

THE

LEADER

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Removal of Mask Policy

Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play

Women's History Month

BSU Fashion Show Preview

Student and Professor

Attend NBA

All-Star Weekend

Mishap at FSA

Sent Me to Urgent Care

THE LEADER

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Front and back cover: Throwing masks by Derek Raymond.



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Some people got it easy, you think you've got it hard / Is it the diamonds they were dealt or the way you played your cards?

Students react to new mask-optional policy on campus

NIKKI INDELICATO

Assistant Life & Arts Editor

On March 3, 2022, President Stephen Kolison announced in his weekly email to all students and faculty that the mask mandate on SUNY Fredonia's campus would be lifted. Starting on Friday, March 4, masks would be optional for individuals who were both fully vaccinated and boosted.

However, he also added, "SUNY strongly recommends masks indoors for anyone who has not submitted documentation showing that they are fully vaccinated (including those with approved exemptions) or for anyone not boosted."

With this news, there have been mixed reactions among the student population about whether they will decide to keep wearing masks or if they will decide to go without them. Within the last few days, students have been split nearly down the middle when deciding whether to wear their masks indoors or not.

On Feb. 28, The Leader (@leaderfredonia) asked its Instagram followers via poll: "Do you think students and faculty should still be required to wear masks inside buildings?" The results: 60% (72 votes) voted "yes" while 40% (42 votes) voted "no."

On March 5, The Leader asked its Instagram followers via poll: "Now that the mask mandate has been removed for fully vaccinated and boosted students and faculty, will you continue to wear a mask?" The results: 57% (56 votes) voted "yes" while 43% (42 votes) voted "no."

"I am boosted and as someone who was a senior [in high school] during COVID, not having to wear one feels freeing," said Mackenzie Waite, a sophomore theatre arts and French double major.

"The cases are low and it seems low risk," said Shelby Pietron, a freshman theatre arts major.



Photograph by Derek Raymond.

While some see the recent mandate lift as a sign that the pandemic is finally coming to a close, others wish the school would continue to proceed with caution before allowing masks to be optional.

"I am getting a little bit nervous about lifting [the mask mandate], but depending on how it goes, I will take it day by day," said Ethan Tozer, a freshman theatre arts major.

"I will still be wearing my mask around big groups of people. If I am in a small group with people I trust, then it's a different story," said Rae Wieser, a freshman childhood inclusive education major.

On March 5, The Leader asked its followers in an open-ended question on Instagram about their opinions on the removal of the mask mandate. Many users expressed concern over COVID-19 cases spiking and wished the campus waited to remove the mandate after spring break.

Some of the users who were in favor of the mandate removal didn't express their views from the question, but the results from the poll revealed that many were in favor.

One user replied with, "If they're going to lift it at all, it shouldn't have been right before break."

Another user said, "Nice, because of glasses, but I'm nervous that there's going to be an outbreak."

Another follower added, "Selfish and it doesn't consider the needs of immunocompromised students."

A follower also predicted the mandate will be reinstated sometime soon after the spring break when everyone is off campus.

"I don't know how the mask mandate will affect the college yet, so to be safe I will keep mine on," said Wieser, "Until I see results that cases haven't gone up with everyone's mask off, then I will take off," she continued.

Many students do agree with the policy SUNY set in place that people should be both fully vaccinated and boosted for the mask indoor policy to be optional.

"It could lead to cases spiking, but we could see how it goes," said Pietron.

If cases continue to stay low, more students may find comfort in removing their masks indoors. But for now, it is up to the individual to decide whether they will continue to wear their masks on campus.

How Fredonia handles sexual assault cases, and how students can go about filing a case

JASON LOUSTAUNAU

Special to The Leader

The frequency in which sexual assault occurs on American college campuses is appalling and enough to warrant a conversation about where to go if you need to file an incident.

According to the website of the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), “13% of all students experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence or incapacitation (among all graduate and undergraduate students).” Sexual violence is a serious issue that can affect anybody, but the risk of it happening is significantly higher if you are a woman. RAINN additionally reports that “Among undergraduate students, 26.4% of females and 6.8% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence or incapacitation.”

If someone is a victim of sexual assault, it can't be overstated that the victim is under no obligation to report the incident. As said by Julie Bezek, the Prevention, Advocacy and Wellness Coordinator (PAWS) from Lograsso Hall's Counseling Center, “The decision to report or not to report is deeply personal. Survivors should be encouraged to — pursue the option(s) that feel right for them — there is no “right way” or “wrong way” to handle an incident of sexual violence. The best thing friends and family can do for a survivor is support their autonomy to make decisions that are right for them.”

On the topic, University Police Chief Brent Isaacson noted, “I think it's important to know for context, that in any of these kinds of cases, the victim is really in the driver's seat.” If somebody wanted to speak out about something that happened, they have total control over what happens next with their experiences.

That said, some students are unaware or uncertain where they can go if they need help. It's important to understand where resources are so survivors can feel less alone. Survivors can utilize resources on campus to document an incident, but they don't need to feel any pressure to pursue any recourse or charges.

Additionally, individuals can ask to be anonymous while filing a report. On Fredonia's campus, students have two options where they can choose to file and follow through with an incident. Students can contact University Police or the Title IX Office if they wish to file a sexual assault incident. The Title IX Office can then filter cases through the Office of Student Affairs.



Illustration by Ash Maloney.

Currently, the Title IX Coordinator position appears to be unfilled. Until the college fills the position, SUNY Fredonia's website lists Dr. Vicki Sapp as the person to contact if a student has questions regarding title IX or needs assistance filing a complaint. Sapp can be reached at (716) 673-3358 or in her office in Fenton Hall, room 143.

While University Police can help a student pursue criminal charges, the Title IX Office can help a student pursue university actions against the perpetrator, such as expulsion in extreme circumstances.

Students can use any and all offices to pursue their case. Any of these offices would be more than happy to assist a student, faculty member or anyone otherwise in need of help. If someone is confused and needs a starting point of who they can talk to, they could approach University Police and would be given resources and information that could guide them to what their next

step could be. Lieutenant Scott Martin remarks that University Police members are trained in “trauma informed interviewing,” which allows for more emotion in their understanding, and is designed for dealing with victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse.

University Police and the Title IX Office have slightly different roles with how they work with sexual violence cases. When an incident reaches the Title IX Office, Lisa Newell, the director of student conduct at the Office of Student Affairs notes that, “The Title IX Office would investigate the complaint, interview those involved... and then they would forward the complaint to my office because I assist students in moving things through our university's student conduct process.” Cases that are filed through University Police can take longer to process, relative to the other offices, as they need a bigger depth of evidence for the District Attorney's office to secure convictions. As remarked by Martin, “We have to make sure that everything that we can possibly find is there so it can take a little time. Say on average, it's probably three, four months. But [again], it depends on the circumstances.” If someone is able to report closer to when the incident happens, it can become relatively easier to get the sought after conviction.

Some students on campus have expressed dissatisfaction with how the school has handled filed cases of sexual violence. Previously, SUNY Fredonia students have rallied in outrage when a student was admitted into the school with an alleged trailing past of sexual misconduct before gaining admittance into the school. This led to a protest during the fall 2020 semester.

If students have tried the channels offered on campus and feel unsatisfied with their experiences, there are other resources out there that can help. On SUNY Fredonia's student conduct webpage, within the University Policy on Sexual Violence Prevention and Response, there is an extensive list of resources that extends beyond campus resources.

Late Night Fred: Fredonia's very own after-dark shuttle



Illustration by Ash Maloney. Night sky photo from Pexels.

KARISSA DOYLE
Special to The Leader

The sky is almost pitch black — there's little light and it's getting colder. You're on Ring Road, getting slightly paranoid from the isolation, before what feels like your saving grace arrives: A big blue van with the name "Fredonia" plastered on the side. Welcome to the Late Night Fred.

The Late Night Fred is a shuttle service that runs from 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. across campus, seven days a week. To use this service, students just call the number (716) 467-8057 and let the driver know the location they want to be picked up from.

The Late Night Fred is also driven by students. Drivers such as Kendall Brooks, a junior childhood inclusive education major, will give students their estimated time of arrival to the location. According to Brooks, arrival is "typically within one to three minutes."

Similar to the shuttle bus that runs during the day and into town, masks are required.

However, this hasn't been the first time Late Night Fred has been in operation. Originally, it was called "Fredonia Escort Bus," which was discontinued in Spring 2020, but had run for almost eight years prior to its discontinuation.

According to Brooks, "The escort bus, similar to the van service, picked up students and dropped them off at their requested locations. You would call the bus service, and they would pick you up." However, Brooks explained that the escort bus was discontinued for various reasons.

"First, there was a lack of students requesting the shuttle service. Second, the cost of continually repairing the bus and providing the proper services needed was far too expensive, which the school didn't want to fix. Currently, the broken-down bus is still on campus in the Services Complex."

As many students recall, last semester in October, there had been two separate attacks around Ring Road during the early hours of morning. Due to this, many students had concerns about their safety.

These concerns, at least for some, seem to have been relieved with the re-emergence of the shuttle service.

Asante Neely, a Fredonia freshman, is one of these students. Neely explains how she now feels safer, "especially walking home at night as a woman, it is dark outside, and it's a scary world out there. Knowing I can call them, and they'll pick me up where I'm at and take me in front of my dorm makes me feel way better."

Neely explained that usually the Late Night Fred drivers are "cool, collective, and generally nice people" she also explained that "the ride itself is usually quiet unless you [know] the people driving."

One potential downside of the vans is they only carry around four or five passengers at a time. Thus, larger parties have to be shuttled in multiple trips. Overall, the shuttle service does what it's supposed to do, taking students from point A to B in a safe way.

Life & Arts

"Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play" technical and performance review



ETHAN TOZER

Special to The Leader

In a theoretical world without electricity, any survivors must find a way to live. "Mr Burns: A Post-Electric Play," directed by Daniel Lendzian, is a show unlike many have seen before in a theatre.

With the thought of radiation poison hot on everyone's minds, a few people who seek refuge together find that trying to retell an episode of the TV show, "The Simpsons," is helping to take their mind off what has been occurring in their part of the world.

This three-act play was performed in the "black box" Bartlett Theatre in the Rockefeller Arts Center, which allows for actors to have a more intimate performance with the audience. This contributes to stellar sets and intricate costumes because the audience is able to see a more detailed view of what is on the stage.

The view of a barrel with a light inside to show the warmth of a fire and a jeweled glove with claws are some of the details that show the TADA department put in an enormous amount of work to make this production an interesting and

distinctive addition to The Walter Gloor Mainstage Series.

The plot of the show lends itself to having costumes that are very detailed and engaging. The costumes were designed by Madison Granger, a BFA theatrical production and design major with a concentration in costuming.

The first act had very simplistic costumes that look like rundown, everyday clothing worn in the 21st century. The costumes during act two are fairly similar to those in act one but have a cleaner look. The second act occurs seven years after the first act, so it makes sense that

Photographs by Derek Raymond.



the characters have had time to get better clothes.

The third act showed a musical production of the same episode of "The Simpsons" that was being reminisced about during the first and second acts. The setting jumped 75 years in the future from the first act. This allows for more of a "futuristic" design of the costumes. The set is made up of found objects, which are materials that the characters were able to come across, due to the electric grid and nuclear power plant failures.

One of the many costumes that stood out in the third act is character Edna Crabappel's suit made entirely out of a newspaper print and a large yellow foam wig. The mismatched buttons stick out particularly because they are all found items. Little details like these could be seen in all the costumes during the third act when observing closely.

The sets were designed by Karlie Robinson, senior BFA theatrical production and design major. Like the costumes, an extreme amount of research went into the design of the set in this production. This is evident in the way the set-piece is able to change in between acts and on stage to forward the timeline of the production.

During the first act, the set-piece looks like a run-down building. During the second and third act, it transfers to a set-piece on a stage for rehearsals of the episode that are performed. This was very smart on the design team's part because they did not have to have multiple set-pieces that would have to be changed during intermission.



The third act specifically had some fascinating changes. During the first few minutes of this act, panels of fabric are thrown down from the sides of the theatre and above the audience's heads to create a new setting for this final performance. Many different pop culture references can also be found on these panels.

During this act, the main piece produces a top part of a boat through it's door. This "boat" becomes even more effective through movements the actors used to show the swaying of the water. There were also ropes tied to posts and a plank going off one of the ropes. These details made the set more

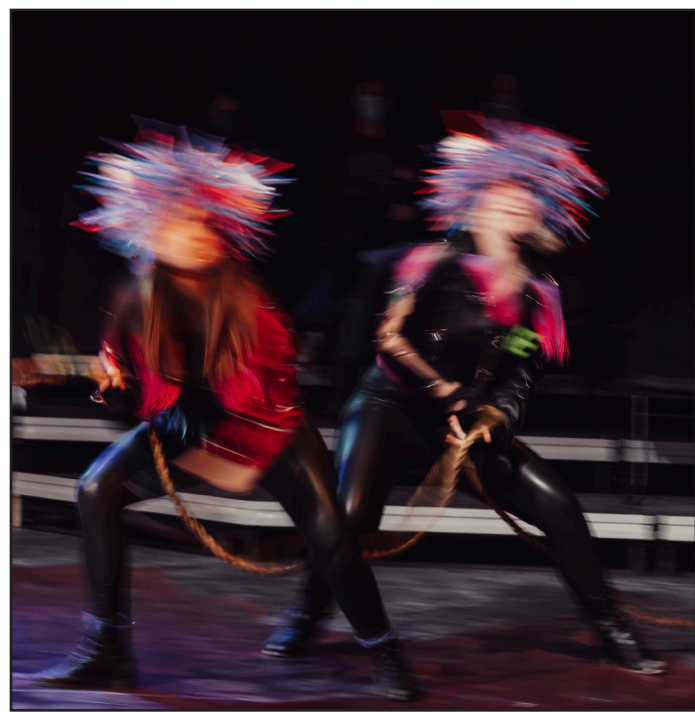
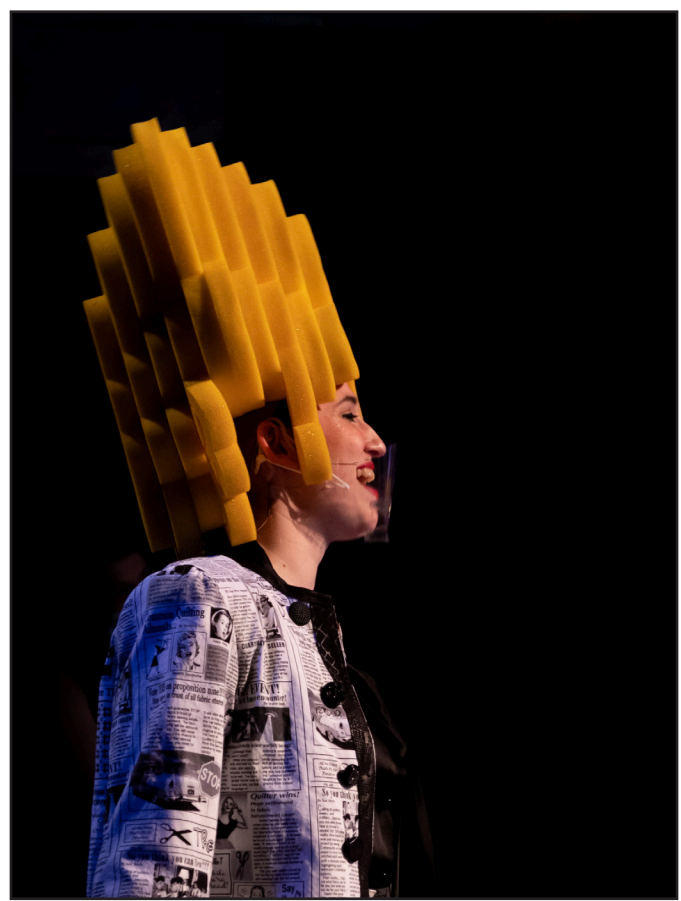
believable while still making the audience think they are still watching a musical inside of the production.

While the acting was stellar and there were some amazing technical elements, some of the parts of the play were also a little bit confusing. At the end of the second act, everything stops and all of the characters look at the corner in fright. There is some short dialogue, but it was a stark contrast from what was just occurring during the entire second act. Choosing to have the characters stare at the corner did not help either because there was nothing there to help the audience know what was going on.

The first act started off very slow and did not seem to pick up. However, the actors did a tremendous job using the script to their advantage where they could try to make the first act more interesting to the audience.



Derek Raymond: "Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play" preview





Derek Raymond: Fredonia String Festival







Photograph retrieved from @FredoniaHillel on Instagram.

Hillel attempts to ease struggles the Jewish community faces on campus

LEE PYE

Special to The Leader

SUNY Fredonia has several clubs on campus, including a place for the Jewish community to connect with each other.

The Hillel International Organization connects Jewish college students around the world.

According to the Hillel International website, Hillel's mission is "enriching the lives of Jewish students so that they may enrich the Jewish people and the world."

The Hillel club at Fredonia, part of Hillel International, is run by President AllyRose Caruso, Treasurer Joshua Ribakove, Secretary Rae Hubal and GA Representative EJ Jacobs.

The Fredonia Hillel club has noticed and commented on multiple situations that have made it more difficult for its members to embrace themselves as part of the Jewish community. On Monday, Feb. 7, the club met for their first meeting of the semester. What follows are talking points brought up during that meeting.

Food Labeling

A part of Jewish culture is a diet known as Kosher where treif meats (such as pork), and meat with dairy in the same meal are forbidden. A member of the Hillel club, Leora Eisenburger, and the club's President Caruso, expressed how difficult it was to follow a Kosher style diet, considering there is minimal food labeling in Fredonia's dining halls.

According to Hillel, there is also a lack of food that fits with common dietary needs, such as gluten intolerance, vegetarian and vegan diets on campus. There is a minimal labeling system in Cranston Marche, Willy C's and Blue Devil Grill, making it much more difficult for anyone with dietary needs to know what is in the food they order on campus.

People with dietary restrictions or who follow Kosher diets are "almost starving from the limitations" of food that fits their dietary needs, according to Hillel club member Amelia Gleyzer. A solution presented by Hillel was labeling if the meal fit into a specific diet and labeling what exactly was in the food that the students on campus are consuming.

Fredonia Involvement and Candle Lighting

SUNY Fredonia has made efforts to include the Jewish community by decorating for Hanukkah. However, the Hillel group responded with disapproval. The menorah, which is supposed to be lit every night for the duration of Hanukkah, was not lit correctly according to tradition.

"I am not surprised they forgot to light the menorah," Ribakove commented.

"It was poorly kept up with and forgotten about," Eisenburger added.

The club also expressed there were multiple Christmas trees and Christmas decorations surrounding the single small menorah the past holiday season. Caruso and Hubal recalled in past years, there was only a poster of a menorah and no physical menorah.

Not only did Fredonia forget to light the menorah, but they have refused to give a space to the Jewish community for them to do it themselves. Fredonia has given the option of LED candles, but after discussion arose in the Hillel club, that solution would not suffice.

"It was messed up," Gleyzer commented in response to not being able to light the candles.

Ribakove added that he used LED candles, but the tradition was not there.

The group explained how lighting the candles and watching them burn down, the candles being supervised the entire time, was part of the tradition. This is similar to important Christmas traditions, such as decorating a Christmas tree or singing Christmas carols. Everyone who dorms on campus in the Hillel meeting expressed their sadness of not being able to be with their families during their holidays, let alone not being able to continue their traditions.

A solution presented was to give the Jewish students a room only on Jewish holidays at a set time. Possibly supervised by a professor for safety protocol, the Jewish community would be able to continue their tradition.

For more information on the Fredonia Hillel club, contact President AllyRose Caruso at caru7801@fredonia.edu or Secretary Rae Hubal at rhubal@fredonia.edu.

NEW SHAPES FROM OLD TROPES

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TO APRIL 10**

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GALLERY**

**ROCKEFELLER
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GALLERY HOURS

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Friday and Saturday: noon - 6 pm

Sunday: noon - 4 pm



SCAN ME

Women's History Month at Fredonia: How to get involved on campus



Illustration by Nicole Thorson.

ALYSSA BUMP
Editor in Chief

Every year, the month of March is nationally recognized as Women's History Month by presidential proclamation. But long before the official recognition of the celebration, Women's History Month first started out as Women's History Week in 1978. Similarly to Black History Month, the origin of the celebration was first a week long. However, it took years before Women's History Month was both nationally recognized and a month long. According to womenhistory.org, "President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980 as National Women's History Week. Subsequent presidents continued to proclaim a National Women's History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as 'Women's History Month.'"

It wasn't until 1995 and beyond when "each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as 'Women's History Month,'" according to the site.

But with all that aside, how can SUNY Fredonia students get involved with the celebration and recognition of women's history?

Taylor Taggart, a senior psychology major with a minor in criminal justice, serves as the secretary of Fredonia Feminists. This campus club's mission is to "promote feelings of pride and unity among students of all genders on campus through feminist activism," according to Taggart.

The Fredonia Feminists have planned several fun events and activities for people across campus to participate in. The first Saturday of the month, the club hosted a woman-led self defense lesson by Lina Khalifeh in the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) of the Williams Center.

"[Khalifeh] set up the first self defense studio for women in the Middle

East," said Taggart. The activist is also the founder of SheFighter. According to vitalvoices.org, SheFighter's mission is to "empower women physically, mentally and emotionally through self defense training."

On March 10, the Fredonia Feminists are hosting "Femmes to the Front," which is an event meant to promote female musicians on campus. Some Like it Hot and The Riveters, two female music groups at SUNY Fredonia, will be performing at 7 p.m. in the MPR of the Williams Center.

A pop-up shop fundraiser will be hosted in collaboration with Sister Circle, another campus club that focuses on the empowerment of women, on March 27. In the MPR of the Williams Center, women-led small businesses like Creations with Clare and Young Maronaise will be selling their products from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

"A total of 5% of the profits will go towards Ujima: The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black

Community. We're also working out the details for a guest speaker to come in," said Taggart.

The president of Sister Circle, Desteny Barnard, a senior criminal justice and political science major, said "I am so excited to be able to work with [the Fredonia Feminists] in highlighting some of the creative and dedicated women right here in Fredonia."

Sister Circle's mission is to "provide an open and safe environment where students are able to speak on relevant issues that affect women of all ethnic backgrounds," according to Barnard.

Their club is dedicating two of their e-board meetings to educating attendees on the importance of women's history. Their first meeting of the month, which was held on March 7, served to inform attendees about women's influence in fashion. "Our last general body meeting of the month will discuss the harmful effects of stereotypes of womanhood and how they reflect our meaning of what being a woman is," said Barnard. That meeting will be held on March 28 at 8 p.m. in the Williams Center, room 204A.

Past the month of March, Sister Circle will be collaborating with the Fredonia student clubs Black Student Union and Brother 2 Brother for their annual talent show on April 2.

Taggart feels Women's History Month is important to celebrate because "providing young women with a variety of figures who excel in their passions can really make a difference in how they view both the world and themselves. Additionally, it challenges the misogyny our mainstream history is steeped in."

Barnard said, "Women's History Month is about celebrating the contribution that women have provided for us. It also reminds us of the struggle to fight for the rights we have today... For example, every weekday we attend class — a liberty we would not have without Catherine Brewer, the first woman to receive her bachelor's degree and later her Ph.D. Furthermore, every time we are able to make decisions on our sexual health we can thank Margaret Sanger who started the first birth control clinic in my hometown of Brooklyn."

Taggart advises others to "read feminist literature, support female creators, keep up to date on current policies that target women" past the month of March. She continued, "Even just listening to a variety of women's perspectives and keeping them in mind when going through day to day life can make the small difference that matters."

Barnard said, "If you want to better educate yourself, you can start by attending meetings and events run by women empowerment clubs and organizations. You can further educate yourself by reading and researching how far women have come... you can support small women-owned businesses right here in Fredonia."

Sister Circle holds general body meetings every Monday at 8 p.m. in the Williams Center, room 204A. Follow @sistercirclefred on Instagram for further information regarding their club.

The Fredonia Feminists hold their general body meetings on Thursdays at 8 p.m. in the Williams Center, room G103B. Follow @fredoniafeminists on Instagram for updates regarding their club.



(Above) The Riveters from @theriveters_fsu on Instagram.



(Above) Sister Circle from @sistercirclefred on Instagram.



(Above) Some Like It Hot from @fredsliah on Instagram.

Bringing **vibrance** to SUNY Fredonia: BSU Fashion Show preview



Illustration by Chyna Black.

LYDIA TURCIOS

Art Director

There's clothes flying, accessories everywhere, body oil being passed around and the distant sound of speakers punching with cheering as the backdrop. The air is saturated with excitement and trepidation punctuated by the step of heels and sneakers on stage — we're looking at a peek backstage of the annual Black Student Union's Fashion show.

This year's theme? The African Diaspora.

It's a proud sight for the members of the Black Student Union's (BSU) Fashion Show committee to look back on, as they have been involved with the annual event for several years each.

What does the Fashion Show mean for Fredonia's Black students?

The creative and model director of the committee is a senior drawing and painting major, Jaivanni Henegan, who called the show tradition. The fashion show is how she became interested in coming to SUNY Fredonia in the first place. While attending multicultural weekend, Henegan appreciated the designers and models being themselves and embracing who they were.

"I feel nostalgic, in a way, and community oriented," Henegan said, describing her personal feelings about the event. "Being able to be around people who look like me. Especially since we do go to a predominately white institution," she added.

The vice president of the BSU Fashion Show committee is a junior child inclusive education and theatre performing arts double major. Her name is

Christina Andrea Ramsey, and for her, the fashion show was an opportunity to stop feeling out of place. Having come to Fredonia unaware of how white the population of the campus and town was, she spent her first few months in the mindset of toning down her culture to appeal to the majority.

"The Fashion Show is definitely the essence of Blackness," Ramsey said with a flourish. "I was happy to find it. We're working together to better other people, and make sure other people are good."

The Fashion Show chair, Crystal Robinson, is a senior English adolescence education major. She calls the event one big collective of the vibrance and boldness of the Black community on Fredonia's campus. She says it is a little bit harder to express and see that sort of bold Blackness of the community on campus otherwise.

"It's one big place where everyone can showcase that authentic, genuine,

whatever it is that their Blackness means for them.” Robinson went on to call being on the committee surreal “because I know how much it means.” Many of Robinson’s friends had also attended Multicultural weekend prior to applying to colleges, and like Hennegan, came to Fredonia because of the BSU Fashion Show.

Robinson’s goal, as well as the goals of Hennegan and Ramsey, is to show that even when it feels that you’re alone when you’re in your classes or in your major, there is still a huge community of Black students who are there to support you.

What’s the planning process of a fashion show like?

“It’s a lot of communication and dedication,” according to Ramsey.

She went on to explain that you truly need the time for it — and the confidence. “You also have to be confident in what you’re doing. We’re working with the other students to model, and to model, the number one thing is con-

fidence. I feel like if we start slacking, they might also start slacking.”

Hennegan added that since they’re leading by example, the most important thing is to keep track of people and their personalities. “It’s more so perfecting and refining,” said Hennegan, about helping the models. The end goal is to make sure everyone is more confident in what they’re doing and the way they do it.

“The scenes, especially, take so much time,” added Robinson. She explained that when coming up with ideas, they have to be ready to scrap, change and come up with new ones until something works. They also have to make sure that the advertising is locked down, that there’s food for the models on the day of and that the designers are contacted.

“It’s amazing how long it takes to send one email when you want to make sure you put enough detail but not too much detail. It’s a lot!” Robinson quipped.

What should be looked forward to the most, the day of the event?

Ramsey is looking forward to seeing the models walk. “There’s just this energy that comes over the models, and even us when we are walking.” She looks forward to seeing how everything comes together naturally.

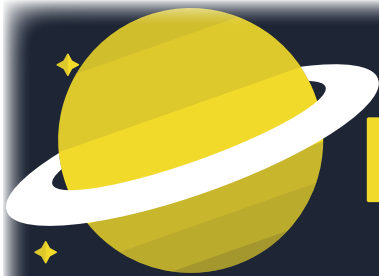
The show is going to be captivating, intense and lively according to Hennegan. “It’s going to be fun.”

She also described the event as an opportunity to uplift each other, “Things just get so divided: Black women, Black men, Latino men and women. I think unity and just being there to support is the most important thing.”

They both agreed that the audience is going to be a big part of the energy.

“Pull up and look good!” The committee stresses to anyone planning to attend. “You gotta dress to impress.”

The BSU Fashion Show will be held in Steele Hall on March 27 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Keep an eye out for when tickets go on sale!



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Taking a bite out of Fredonia at **Domus Fare**

CHLOE KOWALYK

News Editor

For many SUNY Fredonia students and local Fredonia residents, nothing beats getting brunch at Domus Fare, a local breakfast and brunch restaurant in Fredonia.

Since the diner opened in 2014, guests have been enjoying the various savory and sweet flavors the restaurant has to offer. From the moment they walk in the door, customers get a clear sense of why the restaurant's name, "Domus Fare," is Latin for "home cooking."

Mouth-watering scents of apple-wood smoked bacon simmering in the kitchen and freshly brewed coffee being poured into cups at each table fill the air and lure guests into the door.

The lighting is dim and calm, and peaceful instrumental music can be heard throughout the dining area. Laughter and indecipherable conversations turn into a mixture of noise that almost drowns out the music, acting as a lead singer to the calm piece playing in the background.

Metal tables and chairs furnish a wood-accented dining room, and gum is stuck to the bottom of the tables from hungry customers who were making room in their mouths for the delicious brunch they are about to eat.

Posters and cork boards line the walls, and a newspaper stand holds the latest copy of the local college's newspaper.

The short wait for a table feels like an eternity as the sweet aromas of a tasty breakfast prompt stomachs to rumble.

When seated at last, the difficult decision of choosing which dish to get faces the guests. How about a custom omelet filled with their favorite meats, cheese and veggies? Or maybe a stack of blueberry buttermilk pancakes with a side of fresh fruit and eggs?

Just looking at the words on the menu makes guests hungry, with the added smells of others' food and the sounds of other customers' forks and knives clinking against their plates.

While it may feel like forever, it won't be long until a waiter or waitress greets them with a peppy smile and a scratch pad to mark down their order.



Breakfast at Domus Fare. Photograph by Clare Normoyle.

The waitress asks, "Can I start you off with something to drink?" and scribbles down the name of the drink that will keep the guests' taste buds occupied until their brunch arrives.

Guests share envious looks with other guests as they watch them chow down on their meals, still waiting for their orders to be cooked up. Tapping their feet and sipping their drinks keeps them distracted from their rumbling stomachs.

Bits of conversation can be caught in between bites. "I totally forgot to RSVP for my sister's wedding," said one guest as he set his drink down in anguish, fear noticeably widening his eyes.

At another table, guests who seem to be SUNY Fredonia students discuss stressful class assignments and the

upcoming midterm exams, lamenting the papers and long nights of studying ahead of them.

Familiar faces walk through the door seemingly in a loop, and it seems as though everyone in town had the same idea of getting brunch at Domus Fare on a Saturday afternoon.

At last, the guests' small conversations are interrupted by the clank of their plates hitting the table space in front of them, with the same smiling waitress calling off orders and setting them in front of each customer.

The fantastic smell of their orders brings the corners of guests' mouths to a smile as they lick their lips and grab a fork to dig in. The guests slather their toast with colorful jellies and add some

The conversations around the table die down as everyone is too busy filling their mouths with food.

Each bite melts in the mouth, making taste buds dance. Eating the brunch almost seems to go by too quickly, as your stomach gets full and the amount of food on your plate lessens.

At the end of the meal, the waitress with the peppy smile brings a check and a small leather case that holds the guests' receipts. The guests dig into their pockets to pull out some cash or a credit card, as well as a tip for the waitress.

But the Domus Fare that students don't see is the one that happens early in the morning, while classes are still in session.

Domus Fare suddenly becomes an unfamiliar territory for the college students.

The metal chairs and tables are mostly empty, with mostly retired residents scattered around the dining room.

They drink coffees and discuss old memories and the morning news as they wait for their breakfast. The guests reminisce about their time in college nearly fifty years ago.

The atmosphere around Domus Fare on a Friday morning is the exact opposite of a Saturday morning. On Friday mornings, you'll find a calm, quiet and relaxing Domus Fare. But on Saturdays, Domus Fare is full of energetic and hungry college students.

Leaving Domus Fare, no matter the day, guests are already discussing what they're going to try next time and are planning their next brunch.

For college students, having a Domus Fare breakfast is a way to relate back to home with the restaurant's home-cooked meals serving as the namesake of their local business.

For the retired residents, Domus Fare is the perfect setting to catch up with old friends and reminisce about once being like the rambunctious college students who'll sit in their seats a few hours later.



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SPORTS

Fredonia Sports Update

ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

This week was the beginning of spring sports for several of Fredonia State's teams.

Men's baseball traveled to Myrtle Beach for The Ripken Experience. The team won all four games they played.

In their season opener, the Blue Devils beat Neumann University 13-6.

- Tyler Phillips went three for four at the plate with a double and three runs batted in
- Nathan O'Brochta earned the win, pitching four innings and allowing two earned runs off one hit

Fredonia won both games of their double header against Purchase College.

In their first game the team won 6-1.

- Tylor Murphy went three for four with a double, triple and two runs batted in
- Kevin Mahon earned the win pitching a seven inning complete game, allowing one earned run off two hits

In the second game of the double header, Fredonia won 10-5.

- Phillips had five runs batted in off a double and a home run at the plate in three at bats
- Andrew O'Connor earned the win with three clean innings from the mound

Against Rivier University, the team won 14-10.

- A.J. Kinney went three for five at the plate with three runs batted in
- Ryan Hann earned the win in relief by tossing two innings and allowing three earned runs



Men's baseball team practicing. Photograph by Abdullah Yusuf.

The Blue Devils will travel to Florida over spring break to compete in the Russmatt Central Florida Invitational.

Women's lacrosse lost their home opener to SUNY Canton 4-18.

- Erin Woods earned a hat trick with three goals

The team will travel to D'Youville Wednesday before going to Florida over spring break to face Sewanee and Western New England.

Softball began their season in Virginia this weekend and were unable to earn a win at the Mountain Mash.

- In their first game the team lost to Roanoke 0-9.

In the team's second game of the trip they lost to Mary Baldwin University 2-5.

- Marisa Sultana went two for three at the plate with one run batted in

The Blue Devils lost to Ferrum College 0-4.

- Nicole Kumro went one for three at the plate

In their final game of the trip Fredonia lost to Roanoke 0-16.

- Maria Cavaris went one for two at the plate

Softball will travel to Florida for The Spring Games invitational over spring break.

NBA All-Star weekend for Fredonia student and professor

ANTHONY GETTINO
Sports Editor

On Feb. 20, Dr. Sungick Min, associate professor of sport management, and sport management student Charles Marshall went to see the NBA All-Star game in Cleveland, Ohio. Min was able to purchase seats for the two to go see the game and the NBA's 75 year anniversary celebration at halftime.

The duo sat in the first row of the second deck in club seating. "I always sit club with exclusive benefits," Min said regarding having all-inclusive seats at the event. "Dr. Min and I had the best seats and got to eat great food since we were in a suite. We got to see a lot of all stars in the NBA," Marshall added.

Min usually takes students from his different sports management classes to professional games two or three times per semester. These games include the Buffalo Bills in the fall and the Cleveland Cavaliers and the Buffalo Sabers during the spring semester. Students usually have to pay a lesser amount of money than what the tickets originally cost Min.

At first, Min was unsure whether or not he wanted to go to the NBA All-Star game. The seats were quite expensive and Cleveland is over two hours away by car. However, the NBA All-Star game playing as close to Fredonia as it was this year was a special occasion. Since Min and Marshall had been talking about this trip for over a month, they decided to not sell off the tickets.



**Charles Marshall (left) and Sungick Min (right)
at NBA All-Star Weekend.**

When purchasing the seats, Min had a choice on what day to attend. He ultimately decided on Sunday since that was when the actual All-Star game and 75th anniversary celebration would be.

As for the game itself?

"The overall experience of the all star game was truly amazing. The best aspect of the event was the food and seeing Stephen Curry shooting threes from everywhere," Marshall said.

"It was packed. There were no masks either," Min added. Luckily the suite style seating was able to accommodate for the lack of COVID-19 protocols and isolated the two while not taking away from their experience and view of the game.

Leading the way for Team LeBron with 50 points in the contest was Stephen Curry. His team was able to defeat Team Durant 163–160. Curry was named the All-Star Game MVP for his performance.

Other top performers included LeBron James (24 points, eight assists and six rebounds) and Giannis Antetokounmpo (30 points, 12 rebounds and six assists) on Team LeBron.

Standouts from Team Durant included Joel Embiid (36 points and 10 rebounds) and Devin Booker (20 points and five rebounds). Kevin Durant did not participate in the game due to injury.

In the future, Min hopes he can continue to take students to events like these as they can be once in a lifetime opportunities. Taking students to professional games helps to show them possible career paths through the sport management major as well as getting to relax and enjoy a day watching a game with good seating.

Winter sports recap

ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

This past winter season went well for Fredonia. Of the teams competing in this period, six teams were able to make their postseason competition.

Women's basketball and men's hockey were able to play their way into their SUNYAC tournaments. The men's and women's track and field teams, and the swimming and diving teams sent individuals to their SUNYAC Championships to compete.

Women's basketball finished their season with a 12–14 record overall and a 7–11 record in the SUNYAC. They were able to qualify for the playoffs as the sixth seed. The Blue Devils were unable to advance in the tournament after losing 40–44 to Geneseo on the road. Senior Katie Pitcher was selected for the All-SUNYAC second team for her play during the season. She averaged 12.7 points and 5.9 rebounds per game in the regular season.

Men's hockey finished their season with a 10–11–1 record overall and an 8–8 record in SUNYAC. Fredonia made their way into the SUNYAC tournament as the fifth seed. The team lost in the first round to Cortland on the road 1–5. Sophomore Logan Dyke was named to the All-SUNYAC second team for his performance as goalie this season. He had a .926% save percentage and averaged 2.80 goals allowed per game during the season.

Men's swimming and diving team ended their season placing ninth at the SUNYAC Championships. The Blue Devils scored 121 points overall at the meet. They were led by Ian Hildale, Samuel Cottrell, Tyler Conti and Riker Smith in scoring.

The women's swimming and diving team finished seventh at the SUNYAC Championships with 244.5 points overall. McKayla Polowy was able to medal twice, while Rachel Mayou, Mindy Doktor and Kayla Hagen scored points for the Blue Devils as well.



Illustration by Lydia Turcios and Ash Maloney.

Men's track and field finished fifth overall at the SUNYAC Championships with 30 total points. Nick Abdo, Toby Onuoha, Griffin Dombroske and Josh Walters led the team in scoring individually, while the distance medley relay of Sembel Koshi, Dombroske, Patrick Klinger and Jared Hecht were able to medal by placing third.

Women's track and field placed sixth at the SUNYAC Championships with 17 points. Haley Lerner placed second overall in the pole vault and Sydney Preston placed seventh in the 60 meter hurdles. The distance medley relay team of Kristin Kelemen, Evelyn Smith, Vanessa Ryhal and Ally Battaglia placed fifth. Kelemen also earned the ELITE 20 award for having the highest GPA of any female athlete competing at the conference championships.

Men's basketball was unable to qualify for the SUNYAC tournament. The team finished the season 3–22 overall and 3–15 in the SUNYAC. The team did not have any players named to All-SUNYAC teams this season.

What's up with **Buffalo Sabres'** attendance?

Sports commentary



Photograph by Tyler Pacos.

TYLER PACOS Staff Writer

It's starting to look more and more like another year without playoff hockey in Buffalo. As the NHL inches towards the end of the regular season, the standings are quite definitive now in determining who's a contender for the Stanley Cup Playoffs and who's receiving a good draft pick in June.

The Buffalo Sabres are 18–31–8 (wins, losses and overtime/shootout losses) on the season with 57 games completed out of 82 total games scheduled. This year would mark Buffalo's 11th straight year without going to the playoffs. It will also be a new record for the longest playoff drought in the history of the NHL. Hearing that as a Sabres fan is gut wrenching.

However, the addition of young stars on the roster as well as new-comers recently acquired by the team do seem somewhat promising.

Tage Thompson, a developed prospect involved in the Ryan O'Reilly trade with St. Louis has 23 goals and 19 assists in 53 games played and leads the team in points. Alex Tuch, who was acquired from Las Vegas in exchange for ex-Sabre star Jack Eichel, has 7 goals and 16 assists since joining Buffalo this season (25 games total this season). Compared to other seasons, it seems more enjoyable to watch the current roster perform compared to previous seasons.

With the given state of the franchise, fans are most likely to not attend games. Most of us are fed up and don't want to watch until they start winning, which seems pretty fair in all honesty.

I'm 20 years old and have been a fan of the team ever since I was younger. I can say for myself that it's getting old not seeing your favorite team in the playoffs — and it seems like many others agree as well.

Some other factors have also affected attendance, specifically within the past couple of years. Of course the main reason being the pandemic. But another factor was that there was a mandatory COVID-19 vaccination check for all events at the KeyBank Center since Sept. 25, 2021. As of Feb. 28, 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine mandate was lifted for the arena. According to numbers obtained through ESPN, the Sabres are averaging roughly 8,600 fans a game this season, compared to the season before the pandemic where they averaged 17,100 fans per game. That's almost a 10,000 person difference.

Of course it is unclear as to what the real reason is behind the attendance decline. Hopefully with the country seeming to finally reopen from the pandemic, fans will start enjoying Sabres games again. For now, the organization needs to put an end to the 'rebuild' and focus on bringing playoff hockey back to Buffalo.

OPINION

How an incorrect **FSA** order sent me to WellNow **Urgent Care**

CHLOE KOWALYK
News Editor

It was quite possibly one of the worst allergic reactions I've had in my life. In fact, it was the first time an allergic reaction ever sent me to seek medical attention.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, I ordered a vegan (emphasis on vegan) chocolate chip cookie from McEwen Café, located in McEwen Hall at SUNY Fredonia. I ordered my cookie in the morning, before my 11:20 a.m. class. I then went to class and enjoyed the tasty treat when I got out.

Getting vegan options has always been a safe choice for me. I'm allergic to milk, egg and shellfish, so ordering something I know to be free of any animal products was always a good choice. That being said, I was very excited to learn that after the vegan-friendly Sprout Café closed, vegan options were moved to the other cafés on campus. I would finally have some new and different options of meals and snacks to eat throughout the day, while still using my meal plan. This wasn't the first time I got a vegan chocolate cookie from McEwen Café either. In fact, I used to get them multiple times a week with no prior reactions.

I only got about halfway through the giant cookie before my throat started to feel scratchy and panic set in. I immediately went to my bag and grabbed my Benadryl, a common antihistamine used to lessen the effects of allergic reactions. I frantically popped two small pink pills out of their silver casings. Typically, I only take one if my allergic reaction wasn't as severe.

However, this time was different. I had another class in 20 minutes, and I did not want to risk having to leave class just because I was given the wrong cookie earlier that morning. Feeling a little sick, I went to class nonetheless. We had guest speakers that day, and questions on our upcoming midterm would be taken from their speeches. I didn't want to risk dooring poorly on an exam just because I was given the wrong order.

However, about 15 minutes into class, I felt extremely sick, and things were getting significantly worse. I began to shake, I was confident I was about to throw up, in front of the entire class. I held off as long as I could, doing anything to distract myself enough to try to get the severe stomach pains and aggressive shaking off of my mind and to focus on the speakers in front of me.

Suddenly, it got unbearable. I was so nauseous, I couldn't even keep my head up. My hands were shaking so bad, my notes were nothing more than scribbles on a page. My voice shook as I was only able to squeak out the words "I'm really sorry, but I just don't feel well at all." I trudged to the closest bathroom, closed and locked the door.

I fell to the floor, and lifted my head over the toilet in front of me. I gagged a few times, but nothing came out. I actually wanted it to happen. I wanted to purge my body of the thing that was making it so sick—a supposedly vegan chocolate chip cookie.

I texted my boyfriend what was going on, and he, who luckily had his class that was also at 1 p.m. got canceled, was able to drive over to me and bring me some Pepto Bismol. The five minutes it

took him to get there felt like an eternity. Chills started to form up and down my spine, and I was shivering. My stomach hurt so bad, and I could barely even pull myself off of the bathroom floor.

My boyfriend's knocking on the bathroom door barely brought me to my feet as I croaked "Who is it?" I desperately forced myself to get up and open the door, and I took a swig of the pink medicine as quickly as I could, hoping to relieve my terrible stomach pains.

However, my stomach twisted and turned itself in knots and I decided to call my mom. Being 65 miles away, she was incredibly worried about her sick daughter. My boyfriend, still standing next to me in the bathroom, rubbed my back to try to ease my pain.

My mother suggested that we go to Wellnow Urgent Care in town, and that I should go to Brooks Memorial Hospital if things got even worse. Agreeing, my boyfriend walked over to my classroom and a friend helped him get my stuff together. He pulled my professor aside to update him on the situation, and my professor was very understanding.

Walking through the pouring rain, I held my stomach and hunched over until we got to my boyfriend's truck. In the passenger seat, I crossed my legs and curled up until we made it to Wellnow.

We waited at the front desk for just a few minutes until someone checked us in, and asked me what had happened. The words fell out of my mouth as I described my intense shaking, stomach pains and chills. We waited for a nurse for a few more minutes.

When it was finally my turn, I went alone to the waiting room. The nurse took my temperature and tried to get a reading on my heartbeat on two different fingers, but with not much luck. After the finicky machine finally got my heartbeat, my heart rate was higher than normal. I was terrified.

Not much longer after, the doctor came and asked me to explain my symptoms again. I explained that the vegan cookie wasn't actually vegan. I described how I desperately opened my bag to get my Benadryl. I described the unbearable stomach pains and shaking and how freezing cold I was.

The doctor explained to me that I would likely need a steroid shot to help calm my body down, and that the Benadryl had made my body hyper. However, the Benadryl kept my throat from closing up and my body from entering anaphylactic shock. In fact, had I eaten more than half of that cookie, I likely would have gone into anaphylactic shock. I cannot fathom how sick I would be had I eaten just a little bit more of that cookie.

After I was administered the steroid shot from yet another nurse, I was sent on my way. On our way back to campus, my boyfriend stopped at the store to buy me more Pepto Bismol to help aid my stomach pains. During the ride, my shaking had subsided, but my stomach ache had not. He brought me to his townhouse, and had me lay in bed there, where he could keep an eye on me. I found myself getting up and running to the bathroom several times, thinking I just might get sick, but with no success. I called my mom again and updated her on the situation. She was relieved I was better, but was absolutely outraged that I ended up in this situation.

After writing three pieces on the several issues other students have been facing with FSA — moldy and undercooked food, food poisoning, and even another instance of a different student having an allergic reaction and ending up in the

emergency room — I thought things would improve.

And yet, this is still happening. I've seen the efforts FSA has made to try to improve the quality of food on campus. I've seen the filtering options at the Willy C's kiosks to organize by vegetarian and vegan. I've seen the nutritional and allergen information books around dining halls on campus. The inclusion of allergen information online has been incredibly helpful.

However, I still got extremely sick and needed medical care. Who knows how many other students have had these issues but haven't reported them?



Illustration by Lydia Turcios.

I spent the next few hours in my boyfriend's bed, hidden in the covers, just trying to stay warm. I tuned into my 4 p.m. class on Zoom, which was luckily with the same professor as earlier. He got me all set up so I wouldn't fall too far behind in class.

Eventually, after class, I felt well enough to have my boyfriend take me back to my dorm. I was so hungry. All I had eaten that day was a bagel and that dreaded chocolate chip cookie. I ate some warm soup with crackers to attempt to ease my stomach. I was able to get some food down, but I was abso-

lutely exhausted. My body was weak. I went to bed extremely early that night, hoping I'd feel better in the morning. The next day, my stomach was certainly still sore, likely because of the intense cramping it had felt the day before, but I felt better than the day before. I had one instance that next day of severe stomach pain and frequent runs to the bathroom, and overall exhaustion, but overall, my symptoms have subsided.

I'm not asking for pity from my story, but I am asking FSA to please do something to avoid these instances in the future. Whether it was a mislabeling issue, a simple mistake or something else, these mistakes can cost students their lives.

I shared my concerns with both Dean Messina and Darrin Schulz. The email was likely not received by Schulz as I received a bump back from his email address explaining that he would be out of office until Feb. 28.

However, Messina responded and sent me a list of ingredients in the chocolate chip cookie, as well as offered me an FSA gift card to compensate for the price of the cookie.

He also noted that "FSA does not maintain any dedicated allergen-free facilities. Please be aware that we handle and prepare egg, milk, wheat, shellfish, fish, soy, peanut, tree nut products and other potential allergens in all of our cafes, dining facilities and food production facilities."

Messina also mentioned that FSA follows all New York State and Chautauque County Department of Health guidelines.

Whatever the instance was, be it cross-contamination or a simple mix-up, I would like it to be known that dietary choices aren't always a choice.

With students in their first and second years living on campus and being required to have a meal plan, students should be able to expect food that is safe for them to eat. Something further needs to be done to address these concerns, and we, the students, are waiting.

Reuse or abuse?

The plastic predicament

JULES HOEPTING

Managing Editor

“Do you ever feel like a plastic bag drifting through the wind wanting to start again?” asks Katy Perry in the opening line of her mega-hit song “Firework.”

The idea of plastic bags ending up in places they were never intended to be is all too familiar to people all around the world. Hence, the instant relatability most people feel when listening to the song. But why is the man-made sight of plastic bags drifting through the wind as familiar as the natural sight of dandelion spores soaring on the wind? How has plastic waste become woven into natural landscapes?

Citizens of first-world countries are taught to continuously use and depend on plastic of all kinds. They are taught that most of this plastic can be recycled and that because plastic can be used over and over again and because plastic is cheap to produce, plastic is a material that is good to depend on. Again, this was taught.

According to Rebecca Altman’s article “American Beauties” published by the magazine *Topic*, the plastic bag now commonly seen in many grocery stores was initially difficult for people to support. Paper bags served their general grocery-carrying purpose and plastic bags broke easily when carrying too many jars. Furthermore, in the 1950s, support of plastic bags suffered due to their connection to suicides and child suffocation.

Altman said what initially sold people on the paper to plastic conversion was the idea that plastic bags could be reused in a cornucopia of ways. The *Los Angeles Times* reported in 1986, “The Plastic Grocery Council says plastic bags can be reused in more than 17 different ways.”

In addition to plastic’s marketability from its reusability, plastic has been laced with the idea of convenience for decades. Ironically, plastic, a product birthed during wartime — a time of wasting as little as possible — created a cycle of mindless waste. Lloyd Stouffer, the editor of *Modern Packaging*, argued in the 1950’s that “the future of plastics is in the trash can” and that the plastic industry should “stop thinking about ‘reuse’ packages and concentrate on single use.” Stouffer relayed in order for the plastic industry to bloom, it must teach the consumers how to waste.

Who is to say us westerners aren’t surrounded by propaganda? Our world is saturated in marketing, making us believe a variety of plastic wrapped purchases are tied with freedom of choice.

The idea of single-use packaging — the idea of buying something spontaneously because the item is pre-packaged — created a culture of convenience and hills formed of plastic. The idea an item is kept cleaner and is therefore more hygienic when wrapped in plastic further built those hills. Some of those hills were covered in grass with hook-shaped pipes sticking out of them not too far from the polluter’s trash can. Some of those hills formed in families of third-world countries’ backyards.

When garbage is thrown away, it is thrown out of mind. But “away” is a place and that place reflects colonialism, as argued in Max Liboiron’s article “How plastic is a function of colonialism” published in *Teen Vogue*. Liboiron argued initiatives like recycling and treating sewage focus on what to do once plastic pollution is already created

instead of focusing on ways to generate less plastic. He argued these systems already depend on distant land for the garbage to go: “Without this infrastructure and access to land, Indigenous land, there is no disposability.”

To make matters worse, many recycling plants, such as those depicted in the documentary “Plastic China” by Jiu-liang Wang, expose poverty-stricken people with no ready access to education to a lifetime in piles of plastic. Spending their days sorting through European and North American garbage, the recycling processors see images of white people lying on resort beaches surrounded by luxurious items, knowing they will never curl up in the lap of luxury and be pet by materialism’s hand. The people are shown singing songs glorifying Mao Zedong, the former president of the Peoples’ Republic of China. Zedong is considered a dictator by westerners, a perpetrator of propaganda that allowed his people to be bound living amongst piles of plastic. But who is to say us westerners aren’t surrounded by propaganda? Our world is saturated in marketing, making us believe a variety of plastic wrapped purchases are tied with freedom of choice.

But what if “away” no longer accepts the garbage it’s been fed?

“China has been the place where nearly half the world’s plastic waste has been sent to go ‘away.’ This ended in January 2018 when China banned the import of scrap plastics and other materials, which will leave an estimated 111 million metric tons of plastic waste displaced,” according to Liboiron. But the garbage will continue to accumulate. And another country will take the burden of garbage colonialism.

So, how do we go about defeating the plastic monster, a beast almost impossible to fully break down and undeniably ubiquitous in one form or another.

Plastic bags and single-use straws are the poster products of plastic waste, both argued about passionately. Several states have passed laws forcing the use of paper bags instead of plastic bags in grocery stores. Some major franchise restaurants no longer readily give out straws.

There is the argument that if people are not given plastic bags for groceries, they will have to buy plastic bags to put

if people can make the adjustment to bring reusable bags with them to stores, then people who need straws can carry straws with them; straws are inexpensive, light and small, and are easy to throw in a purse or backpack. To be clear, I am not arguing against accommodating the needs of persons with disabilities; I am suggesting we direct those conversations away from something as easy to bring to places as plastic straws.

stores if they forget their containers. We need to standardize shopping locally to reduce the amount of packaging put on shipping products. Although this may be more inconvenient for us as consumers, we must incorporate some aspects of how we used to do things before plastic bags “drifting through the wind” were a common sight.



McDonald's plastic cup on Dunkirk's Erie Shore. Not Staged. Photograph by Jules Hoepting.

their garbage in rather than reusing the plastic grocery bags for their garbage. In my opinion, if bags are going to be used to contain garbage, people should use bags better designed to contain the garbage. It's harder for a bag full of garbage than an empty bag to end up in the wrong place.

There is the argument that people with disabilities should have ready access to single-use straws without having to ask for the straws, according to Alice Wong in “The rise and fall of the plastic straw: Sucking in crisp defiance” from the Catalyst Journal. In my opinion,

It is important to note that plastic straws make up 0.003% of non-recyclable waste, according to Wong. Thus, banning straws alone will not draw a solution to the plastic pollution problem; straws are not the straw that broke the plastic camel's back. But it is still worth removing their burden.

I think part of the solution lies in continuing to remove plastic clutches until we can walk freely on our own. We need to standardize stores where people are expected to bring their own containers for groceries not packaged in plastic; people can purchase containers at these

Of course, the easiest way to create laws enforcing environmentally friendly policies is to voice your opinions about those policies and to choose political candidates that support those policies. Thus, voting for national candidates — and more importantly local candidates — that strive to better the environmental is essential. Plastic is already in the ground, the water and the stomachs of starving animals for decades and, in some situations, centuries to come. We cannot “start again,” but we can write the next chapter from a different perspective.

THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia



Top 6 things you can do to help Ukraine

BRIAN CECALA

Staff Scallywag



Photograph by energpic via Pexels.

You're looking on the news and you're watching TikTok when you see the horrific footage of war and death taking place in Ukraine. You feel helpless and despondent. The more you look around the more the world reminds you that we are little people with no effect to change the horrid atrocities we see around us. You feel like laying in bed all day and seeing how long you can stay there before people notice. Why get out? There's no hope. You feel so small. There is nothing you can do that can affect the world around you.

You exist.

You suffer.

Then you die...

But what if I told you there's something you can do! Here's the top six things you can do to help the Ukrainian people!

Number 1.

Add a little JPEG clipart Ukrainian flag to your Facebook profile picture! Show everyone that you stand against the brutal invasion by a fascist extremist by adding a tiny flag in the corner of a photo of you and the boys!

Number 2.

Tweet "Fuck you Putin!" Everytime Putin sees one of these tweets, his will to fight dwindles.

Number 3.

Share a tiny infographic on your Instagram story. Doesn't matter if the information is extremely watered down and out of date. Be a real hero and share it to everyone, not just your close friends.

Number 4.

Talk about how much of a zaddy you think Zelenskyy is! Every girl you know now has a little bit of a crush on Zelenskyy ;)

Number 5.

Don't drink vodka this week. Come on man, read the room.

Number 6.

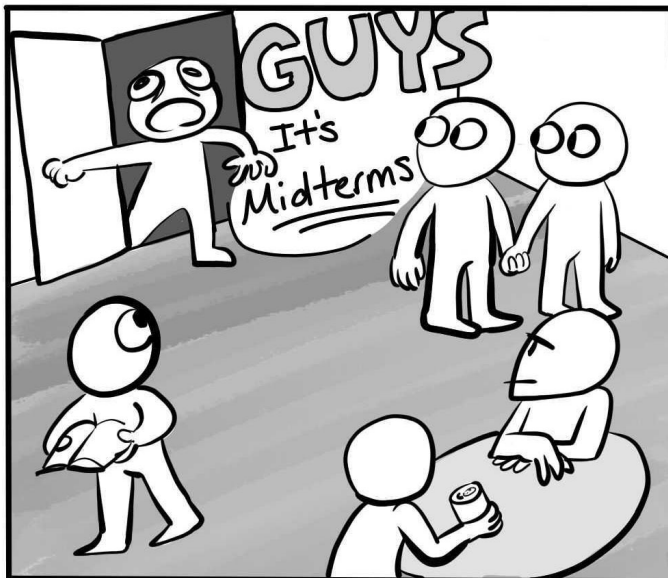
Retweet everything Joe Biden tweets about Russia. Limp wrist condemnations are saving the children hiding from shellings.

You feel so much better now! We can change the world. We can strive for peace one shitty Instagram graphic at a time :)



Photograph by greenwish via Pexels.

COMICS: NICOLE THORSON



Highlights of the Olympics

(by someone who for sure watched the Olympics)

MATTHEW BAUM

Scallion Editor

Since the Olympics ended last week a few weeks ago, there has been loads of information to dissect and break down. Luckily, I am someone who for sure, absolutely paid attention to the sports events that went down.

1. Some guy smashed his balls on one of the slalom poles for skiing.

2. There was a figure skater from one of those European countries who did some really impressive spins. They just kept going! It was wild! The audience was up in arms!

3. Shawn White is still a skateboarding legend, and he holds the weight of the pride of all of the United States for his gnar shreds up on the fresh powder.

4. There were some very nice fireworks, I guess. Lots of fireworks on that first night there.

5. My dad said the curling was really intense this year. I couldn't tell you whether or not that's true. The whole sport is a convoluted rock-and-broom mess. It's the game of apathetic dads everywhere.

6. Some idiot dumbass idiot hurt himself when he was sliding down the luge ramp. Rookie mistake, honestly. I would never have screwed the pooch so bad if I was there. Lame sauce. I'm telling you, I could do that! It's just sliding down a hill! Easy-peasy.

7. Everyone was really uncomfortable with the Russian competitors, and I don't want to say it was for good reason, buuuuuuut....



Illustration by Ash Maloney.

8. Did I mention the slalom thing? I saw the video on Facebook, and Jeez Louise, it was terrifying. Poor guy. He really hollered when he got walloped.

9. My buddy Brian saw me writing this and said, "Wait, the Olympics ended?" which I thought was pretty funny.

10. The Batman movie came out, and I've heard very good things. It's not really related to the Olympics, but whatever.

11. Turns out the slalom guy was from like seven years ago. But you didn't even know. You didn't watch the Olympics, I could have said anything, and you would have eaten it all up. I have a hard enough time bringing you content, and I can not be expected to be spot-on with all my facts! I'm an editor, damn it, not a historian!

12. Canada's women's hockey team brought home the gold, beating out the United States and Finland teams.

HOROSCOPES

Spring Break Edition!

JAY BYRON - Staff Scallywag

I'm bringing to you some advice to each sign about what to do over spring break — if you have no plans, of course.

ARIES

Set fires in Mason while no one's there. (DON'T DO THIS. THIS IS SATIRE.)



TAURUS

Go home and learn how to stack cups. You'll be the cup master. So much... cup. 24/7, cup stacking.



GEMINI

Stay in Fredonia and kiss every dog you see on the head, so long as the owner is OK with it. How could they not be? You're gracing their dog!



CANCER

Go to England, just for fun! Because you can! Why not? What's stopping you, twerp? Huh?



LEO

NOTHING!!! Please, PLEASE don't do anything!! You're gonna cause some major chaos if you do anything besides sleep, eat and breathe! Just stay where you are! Don't move! Oh God. I know too much.



VIRGO

Develop a new religion based on your cuteness, babe. I'll be a follower. :) Hey, Virgo.



LIBRA

Go to Long Island and be disgusted. Or, if you live there already, rummage in the trash like the dirty, dirty raccoon you are, Libra.



SCORPIO

Explore the depths of an insane forest. If you don't know a forest, just go to the creek and walk for a very long time. So, so long. I won't even know you anymore. You won't even know yourself. You'll become a forest nymph.



SAGITTARIUS

Plant a whole garden somewhere, sometime. <3 Scorpio will probably find it.



CAPRICORN

Chug WATER and DON'T STOP. You NEED to keep going. You'll be a hydrated GOD amongst men. You'll become a big water puddle. It'll kinda rock?



AQUARIUS

Stay in Fredonia and photo-synthesize on Three Man Hill. You'll transform and make it Four Man Hill.



PISCES

Make as many TikToks as possible. If you don't own TikTok, you absolutely need to make one. You'll go viral, become famous, and make \$600 dollars off of it. Straight to the bank, baby.



