

THE

# LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S  
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

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## FSA to Close Tim Hortons, Blue Devil Grill & FREDExpress

**Campus Construction**

**"Pipeline" Show Review**

**Yuwan Viros:  
Fredonia Fashionista**

**Fredonia Softball**

**Refusal to Understand Black Rage**



# THE LEADER

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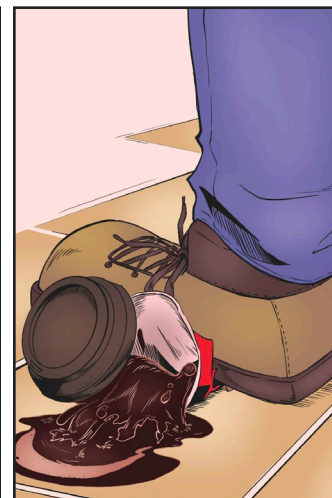
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Tim Hortons getting crushed. Illustrations by Angelo Petrilli.



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# Why **Tim Hortons**, **Blue Devil Grill** and **FREDExpress** are set to **close fall 2022**

**JULES HOEPTING**

Managing Editor

The rumors swirled among students and faculty before being confirmed. When asked in a one-on-one interview with The Leader if Tim Hortons, the Blue Devil Grill and FREDExpress were set to close fall semester 2022, Darin Schulz, the executive director of the Faculty Student Association (FSA), replied, “Yes, unfortunately, it is true.”

**The reasoning behind these closures is quite simple: FSA was created to serve Fredonia students, and the fewer students there are — due to low enrollment — the less money there is to fund FSA.**

It is no secret SUNY Fredonia’s enrollment has been on a sharp decline in the past few years. In 2008, enrollment was well over 5,000 students, according to Fredonia’s 2013–2023 Facilities Master Capital Plan. In 2018, enrollment was at 4,677 according to the “Fredonia at a Glance” page on fredonia.edu.

During the College Council meeting on March 30, 2022, Frank Pagano, chairperson of the council, stated, “the enrollment expectations for September [2022] are going to be around 3,820.” This expectation is in line with last year’s fall enrollment of around 3,780 students, as written in the Student Demographic of Fall 2021 document found on Fredonia’s Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment website page.

Declining university enrollment is an issue currently faced at numerous SUNY universities and can be attributed to a declining New York State high school population (see Facilities Master Capital Plan). Low enrollment has been amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic, Schulz explained, adding that the option of online classes encourages students to stay at home — and not eat on campus.

Something people are often unaware of is that SUNY Fredonia and FSA are two different entities. FSA is a non-profit that serves SUNY Fredonia; the university does not fund FSA.

During the pandemic, FSA was able to stay financially afloat through Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act Funding, which included Payroll Protection Program and Employee Retention Credit. FSA was able to bring in \$4.8 million to campus through these programs, which help offset operating expenses.

But funding from the CARES Act will be exhausted by the end of the 2023–2024 academic year, according to Schulz. Efforts have been made to bring in funding and/or reduce the amount of money being spent, such as selling forest on the College Lodge property to the Western New York Land Conservancy for \$300,000 and closing some of its cafes during the pandemic. However, **FSA is still in a deficit.** In order to stay financially afloat, it decided to close more of its cafes and increase the price of meal plans. All residential meal plans will increase by \$250 dollars while two of the three commuter meal plans will rise by \$50 for the upcoming fall semester, as seen by comparing the FSA Meal Plan Brochures for the 2021–2022 and 2022–2023 academic years.

**There is “no way to be able to continue the scope of operations with the current level of enrollment without dramatically increasing meal plans,” Schulz stated.**

“We’re still losing money this coming budget year, even with these changes that we made. But we do have a plan to get back into a positive budget territory. It’s just going to take a few years to implement, and there’s a lot of consolidations and administrative changes that we’re going to be making to do so,” Schulz explained.

He declined to speak more specifically about these changes, saying “there’s a lot that needs to happen over the next three to four years.” Schulz said that with this plan, FSA was “going to get to a point where I don’t expect to see any more operational closures.”

He further explained that, if enrollment increases, the currently closed and set-to-be closed cafes could reopen.

He also emphasized that **despite there being less cafes open during the next academic year, those cafes will have more food options.**

Some of the cafes will have hour adjustments as well: McEwen Café will open at 7:45 a.m., three hours earlier than it currently opens, and the Convenience Store, will open at 9 a.m., an hour later than it currently does. Willy C’s, Cranston Marché, Starbucks and Mason Café will maintain current hours next fall.

**So, why close Tim Hortons?**

FSA held a 10-year contract with the coffee and donut franchise that started in 2012 and ended in 2022, explained Jenna Woods, Student Representative on FSA Executive Board, during an interview. FSA decided not to renew the contract because the organization was **slightly in the red** with the franchise because of labor costs.

Most Tim Hortons are “built on a model of about 70% beverages and 30% food,” Schulz explained, adding the FSA’s Tim Hortons sold “about 70% food and 30% beverages.” He further explained the franchise business model “revolves around getting customers through as fast as they can,” by selling a lot of beverages along with pre-made, ready-to-go food such as donuts and muffins.

Because SUNY Fredonia allows meal plans to be used at the on-campus franchise, the business model is thrown off as many students purchase made-to-order food such as bagels, wraps and paninis. “To be able to prepare food, it takes significantly more labor than it does to prepare beverages,” Schulz said.

He also noted that, although Tim Hortons on campus was often busy, “the perception of busy is relative because when we were busy, we were really busy, but when we were slow, we were really slow.” **The franchise was staffed with enough people to handle rushes at all times, which became a money drain for FSA during slow hours.**



### As for closing Blue Devil Grill?

The unit that rotates between Mexican, Mediterranean and Italian cuisine on a weekly basis required **a lot of labor**. Again, most of the offerings on the menu were made-to-order as opposed to grab-and-go, Schulz explained.

“We are still going to be able to incorporate some of the menu items from the Blue Devil Grill into our remaining units,” such as Willy C’s, Schulz explained. “So there may not be another full menu of what Italian week was or Mediterra-

nean or Mexican, but there’ll be certain items from there that were extremely popular.”

### So, why FREDExpress?

The mini store in Thompson Hall is technically under University Bookstore operations, though it is treated as a café. Schulz said the store had **“extremely low” traffic**. Furthermore, there will be a snacking option present with the student-run business club café in Thompson remaining in operation next fall.

Continued on next page.



Tim Hortons closing up for the night. Photograph by Jules Hoeping.



# SUNY FREDONIA MEAL PLAN FACTS & FIGURES



Seniors, residents of University Village Townhouses, Disney and Eisenhower kitchen suites and commuter students are **not required** to maintain a meal plan, according to the Meal Plan Brochure.

All other students living on campus are **required** to purchase a meal plan.



According to Kathy Forster, the Director of Residence Life, via email inquiry...

The residence hall occupancy for spring 2022 is **1,507** students, about **44%** of the total enrollment.



Townhouse residents make up **172** of these students, about **5%** of the total enrollment.



Kitchen suites currently host **70** student residents, about **2%** of the total enrollment.



Thus...

Around **1,265** students are required to have a meal plan, around **37%** of the total enrollment for spring 2022.



Each meal plan currently costs anywhere from **\$2,300 to \$2,865 per semester.**



Find more information about meal plans on:  
**FSA.FREDONIA.EDU/MEALPLANS/**



Continued from previous page.

**As for how these closures will impact those employed by FSA** at Tim Hortons, Blue Devil Grill and FREDExpress? Student employees will not be greatly impacted since “every student has to apply again anyway, every semester, every academic year” and FSA has “had a lot of open student positions,” Schulz explained.

**In theory, the fewer positions there are to fill, the easier it will be to fill those positions.**

“It’s really difficult to incentivize students [to work at FSA] when they can go out five minutes down the road, and get a job for \$20 an hour versus working for \$12.13 an hour here. So there’s a little incentivization problem. We’re not a major corporation. We’re a school, but we’re also a business that has to function accordingly,” Woods explained. (See “FSA to close 3 dining units: Students and employees react” on page 7.)

Union member employees “have rights to bumping” and “bidding on other [FSA union] jobs,” Schulz explained, adding that **“most of [the union workers] will find a place in another unit on campus.”** At the time of the interview, March 28, Schulz said there were seven open union positions.

Three FSA union workers were asked if they would like to be interviewed to provide commentary on the situation. All three declined. Two openly expressed frustration towards the situation but were worried of the potential consequences of going on-record. One made two phone calls asking if they could provide their opinion to the student newspaper before declining an interview.

**The plan to close the cafes was drafted by the Budget Committee and approved by the FSA Board of Directors, which contains several vacant spots for student representatives.** Both Woods and Nyles Panus, current student representatives, expressed a need for more students on the board.

“If students want to weigh in with their opinion, there’s always an opportunity to join the [FSA] board and be an active member in these committees,” Panus said. Panus is a student treasurer who worked on the budget. Woods helped approve the amendments.

Woods admitted she was initially “skeptical” about passing the amendments, but after a 40-minute explanation and discussion with the board, felt “comfortable” with the board’s decision.

**“I think [FSA’s] largest concern is solving the problem of the deficit, and [FSA is] well aware that they’re taking things away from students. And, unfortunately, their faculty will feel the impact as well. It’s just something I believe they would not do unless they absolutely had to,” said Woods.**

By spring 2023, it will be apparent how these cafe closures have impacted campus.



# FSA to close 3 dining units: Students and employees react

**CHLOE KOWALYK**

News Editor

Students won't be getting their morning Timbits or made-to-order burritos next semester, as it is now confirmed that Tim Hortons, Blue Devil Grill and Tim Hortons FREDEXpress will be closed for fall 2022.

The claims started out as a rumor circling YikYak and social media among students.

While the Fredonia Student Faculty Association (FSA) has not officially announced the closings of Tim Hortons, Blue Devil Grill and Tim Hortons FredEXPRESS to all students yet, FSA's Executive Director Darin Schulz has confirmed in an interview with The Leader that the rumors were true.

"With where we're sitting at with our current rate of the state of enrollment, we just don't have the ability to maintain the scope of operations that we have," Schulz said.

Schulz is citing the significant decrease in enrollment numbers SUNY Fredonia has seen recently. Currently, according to fredonia.edu, the college is at around 3,436 students as of April 6. With fewer students at the college, less money is coming in, leading to a monetary deficit.

**The closings of these dining halls left students feeling very unhappy.** Eighteen students responded to an Instagram question prompt asking how students feel about Tim Hortons and Blue Devil Grill closing next semester.

One student said that she was "really irritated that they're closing the two best places to eat on campus." Another added that "this limits our food options even more."

Further, another student said, "Blue Devil [Grill] is the only food I actually like on campus. I'm so upset about it."

Continued on next page.



Photo illustration by Nikki Indelicato.



Continued from previous page.

Students all agreed that they felt very sad and disappointed on the poll. Many responded to the question saying they would get rid of their meal plans, and complained about having to pay the same amount or more for a meal plan with less options available. FSA student workers were also heavily impacted by the closings, as this puts some of them out of a job.

They explained that student workers were encouraged to reapply to FSA for next semester and would be transferred to a different location. They added that most of the union workers were told that they would be sent to another location as well, and a few of the other union workers would be laid off.

Because the student still needs a source of income while attending college, they plan to transfer somewhere either on or off-campus that will offer them morning hours.

Another student, who also chose to remain anonymous to protect the security of their job at Willy C's, was not given any information regarding the closure of Blue Devil Grill. They said that they and their coworkers were upset to hear about the closure.

"It limits the already limited eating options... I barely eat any food now as it is because it all tastes gross to me," the student said.

Union workers were also saddened by the news. Two workers chose to remain anonymous for the same reasons as the student workers, but expressed frustration with the closures and felt bad for the students.

Overall, the campus holds a heavy heart for the loss of a few of their favorite dining halls next year.

While Schulz suggests that this change may not be permanent, many students are questioning which meal plans to get next semester, and workers are questioning whether they will continue to work for FSA.



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# Concrete explanation of **campus construction**: Projects, planning and funding

**JULES HOEPTING**  
Managing Editor

The obstruction caused by construction is bound to be noticed when walking around the Reed Library and Maytum Hall plaza.

How long will the construction fences stay up? What was the need for construction in the first place? Who is funding this construction — especially when SUNY Fredonia is running at a deficit?

According to Mike Metzger, Fredonia's Vice President for Finance and Administration, all SUNY Fredonia construction projects are funded through the State University Construction Fund (SUCF). SUCF was established in 1962 by NY Governor Nelson Rockefeller to ensure all SUNY campuses, regardless of size and budget, would be able to provide academic buildings and capital improvements for its campuses.

Out of the 64 SUNY campuses, 32 use SUCF. Thus, construction projects do not impact SUNY Fredonia's budget at all "because they don't cost us anything other than facilitating our buildings and our time," Metzger said in an interview with *The Leader*.

Metzger explained that SUNY Fredonia, the Student Faculty Association, the Fredonia College Foundation and SUCF are four different entities, meaning the budgets and funding of these organizations are separate.

## **What construction projects are in the works?**

Houghton Hall, a science academic building originally completed in the 1970s, is set to be finished this summer after years of renovations. The building has been under renovation longer than the five years Metzger has worked for the university. Houghton is currently partially utilized, and once it is completed, it will host the Departments of Geosciences, Computer and Information Sciences, and Physics. Thus, there will be a STEM branch of campus made up of Houghton Hall and Science Center mirroring the arts branch of campus made up of Rockefeller and Mason Hall.

Reed Library is also undergoing several changes.



Signs on McEwen Hall doors. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

The windows on the east side of the library were installed incorrectly and have been under corrective construction for two years.

The plaza on the west side of the library and Maytum Hall has been deteriorating and is in the process of being removed. Both Reed Library projects aim to be completed by this summer.

The Lanford House is under both internal and external renovations. The internal renovations are set to be completed by fall 2022, when President Dr. Stephen Kolison will move back into the house. The external renovations will continue with a planned completion date in fall 2023.

Less visible renovations are occurring in both Jewett Hall and Learning Commons, the interior of Reed Library, which are set to be completed in about four years. These projects are in different stages, discussion and/or design.

Mason Hall is set for discussions about design renovations: "The humidity, ventilation, heating and air conditioning systems need to be upgraded for the musical instruments to perform correctly," Metzger said. He added a temporary

fix to the problem will be implemented before the larger renovations are scheduled.

## **Who decides what construction takes place on campus?**

A rolling five year plan is created and reviewed by the Facilities Planning Staff, the Executive Cabinet, the Space Management Committee and different academic departments. A member of Facilities Planning is employed by SUCF to ensure planned construction fits the needs of the campus, according to Metzger.

A Facilities Master Plan is created around every 10 years after an academic master plan is made to ensure facilities planning is in line with the academic demands of students and faculty.

While buildings and spaces are being renovated, they are fenced off and are taken over by SUCF-contracted businesses and employees. Once the renovations are completed, it is the task of Facilities Services to maintain the day-to-day cleaning and maintenance of campus property, Metzger explained.

For updates on campus construction, visit "Facilities Planning Projects" on fredonia.edu.

# Mental health support on campus: What resources are available?



Image by mentatdgt from Pexels.

## EJ JACOBS

Special to The Leader

Being a college student can be incredibly stressful and taxing on your mental health. Between balancing a collegiate life and a social life, there is also the struggle that comes with this newfound entry into adulthood. Most students are on the search to find an outlet for themselves to alleviate their stress. This is why SUNY Fredonia offers helpful services to students.

The Student Health Center in LoGrasso Hall provides students with all of their counseling-related needs. The Health Center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. To utilize its services, students must make an appointment ahead of time as the Health Center does not accept walk-ins. The counseling center puts its best foot forward into being available for students.

Some students say “The Counseling Center [at the Health Center] is really helpful when the timing works for me, but sometimes the wait time to get services in general is very long or I need help outside of the 9-5 hours.”

With the understanding that during the five-day week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. might not be the best time for everyone, the Health Center has listed on its website some alternative actions students can take if they are in need of student services.

The resources listed include where to go if there is a medical emergency, how to contact the University Police or 911, or where the nearest hospitals are: Brooks Memorial Hospital or Wellnow Urgent Care, both located in Dunkirk, NY. At the bottom of the page, the Health Center also has many COVID-19 resources.

When someone uses the Counseling Center, students can go in with the knowledge that all their information is confidential. Once they come into the office on the day they scheduled their appointment, they fill out some forms at the front desk. Once this has been completed, they can wait to be called into an office where they can have a one-on-one conversation with a counselor.

If this option does not work for a student, the Counseling Center offers other services to meet a variety of needs someone might have. For students who don't want to meet one-on-one, peer support is offered in the FredWell Lounge in the Williams Center. There, students are able to seek out help from support groups and are given the opportunity to talk with people who might be going through a similar situation.

If a student just wants to deal with the day to day anxieties or take a more independent approach to their mental health, a great outlet is an app/website called myStrength. This is an app where a student can get advice and guidance to handle their personal well being on their own.

More information about Fredonia's mental health services can be found on the Student Health Center's website.





# Join us to celebrate FREDlanthropy!

**April 27, 2022**

**10:30 am – 1:30 pm**

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# Life & Arts

## Hopping into spring with Fredonia's Spring Formal



Spring formal. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

**TYLER LYBOLT**  
Special to The Leader

Many freshmen and sophomores studying at SUNY Fredonia missed their high school junior and senior proms due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Residence Assistance Program (RAP) wanted to provide an experience for those who may have missed the opportunity to dress up for a formal dance and decided to throw the Fredonia Spring Formal.

The Spring Formal was held on Saturday, April 2. The event initially started out as a small prom last semester, hosted by a few resident assistants in a residence hall. After its success, it was encouraged to become a campus-wide event by RAP.

The theme for this semester's event was "Step into Wonderland." Many people sported this theme with Alice in Wonderland-esque accessories such as top hats. Some students dressed to the nines, wearing full ball gowns and tuxedos, and others went for a more casual look, such as button up shirts and spring dresses.

The dance was held in the Williams Center's Multi-Purpose Room (MPR), and the room was decorated with large playing cards and mushrooms to allude to the spring and wonderland theme. The dance was catered by the Faculty-Student Association, who provided an array of finger foods such as veggies and fruits, a small nacho bar and beverages such as fruit punch and virgin mimosas.

Ronny Nissen, a graduate student and the advisor for RAP, was one of the organizers of the event.

Nissen was thrilled with the turnout and overall vibe of the event. He stated all of the reviews coming through YikYak, an anonymous message board popular with college students, have been overwhelmingly positive. Nissen said he would like to make this a yearly event.

"I had a great time. The music was just as good as my senior prom," said Emmett Gallinger, a junior education major who attended the formal. Gallinger added, "I wish there was more food, but the cake was great. Everyone went all out in their outfits." Gallinger also agreed that this event should happen annually.

The DJ of the dance played hits from today, such as "WAP" by Cardi B, along with older songs, such as "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey.

Students were able to jam out with their friends to Taylor Swift and Olivia Rodrigo songs, while classic pre-choreographed songs like "Cotton Eyed Joe" and "Cha Cha Slide" had people jumping in unison. Tender ballads such as "My Little Girl" by Tim McGraw provided slow-dance moments for attendees.

The event was open to guests who do not attend Fredonia, so students were able to enjoy the dance with their friends or significant others, much like a junior/senior prom. Some students came all the way from Cornell University in Ithaca to attend the dance.

A few small door prizes were offered as well, which came with the \$5 purchase of a ticket to the dance.

Overall, students seemed to enjoy the Spring Formal and would like to see it happen again.



# Autism Awareness Month: What you should know

**JACE JACOBS**

Special to The Leader

For those that are unaware, April marks the beginning of Autism Awareness Month. Autism Awareness Month aims to further the awareness and acceptance of those who have autism and tries to boost charities that help autistic folks in need. Although many people have stereotypes of autistic people built into their minds, there are many people with autism that don't fit those stereotypes.

Autism is a neurological disorder that operates on a spectrum. Some autistic people have higher needs and can be non-verbal, while others have lower needs and are seen as functioning like neurotypical people. However, this is not the case. For most college students living with autism, school can prove to be difficult, and daily life can be the cause of major stresses.

In the world of neurodiverse people, day-to-day life rarely stays consistent. Some days someone with autism may be functioning perfectly fine, while other days getting out of bed and making breakfast may take all of their energy.

The latter is an occurrence labeled "autistic burnout," and it can take a major toll on students with autism. One student from SUNY Fredonia, who would prefer to remain anonymous, said that autistic burnout is "life altering." They said they are "a completely different person" when they are burnt out. "I have to cut my activities, academics, survival tasks and extracurriculars significantly just to get through," the person said.

In thinking about how autistic college students get through the day, I spoke to another Fredonia student about how disability services on campus have aided them. Although they chose to remain anonymous, they said, "Disability [Support] Services has done the bare minimum" and that the office has a history of gaslighting those that complain about microaggressions and ableism faced within the classroom setting.

Microaggressions and blatant ableism seems to be a major issue faced by those that choose to be open about their autism with their professors and disability services. This makes being a college student especially difficult, as the lack of assistance and understanding can cause students to feel isolated and more stressed when it comes to attending classes. This can be an especially big issue for those with autism, as it can cause or make periods of burnout worse.

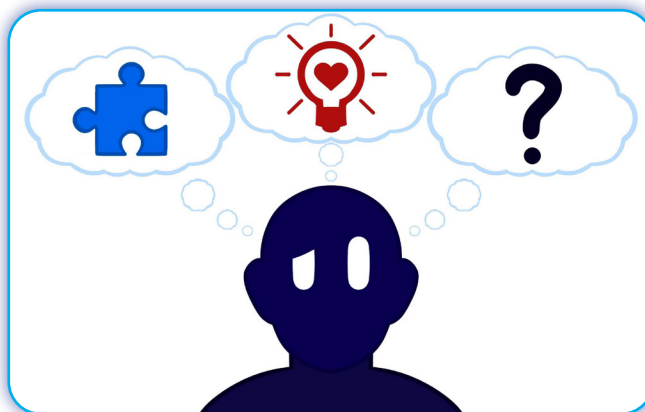


Illustration by Dawn Jessica Payne.

Along with dealing with day-to-day struggles as college students, autistic people face a lot of harshness from the outside world. This includes microaggressions and blatant ableism like what is faced on campus, and can even extend as far as organizations lying about supporting autistic individuals.

One such organization is Autism Speaks, which has committed many negative acts towards autistic people. Autism Speaks seeks to find a cure to autism, and the majority of their funding goes to researching potential "cures" of autism.

As many autistic and allistic people alike have made abundantly clear, autism is not a disease which needs curing. It is a neurological disability with symptoms that can be improved upon through various kinds of therapy. These kinds of therapy are what deserve more funding and research, as opposed to finding a flat-out cure for autism.

Autism Speaks has also released content — some of which has appeared in its marketing campaigns — that demonizes people with autism.

This content includes many negative stereotypes neurotypical people hold in their minds about autistic people. Often-times, this can worsen the internal bias that some people have against autistic people, considering that Autism Speaks is an organization that has received an abundance of positive attention in the media since its founding.

When it comes to negative organizations such as Autism Speaks, autistic people and their allies may find themselves in charge of educating their friends and family members about why such organizations are bad to donate to. They may often be tasked with finding organizations that are more appropriate for them to donate to.

When asked about how frustrating it is to have to educate those around them, one of my sources said, "I wish people would put in the work, especially the people who say they care about disabled individuals. You don't care if you don't do the work to support us."

Keeping that last quote from one of my sources in mind, it is important to show your support for those that are autistic. Although the previously mentioned Autism Speaks may not be the best to donate to, other charities provide better services and resources for both autistic and allistic people alike.

Some good charities to donate to this month include the Organization for Autism Research, the Autism Society of America, the Autism Community in Action and many more. Other ways to show your support for autistic individuals this month is to use images such as the "Light It Up Red" logo and the rainbow infinity sign as opposed to the blue or multicolored puzzle pieces.

Other ways to support autistic individuals in your own life is to check in on them and see if or how you can help them if they are struggling with anything. Furthermore, simply showing kindness to those you know or care about would be a big help to them. Showing your support to autistic people, especially this month, does not go unnoticed. Support will always be appreciated.



# Meet **Yuwan Viros**

## Fashion trendsetter by day, iconic drag queen by night

**ALYSSA BUMP**

Editor in Chief

SUNY Fredonia is quite a small campus. With only 3,000 or so students on campus, some are destined to stand out among the rest.

One of those students is Yuwan Viros, a senior public relations and theatre arts major, with a concentration in costume design. Viros can be spotted on campus in tasteful, trend-setting fashion such as, red fur coats, monochromatic outfits, stunning makeup and crop tops. He defines his style as “a mixture of athleisure meets high fashion.”

Many of his outfits show Viros stepping outside of the box when it comes to gender-specific fashion norms. “It has taken me a minute to truly understand my own sense of style, and I feel that it covers the spectrum of femininity and masculinity at the same time. I value a sense of originality along with staying on trend as well as making my own trends,” said Viros.

On top of his academic responsibilities, Viros participates in many extracurricular activities on campus. He is a resident assistant in Chautauqua Hall. “When I’m not busy being an RA I am often found in the costume shop designing and constructing for the mainstage productions of the Fredonia Department of Theatre & Dance,” said Viros. Additionally, Viros serves as the social chair for FredGrows, a campus club whose mission is to “connect and educate sustainability-driven students, creating opportunities for environmentally-focused change on campus and in the community.”

Viros also performs drag under the name Fallon Angel. The artform of drag, a gender-bending form of expression, is meant to exaggerate aspects of a specific gender identity, normally of the opposite sex. This art form has been around for centuries, but it has been ridiculed by those that do not support the LGBTQ+ community, as most drag queens are queer and represent gay

liberation. But in recent years, aspects of the art form have garnered mainstream attention.

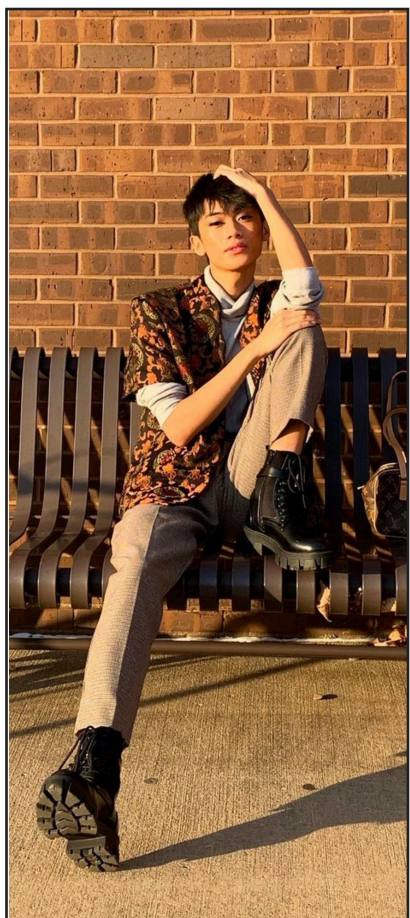
Due to the beloved and vastly successful show known as “Rupaul’s Drag Race,” which first premiered in 2009 and is still airing new seasons, hundreds of drag queens have been able to showcase their talents and stories to the world. The show has made many drag queens into A-list celebrities, and has inspired a younger generation to learn to express themselves through drag. “I am definitely the generation of drag that has developed from the television show ‘RuPaul’s Drag Race.’ The show itself has pushed me into the artform fully and immersed me into the industry,” said Viros.

**Viros has performed drag for four years, and defines his drag style as “Crazy Rich Asians’ but on a budget.”** Viros explains his drag

name, Fallon Angel, “can be dissected into two parts: Fallon comes from a character from the television show ‘Dynasty,’ Fallon Carrington who is rich, opulent and dramatic. Angel comes from my love of theatre and some iconic roles I would love to portray: Angel from ‘Rent,’ Reno’s Angels from ‘Anything Goes,’ Lola’s Angels from ‘Kinky Boots,’ et cetera. Fallon Angel together is a play on Alexandre Cabanel’s painting titled ‘Fallen Angel’ and references my Catholic school background.”

When Viros first put on drag, he described it as a “liberating experience as it came naturally to me. I already practiced makeup a bit for theatre productions and always played dress-up, so it was just something that was normal for me.”

Some of Viros’ hobbies outside of drag include “anything creative in the arts, whether that be drawing or dancing,” as well as staying active, going on adventures and practicing skin care routines. He also said, “I like to cook, but more importantly, I LOVE to eat; I sure can put it away.”







Photographs courtesy of Yuwan Viros.  
Drag photography by Keri Manne.

By making costumes for theatre productions, Viros gained experience in costume design and now makes the majority of his drag costumes. “Whenever I can, I make my own outfits... For my more conceptualized looks, I try my best to make my own pieces and elements, but I also have no shame when it comes to purchasing certain garments... The challenges that come with designing my drag looks are definitely time and resources. With a very busy schedule, it is often hard to find the time to make my looks the way I want,” said Viros.

One of Viros’ looks he created for his drag persona is a Renaissance-inspired angel, which is very fitting for his drag name. This look was created for an online drag competition on Instagram. “I had about a week to complete this entire look from the construction of the garment to the styling of the wig. I first followed the prompt given of a Renaissance/middle age look, [and] I thought this was a perfect opportunity to draw inspiration from the initial inspiration of my drag aesthetic from the Heavenly Bodies Met Gala.” Viros continued, “I researched images and paintings of traditional wear during the Renaissance period, as well as modern interpretations in the runways of Chanel 2013 and Alexander McQueen 2013.”

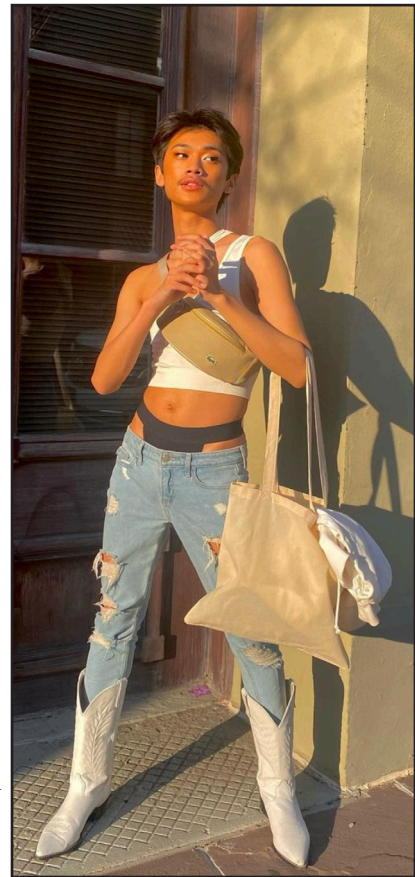
This look was made entirely by Viros himself, and he “constructed the garment from an old tablecloth and seat covers. The heart is actually a Christmas ornament and I used thick zip-ties as the golden rays.”

**Viros has had many amazing experiences as a drag queen and has even performed with two “Rupaul’s Drag Race” alumni, Mrs. Kasha Davis and Darienne Lake, right before the start of the pandemic in 2020.**

Although some of Viros’ favorite aspects of performing drag is interacting with his audience and making highly conceptualized looks, he admits that he is actually quite introverted in everyday life. “I struggle with really putting myself out there and staying connected.”

Viros suggests for anyone interested in starting drag to “just keep going. Keep practicing. Keep supporting other artists. And do this for you, not anyone else. This is your artform and art is subjective. Be original and true to who you are as a person and individual in society. Always say thank you and help others out whenever you can. Most importantly, have fun and remain humble.”

Viros can be found on Instagram, [@yuwandemilo](#), and his drag account is [@fallonxangel](#).





# Show review: “Pipeline”

## a beautifully yet chilling struggle on the main stage

**RAE WIESER**

Special to The Leader

“We will die soon.”

The last three words in Gwendolyn Brooks' poem, “We Real Cool,” are the hardest words to come out in “Pipeline,” written by Dominique Morisseau.

Fredonia Main Stage's guest director, Yao Kahlil, beautifully brought Dominique's play to life with a cast of six actors and many people behind the scenes in the technological side of the stage.

Stage manager Lilly Melquist, a second-year senior BA Theater major who has previously worked on “Il Matrimonio Segreto, expressed how working on “Pipeline” was a huge learning experience. This being her second show stage managing in person, she expressed her excitement and confidence after working the opera previously.

The show implemented an interesting twist through engaging the stage crew as a part of the cast. The stage crew was wearing typical black shirts plus black ski masks. Every time they moved sets on and off, they did it in a choreographed manner and even played the ensemble students in certain scenes. It was a unique change that was welcomed.

In regard to the change of working with guest director Kahlil, Melquist said, “We as a department are so accustomed to our ways of designing a show. It was refreshing to see the process of doing a show through Yao's eyes.”

Aside from the technical side of the show, “Pipeline” was a deep message for all individuals watching. “This play was written in 2017, and the Black Lives Matter movement has only grown since

then. Plays like ‘Pipeline’ are a way for BIPOC people's voices to be heard,” said Melquist.

“Pipeline” touches on sensitive details like how young Black men are looked

The show uses Brooks' poem, “We Real Cool,” on repeat. This is the underlying message of the story. Instead of having the character just read the poem, Nya's character taught it to her class. Omari's character walked behind her reading the poem to the tap of his tap shoes echoing in beat with each step he took. It was a beautiful way to go about telling the poem, then repeated in the end with a student speaking it over the loudspeaker as Nya pleaded her case to the school board.

The audience watches the aftermath of Omari's fight with the character's interaction between his girlfriend Jasmine, his mother Nya and his father Xavier. We see different reactions from each character as the story progresses.

From being in uniform to their street clothes, the costume changes for Omari and Jasmine show how different they feel from the rest of the school. The characters' word choices, actions and emotions help sell how the two stick out at their school and truly only find safety in each other.

Watching Nya struggle with the idea of losing her son throughout the show was done slowly and beautifully. “Pipeline” is a call out to the school-to-prison system that Black boys can get trapped in due to a rigged education system. We watch her slowly spiral over the fear of losing her son to the system due to a mistake. The progression of anger building to breaking into fear in front of her son was portrayed excellently due to the passing and watching the lighting and scenery change. Nya's character is constantly on guard in places she doesn't feel safe, but when she is home with her son, her guard finally breaks.



**Nya (Margot Mills) is a mother committed steering her son Omari (Aydaen Camilo) in the right direction in the Department of Theatre and Dance Mainstage Series production of “Pipeline.”**

**Photograph retrieved from article by Doug Osborne-Coy on Fredonia.edu.**

at through a negative and dangerous bias, being seen for their skin color and nothing else. This is shown in the play through Omari's character. While at his private school, Omari was racially targeted by a teacher and reacted in violence when trying to leave the classroom after being blocked by said teacher.



The big climax of “Pipeline” is watching Nya’s nervous breakdown. Being dragged into a fight between co-workers over how abused the education system is, Nya enters a pit of panic. We are shown the spiral down by dimming the lights and having the tapping of the tap shoes get faster and louder until it ends with Nya in the hospital.

Then there is the confrontation between Omari and Xavier. We learn the real truth about what made Omari so upset and lash out at his teacher — and it was his father. He expresses how most boys wish they could have their father, claiming it

would fix everything, but not Omari. The raw emotion in the scene is held with only the noise of Omari’s words spilling out and a ticking every three seconds. These small yet impactful details helped show the seriousness of the scene and truly make it impactful.

The show was beautifully written and directed. Not once in its almost two-hour run did I get bored or wish there was an intermission. I hope more shows like this will be produced in theater, directed and acted in such a beautiful manner.



## Commencement Robe Reuse Program

**Don't have plans to keep your commencement robe after graduation?**

**Donate it to the Robe Reuse Program!**

### How can you donate your robe?

- Immediately after commencement — find the donation bin on the second floor of the fieldhouse
- After photos on graduation day — find the donation bin at the reception in the Williams Center Multipurpose Room
- After you travel home — mail it to the Sustainability Committee in 140 Hendrix Hall, 280 Central Ave., Fredonia, NY 14063

### What will happen to your robe?

- We'll launder it and store it until next year
- Students who would like to request a robe next year will be provided with one on a first-come-first-served basis.

# "Acafest" By Derek Raymond



Dynamic Intonation



Some Like It Hot



Premium Blend





Much More Chill



The Riveters



The Guerrillas

# SPORTS

## Fredonia Sports Update

### ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

Spring sports have continued to move forward for Fredonia athletics, with five teams active last week.

**Women's lacrosse** played two games on the road before a home match in conference play.

In the team's game Tuesday, April 5, they lost 3-19 to Brockport.

- Julie Culver and Tessa Brady each scored a goal in the first quarter
- Sydney Buckho scored a goal in the third quarter

In their second game of the week, the Blue Devils lost 5-16 to Allegheny.

- Erin Woods scored two goals in the second quarter
- Audrey Brown, Emma Cockerell and Makayala Farino each scored one goal

In their home game against Oneonta, the Blue Devils lost 0-19.

Fredonia will play Alfred Wednesday, April 13, and New Paltz Saturday, April 16, with both matches taking place at home.

**Men's baseball** lost 3-5 to Cortland on the road Monday, April 4.

- Luke Kenyon went one for four at the plate with two runs batted in
- Pat Bigham pitched seven and two thirds innings while allowing four earned runs on six hits

Fredonia's game against Wells College was postponed due to weather last Wednesday, April 6.

The team will host Oneonta Sunday, April 17, and Monday, April 18.

**Women's softball** won two of their four games played during the first full week in April.

The Blue Devils took both games of their double header against Oswego Monday, April 5.

In the first game, the team won 5-1.

- Alyssa Piniewski and Amber Piniewski each went two for four from the plate with a run batted in
- Emily Chelius pitched a complete seven innings while allowing one run off four hits



Marketing and Communications.  
SUNY Fredonia.

In the second game of the double header, Fredonia won 4-3.

- Amber Piniewski went three for three from the plate
- Nicole Kumro went two for three at the plate with two runs batted in
- Emily Chelius went another complete seven innings allowing three earned runs off of seven hits

In their double header against Alfred, the Blue Devils lost both games.

In the first game, Fredonia lost 1-10.

- Marisa Sultana went one for two at the plate with one run batted in
- Erin Cunningham pitched one inning of relief allowing no runs and just one hit

In the second game of the double header, Fredonia lost 0-8.

- Allie Wandell went one for two at the plate
- Erin Cunningham pitched four and two thirds innings

The Blue Devils travel to New Paltz Monday, April 11 for a double header, Tuesday, April 12 to Oneonta for a double header and Saturday, April 16 to Buffalo State for a double header.

**Men's track and field** traveled to the University at Buffalo Spring Opener Friday, April 8.

- Josh Walters (1:55.84) and Nick Abdo (1:56.39) finished first and second in the 800 meter run
- The 4x400 meter team of Josh Walters, Griffin Dombroske, Toby Onouha and Nick Abdo finished second (3:25.82)
- Griffin Dombroske (12.79 meters) finished third in the triple jump
- Chris Gualtieri (3.4 meters) won the pole vault

**Women's track and field** also traveled to the University at Buffalo Spring Opener Friday, April 8.

- Ally Battaglia (5:06.83) finished eighth in the 1,500 meter run
- Sydney Preston (29.62) finished eighth in the 200 meter run and sixth in the triple jump (10.22 meters)
- Eleanor Clarke (31.91 meters) finished third in the javelin throw and seventh in the discus throw (25.36 meters)
- Marisa Stravino finished eighth in both the discus throw (24.64 meters) and the hammer throw (29.52 meters)

Both teams will travel to Bucknell April 15-16 for the Bucknell University Bison Outdoor Classic.



# SUNY Fredonia softball enters SUNYAC play with **hot start**



Photographs by Abdullah Yusuf.

## TYLER PACOS

Staff Writer

Spring sports are in full swing at Fredonia, and the Blue Devils softball team is ready to get to work.

The team has just started their journey in the SUNYAC conference this past week, and are already off to a hot start with a 3-1 record within the SUNYAC conference.

Prior to the start of conference play, the team traveled down south for two tournaments.

The first tournament, Mountain Mash held in Salem, Va. was an early learning experience for the young Blue Devil roster, going 0-4 in that tournament. They eventually snapped back in the second tournament, which was held in Clermont, Fla., with a 3-7 finishing record. With both tournaments out of the way, the main focus for the team now is the SUNYAC conference games.

For some upperclassmen, this is their first 'real' year of softball, as the COVID-19 pandemic altered the past two seasons of play for SUNY Fredonia athletics.

Amanda Eastman, junior finance major, is excited to finally get a taste of the entire SUNYAC conference after a long two year wait. "I'm definitely most excited to go on the road this season and face teams on the other side of the conference," said Eastman. "I've been here for three years now and have yet to have a season where we play the entire conference as we normally would, so it'll be good to see where all the other teams are at. ... I'm excited for the rest of the season with my team." Eastman, and the rest of the upperclassmen on the squad are excited to guide the handful of freshmen through the rest of the 2022 season.

The Blue Devils have nine games remaining this season and are looking to build off of the early success they've found so far. The Blue Devils will travel to Buffalo State, Saturday, April 16, and will return home Tuesday, April 19, as they host St. John Fisher College.



# Fredonia Softball: By Abdullah Yusuf







# OPINION

## Refusal to understand Black rage

PRINCE AZIZ HUNT

Special to The Leader

If you make a spectacle out of my rage, or any other Black person's, I will personally lose all respect for you.

I am writing this statement in response to the media's blatant disregard for Will Smith's very well justified rage at whatever Chris Rock said about his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith. The media has made a spectacle out of his actions instead of actually understanding what might have led him to do what he did. It's still got me very angry, so I'm going to continue to express that rage in writing this to whoever is willing to read it.

Of course this is not the first time this has happened in history, but it's the most recent relevant example. I could easily refer to the enslavement of Africans through colonization and the slave trade, lynchings, segregation, racial discrimination, the civil rights movement, police brutality, medicinal malpractice, racial slurs and depictions, the theft of Black culture and its repurposing across society, disproportionate incarceration of Blacks — a.k.a. modern enslavement enabled by the 13th Amendment — as well as racism itself. But I'll just settle upon something fresh in everyone's minds. Each of the alternative references indicated are all things that trigger rage in a Black individual. Rage is different from anger, because it's so powerful of an emotional experience that the feelings felt can't be contained — which is why it commonly leads to violence. Some might not see it as such, but violence is a form of communication, albeit one that causes physical harm upon another.

**Whenever a Black person is full of rage, a lot of the time it's well warranted, but it's almost always interpreted as poorly expressed.**

It's seen as "that wasn't called for," "they overreacted," "it wasn't that serious," "you could have done (fill in the blank)," "let it go" along with a plethora of other ways to invalidate someone's emotions through gaslighting. There's never an actual consideration, understanding and empathization of their experience, emotions and feelings — something I know all too well. That was immediately made clear by the media's response to Smith's actions in how he was treated as the aggressor instead of the victim — as if Rock hadn't instigated the reaction out of him to begin with. Smith acted upon his rage in response to something that triggered it and white people started judging something they could never understand due to the privilege they experience in being white. A privilege that simply means white folks will never have negative experiences rooted in the color of their skin.

We (Black folks) express ourselves differently than others because we have to. Black people could never shoot up a whole school and then get coddled for that action afterwards. We'd be dead on the spot. In contrast, if we even did a fraction of that by means of yelling, cursing, punching or slapping, we'd receive more negative attention. Our expressions are something along the lines of an act that's supposed to be more "socially acceptable" like exercising, breaking things, speeches, writing poetry (traditionally or through rap), painting and sculpting, cooking and baking, cleaning, reading books, playing video

games. Doing things that are just like ... relaxing and expressive. Regardless of the action, it's a problem.

My point is anything we do is made into a spectacle. You'd think that would get people to understand what's going on and like ... not shoot us in the back 17 times; See "To Kill a Mockingbird" and like ... all of the media from 2020 in which the public murder of Black people was rampant to the public eye. But no. **We continue to be misrepresented by the media, because they'd rather blatantly disrespect us by making fun of us instead of taking the time to understand us.**

When the world refuses to "see" you, "understand" you, actually "listen" to you and pay attention to how others actions have affected you and your experience, you're bound to be angry. That anger will fester until it literally explodes into the form of some grand expression of self — which unfortunately results in a lot of violence within Black homes.

That "grand" expression of violence within the home is a direct result of a lack of communication skills and coping mechanisms for anger. Their emotions and feelings are projected upon those around them in some form of abuse. That's why so many Black people end up traumatized from living with their families, then carry it into their future with their own children.

Instead of getting help and healing — which is a privilege — they use what they know from their own experiences to govern their actions, a lot of the time subconsciously. This unfortunately makes the cycle continue.



I know from experience that if you don't address your trauma and how it influences your actions and who you are, you'll never truly grow into the best person that you can be. You have to take the time to learn who you are and why in order to culture your growth instead of inhibit it.

I'm so emotionally exhausted from witnessing so much pain being unhealed and unaddressed in the people I know. I'm a very powerful empath, so every time I see someone in pain it leaves its mark on my soul. Sometimes even to the point of a scar.

Therefore, whether it be through therapy, learning to communicate with someone close to you, channeling your emotions and passions into something you love (even if it's not your profession), art (in whatever form), meditating (which can be done in many ways that

aren't "traditional"), expressing yourself through your love language (something good to learn), and whatever else helps you culture and maintain your happiness, please do it. Take some time each day whether it's five minutes or an hour, because you don't want to keep all of that expression contained.

Let that shit go.

A perfect example of a Black man choosing peace over violence, although it was fantastical, is T'Challa, voiced by the late Chadwick Boseman in Marvel's "What If?" In a stark contrast to Marvel's original plot, T'Challa was abducted by the Ravagers instead of Peter Quill and literally stopped the worst things that ended up plaguing the Avengers later on. He befriended Thanos instead of waging war against him by coming to a mutual understanding. He stopped a Titan from commit-

ing mass genocide across the universe by talking to him. Think about the power behind such an action — then think about the fact that it came from the heart of a Black man. **That's the kind of thing I'm talking about. Building connections with others and spreading love by being true to who you are to help the world become a better place.** That's what life is all about (other than making sure that you're happy).

For extended context as to who T'Challa is and why his actions are relevant I'll have to elaborate on his fantastical origin and how much his depiction within the modern world meant to the Black community. T'Challa (a.k.a. The Black Panther) was one of the first strongly prominent mainstream representations of the inherent nature of Blackness — something that the world does not get to see often. His character and story were created in the '60s to combat the lack of representation of Black superheroes in the United States, which was especially apparent with the racial tensions of the time period. Many people across the world didn't actually know what Black people were like because their perceptions were shaped by the racist stereotypes and depictions that have still never truly left this country. That needed to change, so Stan Lee and Jack Kirby had the Black Panther debut in the Fantastic Four comic in 1966.

T'Challa comes from a country in Africa called "Wakanda" that isolated itself from the rest of the world into the 21st century without white or colonial influence. The country is incredibly beautiful, prosperous, technologically advanced, sophisticated, culturally diverse, rich and wealthy in resources, powerful and too much more to list that represents what Africa — the continent itself — could have been without colonization. Within this pocket of the Earth and its land, Black people had survived and thrived without the "help" of the white man.



Illustration by Ash Maloney.

Continued on next page.

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I shouldn't have to say how powerful of an image that is, because it doesn't exist in reality. It had to be illustrated in a fantastical sense to give a simple glimpse to what we could have been. Hence, having the "Black Panther" movie in 2018 showing Wakanda in its full glory was everything that Black people yearned for. And using the man who was the Black Panther, T'Challa, as a catalyst for peace across the universe in the animated series "What If?" was literally magical.

Now, back to the original objective of this piece. Yes, we (Black people) experience rage. Everyone does, but our actions typically exhibit "self-control" and the containment of our emotions because it's not safe to openly express them in public without being stereotyped and judged. That's part of what it means to be Black in the United States, because someone is always watching you and it feels like you have to constantly give a performance of your best self so people cannot witness your vulnerability. If they do, they'll know how to have power over you and take advantage of your "weakness."

Personally, I think instead of your vulnerability being a spectacle of shame it should be honored. It's part of what makes you human and who you are as a person. It's what helps you become closer and more connected to others. Plus when you claim and actively acknowledge the things that make you vulnerable, other people will have a very hard time using it against you because you'll be claiming it as your truth and reality. Be true to who you are and learn to love yourself, because you deserve it and no one else is going to care for you but you. Remember that well.

I will end my extended statement about the Black experience here in leaving you with this notion: We as Black folks descended from being enslaved could literally wage war in revenge for the hundreds of years we spent in captivity, but instead every day we choose peace. I think that says more than enough about the integrity, compassion and nature of Black folks despite all of the things we've been through and still experience in our day

# Slow decay of SUNY Fredonia is hurting me too

**CASEY HUBER**

Special to The Leader

I believe in this college. I want it to succeed.

But I can no longer stay quiet about the long list of problems that this campus either creates for itself or flat out ignores.

Before I list my grievances (and more importantly, potential fixes) for SUNY Fredonia, I want to tell you why I believe in this college.

I transferred to SUNY Fredonia in the fall of 2019 from Grove City College in Pennsylvania. At the time of my transfer, I was borderline suicidal and so depressed about my carefully planned future that I wanted to give up on higher education.

For as long as I can remember, I wanted to be a physicist. I wanted to solve the world's problems through science, believing that physics was my destined path. Grove City was, and still is, a small conservative Christian college that was both very affordable and had lots of money for programs. For context, Grove City is funded by the Sun Oil Company among thousands of wealthy sponsors and contributors.

I remember touring the campus for the first time. It was during the summer and no one was there, so we could only access the main administrative building. My father and I walked around the campus and found ourselves entranced by the care put into the architecture and layout of the buildings.

As we were walking, we found a groundskeeper who made friendly conversation with us. He actually offered to give us a tour of the campus and brought us to the new science building, which was the real reason why I was there, of course.

Walking inside this unassuming building, I was in awe of the glass elevators, common areas and the seamless integration of classrooms and faculty offices.

I was sold — hook, line and sinker.

Back home, I graduated from my high school with honors and turned down multiple offers for other colleges. I knew where I was going, and I knew what I wanted to do.

Then I moved onto the Grove City campus. I attended the classes. I joined the clubs.

And I hated it.

The classes were too difficult for me, consumed more hours than I had in the day in terms of workload and were not in the least bit fun.

I started to doubt my plan. My meticulously constructed plan that stretched years outwards became my mortal enemy.

The clubs were the best part of my time there, but only because of the person I chose to be rather than who I am. I am a bisexual and agnostic, both qualities that were ostracized harshly by the particular brand of Christian that Grove City attracts.

So I played the part. I tried to believe I was something I was not and it almost killed me.

I was critically depressed by the end of my second semester.

I had "friends" that liked who I pretended I was and hated the person I hid from them. I had professors and mentors who set bars that I could not reach and looked down on me for not being good enough.

I was at the end of my rope.

That was, until I realized that I could transfer home.

What I have not told you yet is that I grew up in Fredonia; I have lived here my whole life.

And because I have lived here my whole life, my context for SUNY Fredonia was the annual occurrence of FredFest.

FredFest is the Fredonia tradition of students across campus gathering together to get drunk at the downtown bars, then wandering back Temple St. during the week before finals.

Fredonia was known as being, and still is to a lesser extent, a party school. I did not want to go to a party school to study physics when leaving high school.

When leaving Grove City, however, I was ready for anything.

A major incentive for me to go to SUNY Fredonia was being awarded the Excelsior Scholarship from New York State. I could live at home and have



my tuition paid for, essentially going to college for free (with strings attached, of course).

So I applied. I got accepted. I transferred my credits and entered as an international studies major (which at the time was not a complete major) and journalism minor.

Then I started attending class.

The difference was night and day.

I felt happy for the first time in a year.

I felt accepted by the people, by

Things like the campus Tim Hortons. I remember being in such disbelief from hearing Tim Hortons was closing. I nearly refused to believe it.

I go to Tim Hortons every day, often several times a day. It is a constant, consistent source of food and more importantly, coffee.

This is just another cutback in a long list of cutbacks that has affected me.

The closing of the Tea Rex Café. The closing of Sprout Café. The closing and

Bloom is becoming progressively more disenfranchised with the campus.

“The only thing I’ve seen here since I arrived is more closure,” they said.

I am currently in an Investigative Reporting communication course taught by Professor Mike Igoe. Many students have chosen the topic of the school’s slow decay for their semester-long project, writing 10 to 12 pages about their findings by the end of the semester.

And there are many things to talk about.

The closure of eateries on campus. The millions of dollars of debt that SUNY Fredonia has accrued. The many, many water issues. The complete lack of preparation to Hendrix Hall when students with COVID-19 were moved there to isolate. The Kershner scandal.

These are all cuts, slowly trimming away at a campus filled with great professors, caring staff and students who want to be involved.

What can be done to stop the bleeding?

The college needs to communicate openly and often.

How did the students hear about the Kershner scandal? Not from the college first, that is for sure.

How did the students hear about Tim Hortons closing? Not from the college.

How did the students hear about the deficit we have been running for over 10 years? Not from a campus-wide announcement.

Communication is necessary for a healthy relationship.

**We deserve to know what is going on, because the reality is that we are bleeding money and bleeding students. At the rate we are going, we may not have a college in 10 years.**

I needed hope and SUNY Fredonia gave it to me. Now the roles have reversed.

I want to help this college and hopefully this article does that, but I am not in the room where these decisions get made.

Perhaps at the end of the day, I am just another student complaining.

But I hope you give my experience credence, because SUNY Fredonia is worth saving.



Photograph by Angelina Doehre, taken May 2020.

the staff, by anyone who did not show disgust or malice at my very existence. I found support amongst the Counseling Center, who helped me sort out all the emotional baggage that I’ve carried with me my whole life.

**I believe in SUNY Fredonia because it showed me what higher education is supposed to be like.**

But SUNY Fredonia is slowly dying.

Enrollment is down and therefore finances are down. Finances being down means that things get cut.

reopening (and closing again) of the McEwen Café. The imminent closing of the Blue Devil Grill.

And the final straw, the imminent closure of Tim Hortons.

Students are feeling the same things that I am.

I see it, hear it and read it everyday.

“All of these closures makes it seem like the campus doesn’t want to invest in us,” said

Justine Bloom, sophomore Earth studies major.

# THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia

## Some thoughts on the Ukraine crisis from a very sympathetic acting major

MATTHEW BAUM

Scallion Editor and The Future of Musical Theatre

**Let's also start strong, be aware I'm satirizing. It's satire, I promise. For further information on the invasion being carried out by Russia in Ukraine, look somewhere that's not The Scallion.**

The events and attacks taking place in Ukraine are horrendous. The inhumane attacks against civilian forces is unconscionable, and anyone in their right mind would wholeheartedly support Ukrainian fundraisers and humanitarian efforts.

But, at the same time...

I'm not saying it will be soon, and in fact, I can't stress enough my desire to request support for those living through the situation in Ukraine, but in ten years? I'd bet my buttons that some Broadway producer will find a deep-cut script for a heart-wrenching and deeply moving musical that high schoolers and — more importantly — investors will gobble up.

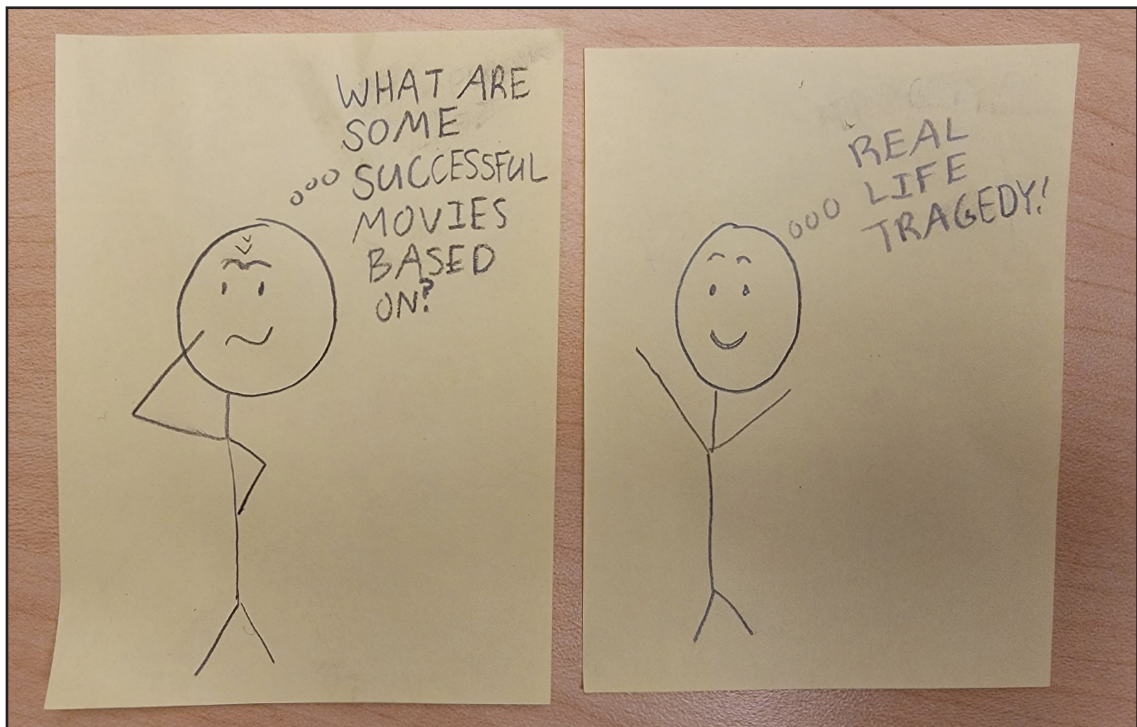
I take no pride in it. Let that be very clear. But also, I feel like it's a matter of time! There's a Titanic musical. Titanic.

Not even based on the movie, get it? It's crazy. The sinking of the RMS Titanic resulting in thousands of deaths... is a musical. The worst part of it all is that it's a very good show. Damn it!

Another example is "Come From Away" — a beautiful show about a horrendous tragedy. It's a show about the "plane people" who landed in a small town in Canada after the initial events of 9/11. Why is this a musical? More to the point, is this the best choice for us as a society?

The answer that jumps to my mind, and again, I mean down the line, is yes. I won't do it, and I probably won't be a part of it, but since I see a pattern, I'm sure it will happen. Is it a good thing? No. Will Volodymyr Zelenskyy be portrayed by a very handsome and talented actor/singer? I can't say no in good conscience.

With this in mind, continue to support Ukraine during the current situation. And in a very reasonable number of years, be sure to look out for a hugely inspiring and slightly distasteful musical that will be sure to rake in millions for the bigwigs who decide what entertains the masses.



Terrible stick figures on sticky notes by Jules Hoepfing because it was 3 a.m. and she couldn't think of a good image to put with this article.





## NOT A SINGLE A CAPPELLA GROUP WILL LET ME IN THEIR GROUP AND HERE'S WHY!!!! (Storytime)

**JAY BYRON**  
Staff Scallywag

Okay, I'll admit it. Acafest was really cool. Like, okay, sure, everyone did a good job. G Train? Can't go wrong. However, I have some complaints. 'Cause, like, not cool, guys. I auditioned for every single one of your little singy groups, and not a single one allowed me in. As you can imagine, I am furious.

I must tell you, I had some hard talks about this with myself after I was rejected from every single one of your groups and I know exactly why you wouldn't let me in now. You don't have to be ashamed, either — I know that the decision was made only after rigorous and bloodthirsty discussion. Your choice would have been made simple... It would have been so ridiculously and sadly easy if it wasn't for how delectably good I am at blasting tunes from my body.

No, I get it. My mashup of "Tomorrow" from the hit musical/movie "Annie" and "Truth Hurts" by Lizzo was way too powerful for the likes of you. And when you didn't ask for the arrangement afterwards, I knew you were too cowardly to do so. My time collecting these songs and putting them together

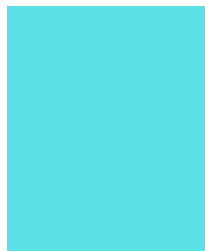
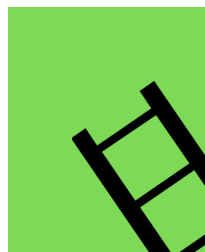
was an art form no other may know of. Some may say, "It's blasphemy, what Jay Byron did to 'Tomorrow' and 'Truth Hurts!'" Well, the truth does hurt, because the truth is, I'm the best singer and music arranger on campus.

So, dear reader, you may be thinking: "Well, Jay, you sound a tad stupid. If you were the best singer on campus, wouldn't they let you in immediately?"

That's what I thought, too. That was until I realized... They simply can't be taken down a peg, ever. Yes, they're great. Probably also the best singers on campus — below me, duh. They gotta keep their high-horse BASIC a cappella stances otherwise my power will consume them and I'll create one mass of an a cappella group that is just called "Jay Byron Tunes and Jams."

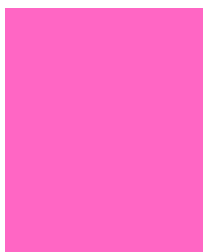
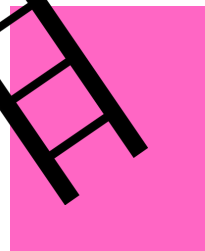
On that note, I'll probably "Jay Byron Tunes and Jams" my way into making another a cappella group OF MY OWN. I don't need you, for I have my intense vocal chords and award-winning little smile.

Photograph of Noteworthy showcase by Nikki Indelicato.  
Photograph of Jay Bryon by Jay Bryon.  
YouTube clickbait mimicking by Jules Hoepting.



*The Game of..*

# Relay for Life



American Cancer Society's  
Biggest Fundraiser of the Year!

**April 30th - May 1st**

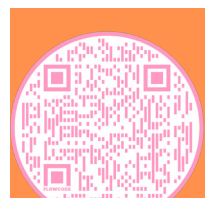
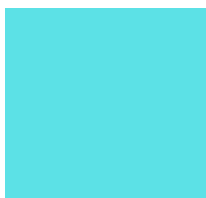
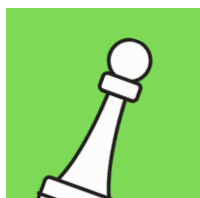
**6pm - 6am @ Steele Hall**



Create a team OR pay \$10  
at door



**Register here!**





# HOROSCOPES

**JAY BYRON** - Staff Scallywag

Hey, Horoscope fiends. I got what everyone's been looking forward to this week:

## THE RED FLAGS OF EACH SIGN!



### Aries

You don't clean your emotional support water bottle as often as you should. However, you think that the crusty dusty elements of an unclean emotional support water bottle "add flavor." Remember all the times you let your friend drink out of it? Yeah. Remember what they're drinking.



### Taurus

I know you probably won't listen because you're a Taurus, but being nervous about quadruple texting someone you like is not something to worry about most of the time.



### Gemini

When someone spells your name right on a Starbucks cup, you think the barista is flirting with you. Every time you ask your friend if there were vibes, they have to answer awkwardly, "Maybe?"



### Cancer

Whenever you look at yourself in the mirror, you call yourself a coward. Get a hold of yourself! Gain some much needed confidence!!!



### Leo

I have a feeling you're having a rough week, so I'll go easy on you. Every time you might be late for a class, you email your professor an incredibly long-winded explanation as to why you're going to be late, and then you end up being on time. It's wholesome, but your professor totally deletes them as soon as they come.



### Virgo

You genuinely enjoy the chicken fingers at Willy's, describing them as "sponges that soak up the sauce." Sometimes, you may even "get lost in the sauce." I guess that's a good thing to you? Sure. And if you don't eat meat, then you just genuinely enjoy any foods at Willy's that correlate with your diet, and that's just as bad.



### Libra

You order anything on DoorDash whenever there's a slight inconvenience, then don't ask your roommates if they want anything.



### Scorpio

You start to argue about a very small thing, and then it ends up being a huge thing. Picture this: You're out with your friends. You see a black squirrel. They might say, "Oh, black squirrels are actually really common." You'll reply, "No they're not." They argue, "Yes they are." You end the debacle with, "You are a disgrace among us scholarly squirrel understanders. Stand back, heathen."



### Sagittarius

You ask for a cheeseburger without the burger. Specifically, when you're out with your friends at McDonalds or another very delicious fast food chain, they ask what you want when you go through the drive-thru. You don't know how blasphemous it is. So, you say, "Uh, I'll have a cheeseburger without the burger." Just know that the first time you said that, their brains had an instantaneous fight or flight response.



### Capricorn

Why do you have so many games on your phone that you don't feel like deleting? Why are you letting them sit there, unplayed and alone? What are you hiding, Capricorn?



### Aquarius

You ask people for their opinion on your art or writing or whatever creative outlet you have, and when they say that it looks good you say, "Ehhh, it's not my finest work, but it'll do." Or, you might say, "Nooo, it sucks! It's soooo bad!" ... It looks good.



### Pisces

You stare deeply into the soul of any pet owner's eyes when they're out on a walk. I know what you're trying to do — ask to pet the animal without actually asking. However, you do it so hard that they think you're plotting a murder. Just... ask.

