestry consulting firm the village has contracted with since the 1970s, to create a long-term forest management plan. This plan had been discussed with the public and an agreement between the Village of Fredonia and Forecon was signed by Landis in August 2019. Forecon has already been paid for the creation of a management plan, which samples over 80 spots within the studied area — an estimated 285 acres. Forecon’s “Village of Fredonia Watershed Properties Forest Management Plan 2020-2034” is available on the villageoffredoniany.com homepage by clicking “Watershed Properties Forest Management Plan.”

The 119-page plan and agreement provides a detailed analysis of the topography of the land, the species present, 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 in specific areas, the invasive species present and the management plans for the invasive species. Forecon has already marked trees for harvesting.

A different company would use Forecon’s plan to log the marked trees and would pay the village for the harvested lumber; Forecon would receive 10% of the income the village would receive from the lumber, as stated by trustee EvaDawn Bashaw during the Nov. 15 village meeting. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the forest management plan — and the logging around the reservoir — was never implemented.

The Nov. 1, 2021 village meeting sought approval to grant the logging company with the highest bid, meaning the company that would offer the most money for the trees marked by Forecon, permission to carry out Forecon’s logging plan. Due to a spark in public concern during this meeting,
a representative of Forecon was asked to present the firm’s management plan during the Nov. 15 village meeting. Thus, until the bidding is done, the village does not know how much money it would receive from logging the proposed trees, according to Bashaw. She also reiterated the plan was created with sustaining the forest and protecting the reservoir as the first priority, not logging as a revenue source.

Rick Constatine, 20–year employee and representative of Forecon, stated the management plan took an approach of “long-term sustainability with the utmost importance being the protection of the water resource and the sponge-like effect that the trees help provide within that watershed,” during the Nov. 15 meeting. The plan contained a “selective harvest” which is “a maintenance activity, just like removing trees on a roadway that are going to become a problem, or cleaning ditches.” He further explained the reservoir forest contains “a lot of, what we call as foresters, ‘unacceptable growing stock;’ Those are trees that around drainage areas” and designated “buffer zones in and around each and every drainage and water source that leads to the main creek that then [flows into] the reservoir. Within these areas there are guidelines, they’re not regulatory, but these are guidelines that [Forecon is] going to have the operators follow.” Essentially, logging equipment can’t be in the buffer zones, and approved crossing devices such as culverts and bridges would be needed for equipment to move through these zones.

He reassured the public that any logging operations were “100 feet away” from the steepest, inoperable banks of the reservoir and that the logging operations would occur more to the south of the reservoir. (See terrain map and forest study outline map on page 6.)

As for trees within water drainages that have been marked, Forecon decided to remove these trees because their root systems are already exposed and there is a higher chance the trees would tip over and rip up land. “The last thing you want to have is woody debris in your drainage [from fallen trees] because that can cause erosion,” Constantine said. (See tipped over trees picture above.)

Constantine stated a key piece to the planned logging would be the utilization of a former railroad bed located on the reservoir’s west side. “That rail bed’s been there for upwards of 150 years and that’s really key to this operation because all of the logs will be pulled uphill between the drainages and out on this rail bed.” The rail bed “already has the ability to cross anywhere that water would run” because of old culverts and

 Trees tipped over into the east side of reservoir.
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.

Terrain map of Fredonia Reservoir. From Google Maps.
other water crossing devices. Thus, the creation of new logging roads/paths — which heightens erosion — is minimalized.

The reservoir’s forest and watershed “should actually end up in a better condition in the sense that BMPs, best management practices, will be used,” Constantine concluded.

Logging Concerns

Erik Danielson, one of the directors of the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York Inc. and a member of the American Forests National Cadre who assists NYSDEC with verifying champion trees and supplies data to VA Tech Dendrology's Superlative Tree Database, shared his concerns on the logging after visiting the reservoir with permission from the village.

“Having known that it was a managed forest that has been selectively managed somewhat regularly in the past, I was not too concerned about what I read in the management plan,” Danielson said. “But then I went to walk the areas that had been marked for harvest and was a bit disappointed to see that, while there is [a] statement there will not be operation of equipment in the deep drainages and they will not be harvesting up to watercourses, the areas which I was most concerned about in terms of erosion ... are very heavily marked,” Danielson continued. “I think it would be in the village’s benefit to consider involving a third party and making sure that the harvest as marked really aligns with the best practices and kind of goals of the village for managing that property.”

Sharon Annear, a resident who also went on a permitted reservoir visit, indicated there was not much left of the former railroad bed “that doesn’t have things growing in it,” contradicting Constantine’s statements about the railroad bed being stable for equipment crossing.

Jonathan Titus, SUNY Fredonia biology professor with research in local forest ecology, one of the directors of the Nature Sanctuary Society of Western New York Inc, a member of the American Botanical Society, WNY Land Conservancy, Friends of the College Lodge, and Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, further amplified concerns.

“No matter how careful the contractor is, sediments flow off the site, the steep slopes and unstable soils of the reservoir watershed,” Titus said. “Also, every logging operation causes an increase in invasive species, which further destabilize the steep slopes and reduce biodiversity,” Titus continued. The management plan proposes the use of herbicides to control invasive species. Although Titus believes certain herbicides have their place in certain situations, he wanted the public to take note that “herbicide use is either banned or tightly controlled in drinking water reservoir watersheds throughout New York State.”

The reservoir’s forest and watershed “are many other places in the county more suitable for this.”

-Dr. Jonathan Titus, SUNY Fredonia biology professor

“The village does not have the personnel nor the expertise to ensure that logging occurs exactly as prescribed in the document,” Titus said. “I am by no means anti-logging. Much of Chautauqua County’s forest lands are managed for timber production; this country produces more than its share of wood. If the village wants to invest in forestry, there are many other places in the county more suitable for this.”

Jonathan Townsend, who has a masters degree in biology from SUNY Fredonia and a property that abuts the reservoir, said, “I wanted to reiterate some prior comments that there is a disconnect between how the timber is marked at the property and what we were told this evening.” He encouraged anyone who is interested “to walk the property for yourself [with permission] and see trees marked in steep drainage and see healthy trees marked for removal and unhealthy trees left” that will cause problems with forest regeneration.

Justine Bloom, a sophomore Earth studies major with an environmental studies minor, stated “On behalf of the student body and the general student and science department, we would all like to wholeheartedly say that we would strongly advocate either for you to find a third party to make sure that you hold loggers accountable to the plans that they say they’re going to do or seek a different alternative. Thank you.”

Lack of Resolution

According to Scott Johnson, Fredonia Village Board Trustee and SUNY Fredonia English professor, as of Dec. 3, “It appears the board is still undecided on whether or not to proceed with the logging ... I suspect that this board will take no further action, and the next board will decide whether to permit the logging or not. It is important to note that even if this board decides through resolution not to proceed, the next board could simply pass a new resolution that authorizes logging.”

Johnson stated during his report on Nov. 15 he was against logging, but it was unclear where the other trustees stood.

“Whether to log or not as part of a forest management plan is clearly a complex issue, and there are credible experts with compelling evidence on both sides of the issue. Moreover, both sides obviously believe there are different ways to protect and sustain the forest around the reservoir. As a result, I would rather err on the side of the trees and animals, and leave the forest as it is. I also understand that this may prove to be the wrong choice down the road, and at that time, the board in place may well have to revisit the issue.”

To watch previous Village of Fredonia board meetings, visit the Fredonia Access YouTube channel. Meeting notes are available on villageoffredioniany.com under “Minutes & Agendas.”
Students and professors raise concerns regarding on-campus quarantine

CHLOE KOWALYK
News Editor

Many of SUNY Fredonia students’ experiences in on-campus quarantine have been anything but positive.

Several students who test positive for COVID-19 find themselves quarantining on campus in Hendrix Hall, the college’s designated quarantine building. Several of these students choose to quarantine on campus rather than at home to avoid infecting family members, or live too far away to travel home from the college. One such student is Alex Erwin, a junior double majoring in audio/radio production and video production with a minor in accounting. Erwin lives almost eight hours away from Fredonia, and after being exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the spring 2021 semester, saw quarantine on campus as his best option.

When asked about his on-campus quarantine experience, Erwin said “it was lonely and boring and quite cold; the heater didn’t work for the first couple of days.” Another student, who chose to remain anonymous, had a similar experience during on-campus quarantine, and described their spring 2021 experience as being “incredibly sick and miserable.” Several other students who had to quarantine on campus brought their experiences to their professors, including Dr. Shannon McRae, an English professor. Stephen Wright, an English adolescent education major, is a student of McRae, and brought his concerns about his quarantine experience from late August to early September 2021 forward.

“I always say my experience in quarantine at my school [can be compared] to jail. I’ve never been, but this was the worst place for me to recover,” Wright said. He also had a similar experience with a lack of heat as Erwin, describing his nights as “cold.” Erwin, Wright and the student who wished to remain anonymous brought up various concerns regarding their on-campus quarantine experiences.

In an email reaching out to our Leader staff about quarantine issues, McRae wrote, “Our students have been reporting the same issues you're describing [in reference to previous FSA pieces published in The Leader regarding on-campus quarantine].” She further explained that they “did not feel properly fed.” “I was given expired food nearly everyday and I ended up instacarting more food than I was eating from campus,” they said.

Wright said, “I was properly fed for the most part, except for the last day I was not notified I was being released, so I did not receive lunch or dinner that day ... I was really hungry.”

After hearing the experiences of her students, McRae said, “I'm really worried about this because students who are having this kind of time or even if this is the perception that students aren't being properly fed, then they go into quarantine, I feel terrible. And people don't bring them food and water when they do, it's like one bottle of water a day, which is not enough especially for someone who's sick. That's not going to help them get any better.”

Proper Care

The students also proposed various issues regarding their recovery. Erwin said, “I wouldn’t say I was taken care of. I was left to my own devices for 10 days and told if anything serious came up to call.” He further explained that “no measures” were taken to ensure his recovery, and that he “wasn’t checked on often, maybe twice during the entire period.”

Wright explained that he was checked on by the Student Health Center for the first day, and then by FSA as an employee brought him his food. He said FSA asked him if he was doing okay and if
he needed anything. The student who wished to remain anonymous said, “I received a daily phone call from LoGrasso, but they only asked about my physical symptoms and didn’t seem to care about my mental health.” They continued, “I emailed four of the counselors during my 14 day quarantine and only got ahold of one for one of the last days.”

Each of the students agreed that more action could have been taken to check on them during their on-campus quarantine.

Mental Health
All three students had concerns regarding not just their physical health, but their mental health as well. The anonymous student said “I felt as though nobody was there to help me, and I was scared I wouldn't make it through with how sick I was.”

Erwin said he “felt alone and isolated and upset. Both the environment and the way I was talked to at the beginning of the process of quarantine made me feel I was truly alone for the next 10 days and that I was a number.”

Wright had a similar experience, and said in an email interview, “They [the Student Health Center] told me to pack. They said I had 10 minutes to get whatever I needed. That was only enough time to get my suitcase, throw clothes and my toiletries [in], grab my pillows and blanket and like that I was off to Hendrix.”

Wright also explained that the first thing he did after he got out of quarantine was book an appointment at the Counseling Center in LoGrasso Hall to speak with a counselor about his feelings of loneliness, isolation and depression.

Solutions
The students outlined various solutions they felt would better help students in similar situations as them. The anonymous student focused on the mental health aspect, suggesting that a counselor could come in to check on the students in quarantine.

Erwin felt similarly, and said that he wished for “more contact with the outside world, whether it’s conversation or just a more pleasurable environment.” Wright had similar opinions and suggested that care packages could be sent to students with words of encouragement on them. He also wants the Student Health Center to “follow up on students after they are released.” Wright also brought up the idea of providing students with cable and a television in the rooms to help with feelings of boredom.

Other suggestions focused more on the food aspect of the quarantine experience. Wright wished he could have been given an option whether he would eat Willy G’s or Cranston Marché. The anonymous student suggested that FSA provide more meal options instead of only two.

Some quarantined students did bring their concerns regarding food service to the student board members of FSA. One such student board member is Jenna Woods, who said she made the rest of the board aware of these concerns.

"I wouldn’t say I was taken care of. I was left to my own devices for 10 days and told if anything serious came up to call."

- Alex Erwin, student quarantined on campus

Woods said that the board “took it back to FSA management to ensure food was warm and reiterated that the menu provided to students includes many food options including vegan.”

After I brought up student concerns regarding on-campus quarantine at the most recent University Senate meeting on Oct. 4, Dr. Heather McEntarfer, an English professor and senator for the University Senate, helped bring my concerns forward to administration. “We began talking with those professors [who had concerns] and with the Senate president, Dr. Mary Beth Sievens, to figure out the best way to address those concerns as senators.” “We decided, first, that it would make the most sense for students to bring their concerns to their student senators,” McEntarfer said in an email interview.

She also mentioned that the Senate recently learned of a new survey being conducted on students in Hendrix to gauge student experiences in quarantine. “We (the faculty members who have raised these concerns) would like to see the raw data from that survey shared with the Senate president or the Covid Steering Committee, as a way of closing the loop on those concerns that were brought to the Senate,” McEntarfer said. “I think that would help us understand the scope of the problem and figure out any necessary steps to address it.”

In an in-person interview, Sievens said that Jake Steinhoff (jacob.steinhoff@fredonia.edu) is conducting the survey. Steinhoff lives in Hendrix Hall, and serves as the college’s COVID-19 response and support coordinator. “He is the person who is there for students to turn to if they’re experiencing difficulties,” said Sievens.

Sievens also spoke to a faculty FSA board member, and asked him to relay the food concerns to the rest of FSA’s board. “I’m hoping that you know, efforts are being made to improve the food delivered ... Otherwise, I think we actually have very good policies and procedures in place to handle and to support students who are in quarantine,” she said. “We just need to make sure that they’re always being followed.”

Regarding mental health, Sievens explained that the campus has tried to make various resources available to students in quarantine, including Zoom appointments for counseling sessions and an online tool right on the Counseling Center website called “My Strength,” which acts as a self-help tool with various workshops to reduce stress and improve mood.

Sievens also suggested that students can also talk to medical centers like LoGrasso Hall, WellNow Urgent Care and Brooks Memorial Hospital. She also recommended the University Police for emergency situations. The University Police can be contacted at (716) 673-3333.

McRae agreed with Sievens, and said “We want you all to be happy and have a good experience. We came here to work for Fredonia because it offered a good experience to people and we want to see that continue. We don’t want students to feel this way.”

Further information regarding policies and resolutions as well as survey results for on-campus quarantine will be included in a follow-up article.
LYDIA TURCIOS
Art Director

Wes Anderson is a master of color, composition and balancing comedy with tragedy. The jewel of his work is "The Grand Budapest Hotel," released in 2014, in much the same way that the hotel is the jewel of Zubrowka, the fictional country in which the equally fictional namesake of the film makes home. Appreciations to Writers' Ring for screening the film for the student body in celebration of Stefan Zweig’s 140 birthday, the author who inspired the film, and in honor of SUNY Fredonia's archive collection of Zweig, one of the largest Zweig collections in the world.

The story is cleverly set up in a framing device within a framing device … within a framing device. First, a young girl reads a novel entitled "The Grand Budapest Hotel" at a memorial, which has been penned by an author who is dictating the story from a source of his own. Then, we meet the author as an elderly man in his study. He tells the reader — or viewer, in this case — of his stay at the hotel long past its prime. Now, we follow the young author during his stay at The Grand Budapest Hotel, and the movie starts in earnest as the protagonist, Mr. Moustafa, tells him of his time working as a lobby boy in the hotel's heyday when he was more commonly known as Zero.

What follows is a flavorful blend of tongue in cheek comedy, art, stealing art, living in war-times, romance, immigration and, well, murder.

But first and foremost, it's about a concierge. While Zero Moustafa is ostensibly our protagonist, the film is really about Mr. Gustave, his employer turned mentor and eventual friend, as he whirs about the hotel and it's clientele. He makes for a unique leading man, mingling with the thugs and rakish criminals with the same levity and respect he grants the upper crust. Truly this network he's made, which comes up many times in the film, is what keeps both him and his young mentee alive for so long.

"The Grand Budapest Hotel" has a unique look due to the way Anderson directs his live action films. The art direction is always top notch, sacrificing realism for painted backgrounds and copious amounts of practical effects that are obviously practical. Even the camera angles prioritize artistry before action.

This film in particular does not disappoint in this field, with one of the best uses of color to convey meaning and mood. The drab and bogged down colors of the hotel as Zero describes it we've seen the bright and lively tones of it in its prime.

The writing is similarly juxtaposed, snapping between physical comedy and heartfelt conversations on a dime, sometimes even at the same time. The finale is horribly bittersweet and open-ended, which is inline with the rest of Anderson's films.

It's worth sharing two hours for, and the background knowledge provided by English professor Dr. Birger Vanwesenbeeck and students who worked with sources in the Zweig collection about the film’s creation truly rounded out the experience.
Students create digital projects using one of the world’s largest Stefan Zweig collections

Left: Devin White. Middle: Ashley Halm. Right: Liv Frazer. Photographs provided by students.

JULES HOEPTING
Managing Editor

Reed Library is home to one of the world’s largest archive collections of Stefan Zweig. During the 1920s, the Austrian-born storyteller was the most translated author in the world.

Dr. Robert Rie, former Fredonia professor in the foreign language department, brought the Zweig collection to campus in 1967. Similar to Zweig and his first wife Friderike, Rie immigrated to the U.S. to escape Nazism. Rie was able to obtain papers from Zweig through Friderike and other donors added to the collection over time.

Ashley Halm, Devin White and Liv Frazer utilized this collection to create two new digital projects in a research practicum focused on Zweig instructed by Dr. Birger Vanwesenbeeck, English professor and Belgium native. The students’ projects are on the “Virtual Exhibits” webpage of Reed Library’s Stefan Zweig Collection, where they will be permanently hosted for future use by scholars.

Halm, junior English and theater double major, and White, junior English education major, created a narrated slideshow following Zweig’s 1939 US lecture tour across 18 cities. The tour is significant because it “reveals a lot about [Zweig’s] character and his attitudes,” and “the information about the tour is almost entirely located within our exhibit,” White said.

In addition to promoting his work, Zweig used to tour to present his views on art philosophy and his criticisms on how history is written from an ethnocentric perspective. Despite claiming to be “non-political,” Zweig presented “very anti-authoritarian” ideas due to his experience as a Jewish person during the rise of Nazism in Austria, according to White.

With “horrible irony,” Zweig also shared his racist beliefs that Black Americans would never be equal to whites. Interestingly enough, Zweig did not share these views while touring in the south, focusing those lectures on artistic creation.

“We look at these significant people in history, but we neglect to realize that a lot of them had no understanding of race relations,” White said.

Frazer, junior English major, created a slideshow relaying Zweig’s relationship to film. Despite Zweig’s stories inspiring over 80 films, Zweig wanted nothing to do with film adaptations. He felt film was not “hyper-realistic” and thought the new story-telling medium’s place was in surrealism, according to Frazer.

Frazer attributes Zweig’s stories’ popularity to their themes of universal human experiences in a time when sentimentalist, environmentalist and other “really lofty” works were prominent. Because his stories were rooted in human experience, people took away from the stories whatever they wanted, and in some cases, made films from their interpretations. This led to Zweig having not much control over his public image.

Overall, the students found researching Zweig’s life a valuable experience.

“For all his complications as a person and as a writer, [Zweig] still deserves to be studied and learned about by college students, not just scholars of European literature,” Halm said.

“I think the experience of working with primary documents is so important because we often think of historical figures as removed individuals that didn’t have feelings or thoughts or experiences. It’s hard to feel a correlation with somebody in a black and white photo,” Frazer said. “Seeing [Zweig’s] handwriting is a really powerful experience because it reminds you that every artist was also human.”
The Music Industry Club (MIC) held Battle of the New Bands Dec. 3 from 7–9 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Williams Center. The room was decked out for a memorable musical experience complete with speaker systems and lighting provided by the Sound Services club.

Jon Maternowski, a sophomore business administration student at SUNY Fredonia, played stimulating DJ mixes under his pseudonym, DJ Majik, and acted as an MC between each performance.

Emily Rasulo, a senior double majoring in music industry and public relations, and president of MIC, explained how the long-running event — which is at least ten years strong — has consistently been giving artists and bands a head start in the Fredonia music scene. She described it as a unique possibility to meet people and network.

Jenna Casper, a senior in the music industry program and the promotions chair for MIC, had much praise for the event’s benefits for the artists involved. She said that the competition is a rare opportunity to play at a big event which gives the new bands much needed experience in this field.

“All the stuff they are doing right now may seem like a small nerve-racking thing but it’s also one of many times they’re going to have to go through that exact same thing as an up-and-coming band,” said Casper.

She described it as an unforgettable experience that may cause them to realize the amount of work that goes into being a new artist.

Johnny Zareski, a junior sound recording technology major, has a unique outlook on this event as this is his second go around in the competition. In 2019, he performed with the indie, alt-rock band Beach Tower on rhythm guitar, but he’s picked up a new instrument as he plucks bass for The Science Behind It this year.

Zareski gushed with excitement about hearing the new bands, making it clear that he believes once you’ve made a band, you’ve already won.

First up was the pop and R&B artist Meadow Viscuso. She sang over a backing track played through the speaker systems. Viscuso started her performance with “High” by Miley Cyrus, a pop rock and country song that was an appropriate opener. Her soulful performance captured the audience and as the final notes rang throughout the room, the singer was met with an immediate warm round of applause.

Next up was her original song titled “Love Till It Hurts.” Sonically, this number was centered around a down-tempo guitar melody, while its lyrical message focused on being kind to people no matter how they treat you.

Her cover of “Consideration” by Rihanna featuring SZA closed out her performance. The hip hop influenced backbeat motivated head nods throughout the room as Viscuso weaved SZA’s vocals that were included in her backing track.

Viscuso’s bold solo performance deserves many props as she was amidst a mostly group driven lineup.

The post hardcore band, Edelwood Creek, were up next. The group is composed of Hunter Lares (vocals), Michael Tumbaco (rhythm guitar), Mike Perry (drums), Dennis McAndrew (lead guitarist, vocals) and Alex Salmeron (bass).

As the group took the stage, a fuse was lit. A mosh pit promptly erupted in the crowd when the group swiftly launched into their first song, an original called, “Not In Letterkenny.” Afterwards, McAndrew expressed his appreciation for the audience’s lively contributions.

“In Between,” a Beartooth cover from 2014, highlighted the dueling vocalists in the group. In this catchy post hardcore pop punk blend, Lares’
Meadow Viscuso. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.
guttural, screamed vocal delivery perfectly contrasted McAndrews palpably melodic delivery.

The players quickly refueled with water, praised the crowd once again, and played their original song, “Moon,” which featured ripping guitar riffs and an impressive solo from McAndrew.

Following this, Lares announced his fellow band members by name, especially underlining the work of their drummer and bassist.

The band announced that their next song was a recognizable one before beginning their cover of the generational banger, “The Downfall of Us All” by A Day to Remember. The unique acapella chant of the song’s lead riff is a dead giveaway for one of the quintessential Warped Tour classics.

Lares’ imitative explosive scream of “Let’s go” opened the floodgates for the metalcore breakdown that ensued. The crowd reacted excitedly once again as audience members sprinted to get involved in the moshing shenanigans. The deadly guitar rhythms from Tumbaco triggered clapping and headbanging throughout the MPR. This was certainly a standout moment in their performance and the night in general.

Their Touche Amore cover, “Honest Sleep,” featured eerie guitar lines as it built to a shred-tastic solo from McAndrew. Perry mastered the drum rolls that lead to bombastic thrashes of guitar.

Their final song, an original aptly titled “A Bird Wouldn’t Rest on a Lion’s Fangs,” closed out their performance on a strong note.

The final act, The Science Behind It, a science-themed indie rock band made up of Lucas Cottet (vocals and rhythm guitar), Jacob King (lead guitar), Johnny Zareski (bass) and David Moran (drums). The group donned lab coats and goggles while they hung a periodic table behind the stage.

They repeatedly played into their theme, always prefacing their interactions with the audience as “science facts,” which was a huge source of entertainment.

Their first track was an original called “Woodland” which included a soaring guitar solo from King on the back end.

Before playing their next cover, “What Once Was” by Her’s, Cottet uttered a meaningful rest in peace message for the duo who died in a road traffic collision in 2019.

The modern jangle pop track was a standout moment that showcased Cottet’s vocal strength and delivery. The vocalist leaned into each verse with an undeniable passion, smiling out of a clear love for the song. His falsetto coos swooningly rolled over the audience with a warm wave of dream-pop gratification. The scientists’ did this emotive indie song much justice.
The final song of their performance and the event at large was the group’s original and soon to be released single, “Lights.” King’s playful guitar noodling swirled around the ears of the Battle of the New Band spectators, which eventually led to his ever intriguing and conclusive solo.

Zach Richardson, a senior music industry major and events coordinator of the MIC, took the stage to announce the winners. Jackson Moeller’s diligence throughout the event was rewarded appropriately as he won best manager for his role in The Science Behind It.

Finally, Richardson announced the science-themed indie rock band as the winner of the event, which led to an overjoyed reaction from the bands themselves and the audience members. The Science Behind It won an opportunity to play at either a local bar, BJ’s, or the house venue in Fredonia, the North Pole Strip Club.

Afterwards, Richardson, and his fellow senior music industry major and executive board member of the MIC, Dan Doyle, the vice president, expressed similar sentiments to Zareski about the outcomes of the event.

“Even getting to this point [The Finals], you’ve already pretty much won, you’ve made a band, you have some songs, you know how to prepare for a show,” said Richardson.

Doyle added that winning “is a nice opportunity to get that next step right after [by securing an upcoming performance] but countless losing bands like Eerie Shores and Beach Tower or even non-competitors like The Weather Might Say Otherwise, have went on to have much success in the community of performers within Fredonia and Western NY at large.

Doyle continued “getting the first show under your belt is important” as the bands and artists can build upon this valuable experience while they hopefully enter the growing Fredonia music scene.

Congratulations to these artists, their managers, Sound Services, the Music Industry Club and all people involved in this immensely important and fun-filled event which is an integral aspect of the musical culture of Fredonia.

Follow these emerging artists and the Music Industry Club to stay up to date on future events and music releases.

Music Industry Club:
@micfredonia

Meadow Viscuso:
@meadowviscusomusic

Edelwood Creek:
@edelwood_creek

The Science Behind It:
@the_science_behind_it_band
Inside her cramped dorm room in Gregory Hall at SUNY Fredonia, her light brown cookie-cutter desk not only doubles as a workspace for schoolwork, but also an office for her small business. “Like it or not, being a student is also a full-time job, so finding time for both, and to [set] goals for each is essential,” said Emma Stack, senior social studies adolescent education major and owner of StackedByEmma.

Stack started her jewelry business back in the Spring of 2021. StackedByEmma sells handmade bracelets, wire wrapped necklaces, phone charms and even zodiac jewelry. Any spare time that Stack could’ve saved for napping or relaxing is now reserved for running her business.

“When I have a chunk of time that I can create new designs and make new products, I usually sit down and first write out all of my orders, and then start to make the largest orders first and the smallest orders last,” Stack said.

And if a day goes by where she has to prioritize school over her business, she always makes sure she sets time aside during the day to create.

“I tell myself that today we need to hit these goals and I’ll do them. I usually create and make products in between classes, early in the morning or late at night. I work around the other things in my schedule to get things done for my business,” she continued.

When she’s not working from school, her business is based out of Lewiston, New York.

Another small business owner, Mary Conover, a childhood inclusive education major, had to completely relocate her business and life for her fall semester of senior year.

Conover owns YoungMaronnaise, a tie-dye sock and miscellaneously creative business. As it’s required for her major, Conover has to take a semester of in-field experience and student teach. In her case, she was able to teach hours away from Fredonia, all the way downstate in New York City.

The change of lifestyle has been slightly overwhelming for Conover, as she’s had to juggle multiple responsibilities, by throwing a job into the mix of her already hectic schedule.

“I’ve definitely felt like my student teaching and work have been getting in the way of my business. Not just the hours I spend at both every day, but prep work and just exhaustion by the time I get home. I don’t like having to force myself to create because it often doesn’t make my best work, so I love when I have the time that I’m able to want to,” said Conover.

Conover started her business back in her early years of high school and has continued to run it through her last four years of college. Being a student teacher has taken up more of her time than she expected.
“I fully considered stopping all business while in school or at least for the semester because I know it’s so much to handle, but I really didn’t want to do that. Although I’ve had to cut back, I am always happy to be creating,” Conover continued.

Conover emphasized the importance of prioritizing — what comes first is figuring out what needs to be a top priority, and then working your way from there to what comes next.

Fortunately, these small business owners have a reliable and local support system at their disposal. The Fredonia Technology Incubator, a business development service, works “with external partners to promote economic growth by supporting entrepreneurship and development of new companies,” said Chuck Cornell, Director of Fredonia Technology Incubator.

The incubator has also created a business competition and an internship program for students. “As an economic development center, a visit to the incubator is a good first step. We can guide entrepreneurs and small business owners to support services and resources that may be beneficial,” Cornell continued.

Both Stack and Conover know what it’s like to feel discouraged when life gets stressful. Perseverance is what has helped them continue to grow and remain successful as small business owners.

Conover recommends, “Do what you love! If there’s something you want to start, do it! Be willing to do your best and to fail sometimes.”

You can find Conover’s business, YoungMaronnaise on Instagram @youngmaronnaise, and Stack’s business on Instagram @StackedByEm, or on Etsy at StackedByEmma.
This semester, clubs on campus were finally able to return to normal after restrictions regarding in-person gatherings and larger club events were lifted. Unfortunately, some clubs weren’t able to weather COVID-19’s storm unscathed.

As a result of the pandemic, many clubs ended up being shut down due to low involvement from students. The appeal of joining a club to make friends and meet new people just wasn’t the same over a Zoom screen for many students.

At the start of the semester, according to the Student Association, SUNY Fredonia offered roughly 170 different clubs that could pique anyone’s interest. Out of the 170 clubs, around 30 of them became disbanded because of the low activity.

“I think it was because of academics and there was a lack of communication between the clubs and their advisors,” said Jackson Berry, SA Speaker.

While many of those clubs were able to survive from the start of the semester, as time went on, some of the clubs, like Noteworthy, SUNY Fredonia’s only show choir, struggled to keep the number of students up.

“Lots of clubs, especially singing clubs, took a big hit with COVID,” said Rae Wieser, a freshman childhood inclusive education major and Noteworthy stage manager. “People didn’t want to do it because they don’t like wearing a mask and singing.”

At the start of the semester, Noteworthy only had two returning students to the group because the former members had either new commitments or they had graduated the previous school year.

In the midst of the pandemic, many students were unable to train underclassmen to fill their positions after they graduated, which made training new e-board members especially difficult.

While recruiting new members was a struggle, Noteworthy was able to start the Fall 2021 semester with 12 new members to add to the group.

As the semester progressed, members slowly started to leave the group due to new commitments. The group went from 12 members to seven.

Even with the low numbers, the group still persevered and created shows that showcased each of their members. It also helped the group since the school allowed for in-person meetings rather than strictly sticking to Zoom. “People who stuck past the first rehearsal seemed to really enjoy themselves. We tried to make it as interactive as possible so we all could really get to know each other,” said Wieser.

The group is still looking forward to gaining some new members at the start of the spring semester.

“By bringing in more people, it helps all of us meet more people and that’s what clubs like this are for. It’s to find people with similar interests and make friends,” said Wieser.

Not all groups had a story like Noteworthy. For Fredonia Radio Systems (FRS), the club was able to gain numerous new members.

“It took a while, but eventually, we did get there. We were just like ‘Hey, do you like music?’ ‘Hey, do you like this?’ ‘Do you like organizing?’ We tried to play along on what people liked even if it had nothing to do with music or radio,” said Yisel Fernandez, a junior double major in music industry and business and finance accounting, and general manager of FRS.

One of the most common issues clubs faced this semester while trying to recruit new members was many students not having the time to commit to a club.

“FRS also faced this challenge.

“It was hard for a lot of clubs to kind of gauge what people would want to join and not join,” said Mel Fajardo, junior double major in business administration, marketing and music industry and program director at WDVL. “I think COVID has really put people in a different position as to if they want to join clubs or not or if they have time.”

It was up to the perseverance of FRS to keep its members’ spirits up in order to get new members to join the station.
Last year, the radio station, located in McEwen Hall, was limited to e-board members only, while everyone in the general body had to meet over Zoom due to capacity limitations. With the group having almost an entirely new e-board, the club is still working on adjusting to the new normal.

Just like with Noteworthy, after a year of meeting virtually, being in person helped interest students to come and see what FRS was all about. “People couldn't come in here, there was a capacity limit and only e-board members could show up. It took away from FRS being what it usually is,” said Fajardo.

“Eventually, people did start trickling in and then now we have a lot of people in the station,” added Fernandez.

Even though recruitment was a struggle for many clubs throughout the semester, many are still looking forward to a fresh start and new memories to
Movie review: “Tick, Tick… BOOM!”

ERIN MOSHER
Special to The Leader

On the morning of Jan. 25, 1996, Larson died, which happened to be the same night as the first “Rent” preview performance off-Broadway. He never got to see his work put on or the legacy that was created following the musical.

With the movie being told within a week’s span of time, it shows the ups and downs of living in New York City as an unaccomplished playwright. While Larson was about to start writing the song for his female character in “Superbia,” his power was shut off.

The film highlights what was going on in the 1990s in New York City and everywhere else — the AIDS epidemic. “Larson saw how AIDS was affecting the people close to him, I think that is why he wrote ‘Rent’ in the first place, to bring awareness to AIDS,” said Nikki Indelicato, a senior journalism major.

Larson had very close friends that contracted the unfortunate disease, including his best friend Michael. It was hard on Larson to hear that Michael became sick, as they have been friends almost their whole life.

Just days before Larson found out that his best friend tested HIV positive, U.S. Sen. Jessye Helms held a speech on television that Larson tuned into. Helms said, “Let me say that if IV drug users and homosexual men would stop their activities today, there would never be another case of AIDS in this country other than the ones already in progress.”

This quote sparked Larson to write “the boss is wrong as rain,” which can be found as a lyric in his song “Louder Than Words.”

The music is the icing on the cake. Larson truly is a musical genius. “30/90” and “Therapy” are very fun songs to sing along to.

The movie opens up with Larson sitting at the piano singing “30/90,” which Larson wrote about turning 30 in 1990 and not having accomplished anything, which ironically is a quick synopsis of the movie. The lyrics, “They’re singing ‘Happy Birthday’ you just want to lay down and cry. Not just another birthday, it’s 30/90,” encapsulates the never-ending sadness that he will continue to feel as he grows older.

“I also fell in love with the song, ‘Johnny Can’t Decide.’ I just think it was really neat that Jonathon Larson was able to successfully write basically his whole life story all into the musical, with the songs seamlessly through it,” said Indelicato.

I watched this movie so many times — I love it. I listen to the movie constantly. I give the film a 10/10, the casting was spectacular and the music was lovely. I recommend this movie to anyone who loves musicals, Lin-Manuel Miranda and Andrew Garfield.
None of the Gluten, All of the Goodness! Vegan options available

Order online for Friday Porch Pickups
OmNohm.com
Find us at the Fredonia Winter Farmers’ Market
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Masonic Lodge
321 E. Main St., Fredonia, NY
While most casual basketball fans know about the Syracuse basketball team, New York has quite a few other Division I schools with basketball teams to look forward to, both men’s and women’s.

One of the schools closest to us is the University of Buffalo. A fellow SUNY school, this team is coming off a 16–9 season where they lost in the third round of their conference tournament to Ohio.

This year started off mediocre, with a 4–2 record to show. The women’s UB basketball team also started out on a 4–2 note this season. Last year, the team ended with a 15–9 record and a second round exit to Bowling Green in their conference tournament. The team hopes to make a push forward toward a conference title and automatic NCAA tournament berth.

Another Western NY team to look for is Canisius. Our own Fredonia team recently went up against the men’s squad and came away with a 106–40 win.

Canisius is currently 2–6 and it looks like they are going to try and come close to their winning percentage from last season.

As for the women’s Canisius team, they are currently 2–5. Their last season was cut short after December, so the team is now looking for more progress.

Niagara is another team in the region with a 2021–22 basketball season to look towards.

Niagara is currently sitting at 3–4 this season and is looking to improve on their 9–11 record the season prior. The women’s program at Niagara is also holding a 3–4 record this year. The team is well on their way to beating their prior season’s win total. The team was 4–7 last year.

Finally, there is Syracuse basketball. They are the most nationally recognized of the bunch from the area and are looking towards playing their way into the NCAA tournament once again. The team is currently 5–3 and hopes to improve on their record of 18–10 last year.

The women’s squad also hopes to make some noise in the NCAA tournament after last season’s run to the second round. Currently 4–4, they have to continue to improve their chemistry as they lost multiple starters and role players from last season.
Fredonia Sports Update

ANTHONY GETTINO
Sports Editor

Men’s hockey team lost to Geneseo Friday 5–2
- Bryce Witman and Brendan Dempsey each scored a goal
The team lost 2–4 to Brockport Saturday evening
- Ethan Kirbis and Jake Blackwell scored one goal each
Fredonia travels to Cortland Saturday evening

Men’s and women’s track and field travels to Houghton for their first indoor meet of the season
- Toby Onuoha won the 400m (52.19) and placed second in the 200m (23.40)
- The men’s 4x400m relay team of Topher Elkins, Griffin Dombroske, Josh Walters and Toby Onuoha won
- Walters placed third in the mile (4:34.86)
- Ally Battaglia placed second in the mile (5:45.62) and fifth in the 3k (11:24.25)
- The women’s 4x400 relay team of Evelyn Smith, Angie Tredo, Ali Dixon and Sam Schaffert placed fourth (4:38.43)
The team is off the rest of the semester

Men’s basketball lost 80–81 after a buzzer beater by Geneseo Friday night
- Jackson Brown had 23 points to lead the Blue Devils in scoring
- Jacob Hougan and My’Kell Kaigler each had 19 points
The team lost to Cortland Saturday afternoon 55–71
- Jackson Brown scored 11 points and tallied 7 rebounds
The team travels to Penn State Behrend Wednesday night before hosting Oswego Saturday

Women’s basketball beat Geneseo Friday afternoon 60–48
- Katie Pitcher tallied 16 points and 12 rebounds
- Renee Park and Lauren Mickley each scored 14 points
The team lost to Cortland Saturday afternoon 60–66
- Renee Park scored 17 points and added 4 assists and rebounds
Fredonia hosts Nazareth Wednesday evening and Oswego Saturday at noon

Men’s and women’s swimming and diving traveled to Cortland for the Snowflake Invitational
The men placed sixth out of six teams
- Ian Hilldale placed second in the 200 (1:51.51) yard freestyle
- Tyler Conti placed second in the 1,650 (18:15.91) freestyle and third in the 500 (5:11.02) yard freestyle and 200 (2:05.94) yard butterfly
The women’s team placed fourth of the six teams
- McKayla Polowy placed first in the 200 (2:00.50), 500 (5:17.37) and 1,650 (18:25.02) yard freestyle
- Kayla Hagen placed second in the 100 yard backstroke (1:02.99) and the 50 (25.70) and 100 (55.69) yard freestyle
- Rachel Mayou placed second in the 200 (2:03.12) and 500 (5:21.04) yard freestyle
- The team 400 and 800 yard relay team of McKayla Polowy, Rachel Mayou, Mindy Doktor and Kayla Hagen won in times of 3:49.86 and 8:19.41

Men’s and woman’s swimming. Photographs by Owen McGuire.
Last week, I found out I tested positive for COVID-19 ... again. For the third time, actually.

You may be wondering how this is possible, and I am wondering the same thing. I follow COVID-19 guidelines, I wear a mask and I am triple vaccinated. I try my best to make sure I don't get sick, and I want that to be very clear.

I first tested positive over a year ago in September 2020. I wrote an opinion piece for The Leader titled “Positive” about my experience, as SUNY Fredonia adjusted to functioning in person during a pandemic.

I was very critical of how my diagnosis was handled by the school. At the time, I was living on campus in Gregory Hall. I was furious that the school didn't give me quarantine instructions until days after being positive, the lack of testing on campus and many other issues that came along with my diagnosis. I won't bore you with the details, and if you are really interested, you can check out the article online.

I was barely sick the first time I had COVID-19. Between a fever that lasted two days and a scratchy throat, I was virtually left unscathed by this virus — luckily, with my taste and smell still intact.

The worst part of having COVID-19 at this time was the stress that came along with it. So much was still unknown about the virus, with no vaccines to keep anyone around me safe. I was terrified I was putting lives in danger by being positive, and I couldn't stop thinking about who I could have possibly gotten sick in the time before I knew I was positive.

In September 2020, the quarantine guidelines required me to stay home for 14 days, rather than the 10 days that is now standard. It gave me a lot of time to think, or rather, overthink.

I decided to finish out the semester at home, which was my original wish that was denied by the school. I had requested before the semester started to complete the semester virtually because I was convinced I would get COVID-19 at college. Instances like these make me think my anxiety is actually psychic energy, but I digress.
The second time I tested positive was only a month and a half later, during October 2020. I had a burning fever for a few days, along with horrible pain in the back of my head and neck. I had convinced myself that it was some form of meningitis after doing some quick research on Google.

But to my surprise, it was actually COVID-19 yet again. It was a nightmare all over again. I was in instant disbelief when WellNow called to tell me my results. The poor woman on the other end of the line probably had no idea why I was in such denial.

At this time, I only left my house for work. The very few friends I have from my hometown were all at college. Come to find out, the virus was reactivating itself within my immune system — at least that was what I was told.

According to the Allegany County Health Department representative I spoke with on the phone, this is a rare occurrence, but this time, my positive diagnosis wasn’t contagious. I wasn’t required to quarantine this time, since it was within the three-month window from when I was originally infected.

Everyone at the small business I worked at got tested, all of them receiving negative results. My family also did not get sick, which was a huge relief.

I still consider the cause of my positive test result as unknown, and I question whether my symptoms were really caused by COVID-19 or a separate illness. I don’t know if I will ever know the answer.

That’s what is so lovely about COVID-19 that rattles my anxiety to its core — the unknowns.

I made sure to get vaccinated in April 2021 after my two run-ins with the virus. I knew it is better to be safe than sorry, and I hated the idea of ever having to quarantine for 14 days again. I got my dose right in Steele Hall, which was an easy process. I decided to get Pfizer.

I got my second dose three weeks later as scheduled, and everything went well. I got sick from both doses, but this didn’t come as a surprise to me.

I decided on the spur of the moment to register to receive a booster of Pfizer to further protect myself and others, since it is said the effectiveness of the original vaccine decreases over time and science has not yet confirmed whether it is effective against other strains, like Omicron. I got my dose during Thanksgiving Break, on Nov. 23, in Steele Hall once again.

That night, I began to experience a high-grade fever, as well as nausea and vomiting. This was by far my worst reaction to any of the doses, but I wasn’t alarmed. By the next day, I was still feeling quite unwell. I started to think I had an ear infection, which mixed with the booster, would explain my symptoms of ear pain, sore throat and congestion.

By Nov. 26, I knew it was time to get my symptoms checked out, mainly because I thought it was just an ear infection that would require antibiotics to clear up. I was experiencing nausea, fever, vomiting, sore throat, cough, congestion and things were progressively getting worse. I waited over two and a half hours to be seen at an Immediate Care when I decided to just go home. Patience is not my strong suit by any means — I’ll admit it.

So, I waited for the storm to pass, hoping I’d wake up feeling better at some point. But every night, I’d go to bed with trouble breathing, waking up in the middle of the night with a fever, taking Ibuprofen and repeating the cycle. I was drowning in fatigue and pain throughout my body.

On Nov. 28, I went back to Urgent Care, where I was given a COVID-19 test. I found out I did in fact have a double ear infection, and I thought that was the end of that. It would explain most of my symptoms combined with the booster, and I figured it was just a really bad one, since I let it fester for quite some time. But the next day, I checked my results to find the word "DETECTED" written in all caps and in red.

"Here we go again," I thought. This time I didn’t cry immediately, rather, I laughed. I really couldn’t believe that I had COVID-19 … yet again.

This time around, I was much more lucky to be living off campus in a one-bedroom apartment, which saved me from having to rely on SUNY Fredonia for quarantine instructions or fears of infecting my family members. And, of course, this wasn’t my first rodeo with the virus, so I already knew much of the process.

However, I didn’t start feeling any better until six days after I first started exhibiting symptoms. This experience was nothing like when I first had COVID-19, which was why I was so surprised I was positive. It is important to note that I am a relatively healthy 20-year-old, and this virus made me severely ill for days on end. I can’t remember being that sick in a long time.

I guess if there is anything to learn from my experience, it is to stay hypervigilant. Cases are rising in most counties, particularly Erie County. Mask mandates are being put back in place.

It is the holiday season, and most of us want to spend time with those we love and must gather inside as the weather gets colder. Just try your best to be cautious and understanding of those being impacted by the virus. And even though my symptoms this time were pretty severe, I’m sure that the vaccine prevented me from having to be hospitalized.

As much as we want to move forward and forget that this pandemic exists, we simply can’t. It is ever present, along with new strains being introduced. Stay safe and stay informed.
Derek Raymond: Winter at Debar Lodge
In a move that has surprised literally nobody, Starbucks has found another way to bring despair into the lives of consumers everywhere.

Following the announcement of the Justin Bieber and Tim Horton’s collaboration — with the pop artist’s agents definitely having spun a wheel of nonsense to determine what donut flavors he could possibly endorse — Starbucks knew they had to respond with something just as ridiculous, if not more. For a limited time, instructions have been made for all baristas under the Starbucks brand to correct customers whenever they order a grande drink, saying, “yuh-yuh-yuh, I think you mean an Ar-iana Grande Grande, right?” The only good news about this is that it’ll only last for a limited time.

Historically, Starbucks’ best and brightest have not been the best — between getting names wrong on orders and giving me a latte with oat milk when I specifically asked for soy milk, dammit — and this will only add to their poor public image. I doubt there will be much of an uptick in sales between the Grande estate or the coffee chain; in fact, my guess is that this move is such a sorry excuse for marketing that there will be a downward slope for this quarter’s reports on both sides.

Whichever interns decided to follow the lead of Tim Horton’s, need to learn a lesson in punching up. Why would Starbucks, an infinitely more well-known café brand, take lessons from the Canadian hockey player’s passion project? This whole kerfuffle has me wound up, tighter than I was when I had to gulp down that ghastly excuse of a latte, with its despicable oat milk. And yeah, I’m still bitter about that, just like the latte was!

The point being, Starbucks has flubbed the mission, nobody is surprised, but we should all be disappointed. Do better, Starbies. And watch out for the next time I come in, because I will Yelp your a** if I get another oat milk latte, you fiends.
So, the Scallion, huh? Isn’t it fun? A little silly? Whatever. Anyway, point is, I’m writing some stuff and I don’t care what you think because I’m a little punk.

**Chicken Fingers**
They’re a bit tasty, but you absolutely have to get them from the right place. The best ones are juicy on the inside and disgustingly dry on the outside. I don’t care what you think. I hate the ones that are moist on the outside because no one wants that! There’s no crunch! Have a little crunch. That’s why when I’m in an absolute pinch, I go to Willy C’s because it’s moist on the outside. It’s gross, but it’s satisfying. Don’t get me wrong, it’s someone else’s cup of chicken tea, I’m sure, but it’s not mine.

**Income Inequality**
That sucks, bro. Just get rid of income. That’s the obvious answer?

**Ska Music**
You know what, I’m gonna be honest. I didn’t have much of a thought on this topic until my roommate actually played ska punk and I was like, “wait, this is ska? It’s really not that bad. It’s just punk rock/pop with trumpets? What could go wrong?” There was nothing wrong. It’s totally fine. If I wanted to, I’d even pop it up on Spotify for my own dang self.

**Women’s Rights**
Oh God, I love women. If you know me at all, you know back in the day my freshman year I was obsessed. OBSESSED. On Twitter, if I saw a pretty lady at Starbucks, you already know I tweeted about it because she was so pretty. “I saw the most beautiful woman today at Starbs oh my God I’d let her break my feet.” Let’s be honest: women rock. Therefore, they should have more rights than men.

**Google Docs**
If Google Docs was a person, I would get down on one knee and ask its little organized heart to marry me. I don’t care if you like Microsoft Word more because “it has more options” or “it’s more detailed.” I literally don’t care. Docs is easy, and I’m stupid. One of my absolute favorite pastimes as a fifth grader was going on Google Docs, sharing it with my friends’ emails, and making the worst jumble of rainbow words in Comic Sans and using the chat feature to talk during class. It was so easy and so stupid.

**Acting Majors**
Oh, you had to take Physical Theatre and not call it Commedia dell’arte? Your life is soooo hard. Good luck in the real world, poser.

**The Pokemon Gardevoir**
No Pokemon should be that appealing to straight men. Every time I see Gardevoir fanart, there’s boobs. BOOBS. Why do you give any Pokemon boobs? Where did you GET that from? They’re basically animals. I freaking hate Gardevoir so much.

**Global Warming**
C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, guys! :(

C’mon, g
What are you doing

Summoning Figgy

There are some carolers outside who want Figgy pudding and we don’t have any.

Who’s Figgy?

Who is Figgy?

Figgy Pudding
Welcome to horoscopes. I’m going to tell you how you should prepare for finals.

**ARIES**

skim over everything posted on oncourse and if your class doesn’t have any oncourse posts, just improv it.

**TAURUS**

create an incredibly believable story (example: my laptop was thrown into the refrigerator, breaded and fried for 5 minutes on each side to create an even texture as a science experiment because i’m considering buying a new one) and email it to each of your professors/lecturers, just in case! and that’s all you need to do. also, if you WANT to actually attempt that, have fun!

**GEMINI**

you’re gonna ACE it, bud! don’t study! just eat some flamin’ hot cheetos, ride your scooter and blast off!

**CANCER**

while you study (because i know you’ll feel the most immense amount of anxiety if you don’t for 6 hours straight), order doordash. make sure it’s from applebee’s in specific, because you know spending that money is gonna give you the weirdest elation.

**LEO**

try going vegan i guess. and if you’re already vegan, eat grass <3

**VIRGO**

you shouldn’t prepare for finals because you already have somehow. you’re going to go into these finals with everything memorized because you listened to 50 different videos on the subjects in your sleep.

**LIBRA**

keep repeating “guys if the teacher doesn’t show up after 15 minutes we are legally allowed to leave.”

**SCORPIO**

study for like two hours before the final. but don’t do it any other time, because then you’re gonna get it mixed up with another class, and you’ll be mad at me.

**SAGITTARIUS**

sorry you’re gonna biff it and there’s nothing to help you. :/

**CAPRICORN**

study by taking the notes and rewriting them but pretend you’re a raccoon while you’re doing it to really get into a different mindset.

**AQUARIUS**

DON’T. DO. DRUGS. BEFORE. YOUR. EXAMS. unless love counts as a drug. do love.

**PISCES**

ger a cat!