

THE

LEADER

SUNY FREDONIA'S
STUDENT-RUN NEWSPAPER

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Issue 12

Volume CXXIX

**Student Files Civil Rights Case
Against Village Police**

Proposed Dunkirk Train Station

Ilene Thompson: SA President

Local Fredonia Music Scene

Track and Field Prepare for SUNYAC Meet

Graduates' Goodbyes

THE LEADER

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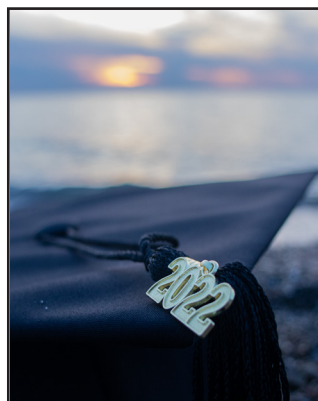
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Front and back cover: Graduation at Point Gratiot: A sunset on a chapter. Photographs by Jules Hoepfing.



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23 issues and 702 pages of designing The Leader down, no more to go :'(



Suspicious person spotted in Eisenhower Hall

JULES HOEPTING
Managing Editor

On Saturday, April 30, a campus alert from Brent Isaacson, the Chief of University Police, was sent to members of SUNY Fredonia's campus via Marketing and Communications' email. According to the email, University Police had "received complaints about an unknown subject entering the Eisenhower residence hall, opening the doors of residents and entering unlocked rooms" around 6 a.m. — the day the alert was sent out. No violence had been connected with this "suspicious activity."

University Police (UP) have conducted witness interviews, reviewed security camera footage and are in the process of an investigation to figure out who the suspect is. Based on what UP knows thus far, the suspect can be "described as a dark skinned black male, approximately 5' 8" – 5' 11" in height, between 45 and 50 years old, with gray and black short hair and a bigger build." UP will be "conducting frequent foot patrols in the campus residence halls in an effort to deter a repeated incident of this type," according to the email.

Although the exterior doors of residence halls are locked, Isaacson encouraged students to lock their dorms as an extra layer of protection. He further advised anyone to report suspicious behavior to UP by contacting (716) 673-3333 or by using

the "Silent Witness" website. He stressed that reports can be anonymous if desired.

When the alert email was sent out, the BlueView televisions across campus started to display a yellow screen advising campus members to check their emails and read about the alert. This alert has since appeared to have been removed from the televisions at this time.

In an email interview, Amy Li, a sophomore business administration major who lives in Eisenhower Hall, said she was shocked and scared when she heard about the incident.

"Our halls are usually very safe and secure," Li said, adding, "After reading the email from the Chief of University Police, I felt much safer about the situation. It shows that the school is taking care of the situation and hopefully the man is found as soon as possible."

Li wasn't at her dorm when the incident occurred, but she did check her room after she heard about it to see if anything was stolen. "Things seem to be fine," she noted.

In an open-ended question on Instagram (@LeaderFredonia), users were given an opportunity to share their opinions on the incident. Only one user responded with the comment, "Something just doesn't add up to me about all of this."

This story is still developing, and The Leader will provide updates as they become available.



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.

Fredonia student says he was assaulted, then police arrested him

Student files federal civil rights case against village police

CASEY HUBER

Special to The Leader

A SUNY Fredonia student and his mother have filed a federal civil rights case against two Village of Fredonia police officers as a result of a January incident. The student was arrested while police were investigating an incident in which the student says he was the victim — not the perpetrator.

The names of the mother and student involved in the case have been kept anonymous. The Leader agreed to provide anonymity in exchange for interviews and access to related body cam footage.

The Leader reached out to Fredonia police for a comment, but they have not responded. The Leader has acquired the police records, lawsuit documents and police body camera footage of the incident discussed.

The Lawsuit

On March 14, 2022, the civil rights violation-based lawsuit was filed against two members of the Fredonia Police Department (FPD).

The plaintiffs are the alleged victim and his mother, and the accused are Sergeant Michael Napierala and Police Chief David Price. The lawsuit charges both Napierala and Price as officials, meaning that they are being sued as police officers, not as individuals.

In the lawsuit, the claimants write that the violations include “The lack of discretion, violation of civil rights, VOIL (freedom of information law) violations, dishonesty with intent to cause harm, procedural violations, blackmail, abuse of power, bullying, dereliction of duty, defamation of character and harassment.”



Photograph by Derek Raymond.

As restitution, the lawsuit asks for “punitive damages in the amount of \$7,500 ... for the distress the situation has caused. Repeated court visits, missed classes, emotional duress and embarrassment.”

Filed in the United States District Court for the Western District of New York, the basis for jurisdiction is under article 42 section 1983 of the United States Constitution, stating a person can sue state or local officials for the “deprivation of any rights, privileges or immunities secured by the Constitution and [federal laws],” according to the lawsuit.

The Incident

The following is a general reconstruction of the video taken by the son on his cellphone camera as well as body camera footage from police officers.

The victim alleges he was assaulted on Jan. 29, 2022, around midnight outside of Old Main Inn, a bar in downtown Fredonia.

According to both the mother and the alleged victim’s testimonial, the latter of which was recorded by police body cameras, the victim was assaulted by two people inside Old Main Inn. He was then pushed outside and assaulted again by two different people.

According to Officer Zachary Hand’s supplemental police report, police were called to the scene of an assault “in the area of Bella Maria’s Pizza on Water Street.”

According to the report, police “spoke to the doorman of Muldoon’s Bar located at 26 Water Street. The doorman stated that one of the subjects involved in the fight was a Black male wearing a blue hoodie and that male went to Canadaway Street.”

While walking home after the assault, the alleged victim was stopped by FPD Officer Dylan Robinson on Canadaway Street. Hand’s report wrote that Robinson “observed a male matching the description given to officers and stopped to speak to him.”

The alleged victim was with three other people who were walking him home. They tried to explain to the officer that they did not know what happened but they were trying to get him home safely. The body camera footage shows Robinson largely ignoring the three and focusing on the alleged victim.

The alleged victim did not fully match the suspect description given to police officers except for one attribute — he is a Black male. He was wearing a black sweat-shirt without a hood — not a blue hoodie.

The alleged victim pointed out this discrepancy in the physical suspect description to Robinson in his body cam footage, to which Robinson replied "Why are you giving me shit?" and held the alleged victim at Canadaway until additional officers arrived.

At no point was the alleged victim asked if he was the victim by Robinson; he maintained that the alleged victim matched the description of the suspect and treated him as such.

Five minutes into the initial interaction, the alleged victim said, "If I'm not under arrest, I can do whatever the fuck I want, so I'm walking home."

Robinson replied "No, no, you're not going anywhere," and approached the victim.

The victim stopped, then dialed his mother.

The next line of Hand's report says "[Robinson] then requested additional officers to Canadaway Street."

Five minutes and 30 seconds after the initial stop, as recorded in the body camera footage, Sergeant Napieralla and Officer Hand arrived.

According to Hand's body camera footage, the alleged victim said that the police stopped him because he was a Black male. He said, "Oh my god, how many Black males do you know? Can I go home?" to which Hand replied "No."

After the alleged victim and Hand continued to disagree, Hand told the alleged victim to relax. The alleged victim said, "I'm either walking away or you're fucking arresting me, you can't stop me here. If you're gonna question me you have to fucking arrest me, so I'm going to walk away."

Napieralla then said, "Alright, you're under arrest."

The alleged victim replied, "For what?"

Napieralla said, "For disorderly conduct."

The alleged victim was then taken to the police station where he was held and questioned repeatedly, without being Mirandized or given access to a lawyer, until his release at 1:20 a.m.

Why did the arrest occur? And was it justified?

In Napieralla's supplemental police report, it states that he said, "Okay then we'll keep you under arrest for disorderly conduct for swearing." [Alleged victim] was highly intoxicated and uncooperative." Here, Napieralla claims the reason the victim was arrested was for swearing.

However, later in the same document, Napieralla wrote, "I told [the mother] he was yelling, 'Fucking arrest me' several times, and that's why he's being arrested."

Was the alleged victim arrested for saying "arrest me" or for swearing? Or both?

Are either of these two criteria sufficient to arrest someone, regardless of whether they apparently fit a suspect profile?

The New York Court of Appeals, which is the highest court in New York State, unanimously ruled in 2015 that swearing at an officer is not illegal. A story in The Gothamist, a New York City website that is part of New York Public Radio, headlined a story on it as Court Affirms It's Completely Legal To Swear Loudly At Police.

The 2015 story described a case where a man, Richard Gonzalez, was searched because he had sworn at officers in a subway. They found a knife on him and arrested him under New York's gravity-knife law.

The incident occurred in 2011 and was decided by the highest state court four years later.

The memorandum states, "Here, however, there is no record support for the motion court's determination that defendant's rant against the police officers constituted the crime of disorderly conduct," according to law.justia.com.

So, if the alleged victim was arrested for swearing, the arrest would be illegal.

What if he was arrested for stating "arrest me"?

There appears to be no legal precedent in either direction. Officers are generally given discretion in their policing to make arrests if necessary.

The question is, was this arrest necessary?

See the editorial on page 34 for The Leader's take on this.

But was the arrest conducted correctly?

After analyzing the police body camera footage, it is apparent the alleged victim asked for a lawyer at least twice, and no acknowledgement of that request was given by officers.

Furthermore, the alleged victim was interrogated by Napieralla and Hand on two different occasions at the police station without him being given the opportunity to get a lawyer or him being read his Miranda rights.

Conferring Miranda rights means that the officer says that you have the right to remain silent, that anything you say can be used against you in a court of law, that you have the right to a lawyer during questioning and if you cannot afford a lawyer one will be appointed to you, according to Nolo, a website for legal advice.

However, also according to Nolo, "Police officers don't have to provide the Miranda warning to people they arrest. They're free to arrest you, put you in the back of a patrol car and take you to the station for booking without once mentioning your rights."

Miranda rights are only relevant when a suspect is in custody and subject to interrogation.

If the alleged victim's Miranda rights should've been read, then what the victim said during interrogation cannot be used by the prosecution in a court of law.

However, it should be of note that the alleged victim was never asked if he was the victim of the assault. The body camera footage appears to show that the alleged victim was considered a suspect from the beginning of his interaction with police. Only later did police realize that the alleged victim was the victim, and subsequently interrogated him, presumably to confirm that he was the victim.

Given that the alleged victim was not read his rights and still interrogated, there could potentially be a legal issue beyond a civil rights violation.

SUNY Fredonia shows approval for potential train station in Dunkirk

CHLOE KOWALYK

News Editor

SUNY Fredonia may soon hear the chugging and choo-choos of trains stopping by campus — and the college is excited.

Both students and faculty alike are sharing in the excitement of the potential of a train station coming to Dunkirk, N.Y.

Train talk began in the 1990s, and a feasibility study took place in 2001 to assess whether such a project could be completed. However, the 2001 study did not show that SUNY Fredonia and the surrounding communities would not get much use out of a train station. But, since the early 2000s study, community members and students alike have shown their approval for a potential train station.

In the middle of February 2022, the Dunkirk Common Council agreed to pay \$20,000 for another feasibility study with Amtrak, a passenger railroad service.

Dunkirk serves as a potential location for a stop due to its location. Dunkirk, Fredonia and SUNY Fredonia are approximately equidistant from Buffalo, N.Y. and Erie, Pa.

An Amtrak station in Dunkirk would serve as a convenient means of transportation between the two cities neighboring Dunkirk and Fredonia, as well as branching out to other big cities like Cleveland, Ohio.

SUNY Fredonia's President Dr. Stephen Kolsion is a key figure in the conversation about the potential for an Amtrak train station to be brought to Dunkirk.

In a Zoom interview, Kolsion said, "A Fredonia/Dunkirk stop, in my view, would be a tremendous benefit for [SUNY Fredonia]." He cites retention, enrollment and community benefits as



Illustration by Angelo Petrilli.

reasons to advocate for an Amtrak stop in Dunkirk.

SUNY Fredonia's enrollment is currently the lowest it has been in around 50 years. In 2008, enrollment was well over 5,000 students, according to Fredonia's 2013–2023 Facilities Master Capital Plan. As of spring 2022, 3,436 students are enrolled in the college,

according to the "Enrollment Updates" page on the school's website.

The same page provides a glimpse into Fredonia's retention problem. In fall 2021, SUNY Fredonia had 3,780 students enrolled, which means the college lost 344 students in just one semester.

With the current issues of enrollment and retention SUNY Fredonia is facing, Kolison believes that a train station could help.

Cory Bezek, the executive director of enrollment services at SUNY Fredonia, agrees with Kolison.

He said that a train station in Dunkirk could connect the campus with Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Rome and all the way down through New York City without needing to change trains.

Bezek explains that 45% of SUNY Fredonia's population is from one of these regions. He adds that if you include Long Island, with a train change at the Long Island Railroad, over 50% of the student population is reached.

Bezek also notes that taking the train can be a cheap and safe option for students who do not have cars. He calculated that train tickets can be as cheap as \$15, and from Buffalo to New York City, a train ticket would cost \$54 each way.

Bezek said that with rising gas prices, taking the train can be more convenient for college students. He explained that this new option of transportation can help attract students who live further away from campus, as they would now have a way to get to and from SUNY Fredonia.

Kolison and Bezek both described ways to get students on campus using the potential Dunkirk/Fredonia Amtrak stop. They explained how they could have a campus shuttle bus come to the stop, pick up the students and bring them to campus during move-in and move-out days.

However, it's not just faculty and administration figures that are excited about a potential train station in Dunkirk — students too have voiced their passion for a new way to travel around New York State.

Alé Herreros, a junior double majoring in theatre and public relations, is from New York City. She often finds herself taking the train to and from school. Herreros said that she already uses the Amtrak to travel home, but the closest station is far away.

From campus, the closest Amtrak stations are on Exchange Street in Buffalo, N.Y. and in Depew, N.Y., a suburb of Buffalo. These locations are approximately a 50 minute drive from SUNY Fredonia.

Joe Imburgia, a junior music performance major, has found himself in a similar situation as Herreros. Imburgia typically needs to ask his friends to drive him to the Depew Amtrak station early in the morning so he can return home to Long Island.

He said, "Not many of us have cars, so it's one of our only forms of travel if we need to go home unless you wanna break the bank and get a plane ticket, and both [taking the train or flying] already require a trip to Buffalo."

Herreros also said that an Uber to Buffalo can be quite expensive and explains that taking the train straight from Dunkirk would be much cheaper.

While an Amtrak stop in Dunkirk would benefit students who live far away, students who live locally or who own cars may get use out of the station as well.

In an Instagram poll taken of 69 individuals who live either on Fredonia's campus or nearby, 80% of respondents said that they would use the station, with only 20% saying they wouldn't.

Students who did vote in favor of the train station had several reasons for their approval.

Olivia Frazer, a junior English major, said, "I think it would be [good] for nights I want to go out to drink with friends, but none of us want to be [designated driver]." Frazer lives in Indiana, but feels she'd use the train for more social reasons.

Kolison and Bezek also described how students could use the train as a way to easily travel to and from social events in nearby cities.

Frazer added, "I think it would benefit the college as the school is isolated from most social locations."

A major selling point for students, faculty and administrators was the convenience of an Amtrak stop.

Kolison said that sometimes, he even uses the train when attending meetings in Albany, N.Y. because he feels it is more convenient for him.

Bezek also feels that taking the train allows him to work as he travels, ultimately saving him time.

SUNY Fredonia students feel that a train station close to campus would be convenient for them too.

Herreros and Imburgia would no longer need to worry about rides to Buffalo early in the morning, and students like Frazer could use the train to responsibly travel around the state.

Kolison said that he will be working with the Village of Fredonia and the City of Dunkirk as well as senator George Borello, Chuck Schumer and County Executive Paul Wendel Jr.

He said, "I'm committed to it. I'm committed to working very hard with all the other leaders in the county, also at the state level and at the federal level, to see whether we can make this happen."

Kolison adds that he can "imagine it."

Kolison's vision today could be a life-changing reality for students tomorrow. It could positively impact the lives of the 80% of students who said they would use a train station in Dunkirk.

A simple thought of a train station near campus could make the world of a difference to Imburgia and Hereros, who struggle to make their ways home each break.

Amtrak Train Station: Is it worth it?

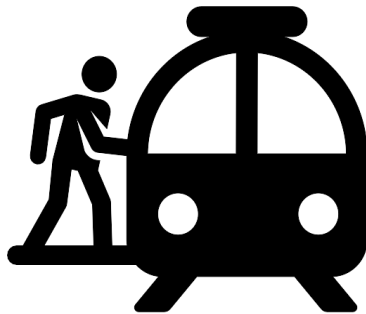
KARISSA DOYLE

Special to The Leader

There's a train station in Buffalo, so how about putting one in the Dunkirk-Fredonia area too? The Amtrak Train station is a system of railroads that run across the United States covering 46 states, the District of Columbia and even leaving the country, entering into some parts of Canada.

Specifically, Amtrak was founded in the 1970s when former president Richard Nixon signed the Rail Passenger Service Act, also known as the RPSA. This became the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, which we presently know as Amtrak.

Recently, there has been a push to add an Amtrak station to the Fredonia-Dunkirk area, but many are wondering if the potential station is worth the hassle. The idea itself is for the county to use the money given to us during the COVID-19 pandemic to fund the project.



But there's a difference between funding a one-off purchase such as a million-dollar road snowblower for the harsh winters rather than putting this money into a project meant to have a long-term impact.

Ultimately, with the ARPA money given to the Dunkirk area, this has become what Vincent DeJoy, development director for this project, considers to be a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to do some projects that will have reoccurring benefits."

The driving force behind installing a local train station is the idea that it could help the economy in both Dunkirk and Northern Chautauqua

County grow. DeJoy explained that a multimodal transportation hub would need to be created.

DeJoy said, "We believe that we have some attractive locations with good potential for site control." He also added that the City of Dunkirk has been partnering with SUNY Fredonia to help improve enrollment from students in both downstate N.Y. and west to outside states with in-state tuition price agreements.

According to DeJoy, the City of Dunkirk believes that "local business and especially new manufacturing operations in Dunkirk such as at Immunity-Bio will benefit having scheduled train service to Dunkirk."

He continued, "Having an Amtrak stop puts us on the national map and can make it easier to recruit human talent for jobs needed to sustain our local business concerns, but also increase investment and the opportunity to enhance our tourism economy."

However, at the moment, only a small amount of the COVID-19 funds have been used in order to look into the potential possibility of this. Establishing communication with railroads such as Amtrak and CSX Transportation to push forward the project further are still in its infant stages.

However, the potential of bringing a train station to Dunkirk is only in the present stage of being shaped and discussed, meaning nothing in regard to this project is entirely set in stone at this moment.

What this means is that presently, the main goal that the City of Dunkirk wants to achieve is to make the area an attractive spot for visitors, potential residents and those who may come for employment. SUNY Fredonia has partnered with this project, in hopes of raising enrollment.

By making Dunkirk more of an attractive travel location, many believe this could sway the higher-ups in charge of places such as Amtrak or CSX Transportation to consider Dunkirk as a location for a new train station. By having a train station in the area, SUNY Fredonia becomes more accessible to students who don't live in the local area.

The Local Lo-Down radio show

Getting behind the scenes of Fredonia's music scene



Crew of The Local Lo-Down with The Burkharths. Photo retrieved from @thelocallo-down_ on Instagram.

CHLOE KOWALYK News Editor

This year marks 10 years since The Local Lo-Down took to the FM waves at Fredonia Radio Systems (FRS).

However, after the COVID-19 pandemic shut down several clubs and activities for about two years, The Local Lo-Down was put on pause.

The Local Lo-Down is a college radio show intended to “promote and showcase the local music scene here in Fredonia and Western New York,” according to the show’s tagline.

The show was reignited by Mel Fajardo, a junior double majoring in music industry and business administration, Jordan Budd, a sophomore music industry major, and Alex Erwin, a junior double majoring in audio/radio production and video production.

Fajardo serves as the show’s executive producer and promotions lead, Budd is the artists and repertoire (A&R) lead (which is responsible for finding artists) and Erwin is the show’s technical director.

Fajardo and Budd are also the co-hosts of the show.

Each week, Fajardo, Budd and Erwin bring a different band or artist into FRS.

The trio then interviews them about their music and have artists perform live sets during the show.

The Local Lo-Down has featured local artists such as The Burkharths, Saint Blind, Violent Graffiti, Jacob King and The Weather Might Say Otherwise.

The show is simulcasted to both FRS’s WCVF 88.9 and WDWL 89.5 stations and is also recorded on video, which is uploaded to the FRS YouTube page.

The Local Lo-Down is currently the only show at FRS to have a weekly video to accompany it.

For Erwin, the show has been “an excellent driver [in exploring] more about your passions and the stuff you’re interested in.”

“I’m very happy with what we’ve been doing with the show so far and what we’ve been able to learn from it,” Erwin continued.

Fajardo explained the heavy impact The Local Lo-Down has on the local music scene in Fredonia. She said that since they restarted the show, they’ve gotten messages from current artists, previous artists who had been on the show in years prior and SUNY Fredonia alumni who were previously involved in the show.

Budd said, “I think we’ve done a good job of showing some more experimental artists and just a diverse amount of genres.”

He added that one of the goals of the show next year is to “get a more diverse range of artists in terms of gender inclusivity [and] multiculturalism.”

The trio also wanted to give credit to their team, and explained that doing a show this complex and involved wouldn’t be possible without them.

The show’s production team is made of Dylan Rohr, Nolan Rosier and Max Sheedy and the A&R team is Sebastian Spisak and Erin Wagner. The promotions team is composed of Cascio Fonseca, Ash DeHarder, Justin Malinowski, Natalie Wilks, Yisel Fernandez and Owen Brandjes.

Be sure to stay tuned for future episodes and next year’s content in The Local Lo-Down.

You can find The Local Lo-Down on Facebook (@locallo-down), Twitter (@TheLocalLoDown), Instagram (@thelocallo-down_) and TikTok (@thelocallo-down).

The author of this article, Chloe Kowalyk, is a member of Fredonia Radio Systems.

The local music scene in Fredonia, N.Y.



Carpool performing at NPSC. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

CHLOE KOWALYK News Editor

Unforgettable.

That's a word many have used to describe the local music scene in Fredonia, N.Y.

A music-lover can go into any show: a house venue, a bar show or even a campus event and they'll instantly recognize how unique Fredonia's music scene is.

When you walk into the doors of a house show, you're instantly hit with a wave of love.

The bands are friends with the crowd, and everyone is connected.

When the music hits you, it runs through you, filling your veins with that sweet Fredonia allure that you couldn't possibly get from any other local scene.

Moshing at a show connects you with both the artists and the crowd not just physically, but rather in a metaphysical sense of connection that no global pandemic can break.

When you join the scene, you're tied in. You're accepted. You're loved.

Prior to COVID-19, the local music scene was more alive than ever, with venues such as the Creek House, The Light House and The Dentist's Office housing some of the most memorable shows in Fredonia music scene history.

Halle Cook, a senior English adolescent education major, recalls times in her freshman year that she would attend shows.

Cook's first show in Fredonia's music scene was Cheap Peach, a local band from Buffalo, N.Y. at the Creek House.

She saw them play during her second week at SUNY Fredonia and said that when she got inside, "the music [was] just booming."

Max Sheedy, a senior video production and public relations major with a minor in film studies, said that the 2019 Rockin' the Commons, a fundraising event organized by Fredonia Radio Systems for Roswell Cancer Institute, was a special memory to him.

He said he got involved in the local music scene because he "wanted to always feel as good as [they] did that day."

But, when COVID-19 cocked its ugly head towards Fredonia's prepossessing music scene, the scene didn't die.

It didn't get sick. It didn't wither away.

Instead, it stayed alive — and not just inside the hearts of those who went to the scene before.

The scene was still going, and in a way that kept everyone safe.

North Pole Strip Club (NPSC), a house venue, held shows online. They live-streamed on YouTube from the basement where bands like The Burkharts and Tooth played live sets for at-home audiences.

Despite the pandemic, the music scene kept rolling.

NPSC, previously known as The 37, became a staple of the post-pandemic scene. Shows were held in the NPSC basement for eight years.

Recently, bands and artists such as Fernway, Citrus Maxima, Tsunami Surprise, Johnny and The Man Kids, Carpool, Beach Tower, Cheap Peach, Violent Graffiti, Dylan Murawski and

This is how the many bands, artists, venues and students would define their local music scene, and furthermore, their stories.

Music Scene at a Music School

SUNY Fredonia is, as most know it, a music school.

With over 500 music and music industry students enrolled in the college, according to the school's website, Fredonia hosts a large number of students either a music program itself, or those who have an interest in it.

“Compared to other local colleges in Western N.Y., the amount of talent and creative energy that comes out of Fredonia is pretty astonishing. It doesn't matter what genre it is, so much great music comes out of the local scene there,” Dillon Slater of Cheap Peach said.

Fredonia's music scene is one to welcome anyone — an attribute of the scene that many performers and students alike have come to enjoy.

Experience

To truly experience Fredonia's music scene, you have to be there. You have to live it.

You have to get yourself in that mosh pit and feel yourself being pushed to the melody of the local scene.

Or, better yet, you have to get on that stage and perform until you physically can't anymore.

Cheap Peach, mentioned above as the band playing in Cook's very first show, has had a heavy impact on Fredonia's music scene.

The band was formed back in 2016 and is made up of Tyler Will on lead vocals and rhythm guitar, Dillon Slater on lead guitar, Jade Hoch on bass and backing vocals, Brendan Ryan on drums and Reilly Brouillard on keys.

Since the band's creation, a plethora of experiences with Fredonia's music scene weaseled their way into the hearts of the members and audience.

Slater said his favorite part about playing in Fredonia's music scene is playing at house shows. “The energy radiating off the crowd gets us pumped and makes us play even better,” he said.

Beach Tower, a band which started right here in Fredonia, N.Y. in 2019, has found their home in Fredonia's local music scene. The band is composed of Evan Donnelly on bass guitar and piano, Cascio Fonseca on lead vocals, Joey Porth on drums, Ryan Terry on lead guitar, Johnny Zareski on rhythm guitar and backing vocals and Connor Bessey-Nolan, who works on management and serves as the band's hype-man.

Terry has found who he truly is through Fredonia's music scene. “I love the Fredonia music scene,” Terry said. **“I feel it has deeply affected the way I view myself and what I believe a community should be.**

I'm a rather anxious person, so this scene has allowed me to come out of my shell and be a person I can say I'm proud of.”

That's just what the local scene means to those who occupy it: a way to find yourself.



Hal & Pals performing on the Tim Hortons stage at HAIL Fredonia Records Acoustic Night. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

Jake King and the Wired Band have become well-known and loved in the local scene.

Still more, who have not been mentioned, have had a major influence on the scene, and should be recognized.

Fredonia's music scene has had an impact on many. It's meant a lot to many, and the world to some.

Jake King of Jake King and The Wired Band isn't even a music major. Rather, he studies English.

John Marciniak of the band Johnny and The Man Kids said, “Everyone gets to be a rockstar in Fredonia and it's a beautiful place.”



Beach Tower performing at Dods Grove during HAIL! Fredonia Records' Lend-A-Paw for Autism Dog Walk. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

This has been especially true for Ryan of Cheap Peach. He said, **“The local music scene means everything to me as it’s given me a home and opportunity to push myself [to] places where I didn’t know were possible.** I’ve found a place to grow musically and personally alongside my best friends and people who love the energy of live performances.”

Many of those in the audience have felt the impact of the local music scene as well.

Sheedy said, “Before I found the scene, I wasn’t sure if I wanted to still be at Fredonia. I wanted to transfer, [but] discovering this little hidden scene changed everything for me and had a huge impact on my college experience.”

The local music scene in SUNY Fredonia is unique.

It connects people, helps them find themselves and gives people a place where they feel they truly belong.

Community

Fredonia’s accepting and community-based scene is what several artists who performed there tend to remember most.

One such band is Johnny and The Man Kids, which was started seven years ago with John Marciniak and Andi Pzonak on guitar, Tyler Marciniak on bass and Alex Bogart on drums.

“The local music scene in Fredonia is the best in the world in my humble opinion,” John Marciniak said. “We were accepted with open arms and played to people we’ve never met before who sing along to every song we play.”

Perhaps one of the most impactful aspects of the scene is the close connection between bands, performers and viewers.

Dan Doyle of NPSC said “the love, support and the close knit community” is what makes Fredonia’s music scene unique.

“I’ve been to a lot of other DIY spaces around the country, and it’s extremely hard to find a place like this — a place that means so much more to people than just a house venue. There are more people with NPSC tattoos than I have fingers and toes,” Doyle continued.

NPSC has hosted many of the bands that have played in Fredonia.

One such band is Jake King and The Wired Band, which started last semester in fall 2021. The band is composed of Jake King on lead vocals, Felix Kellogg on guitar, Miles Pierce on bass and Cameron Bunch on drums.

King said, “People in Fredonia are generally excited to see music, which is weird, they come out and they know your band... there’s like a tight knit little circle of people who are just familiar.”

Starjuice, a band from Buffalo, N.Y. with Sidney Flanigan on vocals and guitar, Corey Wilde on bass, Spencer Eck on drums and Jake Maurer on lead guitar, saw the Fredonia community come together at the Soulstice Jam event on April 23, 2022 organized by Fredonia’s Music Industry Club.

“The local music scene is like a home. It’s more than a scene, it’s a community, a family. It’s a place where multiple mediums and forms of expression meet and collaborate,” members of the band Starjuice said. “We lift each other up, empower one another, give each other a place to feel safe and grow and feel unified. We change the world by changing each other. We all have our place and something special to offer by being who we are.”

Terry of Beach Tower also said he firmly believes that “anyone present in the music-making process is involved in said process, which makes live performance one of the most satisfying things in the world to me ... hearing people react to what we’re doing in the ways that they do reaffirms to me that this truly is something we should be doing.”

Fredonia’s music scene has a community that you won’t find anywhere else. It’s strong and full of love.

Future

The future of the local music scene in Fredonia, N.Y. is still a mystery.

After COVID-19 shut down many venues and shows, the scene is still trying to recuperate. Plus, the closure of NPSC has left many with a hole in their hearts.

Some have speculated that some old house venues may open back up to fill the gap left by NPSC’s closing.

Shows at BJ’s and other bars in Fredonia are set to continue next year.

And, with COVID-19 restrictions loosening, more on-campus concerts and events are happening at SUNY Fredonia.

Cook even suspects that local music scene venues may “double” next semester.

But, many of the rumors floating around campus and the local scene are just that — rumors.

To find out the true future of the local music scene in Fredonia, we’ll just have to wait until next semester.

For an extended version of this article, visit fredonialeader.org

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Meet Ilene Thompson

SA President and so much more

ALYSSA BUMP

Editor in Chief

Raised in the Bronx, N.Y. by a single mom with three siblings, Ilene Thompson, a junior psychology major with a minor in public health, has been working since she was 14 years old.

“Having my own independence and my own money has been something that’s been very important to me because I grew up lower class,” said Thompson. She continued, “For the most part, I had a regular childhood growing up, but I did work a lot. I don’t mind it because it molded me into the person I am today.”

This independence and drive to succeed have translated into Thompson’s college career through her role as president of the Student Association (SA) as well as holding a spot on multiple committees on campus.

During high school, Thompson spent a majority of her time as a student athlete for softball, basketball, track and cross country, as well as working.

Like many others during their high school years, Thompson describes feeling “lost during most of it. I never really found myself towards the end. I was pretending to be someone I wasn’t.”

But throughout her journey in college, Thompson said, “I’ve found a piece of myself. I am still finding myself, learning to love myself and learning to do things I enjoy.”

Thompson describes “four leading ladies” that have influenced her life greatly: her mother, her aunt, her grandmother and her scholarship donor.

“My mom is always the type of person to get things done. Like no matter what, even if things are hard, just push through. I’ve always admired her for that,” said Thompson. She continued, “She’s like the woman that I need her to be now more than anything ... She’s just been my guide and my rock. I don’t know what I would do without her.”

Her grandma is “always reminding me of how proud of me she is,” according to Thompson.

She continued, “I really appreciate that because encouragement is something we need, especially during college.”

Thompson describes her father’s sister as “what my dad was supposed to be, but in a woman figure. She definitely stepped up for him.” She added her aunt “could have been

someone who didn’t care, but she wasn’t. She still cares about us to this day ... She has a good heart.”

Beyond family influences, Thompson has also built a connection with Carol “Stash” Stanley, a SUNY Fredonia alumna and the founder of the LaceLocker Pursue Excellence Scholarship, which she created in memory of her mother.

Thompson was awarded this renewable scholarship as a freshman, and it gave her enough funds to attend higher education at SUNY Fredonia. “I [originally] couldn’t afford to go here,” said Thompson.

Stanley and Thompson first met at the 2019 Scholars Breakfast, and they have kept in touch ever since. “We talk all the time. She’s a big inspiration in my life, and I would consider her another woman in my life that has done so much for me,” said Thompson.

She continued, “I could talk to her about anything. She’s more than just a mentor; she holds a special place in my heart.”

Thompson chose to attend SUNY Fredonia because her mom did not want her to stay in the city. She had also attended Multicultural Weekend (MCW) as a prospective student, where she was able to go to the MCW Carnival and Black Student Union (BSU) Fashion Show. She said that experience “mainly influenced me to come here.”

But when Thompson arrived on campus, she described feeling like “a fish out of water.” As a woman of color attending a predominantly white institution, she confessed there was “definitely a lot of crying my first week” as she got accustomed to her new environment.



Ilene Thompson.

However, she described the college as welcoming and began joining clubs as a freshman. By sophomore year, Thompson found herself joining SA as a representative.

According to sa.fredonia.edu, the organization's mission is to "promote the general welfare of the students of SUNY Fredonia, enhance student life on campus and represent the interests of the student body as Fredonia's student government." SA oversees all 150 clubs on campus, as well as works to provide a voice to students.

"I wanted something to do on campus because I wasn't doing athletics anymore," said Thompson. Within the same semester, Thompson moved up from a representative position to the president of the sophomore class.

As a junior, Thompson ran and earned the position as president of SA, which she currently resides as. "It's a great experience, and it's also very crucial because without SA, there are no clubs ... These clubs put on these amazing events," said Thompson.

Thompson is responsible for "starting initiatives, assisting with signature cards, summit and other responsibilities that the executives do."

Some of the initiatives Thompson has worked on include providing free face masks on campus, starting a Faculty Student Association (FSA) job appeal forum, which is meant to inform students applying to work at FSA of the "no hire list," and adding a no tolerance sexual assault workshop for all club leaders during summit.

"The most rewarding part [of being SA president] is being able to help students and making initiatives come to fruition.

With her SA presidency, she is also required to hold nine office hours a week. Thompson said the role is "not what people perceive it as. It is actually pretty fun. I enjoy being president, and I'd rather do that than go to my classes at times."

However, SA is currently facing low involvement through the student body. The organization allows up to 32 representative positions, with one representative meant to represent 100 students, but SA currently only has two representatives that will soon graduate.

According to fredonia.smartcatalogiq.com, "The representatives have a very important responsibility. [These] students voice their opinions on such matters as academics, food services and Student Affairs."

With the concern of low involvement, Thompson said, "It's been sad to see. When I first started out [as a sophomore], the numbers were pretty high." SA as a whole is working to increase their numbers through multiple outreach tactics, such as working with Business Capstone students to create a strategic plan to increase involvement.

Alongside Thompson's role as SA president, she is also on the Title IX Coordination Committee that is seeking a new Title IX Coordinator for the college. She is also a part of the Inauguration Planning Committee, FSA Board of Directors, College Council, President's Student Cabinet, works as a Late Night Fred driver and as a direct support professional for people with mental disabilities with People Inc. in Silver Creek, N.Y.

With Thompson's major in psychology, she has also done research in her field. She was on the Sexual Offense & Abuse Project Research Team as a sophomore. "We basically did a project to see the correlation between sexual aggression in men and women," said Thompson.

The project was presented at the Office of Student Creative Activity and Research (OSCAR) Expo via Zoom in 2020.

Thompson said that this was her first experience with professional research, and it gave her a new perspective of the research aspect of psychology.

As for her future endeavors after college, Thompson isn't entirely sure of what she'd like to do. She would like to explore her other passions of modeling and fashion, but above all else, she hopes to help others during her life's journey.

Thompson hopes to leave a "memorable" impact on SUNY Fredonia. "I just hope the work I've done carries on to the next person and that they will continue to help the good of the community," said Thompson.

If you are interested in joining SA, contact sa.president@fredonia.edu or stop by the SA Office, Williams Center, G113.



Ilene Thompson (right) with her sister (top left) and grandmother (bottom left).



Ilene Thompson (left) with Carol "Stash" Stanley (right).

Life & Arts

Rocks holding history's haunting weight displayed as part of English Senior Seminar project

LYDIA TURCIOS

Art Director

haunt·ing
/hôn(t)iNG/
adjective

poignant and evocative; difficult to ignore or forget.

The English Department's Senior Seminar class will be presenting, under the guidance of their Professor Dr. Jeanette McVicker, an exhibition of academic research based on hauntology in literature titled "The Weight of History: How we are Haunted by the Past."

The goal of this project is to share amongst the campus community a sense of loss that haunts us as a collective for one reason or another.

The classes focal point this semester has been how to connect literature to hauntology. As the source word may imply, hauntology is, in the manner of a ghost or specter, how elements of the social and cultural past return with a persistence. It is how events and ideas dregs people down for years, whether it be from greater generational traumas or personal traumas.

The display will include a series of academic posters from each of the members of the course, with topics ranging from the lingering effects of various socioeconomic oppression, how to go about using literature to heal and the ramifications of unhealthy cultural mindsets in the U.S.

Speaking of healing, the class is also reaching out to others to contribute to the display by helping them make their spin on kindness rocks.



ENGL-400 Senior Seminar students painting haunting rocks. Photograph by Lydia Turcios.

The Kindness Rocks project is a viral trend of painting rocks with inspirational symbols, phrases and colors for the purpose of placing them everywhere and letting them be found or collected. Here, the Senior Seminar class is instead using them to convey their own personal senses of loss, or something they are haunted by.

The rocks as made by the class will be displayed in Reed Library just below the posters with attached blurbs explaining the context of each individual piece. Any contributions will be added without the blurb, with the goal of making a substantial rock pile. All supplies to contribute will be provided by the Senior seminar class and anonymity of the contribution — such as labeling with initials — is up to the provider.

These rocks are meant to act as a sort of outlet, with their creation cultivating a supportive environment among students. After the display is dismantled, the rocks will be scattered through the campus garden. They will act as the haunting remains of this year's Senior Seminar class after they graduate, and if you make one, they may act as a legacy of yours, too.

The display itself will be viewable from May 5 to May 23, and the main event will be May 10 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Reed Library. The seniors will be there to present the body of their work and helped facilitate the rock painting portion of the event.

Lydia Turcios, the author of this article, is also enrolled in the ENGL-400 Senior Seminar class with Dr. Jeanette McVicker.

Nomads

Freshly-formed SUNY Fredonia faculty band

QUINN SPOOK

Special to The Leader

In Mason Hall as the week is coming to a close, a cover of Jimmy Eat World's "It Just Takes Some Time" fills the empty corridors. The familiar tune as well as laughter spills out of room 2018. The overhead lights are replaced with golden hour sunlight that shines onto multiple instruments and music bags strewn about the tables.

Nomads are finishing up their latest rehearsal and doing so with a vibrant sense of comradery and encouragement. Nomads are a recently formed band composed of SUNY Fredonia faculty.

Amber Nellett, from Buffalo, is a masters of music education graduate student. Nellett is the music education graduate assistant that is responsible for facilitating the band for the newly offered course, MUED 160: Vernacular Musicianship.

Nellett has been making music for 16 years and has multiple roles in the band. "We all kind of trade instruments. Some songs, I play the guitar, some I play bass and others I will sing," Nellett said.

Dr. Jill Reese, from Fredonia, is an associate professor of music education. Reese is the instructor for Nellett's Vernacular Musicianship class. "I was awarded a Modern Band Higher Education Fellowship through Little Kids Rock, a nonprofit organization that supports music education. As part of that fellowship, I attended a week-long course during summer 2021 about how to incorporate modern band pedagogy into music education curriculum for preservice music teachers."

Much like the other members, Reese is flexible in the band and said, "Everybody plays everything!" Reese has been "making music since [she] was born and probably even before that."

She is an early childhood music researcher and shared an interesting fact that researchers suggest we are making music as soon as our earbuds have been fully formed and we can respond to the music we hear outside the womb.



Illustration by Ash Maloney.

Jenn Darrell-Sterbak, from Fredonia, is community relations associate for the School of Music. Darrell-Sterbak plays bass and electric violin for the band and has been playing violin her whole life.

Pat Cummings-Witter, from Lockport, is a library clerk and works in the archives section of Reed Library. Cummings-Witter plays bass, percussion and sings. She has been making music her whole life and has been learning and experimenting with new instruments since joining Nomads, along with the rest of the band.

Kathleen Fenton, from Rochester, is an adjunct lecturer in the visual arts and new media (VANM) department. Fenton plays the electric ukulele. She is new to music and has been playing for 10 weeks now, since Nomads originally formed.

Katelynn Telford, from Fredonia, is the digital services librarian at Reed Library. Telford mostly drums for the band, but plays the keyboard as well. She has been making music for around 10 years now and got her bachelors and masters at Fredonia's School of Music.

Dr. Juan De Urda, originally from Spain, is a Spanish professor. He plays both guitar and bass guitar for Nomads. De Urda is new to making music and started playing when the band formed.

Dr. Andy Karafa, originally from Coopersville, Mich., is the Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Dr. Karafa plays bass, drums and also sings for the band. Karafa has been making music "since [he] played the recorder in third grade."

In a discussion with the band as a whole, they were eager to share their experience together so far as well as their future plans for Nomads.

When asked how they came up with the name the room was filled with giggles and laughter. "Did you see us just pack up everything in five minutes and move it?" They explain that they practice all over in different locations and sometimes they even get kicked out of a room if a class is coming in.

A nomad is defined as "a person with no settled home, moving from place to place as a way of obtaining necessities or otherwise making a living." Thus, the band thought it was a very fitting name.

Nomads said if they had to describe their sound in three words it would be "approximation, not perfection."

When asked if they would continue the band next semester Nomads answered with, "There has been some talk of practicing over the summer." Multiple members said they would be interested in continuing in the fall.

The band's message they are trying to spread is "anyone can make and play music." Fenton added that "[Nellett] and [Reese] have made this very accessible for those of us new to music."

If you would like to catch some good vibes and see Nomads perform live, they will be playing their upcoming show May 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the campus Tim Hortons lounge. "Our farewell love letter to Tim Hortons," they joked.

If you are interested in joining Nomads, reach out to Dr. Jill Reese at Jill.Reese@fredonia.edu.

HAIL! Fredonia Record's Lend-a-Paw for Autism Dog Walk



Photograph by Gabe Rogers.



Photograph by Karalyn Hope.



Photograph by Mckenzie Washington.



Photograph by Mckenzie Washington.



Photograph by Mckenzie Washington.



Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

♪ The winds are back: ♪

Importance of live performance for ensembles



Wind Ensemble performance in 2018. Photograph by Lori Demer, SUNY Fredonia.

AUSTIN YOUNG
Special to The Leader

As a musician who has been playing the bassoon for nine years, I've seen the importance of the wind band in American music education.

That importance remains the same here at the Fredonia School of Music. At Fredonia, there are several large wind band ensembles all led by the Director of Bands: Dr. Paula Holcomb.

When COVID-19 hit, the ensembles were put on pause, only being able to connect through computer screens. When things seemed like we were at an all-time low, Holcomb and many other faculty members didn't give up and made efforts to bring live performance back to the students in the music school.

When news was announced that they'd bring back large ensembles in the fall 2021 semester, there were a lot of mixed feelings going around. But the students weren't the only ones feeling antsy about things.

In an interview with Holcomb, she said, "I was excited, but with trepida-

tion" when referring to bringing ensembles back in fall of 2021. Even when there was uncertainty of what would happen, she knew that getting live music back out to the Fredonia community was extremely important.

Holcomb mentioned that there are two key things that make live music important — "music connects our hearts and souls," and "music builds community."

When looking back at how things were for that semester, I was just glad to be playing my bassoon with the wonderful talent here at Fredonia once again. And when the Wind Symphony played for the first time since Spring 2020 on Sept. 23, 2021, that community began to come back together.

Many were thrilled to get back to the lifestyle we had before the pandemic.

But even with all the excitement, there were still a number of students unsure about getting together and taking our masks off to play wind instruments.

Now that we are almost done with the spring 2022 semester and already heading back into what looks to be

normal life, Holcomb hopes the bands perform a "quality repertoire," even if it's uncomfortable.

Holcomb believes that as artists, students need to explore the new and old. As a musician who has fortunately been able to play in the band program for six semesters, I can only say the exposure to these different genres has only made me a better musician.

On April 30, the Fredonia Wind Ensemble will present a world premier for a bassoon concerto composed by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Augusta Read Thomas. This concerto represents the quality and challenges Holcomb hopes to give her students.

Holcomb said, "It's an honor to come in every single day to work with the school's faculty and students." Her enormous trust in the students' desires to grow makes her feel confident that the musicians can present high-class performances, and I can only agree with her.

It's exciting to see what the wind bands will bring to both our performers and listeners in the semesters to come.

“The Hunchback of Notre Dame” local performance review

NIKKI INDELICATO

Life & Arts Editor

“What makes a monster and what makes a man?”

One of the most notable lyrics that gets answered over the course of two and half hours can be found within the musical written by Peter Parnell with music and lyrics by Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz.

“The Hunchback of Notre Dame” is currently being put on at Main Street Studios in downtown Fredonia.

Directed by Ted Sharon, “The Hunchback of Notre Dame” follows the story of Quasimodo as he meets Esmerelda and they function in a society that looks down upon them for being themselves.

The cast is made up of over 30 people playing a variety of roles from gargoyles to the congregation and, of course, the leads.

This production is unique for Main Street Studios because instead of casting understudies, they cast covers for the roles of Quasimodo, Captain Phoebus and Esmerelda. Each of these actors shares their respective roles and exchanges shows with each other.

This show leaves the audience with nothing but amazement from the moment they walk into the found space where the set is located. Even with a minimalistic set, it is not hard for the audience to easily be transported back to 1400s Paris once the orchestra starts playing the first note of the opening number.

This is also one of the first productions that Main Street Studios has put on at this scale as well. Within the newly renovated building, the production allowed for a full orchestra of 16 people to sit and accompany the cast and crew to bring the show to life.

With the few noticeable location changes within the entire show, with the movement of a door or lighting change, it seamlessly wove the show together.

Along with the rustic set, the costumes were also very vibrant and helped showcase each of the characters that were within the ensemble.



Photograph by Connor Raposa.

On my particular night of viewing the show, leading the cast for the night was Emily Minch as Quasimodo, Delaney Gruber as Esmerelda and Michael Williams as Captain Phoebus. Each of these actors stood out and clearly made each character their own. With each of their portrayals, it was very easy as an audience member to understand the heartbreak and love that each character endures over the course of the show.

On the alternate nights of the performance, the roles of Quasimodo, Esmerelda and Captain Phoebus are played by Jong Sang Rheu, Alice Khekht and Brandin Smalls, respectively.

Throughout the rehearsal process, many of the cast members who were double-cast would also work together to help one another find the grounding for

their portrayals. They would follow the source material, taking notes from the original novel by Victor Hugo and the Disney movie that debuted in the 1990s.

One standout in the cast was Gavin Card who played the evil Claude Frollo. He perfectly captured the charm of the villain while also capturing the dark side who tries to hide Quasimodo from the world and rid Paris of Romanis.

This production is the perfect blend of honoring the source material to tell the story as it should be mixed in with a touch of Disney magic with memorable songs written by the legend Alan Menken that can be found in the movie.

As an audience member, you can see the dedication that each member of the cast poured into the show to make sure they could make this a memorable production for everyone who attends the show.

As an added bonus for attending their final paid preview before opening night on April 29, the cast, creative team, and director held a talkback with everyone in the audience to talk about the process and journey of bringing this massive production to life right in the heart of Fredonia.

The show will continue to run at Main Street Studios through May 7. No matter what cast you go to see, you will be in for a night full of laughs, tears and a new perspective on one of the most known stories that have been told for years.

Photo gallery: "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" by Connor Raposa





Director's notes: Soon-to-debut short film

THE CRYPTID CAST VS THE GOOPY GANKER



Full Cast: (left to right) Luke Varacek, Shawn Adiletta, Gemma Vodacek, Joseph Marciniak, Matt Neary.

JULES HOEPTING
Managing Editor

“Out for intrigue and out of their league” is the slogan of the soon-to-debut short film, “The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker.”

What’s the 45-minute film about? **“A host of a monster-themed college radio show that gets herself and her friends wrapped up in an investigation after the mysterious disappearance of two of their classmates,”** according to the short film’s crowdfunding campaign YouTube video.

The script was written in summer of 2021 by co-directors Jackson DiCarlo, a senior video production major, and Ben Anderson, a senior audio/radio production and video production double major.

The pair wrote the story for their COMM-464: Fiction II capstone project involving nine students. **The project has grown to encompass over 30 students involved in directing, producing, acting, sound design, makeup, costume design, score composition, publicity and more.**

DiCarlo and Anderson went into the script with realistic expectations. “A lot of student scripts and projects are extremely ambitious ... [they have] a lot of production value or a lot of unattainable stuff. So we said, ‘What can we do that would be possible within our grasp?’”

DiCarlo continued, “Well, we have access to a radio station. We have access to a junkyard. We have access to a college campus. And we went from there and from putting it all together we kind of got this image of a ‘Goosebumps’-esque campy TV show, sort of like a monster hunting ‘Scooby-Doo’ looking thing.” DiCarlo said.

The lead character of the short film, Kate Blair (played by Gemma Vodacek), is a radio show host of the Cryptid Cast. Similarly, DiCarlo is the Station Manager of Fredonia Radio Systems and has produced several radio shows.

"Kate is funny because I see her as a hyperbole of parts of myself. She's an extremely extroverted entertainer that's always looking for adventure with her friends," DiCarlo said. "I see the ever reliable Ron [played by Joseph Marciniak] as who I strive to be, but even he isn't perfect. And Alex [played by Shawn Adiletta] is largely based off of my best friend from home. He's the heart of the group but quite anxious," DiCarlo added.

When creating the characters, DiCarlo and Anderson put thought into what kind of classic roles and archetypes they wanted to fill.

"Something that we think needs more attention in film are stronger female leads who are not just sexualized or just reduced to the fact that they are women. Kate is funny, she's outgoing, she's outrageous and she wants to fight a monster," DiCarlo explained, adding, "And we wanted Ron to just be a reliable friend."

As for penning the short film title?

"The title was one of the last things we came up with," DiCarlo said. He explained he thought titles with "vs." in them were "fun."

"We have this group called the Cryptid Cast. What is this monster they fight? And then just through a joke, the words 'goopy ganker' came out of my mouth. And I said, 'Okay, what if this was honestly called 'The Cryptid Cast vs. the Goopy Ganker?'"

And Ben [Anderson] said 'no.' I [jokingly] said, 'Okay, I guess that's what we have to go with then.'"

Pre-production for the short film began December of 2021. On Jan. 16, 2022, DiCarlo started a GoFundMe page to raise money to spend on a goopy green monster costume, a big cave set, makeup, props and other production supplies. According to DiCarlo, most video capstone projects raise \$500 to \$600 for a budget if students are lucky or pay out of pocket. **As of May 1, 2022, "The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker Short Film" fundraiser has gathered nearly \$2,500 in donations.**

"I could not see us doing this film without the budget we had, and I'm incredibly thankful for it," DiCarlo said.

Come the beginning of spring 2022 semester, the short film crew wasted no time; their first group meeting was the second day of classes. A casting call was sent out on Jan. 17. Thirteen people responded within the first hour. Twenty-five auditioned.

DiCarlo describes the casting process as "hell only because it was full of talent." Though the selection process was difficult, DiCarlo describes the cast selected as "all star."

"[Vodacek's] performance as Kate is incredible. She's brought so much character and she's really made [Kate] shine as a sympathetic and irritating character — but that's by design. [Kate] really has a great art arc throughout the film," DiCarlo said.

A surprising choice of casting was Adiletta for the character Alex. "Originally, we were having Alex cast as a female, but we had [Adiletta] come in and he was so incredible that we had to have him."

Production lasted for two months with shooting locations including Arkwright Falls, Fredonia Radio Systems, TaQo/The Big Cheeseburger restaurant and more. There were around 12 to 14 shoots on "almost exclusively weekends" in order to accommodate the cast and crews' busy schedules.

For a shoot to happen, between two to five actors and six to 12 crew members' schedules needed to line up, according to DiCarlo. Furthermore, the weather needed to be favorable, the crew had to have approval to shoot at a location and the crew needed to have access to all of the equipment they planned on utilizing.



Left to right: Joseph Marciniak, Shawn Adiletta, Gemma Vodacek.

Along with the adventures of scheduling, interesting challenges and solutions have appeared in other departments.

Kai Guilds, senior double major in audio/radio production and video production who is the sound designer of the short film, said "Something we're struggling with is the goop right now." Goop by itself "does not make enough sound to have what we need." Thus Guilds is currently tasked with finding something to make the goop sound more goopy, similar to how the sound of rain can be created by dropping rice on a sheet of paper.

Continued on next page.



THE CRYPTID CAST VS THE GOOPY GANKER

"Out for Intrigue and Out of Their League"
SUPPORT US WITH A DONATION TO GET
YOUR NAME IN THE CREDITS!



Crew in the woods: (left to right) Ben Anderson, Jackson DiCarlo, Alec Wright.



Cave set building crew: (left to right) Kai Guilds, Alec Wright, Nicolas Dohre, Kaelyn Hadley, Skyla Cedeno, Ben Anderson. This was taken right after the crew put the finishing touches on the cave set.

Continued from previous page.

In order to make boulders and stalagmites, the crew needed to make a lot of paper mache. "We sent six people out to get every single issue of The Leader that was left on campus. And I think we used a few hundred of [the newspapers]," DiCarlo explained. He clarified he knew a new issue was scheduled to be released the next day and Guilds added they returned the extra copies of the paper to the respective newsstands. Some untouched copies of The Leader can be seen sprinkled in the cave set.

As can be seen in the "CCvGG March Production Update" YouTube video, the cast and crew of the short film have had a lot of fun working with people who are just as excited about the project as they are. Many of the members knew each other from previous projects and were able to bring in peers in ways that would utilize and showcase their talents "to the extreme," DiCarlo said.

For example, the surf-rock soundtrack is co-written by music composition major Michael Redmond, who worked on other short film projects "The Barber" and "Carpe Diem" with DiCarlo and Anderson. Music industry major Cameron Bunch is the other composer: DiCarlo met Bunch at Fredonia Radio Systems, and Bunch is involved in local bands Tsunami Tsurprise, The Burkarts and The Wired Band. Furthermore, Jay Gleason, a video production major with a theatre arts minor, utilized the connections from his minor to round up actors for the casting call, which is why the turnout was so high. Gleason is the co-director of photography and plays the Goopy Ganker in the short film.

Another common theme discussed in the video was students using the project to prove to themselves that they can do things they weren't sure they could do.

"I don't think there's been a moment where I said 'I can't do this,' and there hasn't been a person who said, 'Okay, let's sit down and work through it together,'" Guilds said.

"None of this could have been done just by one to nine people. I'm extremely grateful for everyone who has come to answer the call, and I'm just so excited for everyone to see it when it comes out," DiCarlo said.

"The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker" is currently in the post-production stage. When it is completed, it can be seen at the Spotlight Cinemas on Bennett Road, Dunkirk, N.Y. on May 20 and 21. The film's rating is PG-13 due to violence, brief alcohol use and language. The estimated length of the film is 45 minutes. For updates on showtimes and ticket information, follow @cryptidcastfilm on social media.

“The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker” Social Media

- GoFundMe Page: <https://gofund.me/00365123>
- Instagram: @cryptidcastfilm
- Facebook: @cryptidcastfilm
- TikTok: @cryptidcastfilm
- YouTube: The Cryptid Cast vs The Goopy Ganker Film

All photographs courtesy of Jackson DiCarlo.

Filming in TaQo/The Big Cheeseburger.

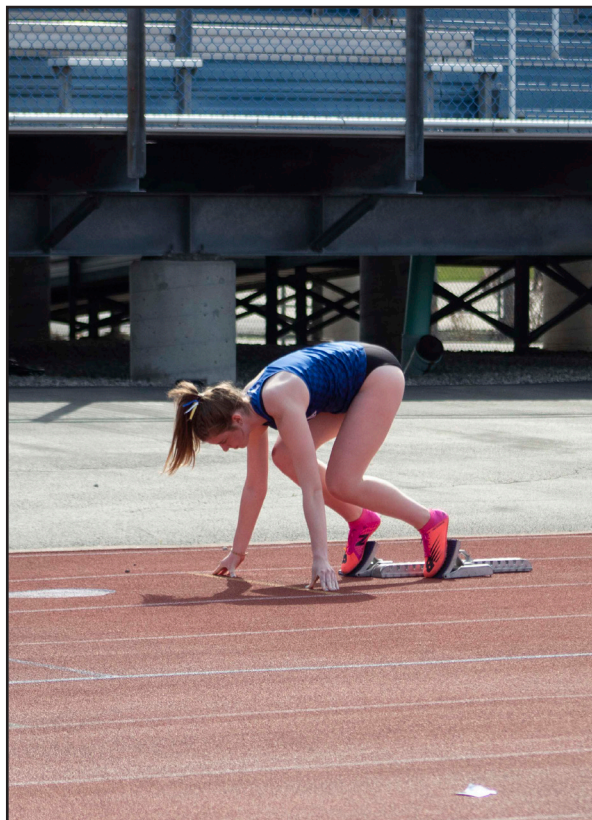
Left to right: Jackson DiCarlo, Shawn Adiletta, Gemma Vodacek, Alec Wright, Jay Gleason.



A goop covered trailer, an integral location in the short film.



Cave set.



Photographs by Mckenzie Washington.

SPORTS



Fredonia **track and field** sprinting toward SUNYAC meet

TYLER PACOS

Assistant Sports Editor

Both the men's and women's outdoor track and field teams finished their regular seasons this week at the University of Buffalo team invitational on April 23 and the University of Rochester alumni invitational on April 30.

At the University of Rochester meet, the women's top performers were Evelyn Smith, placing 14th in the 400 meter, Vanessa Ryhal placing 11th in the 800 meter, Ally Bataglia placing 13th in the 1500 meter, Alissa Dixon placing 15th in the 400 meter hurdles, and Eleanor Clark placing 22nd in the hammer throw and 6th in the javelin throw.

For the men's team, the top performers of the meet were Sam Cottrell placing 30th in the 400 meter, Vincent Mendez placing 37th in the 800 meter, Patrick Klinger placing 11th in the 1500 meter, Sembel Koshi placing 8th in the 5000 meter, Luc Williams placing 6th in the javelin throw and the 4x400 relay team finished in 6th.

With both teams competing in the SUNYAC for the first time since the start of the pandemic, the connections that were almost diminished during that time have slowly worked their way back.

Marisa Stravino, a junior thrower, felt at home with her team this season and talked about the connection the team has built over the duration of the indoor/outdoor season. "I've really enjoyed finally being able to practice with everyone on this team," Stravino explained. "We used to have to practice in small confined groups (due to COVID-19), but now everyone can be together which has helped a lot with our performance and mentality, including mine."

Both teams will travel to Brockport this weekend on Friday, May 6 for their final stint of the season for the SUNYAC Championships.

Athletes who qualify for their respective events in Brockport will then travel to Bethlehem, Pa. for the NCAA Div. III Championship meet which is scheduled for May 18 and 19.

Fredonia Sports Update

ANTHONY GETTINO

Sports Editor

Women's lacrosse finished their regular season with two losses to conference opponents.

On Wednesday, April 27 the team lost to Buffalo State 5-6 in double overtime.

- Erin Woods scored two goals
- Molly McGowan, Julie Culver and Alexa Ventura each scored one goal
- Emily Carr had 15 saves

On Saturday, April 30 the blue devils finished their regular season losing 9-16 to Potsdam

- Erin Woods scored four goals
- Julie Culver scored two goals
- Tessa Brady, Emma Cockerel and Sarah Guariglia each scored one goal

Fredonia finishes their season with a 1-15 overall record and a 0-9 conference record

Women's softball finished the final week of their regular season with a 3-3 record.

In their double header against the University of Rochester on Tuesday, April 26 the team dropped both games.

In the first game the score was 0-7

- Alyssa Santiago and Nicole Kumro each went one for three at the plate
- Vanessa Galbraith pitched six innings and allowed four earned runs on seven hits

In the second game of the double header Fredonia lost 2-11

- Alexis Wulf went one for three at the plate with one run batted in and one run scored
- Megan Guidry went one for three at the plate with one run scored

In their double header against conference opponent Plattsburgh Friday, April 29 the team split the two games.

In the first game of the double header the blue devils won 9-2

- Nicole Kumro went two for four at the plate with four runs batted in and one run scored
- Emily Chelius pitched seven innings and allowed two runs on five hits

In the second game of the double header the team lost 4-13

- Emily Chelius went two for three at the plate with three runs batted in
- Nicole Kumro went two for three at the plate with one run scored and one run batted in

On Saturday, April 30 Fredonia won both games of their double header against conference opponent Potsdam

In the first game of the double header the team won 11-0

- Nicole Kumro went three for three at the plate with three runs batted in and two runs scored
- Emily Chelius pitched five innings and allowed no runs on two hits

In the second game of the double header Fredonia won 11-3

- Amber Piniewski went two for three at the plate with three runs batted in
- Emily Chelius went three for three at the plate with two runs scored and two runs batted in



Photograph by Derek Raymond.

The blue devils finish the regular season with a 14–24 record overall and a 9–9 conference record. Fredonia will travel to Geneseo to face off against Cortland in the SUNYAC Playoffs as the fifth seed.

Men's baseball lost both of their games against Allegheny Tuesday, April 26

In the first game the blue devils lost 3–10

- Luke Kenyon went two for three at the plate with one run scored
- Chris Brown pitched four innings and allowed one run off of three hits

In the second game of the double header Fredonia lost 4–8

- Tyler Phillips went two for three at the plate with one run scored
- Luke Kenyon went two for two at the plate with one run scored

The team's games against Pitt-Bradford were canceled on Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1.

Fredonia will host Hilbert on Tuesday, May 3 and Medaille on Wednesday, May 4 before closing out their regular season with three games against conference opponent Oswego at home.

Men's track and field traveled to the University of Rochester Alumni Invitational Saturday, April 30 to finish their regular season.

- Patrick Klinger finished 11th in the 1500m run (4:07.16)
- Toby Onuoha finished fifth in the 400m dash (51.24)
- Josh Walters finished sixth in the 800m run (1:56.37)
- Sembel Koshi finished eighth in the 5000m run (15:41.70)
- Luc Williams finished sixth in the javelin throw (41.34m)

The team will travel to Brockport Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7 for the SUNYAC Championships.

Women's track and field traveled to the University of Rochester Alumni Invitational Saturday, April 30 to finish their regular season.

- Ally Battaglia finished 13th in the 1500m run (5:02.78)
- Evelyn Smith finished 14th in the 400m dash (1:04.50)
- Vanessa Ryhal finished 11th in the 800m run (2:28.53)
- Haley Lerner finished eighth in the pole vault (3.21m)
- Eleanor Clarke finished sixth in the javelin throw (30.85m)

The team will travel to Brockport Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7 for the SUNYAC Championships.

NHL playoff preview



TYLER PACOS
Assistant Sports Editor

The NHL regular season has come to an end, but 16 teams still have lots of work to do. The last games of the season were played on Friday, April 29, but for some teams, their season came right down to the wire for game 82 on the year.

This year's Stanley Cup playoffs will feature 8 teams from both the eastern and western conferences and will bring lots of rivalry action between the contenders.

In the eastern conference the top seeded in the Metropolitan division Carolina Hurricanes will face-off against the Boston Bruins. Following them is the New York Rangers hosting the Pittsburgh Penguins.

In the Atlantic division, the president's trophy winner Florida Panthers will host the Washington Capitals, and following them is the Toronto Maple Leafs hosting the two-time back-to-back Stanley Cup champion, Tampa Bay Lightning.

For the western conference, their top seeded in the central division as well as the entire western conference, the Colorado Avalanche, will host the Nashville Predators. The second central division matchup will start in Minnesota as the Wild will host the St. Louis Blues.

Moving onto the Pacific division, the Calgary Flames will host the Dallas Stars, who just squeezed past the hurting Las Vegas team for the last wildcard, as well as the Edmonton Oilers hosting the Los Angeles Kings.

The playoffs officially start Monday, May 2, with four matchups that evening. The remaining games will start the night after on Tuesday, May 3. It's going to be an action packed few weeks here for the 16 teams that have made it into the playoffs, but who will bring home lord Stanley?

ESPN, who signed a seven-year deal with the NHL at the beginning of the 2021–22 season, will have complete NHL playoff coverage, so be sure to tune in and stay up to date for each game.

OPINION

YOUR ROCK 'N' ROLL IS DEAD

Past, present and future of the Fredonia music scene

RYAN TERRY

Special to The Leader

This may be a sappy article, sentimental even, but a whirlwind of emotion was felt by myself and many others upon hearing of the closing of the North Pole Strip Club (NPSC) house music venue that I couldn't shake off, a thundercloud hanging over our collective heads.

I don't think many who were "in the know" were necessarily surprised by the announcement, but it is one that hit like a truck nonetheless. This music scene has in many ways felt like a home to me when I first got here, a hill to climb, a path to follow.

Looking back at old photos, old setlists, old faces, old Instagram profiles, I kept wondering to myself how we got here and what's next? Will there be more people coming into this school that will feel the way I and so many others have when we walked onto this campus?

In July of 2019, I came to Fredonia wide-eyed, ready to be a film major, looking about the same as I do today with ambiguous expectations of the next four years. I met my eventual band mates at Jump Start and we got to talking about making music.

The semester started, and I began talking to more people about making music. Then there was a Battle of the Bands which we scrambled to get something together for, naming ourselves Beach Tower. Then there were house shows, clubs, bars, DJ's, a radio station, a community. A scene.

But, I didn't know of any of this going in. I came here essentially because of a small scholarship, but I then found myself preparing to switch to music composition after six short months of being here.

I felt nurtured and accepted, like there were people rooting for us and willing to help us prove ourselves, knowing we'd do the same for them when the time came.



Keep Flying performing at BJ's Bar. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

There were bands and people I admired and thought "I want to do what they're doing." It was alive, vibrant and all-encompassing.

And then COVID happened.

In some ways it's amazing that the scene survived at all following quarantine. Many of Beach Tower's contemporaneous bands were just getting started and would either dissolve entirely or reshape by the time shows started again. Live music was dead for a year, with the best shot of getting your music heard being online releases and livestream performances.

When the scene came back, it came back in full force, with packed house shows and plenty of teens ready to go deaf, but that was just the band-aid to the wound of a whole year being taken away.

I don't think it's the end — as long as there are people who want to make live music and people who want to listen to live music, there will always be a scene in Fredonia. But perhaps it's the end of an "era." More and more bands are choosing to record from home over going into the sound recording technology (SRT) studios. Less and less smaller Fredonia-based bands seem to be getting billed for venues like NPSC and BJ's (with the biggest exception being Jake King & the Wired Band, who I should thank for providing the name of the article).



The Burkarts performing at NPSC. Photograph by Karalyn Hope.

The focal point of the scene is moving away from the music industry department and becoming more decentralized, at least as far as majors and clubs are concerned. The student body's involvement in clubs has also greatly decreased, with the number of active members in clubs such as Music Industry Club (MIC) and Sound Services dramatically lowered compared to pre-COVID numbers.

Let's not dismiss the school's involvement either. Rhythm N' Brews' attendance has gone down, in part because of COVID but also because Tim Hortons isn't open on the weekends anymore.

The event can still be held on the Tim Hortons' stage, but audience members no longer can purchase coffee — "brews" — and treats while listening to the musicians' "rhythms."

In years past, bands would also set up in the amphitheater in the Reed Library and Maytum Hall plaza for whoever passes by. Now, the plaza's gated off and under construction. The lowering attendance and closing of amenities has certainly not helped either. The school's involvement in the scene has always been tenuous at best aside from being an excuse for a lot of creative people to be around each other, but these developments have actively hindered the growth of the school, and by extension the scene and the clubs and groups that prop it up.

Also, not to ignore the obvious, the artists that make up the scene are overwhelmingly male and mostly white. These problems extend beyond the area into the music industry at large, but that does not absolve us of our own part in that and is something that must change as a new scene forms.

But let's not only be negative. Local Lo-Down, a radio show on fredoniaradio.com, is back in full swing with fantastic interview and live performance content, and new bands like Edelwood Creek, Wired, Dylan Murawski and Hal & Pals are getting their due through club and house show appearances thanks in part to MIC. Furthermore, rumor has it that the Creek House, a former house music venue, might be making a surprise return.

So many incredibly talented people walk the sidewalks of this brutally designed campus, attempting to build something larger than themselves. But whatever the scene that comes next looks like, it needs to be our own. We must learn from the successes and not repeat the

failings of those that came before us, and the same will be said for the ones that will hopefully come after.

To make a more diverse and stable future for our music halls means embodying that now, when the future is uncertain but inevitable. Prop up smaller bands, go to their shows and support when you can, and tune into club content centering the talent being fostered in this town. To rob any student coming here of the feeling and support my class felt in this music scene would be a future unfitting of ourselves and those who came before us.

Editorial:

Why did Fredonia police not consider Black male a victim?



Photograph by Derek Raymond.

THE LEADER STAFF

On page 4, The Leader published a story about a SUNY Fredonia student who was allegedly assaulted, according to a lawsuit that was filed, and then was arrested by police for disorderly conduct. The writer interviewed and obtained information to write this story from the mother of that student in exchange for anonymity.

In the sidebar accompanying the article, the author called into question whether the police were justified in the arrest.

It is our position at The Leader that they were not, in any way, justified to arrest the student from the evidence we have reviewed.

Not only was the arrest unjustified, but the police are arguably the instigators here.

There was no logical reason to hold the alleged victim for questioning unless he was considered a suspect.

So, assuming that he was considered a suspect when he encountered the police, why would he be?

The alleged victim did not match the description of a Black male in a blue hoodie except for one very crucial detail — he was a Black male.

The logic of holding the alleged victim on Canadaway after he pleaded to go home and insisted he would like a lawyer is critically flawed. The logic of arresting the alleged victim for disorderly conduct is also critically flawed, but in a different way.

If, for even a moment, the officers considered the student to be a victim, they might have been able to gather critical information from the victim's perspective. The demeanor of the police officers could have changed and created a safer environment for the alleged victim.

Instead, they were more focused on forcing the alleged victim to cooperate as a suspect.

Some may wonder if the alleged victim could have done anything differently to avoid the arrest.

According to the New York Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU division of New York, when you are stopped by police you “Do not make any statements regarding the incident” and, “If you are arrested, ask for a lawyer immediately.”

Given that the alleged victim did both of these things, we conclude that the victim did what he could to manage the situation given his circumstances.

Let us not forget that the student in question said he was just the victim of what he described as a group assault, likely shook up and all he wanted was to go home.

Still with blood in his mouth, as evidenced by a testimonial from the mother and by reviewing the body camera footage, the alleged victim was likely shaken and not in the best condition to talk to police.

Yet Fredonia police officer Dylan Robinson still decided to stop the son and hold him at Canadaway Street until the situation escalated to the point of arrest.

The issues of wrongful arrests against Black people have been a wide scale issue for years in America.

The Los Angeles riots, which occurred on April 29, 1992, and lasted for six days, occurred after the public reaction and outrage to the acquittal of the police officers responsible for the unjust arrest and beating of Rodney King. The 30-year anniversary of the riots has led many to wonder how far we have come since this historical event.

It is evident that after three decades, we are still facing many of the same race issues with our law enforcement throughout the U.S., even in our small town of Fredonia.

The Department Of Theatre and Dance presents a Walter Gloor Mainstage event:

FREDONIA DANCE ENSEMBLE

ONE WEEKEND ONLY!

Friday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

ROBERT W. MARVEL THEATRE, ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER



The Fredonia Dance Ensemble returns live and in-person for its annual concert performance. Featuring choreography by faculty and guest artists, the Fredonia Dance Ensemble offers an unforgettable evening of dance in a range of styles.

Campus Ticket Office : (716) 673-3501 or fredonia.edu/tickets

 **FREDONIA**

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Photo by Zachary Frazee

Graduates' Goodbyes

From the desk of Jules Hoepting, Managing and Design Editor

The first sentence of my last article for The Leader. And now it's the second sentence. After editing over 200 articles, designing 23 issues and 702 pages, and having written 30 — now 31 — articles, the slippery sun sinks into the horizon and dawn will come upon another e-board. Some new members, some old. Rearranging, changing, but kinda staying the same, the way people do.

So, now what? Well, to quote 18-year-old me applying for SUNY Fredonia, thinking about my future washes up “numerous uncertainties that are as unsettling as rapids in a river. I am certain, however, that I like to write, and like an oar to a boat, I am certain that the power of words will aid me throughout life's cataracts.”

Indeed, I still don't know what my greater purpose is, but I know I adore playing with words.

I really love metaphors — especially water metaphors. I still love 18-year-old me, but that version of me has been eroded into a new shape. Same rock, but different layers exposed, the youngest in particles down the river. And at some point I'll be all particles, settling into the rockbed, waiting to start all over again. Transfer of Jules, of joules, of energy, forevermore.

I could tell 18-year-old me things about 22-year-old me that would flabbergast 18-year-old me.

You know how you used to pretend you were a radio jock, pausing CDs in-between songs and providing commentary? You had your own show on WCVF. FM 88.9 for six semesters. You made promos. You provided the weather report — which you made very entertaining — for eight semesters.

You know how you like mountains? You ended up living in the Canadian Rockies for a whole summer and it was filled with the highest peaks of your life. And not just literally.

You know how historical events happen? There's this thing called COVID-19 that took over half of your college experience and forever changed the world.

You know that canal by the name of Erie you liked to hang out near as a kid? You decided to walk all 300 miles of it — technically twice — during the pandemic and now you have a niche interest in water ditches most can't understand.

You know that student-run newspaper by the name of The Leader you picked up during lunch at Cranston and thought it would be cool to design it? You ended up becoming not only the Design Editor, but also the Managing Editor. And you ended up writing some articles that were of significant value to the community. You felt more appreciated at that paper than anywhere else on campus. You learned more from that paper than in any class on campus.

Speaking of classes... you know how you like... like everything in the communication field? You took 27 classes worth of it. A bunch of them for fun.

You know how you and your momma are best friends? You keep finding more and more ways you took after her. It's more intricate than looks and voice.

You know those crazy-talented students that receive high honor awards given out to a few students across campus every year? Floating on some orbit you could never be in?



Photograph of and taken by Jules Hoepting.



Photographs of Point Gratiot by Jules Hoepfing.



Turns out, some of your professors thought you were in that league — composed of more stardust and starpower than you think of yourself — and that you'd end up receiving a SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. I'm still flabbergasted by that one.

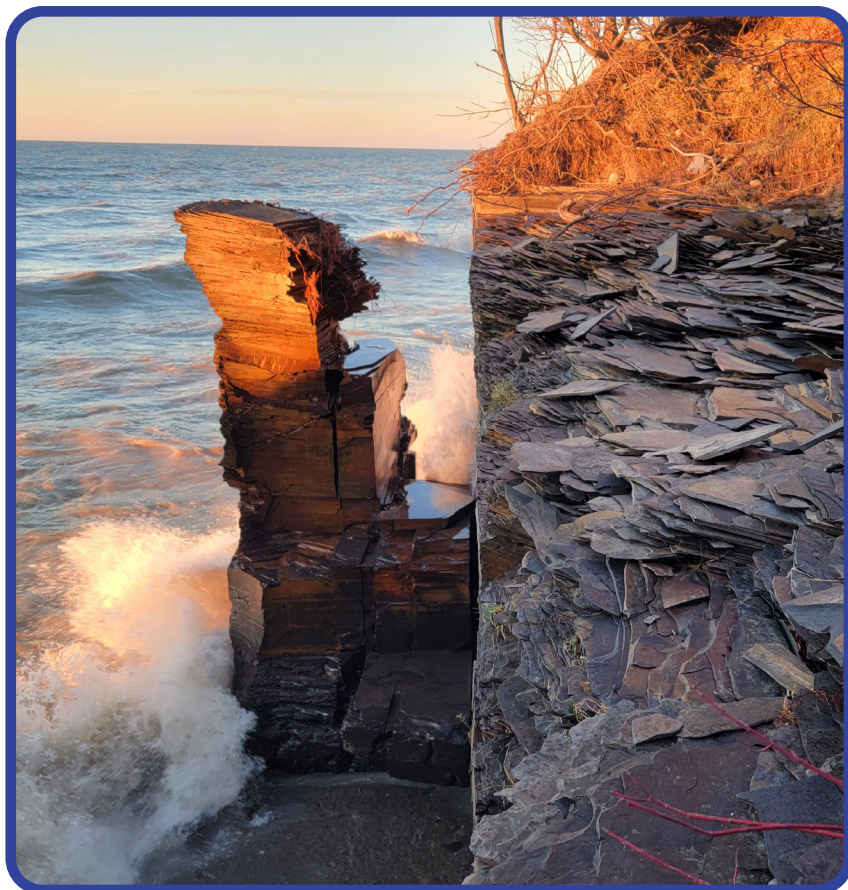
But there are things that would disappoint 18-year-old me. You still struggle to make close friendships, but have a lot of acquaintances. You're still kinda terrified of relationships. You still have a procrastination habit. You still struggle with food. You still are bad at doing things unless other people depend on you doing those things. You still work weekends and sometimes — just sometimes — like that it's an excuse not to feel lonely when other people go out and have fun.

But overall you're doing really good. In fact, you're just at the point where you're very comfortable at this school and are known and respected by a lot of people. Where you can walk around and exchange smiles and waves and feel a sense of belonging — that vitamin you go through phases of being deficient in. And now you have to leave this tiny ecosystem where you've found your niche and you've got to go and start another era in your life.

You knew this would happen. You hoped this would happen. The unfortunate, natural, brutal, beautiful thing is now it's happening.

As for advice? I can't give you any you haven't already heard. Things like "get involved" and "make the most out of your experience" are true. Work hard and be positive. Call it cliché, title it tried and true. Perspective changes everything. Your perspective is your reality.

Choose wisely. Trust your old soul.



From the desk of Nikki Indelicato, Life & Arts Editor

Wow...four years really do fly by.

It's crazy to think that in just a few short weeks I will be walking across the stage to finally get that diploma that came with many laughs, tears and memories that will stick with me for the rest of my life.

To say my college experience was "normal" would be a complete understatement.

Truth be told, I was only able to have one "normal" year of college as a freshman before our world got turned upside down in the latter half of my sophomore year in 2020.

I started out as a freshman who was constantly surrounded by theatre for most of my life and was craving to find an outlet on campus where I would be able to perform with a bunch of students who had a similar passion for music as me.

I auditioned for Noteworthy Show Choir and found a family who would stick by my side for the next four years. I met some of my best friends in the group and made some of the best memories getting to know, perform and grow with every single one of them.

Many members of Noteworthy came and went, as students moved on to other groups, held new priorities and graduated.

COVID-19 took a toll on the group during my entire junior year because we had to stick to strictly online shows, and it didn't allow the group to come together to work on creating music and dances as a team.

I have a feeling that the pandemic and other factors ultimately led to the group down in size.

Luckily, we were able to gain a fair amount of new members in the group last semester, and we worked really hard to try and have everything be in person again. But, some factors played against us that led us to have to perform online.

By the start of this semester, I was the only remaining member of the group from the time that I first joined the



Nikki Indelicato. Photograph by Shelby Pietron.

club. While working with my respective e-board members, we were able to get the group's numbers up once again and successfully performed our first Showcase to an in-person audience since COVID-19 first hit. It was one of those moments that I will always look back on and think, "Wow, we actually did that!"

The new members that have joined Noteworthy over the past school year will always hold a special place in my heart because without them, this group would not exist. I have been able to grow close with many of the new members, and I have found close friendships that I know I will have for life.

One of the other clubs on campus that really helped me find my voice was The Leader. When I first started learning about the world of journalism, I was very daunted at the idea of interviewing and writing stories on a deadline.

I learned that it was one of those cases where once you do it, it's actually not as scary as one might think.

It still took me a little while to finally grow the courage to submit my stories to The Leader, but once I finally did gain the courage (and with the faculty advisor, Elmer Ploetz, constantly pushing me), I submitted my first story in Spring 2020.

From that point on, I worked hard to try and find stories that I had an interest in, and I wrote even more stories for The Leader. I started to find my passion in storytelling and loved getting to see my work published both online and in print for many people to read.

At the time I became a staff writer, Alyssa Bump, the current Editor in Chief, was the Life & Arts Editor, and she would always be just a text away if I needed help or had any questions.

Photographs of Noteworthy showcase below by Emmett Gallinger.

By mid Fall 2021, I moved up to Assistant Life & Arts Editor and learned the ropes of what is needed to be successful as an editor. This position also allowed me to learn how to start reading over the writers' papers and edit them. It was a lot of fun because I felt like this was giving me the opportunity to use many skills that I had been learning over the years in all my classes.

This semester, I finally moved up to Life & Arts Editor and have enjoyed every moment of being able to help those who

may not have written stories before. It has also allowed me to keep practicing my skills of both writing and editing.

I found confidence in my writing by contributing stories that were in my wheelhouse of focusing on entertainment reviews and such, but I also tried my hand at writing stories that were a little more outside my comfort zone.

In February, I was able to cover a Black History Month story and at the beginning of March, I wrote my first news article on the newly lifted mask mandate.

Both of these stories were learning experiences, but I look back on the work that I put into them and was really proud of how both of these stories came out.

The Leader also allowed me to showcase my passion for photography along with writing stories. At the end of February, Fredonia's Performing Arts Company (PAC) put on a show titled "The Dolls of New Albion," and I was lucky enough to be able to take pictures to be covered in the upcoming print issue.

When that issue was printed, my photos were chosen to be on the front and back cover as well as having a photo gallery in the middle. I was so proud of how that issue came out and felt so honored that I was able to have that opportunity to share my love of photography for this club as well.

It's crazy to think that this is one of the last stories that I will be writing for a paper that helped me grow as both a person and a journalist. I truly have found my passion for journalism and telling stories with the help of The Leader and everyone who was involved.

I want to give a big thanks to journalism professor and The Leader's adviser, Elmer Plotez, for pushing me and constantly nagging me to write for The Leader. He has been a shoulder for me to lean on and is always willing to help whenever I would need it.

I can safely say that I don't think his voice will be leaving my head anytime soon. Any time that there is something I don't know if I really wanna do ... his voice will constantly tell me, "Just do it. Write for The Leader."

I'm looking forward to what lies next for my writing career and where this journey will take me. If it wasn't for everyone I have met during my time here in Fredonia, I don't think I would be where I am today.

Thank you Fredonia for all the laughs, tears, friends and memories that I will have with me throughout the rest of my life. It's been one wild ride!



From the desk of **Lydia Turcios, Art Director**



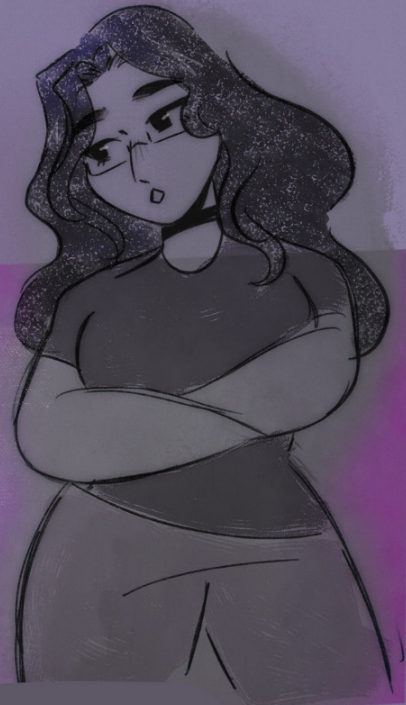
Bueno, and more appropriately,
Adios!

I started my time as the Art Director from zero. Through some circumstances, there wasn't a Graphics department to be had. Of course, I knew that going in, and I don't regret the process. In fact, I really enjoyed all the work that went into scrabbling together a recognizable staff.

Which brings me to my next point. I really don't like academia. Grades are like, my nemesis.

So why did I enjoy working on this so much? Its more work than play.

So I came up with this comparison. Have you ever been just about to do the dishes..and then someone tells you to do them, and you don't want to do it anymore?



It's like the choice was taken away from you, when they do that.

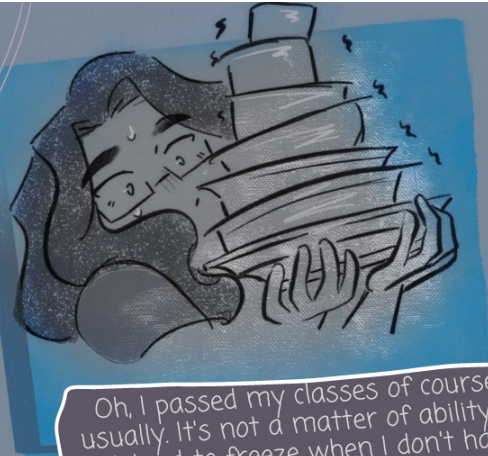
I think school is basically a bunch of dishes someone else is telling you to do, and they can't be reasoned with.

You can't hit up your teacher like hey, I'm really burnt out. Can someone else take up my slack this week?

I could do that at The Leader though, and not feel like I was doing something bad.

It made it so much easier to do the work. It's a lot like procrastinating dishes by cleaning your room.





Oh, I passed my classes of course usually. It's not a matter of ability. I just tend to freeze when I don't have side projects to focus on.

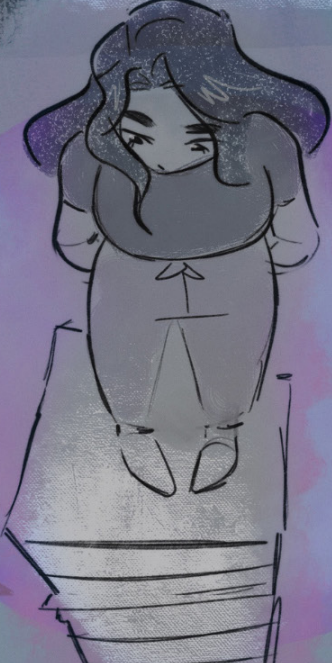


Sometimes that means screwing the dishes because I'd rather vacuum..



Maybe encourage people to try some of the clubs on campus that seem a little more high effort too. Scrambling to get a paper out as a bunch of faux-adults is a real bonding experience.

My point here is pretty open ended..I wanted to ruminate over my time as the Art Director, mostly.



The Leader was my way of reclaiming having choices with my time. It was a creative outlet where I could physically see my progress, and felt like I was making headway in developing my skills. Most classes just didn't provide that sort of satisfaction. It felt more like digging a tunnel with a spoon.
Or, well. Washing endless dishes.

THE SCALLION

Satire for Fredonia



Hillary Clinton inspires wave of theatrical inspiration

BRIAN CECALA

Staff Scallywag

Fans of the iconic feminist and political leader Hillary Rodham Clinton may be surprised that she can add a new title... Theater super-star! After conceding the 2016 election, there were rumors floating around that she had been taking acting classes in her free time. Well, not only are the rumors true, but apparently, the classes have been paying off. The Arkansas Repertory Theater announced the other day that she had been cast as The Giant in their performance of "Into The Woods!" First off, #ImStillWithHer, but more importantly, this is a big step for encouraging similar performances from her former colleagues.

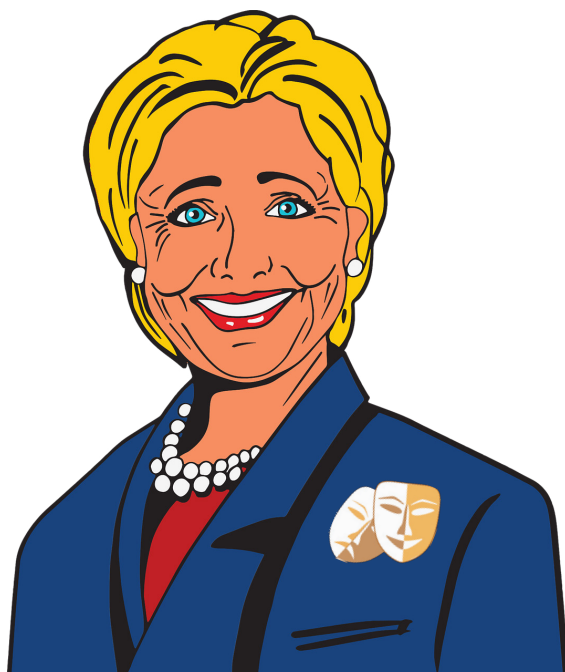
"It really sounds like something out of a satirical article but Hillary Clinton really was cast in an Arkansas Regional production of 'Into The Woods.' You just can't make this s#*% up."

- Bratt Caum, Local Fredonia Student

This news sent the industry into a tizzy with a new interest of other has-been politicians looking to find a second life on the stage. This reverse Arnold Swatzenagger behavior has put some big names in small towns performing in leading roles, some as supporting actors, and unfortunately, some of them were only good enough for the ensemble. Here is a list of some of the theaters worth looking out for...

- California Shakespeare Company in LA cast Bill Clinton as Angelo in "Measure for Measure."
- The Adirondack Theater Festival will have a production of "Urinetown" featuring Bernie Sanders as Joseph "Old Man" Strong.
- Uptown Community Theater in Pennsylvania is producing a production of "Angels in America" with Nancy Pelosi as The American Angel.
- Mike Pence will be working as an assistant stage manager for The Smith Center Theater on their production of Sondheim's classic musical, "Assassins."
- Saratoga Community Theater will be hosting a production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with Barack Obama as a "Featured Ensemble Member."
- Schoenfeld Theater on Broadway cast George W. Bush as their leading man for "Come From Away."

Unfortunately, reviews for the shows have been mixed to extremely bad depending on the production (except for several Saratoga papers who have claimed Obama is a spirited and energized addition to the ensemble and has a beautiful solo in "Go, Go, Joseph"). Who is to say if this is the end of the trend or if we are to continue to see politicians ditching congress hall for concert halls? For now, theaters are seeing a boom in audiences lining up to see just how taunted to spot these American icons are.



Illustrations from Pixabay.

Fenton Hall

from a music major's perspective



Lounge in Fenton Hall. Photograph by Jules Hoeping.

MEGAN KIDBY

Guest Scallywag

The following is a parody of the article “Mason Hall from an outsider’s perspective,” previously published March 30, 2022 in The Leader, Issue 10.

As I approached the book building with the bricks I only had one thing on my mind: how was I going to survive in a building with no music? I approached the building named after Rueben E. Fenton and immediately was overwhelmed with the sound of ... nothing. There were no people talking or instrument sounds. There was just the humming of the boiler room (which was a D) and the sound of my feet hitting the tile. I was bored as soon as I walked in.

I sat down in the lounge and immediately took in my surroundings. First, I was sad to see there was no café where you could get boba tea. There was only a vending machine that hummed a C note and a water fountain which hummed a B. I also took notice of the people walking by. They didn’t have instruments in their hands at all. Instead they had what I think are called books?? I don't know. I have no knowledge

of any letter past G. It was crazy! I was waiting for someone to play “Careless Whisper” on a saxophone or something.

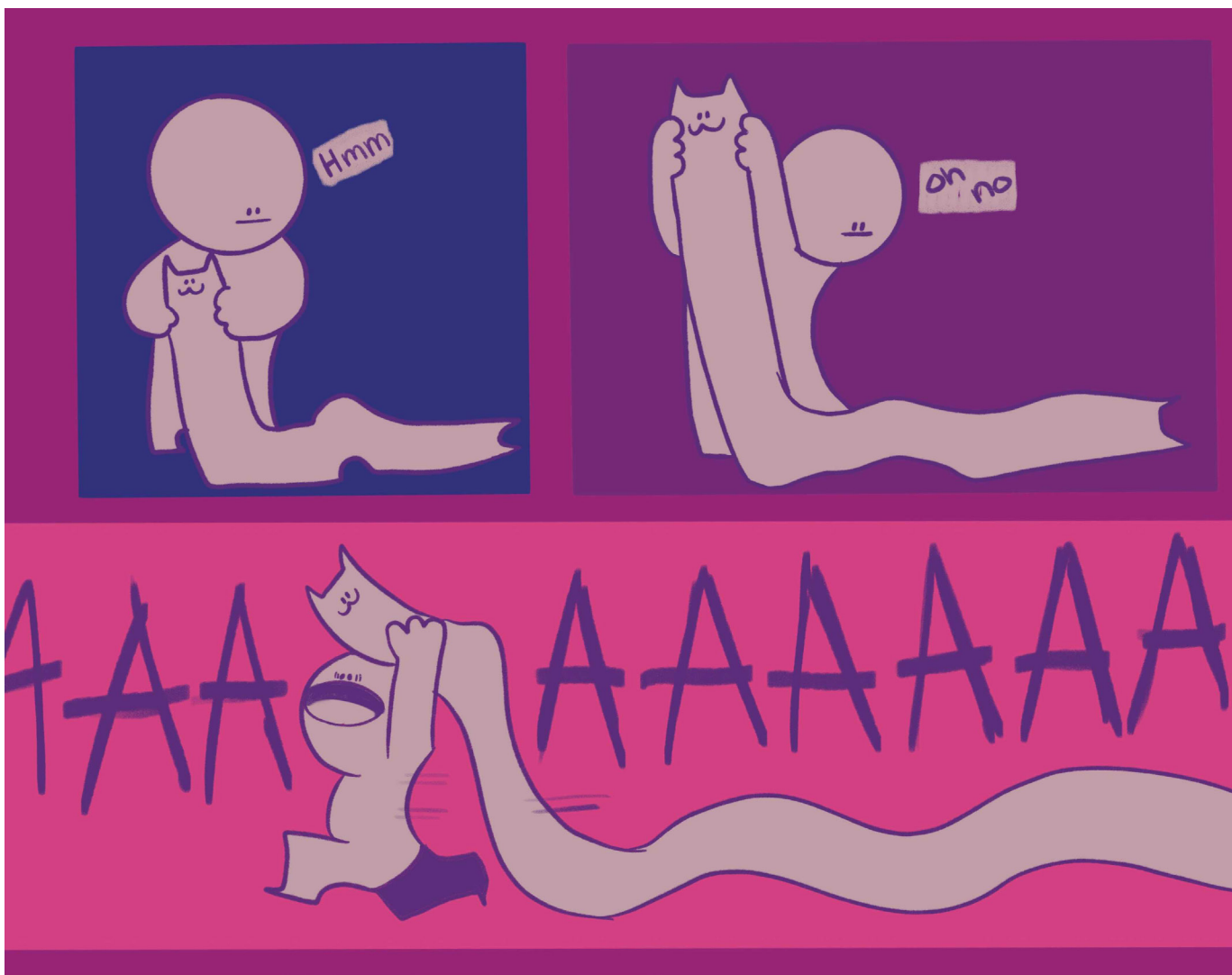
Class let out and immediately there was a swarm of English majors flooding the lounge. As I listened to their conversations I found out they talked about some of the same stuff we do. One conversation I found interesting was a group was debating what they would do if they were Will Smith. I pondered that myself, but that is another article for another day. There were also two people talking about this guy named Gatsby and what his dreams meant or something. I have no clue what they were talking about, but he sounded great.

Suddenly, a light at the end of the tunnel: A person walks by with music playing in their headphones. This was it. I was finally in my element. Sadly, she was gone and the hall went quiet. I packed up my things and got ready to leave when another English major spotted me. I recognized her as one of my friends and I went over to say hi. Immediately, she hit me with her copy of “Jane Eyre” by Jane Austen. The Fenton Hall bubble closed at that exact moment, and I knew it would never open again.

COMICS

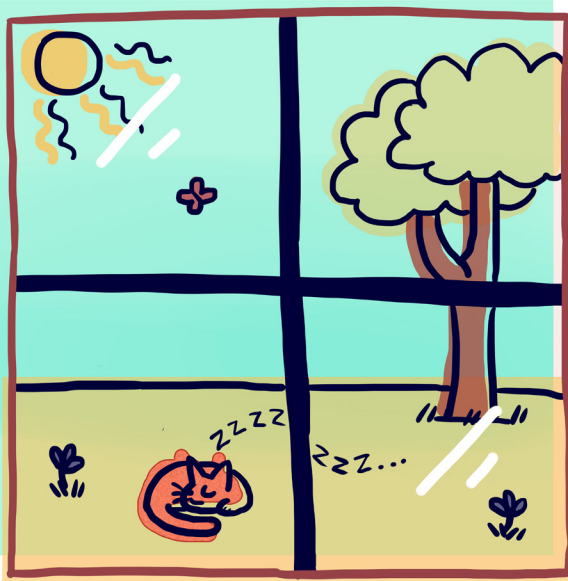
A Cat Named Finals

By Ash Maloney



I'd rather be...

By Patch Parsons



FREDGROWS PRESENTS THE ANNUAL

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GALA

19TH MAY

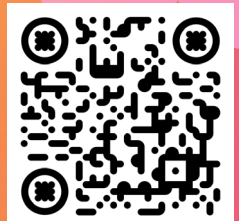
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HOROSCOPES

JAY BYRON - Staff Scallywag

SIGNS AS ALL THE RANDOM STUFF HAPPENING IN THE NEWS RIGHT NOW!



Aries

Casual wildfires happening.



Taurus

Going back and forth between freezing weather and almost 80 degrees.



Gemini

Lorde shushing the audience because she wants to have the solo.



Cancer

The Met Gala...
WITHOUT Zendaya.



Leo

Johnny Depp stans calling him a sweet baby.



Virgo

The big wave of COVID-19 happening.



Libra

"COVID-19 isn't that bad!
It's getting better!"



Scorpio

Elon Musk buying Twitter.



Sagittarius

Analyst of the lore between the Amber Heard vs Johnny Depp case.



Capricorn

Elon Musk stans trying to defend him for anything he buys because "he earned it!"



Aquarius

Creating essays to combat all the horrible health related bans happening right now.



Pisces

Harry Styles posting a barely readable track list because it's white on yellow.

