

THE

LEADER

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2022 Homecoming Pep Rally

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In Marvel Theatre**

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THE LEADER

S206 Williams Center, Fredonia, NY 14063

www.fredonialeader.org

Email: leader@fredonia.edu

Twitter: @LeaderFredonia

Instagram: @leaderfredonia

Facebook: The Leader - SUNY Fredonia

Editor in Chief

Alyssa Bump

Managing Editor

Chloe Kowalyk

News Editor

Will Karr (Open)

Asst. News Editor

Open

Life & Arts Editor

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Front cover: Orchesis Dance Company takes the floor at SUNY Fredonia's Homecoming Pep Rally on Oct. 15

Back cover: Fredonia Cheer Team lifts cheerleader into mount to excite crowd during Homecoming Pep Rally. Photographs by Casey Kocher.



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"Optimism softens us, instills in us the qualities of positivity and hopefulness, and encourages us to attain our aspirations despite imminent failure." -WK

Houghton Hall reopens after years of construction



President Stephen H. Kolison cuts Houghton Hall grand-opening ribbon with campus and community leaders. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

CHLOE KOWALYK
Managing Editor

Construction has become a common sight on SUNY Fredonia's campus. However, Houghton Hall, an academic building on campus, is complete.

Located between the Science Center and Fenton Hall, Houghton Hall houses the computer and information sciences, geosciences and physics departments.

According to Markus Kessler, the director of facilities planning, Houghton Hall is the result of a 21-year-long process. The college initially had the idea for the building in 2001, and the renovations were completed in 2022.

Kessler also noted that the Houghton Hall project was four phases. In phase one, the building was skinned, the interior was demolished and new masonry and windows were added.

With the demolition, the space where Houghton Hall was looked empty. "The joke was it was a parking garage," Kessler said.

In phase two, the building was refitted for the three departments above that would move into the building.

Phase three focused mainly on the basement, which now houses an animal colony for labs. In phase four, the project focused on creating an appropriate space for the mathematics department, including a new fishbowl.

However, Kessler noted that phase four of the project almost didn't happen.

"We were just going to have a shelf space on the second floor, but Facilities Planning really pushed to finish the building," he said. "So by doing that, we were also providing a space for mathematics."

Despite the time taken to complete the project and the numerous phases it went through, Kessler said, "the overall schedule of the project, believe it or not, was on schedule."

He further explained that the project was intended to be finished before students moved back for the fall semester, but it ended up being a little later than expected due to the addition to the math department and furnishings needed for it. "[It was] a little bit of a crunch, but we got it to work," Kessler said.

The Houghton Hall project cost around \$36 million. However, it is important to note that the funding for construction and the school's budget are separate.

Budgets for construction are funded through the State University Construction Fund (SUCF), which does not impact SUNY Fredonia's budget.

Regarding Houghton Hall, Kessler said the project "unfortunately could not be built under one contract, the way that the funding was being allocated by the state." This was part of the reasoning behind the project being broken out into phases.

Kessler also said one of the goals of the project was to "[put] science on display."

In fact, many science professors were happy to see the change. Dr. Thomas Hegna, an assistant professor in geosciences, shared this feeling. "I think we are all very happy with the space," he said. "We are very happy with the teaching setup, the lab setup [and] the offices. It's great to have our own space now, both for us and for our students."

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Prior to moving into Houghton Hall, geosciences was held in Jewett Hall, another academic building on campus. Hegna detailed how he had to complete research with his students in his office, rather than in a lab setting or larger space. "We had essentially no research space," Hegna said.

Once faculty were permitted to move back into Houghton, Hegna said he did so right away. "I [moved] mid-semester, which as you might imagine, is kind of a difficult thing to find time to do while you're teaching and everything. But it's so much better," he said.

Prior to the renovations and updates, Kessler described the building as looking like a "dungeon."

"It was just basically corridors with masonry brick walls," Kessler said. Everything was closed off, and nothing more than nameplates distinguished the rooms.

Hegna has been here at SUNY Fredonia for four years, and hasn't seen the previous Houghton Hall. He also said that none of the geosciences tenure-track faculty have ever seen the old building.

Because of this, Hegna said the faculty "mostly did not participate in the designing discussions." He added, "when we did, it was at a relatively late stage."

Despite this, Hegna said, "the teaching spaces are just so much better."

The classrooms for geology and environmental science were purposely designed to be integrated lab and lecture classrooms. The rooms could be used for both labs and class lectures.

With these new spaces, Hegna said professors "can move seamlessly between [their] specimen work and lecture work." He added, "In fact, I'm still working on ways to exploit this opportunity, because it's such a powerful way to do active learning."

Hegna explained that geology is a specimen-based field, and the department needs a lot of storage space to keep rocks, minerals and fossils. The whiteboards in Houghton Hall are sliding, and have storage space in them.

Additionally, there is a rock storage room in Houghton Hall. "[It] has tons of space to grow," Hegna said.

The newly-renovated Houghton Hall was just one of the many projects Facilities Planning is working on.

Kessler said Facilities Planning is currently working on renovating Jewett Hall to house student services such as the Registrar's Office and English as a Second Language (ESL). Kessler explained that this will serve as a "one-stop shop" to help students find many of the resources they need in the same place.

In addition to the upcoming work on Jewett Hall, Reed Library is also getting some updates. Facilities Planning is going to redo the interior of the library. Also, the windows outside of the building are being redone.

Old Mason Hall and part of the Mason Hall annex will also receive some renovations soon.

Finally, the Kirkland Complex plaza, near the closed Erie Dining Hall, is getting reworked. Native landscaping and greenery will be put in to match the changing of the seasons. While Erie Dining Hall is not yet being worked on, Kessler said this may be something Facilities Planning is open to in the future.



Ilene Thompson, president of the Student Association, speaks during opening remarks of Houghton Hall's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony. Photograph by Derek Raymond.

FSA Board of Directors fills student representative positions

WILL KARR
Life & Arts Editor

In recent years, SUNY Fredonia students have been candid and vocal about their feelings regarding Faculty Student Association's (FSA) food offerings on campus. Junior political science major Sangai Keita, however, believes that expressing opinions is not merely enough, students need to turn words into concrete action to help make changes.

She believes that it is important to offer suggestions as to what FSA can do better.

"We [as students] make college; we make the experience," Keita said. "I feel like it definitely is important for us to have that full experience and that includes food. We should be having a good experience."

**"I think hearing from students is a great way to move forward. It's about hearing student concerns and giving them more power."
- Sangai Keita**

During the Spring 2022 semester, Keita served as the Student Association's speaker of the assembly, providing her with student leadership experience. This semester, she was appointed to be one of FSA's student representatives. FSA recently appointed student board members after struggling to find students to take on the positions in the past few years due to the pandemic and lower enrollment.

"During COVID, there was just a lack of interaction because of more distance learning and not meeting in person," said Darin Schulz, executive director of FSA. "It was hard to get student representation — not just for our organization, but for many groups. It just really fell off, but now it's starting to come back."

Over the past two years, FSA has had several open seats on its board. At an FSA meeting last week on Friday, Oct. 14, FSA officially filled all its student board members positions. As a non-for profit organization, Schulz explained how the group is required to have student representatives.

FSA has been around since 1951. When they first made their by-laws, they established a clause that there must be student board members. Schulz said that 30% of the FSA board of directors should ideally consist of students.

The board is made up of seven students, one alumni representative and seven faculty and staff members. Schulz explained the role that the student representatives will play on the board.

"Students on our board have a multitude of responsibilities. First of all, they have the responsibility to make decisions as a group with all of the board of directors," Schulz said. "... And then, they are to be the eyes and ears of students. [They need]

to be able to relay to management, to the board of directors things that they may see and things that they are hearing. I believe that the only way to get true and honest feedback is to have it go peer to peer and work its way up to management."

Students may feel more comfortable voicing their concerns directly to a fellow student, rather than to an administrator or faculty member. Having student board members can potentially help improve the FSA's relations with the student population. They can serve as intermediaries between students and faculty.

"I think hearing from students is a great way to move forward," Keita said. "It's about hearing student concerns and giving them more power. Not to be offensive, but the people who actually have experience with the food here are the students."

In her new position, Keita is hoping to make changes to the FSA this year. She expressed that she would personally like to see more dietary options and accommodations offered to students

"Based on my own dietary needs and religion, I have noticed ... that there are not a lot of options in terms of flexibility," she said. "I would just like to see more variety. At Cranston, there's only a small selection of meats to choose from, and not enough vegetable and healthy food options."

Overall, Keita said that she and other board members are fervent to make an impact this year.

"I feel like we have a really great group of students, and all of us bring something different to the table to change the student faculty ratio," Keita said. "... Although we eat food, food is also a way to connect people on campus. ... You want to make sure that the food you are putting in your body and displaying is something that attracts people and brings people together."

If you would like to ever express concerns, suggestions or constructive criticism directly to a student representative, you can reach out to them by using the contact information listed below. The students will bring the concerns to the attention of administrators and faculty in board meetings.

FSA STUDENT BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFO:

Illene Thompson:
thom2631@fredonia.edu

Rhyannon Davis:
davi0137@fredonia.edu

Stephen Wright:
wrig9916@fredonia.edu

Joshua Ninan:
nina7415@fredonia.edu

Sangai Keita:
keit2601@fredonia.edu

Kristin White:
kdwhite@fredonia.edu

You can also contact the Student Association Office at 673-3381 or visit them at G107 in the Williams Center to ask to facilitate communication with an FSA student representative.

Absentee voting:

What it is and how you can apply

CHLOE KOWALYK

Managing Editor

You're away from home, but you still want to exercise your right to vote.

What do you do?

You apply for an absentee ballot!

What is an absentee ballot?

According to the American Democracy Project community relations coordinator and senior public relations major Allyson Youngs, absentee voting is "a method for those who cannot make it to vote in person at their assigned polling place and meet the qualifications to vote absentee."

Basically, an absentee ballot allows those away from home for different reasons to continue to exercise their right to vote.

However, only certain individuals qualify for absentee voting. For instance, a person could apply for an absentee ballot if they are not in the county that they are registered to vote in. Youngs said that an example of this would be students at Fredonia who are far from their hometowns and cannot travel home to vote.

Youngs also explained that a person with "a permanent illness or disability or temporary illness like COVID-19 could prevent someone from voting in person" would also qualify to vote absentee.

Gail Crowe, the voter services representative for League of Women Voters of Chautauqua County (LWVCC), said people may also vote absentee due to being the primary caregiver of individuals who are ill or physically disabled, a resident of a Veterans Health Administration hospital or are currently being held in jail/prison, awaiting trial, awaiting action by a grand jury or are in prison for conviction of a crime or offense which was not a felony.

Absentee ballots serve those in these circumstances to participate in the election process.

Why is voting important?

"Your vote is your voice. ... Don't let not being able to make it to your hometown or any other reason prevent you from casting your vote," Youngs said.

A person's right to vote is a civil right. Not utilizing your vote and participating in the election process means you're not fulfilling your civic duty.

Crowe said that "elections have consequences," and your vote can determine what those consequences are. "If you don't vote, someone else will make decision[s] for you on topics like climate, gun control, reproductive rights [and] student loan debt.



Graphic by Chloe Kowalyk.

Dr. Angela McGowan-Kirsch, the chair of SUNY Fredonia's Chapter of the American Democracy Project, also believes that exercising your right to vote is extremely important. "As American citizens, it is important that we participate in our democracy," she said.

No matter if a person votes where they're registered in their hometown or are voting absentee, the voter holds the power to create change. If you're someone who hopes to have a voice in the decisions that impact our lives, voting is a great way to start.

"Every vote counts," said Crowe. "Many elections have been decided by less than 10 votes, as well as by counting absentee ballots after election day. You can make a difference!"

How do you apply for an absentee ballot?

Individuals can apply for an absentee ballot by requesting one online at absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov. After you apply online, your ballot will arrive to you in the mail. People can also apply in person at their local county board of elections.

Crowe recommends that people using an absentee ballot to vote "should apply for their ballot as soon as possible to avoid post office and other delays."

There are several deadlines absentee voters should be aware of. According to McGowan, absentee ballots need to be requested by Oct. 24 for the midterm election, which is on Nov. 8. Also, Nov. 7 is the final day to apply in person at the local board of elections for an absentee ballot. Completed ballots need to be postmarked by Nov. 8 and received by the board of elections no later than Nov. 15. These deadlines can also be referenced at elections.ny.gov/VotingDeadlines.

For the process of filling out the ballot itself, Crowe recommends that people "read the application carefully all the way through before starting to fill it out." She added that people "many ballots get rejected for simple mistakes," so it is important to double check that all of your information is correct.

Youngs described the process of submitting the ballot. She said people should ensure they "mark [their] ballot, place it in the provided security envelope, sign and date the outside of [their] envelope and place the security envelope inside the return envelope, then seal the second envelope and mail it to the county board of elections office."

McGowan noted that people who use an absentee ballot are not permitted to vote on a voting machine at the polls. Rather, people need to use a paper "affidavit ballot."

Where can I learn more?

There are a variety of resources available to students regarding information on elections and absentee voting. According to Crowe, “The League of Women Voters is a national political grassroots network and membership organization that believes the freedom to vote is a nonpartisan issue.” The network has been around for over a century, working to “empower voters and defend democracy,” she added.

Both women and men can join. Students can join for free.

“Our LWVCC discusses and studies issues of local, national, state and regional concern. We inform ourselves, legislators and the general public about the results of our research,” Crowe said. “We organize voter registration drives and Get-Out-the-Vote activities, monitor elections and government activities, and organize candidate debates.”

The organization also partners with SUNY Fredonia’s ADP. The two work together to organize voter registration drives and campaigns on campus.

The national LWV webpage can be reached at www.lwv.org. The NYS webpage can be reached at www.lwvny.org. NYS election deadlines are listed at: www.elections.ny.gov. Both McGowan and Crowe recommend visiting www.VOTE411.org for information on voting.

For information on absentee ballots, visit <https://absentee-ballot.elections.ny.gov/>.

According to Youngs, the ADP can be contacted via email at ADP@fredonia.edu. Additionally, Youngs said the ADP is “releasing a four-part video series with the intention to break down the absentee voting process. To view these videos follow us on social media.” They can be found on social media @ADPfred.

The ADP’s website is <https://www.fredonia.edu/about/offices/university-engagement/adp-american-democracy-project> and they have a blog at <https://democracyfredonia.weebly.com>.

Fall Sweep set to gather campus and community

EJ JACOBS

Special to The Leader

To hear the crunch of leaves under your feet is the first sign the fall season is upon us. While some people welcome the new season with a pumpkin spice latte or a trip to an apple orchard, SUNY Fredonia’s Applied Communication Association (ACA) and Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) have something else in mind to get in the fall spirit.

The two groups will host and co-sponsor Fall Sweep, an event where clubs and organizations on campus will be raking leaves all around the campus community.

On Nov. 6, at 1 p.m. registration and brunch will be in William’s Center Multipurpose room. Following this, there will be a ceremony held at 1:30 p.m. Finally, there will be leaf raking that starts at 2 p.m. Once groups are done with their required lawns they will bring their rakes to the back of Lograsso Hall. “Over the years I’ve noticed that many community members, especially the elderly, depend on the students to rake their lawns,” said Dr. Angela McGowan-Kirsch, faculty advisor of ACA and associate professor of communications. “... Then, the whole town comes around and picks up the leaves. It truly is a team effort.”



Students rake leaves during Fall Sweep in 2019.

Photograph by Dylan Cooper. Courtesy of Marketing and Communications.

This event is a way for the internal campus community to cross paths with another. The event provides a chance for different parts of the campus and students to bond with one another in a way they might not have otherwise had without this opportunity.

“I love seeing so many students from different majors and groups coming together to help the Fredonia community,” McGowan-Kirsch said.

A few familiar faces are set to speak at this year’s sweep. SUNY Fredonia President Dr. Stephen H. Kolison will speak at the event, as well as the mayor of the Village of Fredonia, Doug Esseck.

In addition to these speakers, SUNY Fredonia Provost Dr. David Starrlett will also make an appearance.

In addition to the main festivities there will also be a raffle and food. Participants can also buy a Fall Sweep t-shirt.

ACA and PRSSA hope to see the campus community at this year’s Fall Sweep. If you have any questions about event festivities, please feel free to email Hailey Cole, president of ACA, at cole3971@fredonia.edu.

Student-made film

THE CRYPTID CAST VS THE GOOPY GANKER

receives international recognition

Full cast from left to right: Luke Varacek, Shawn Adiletta, Gemma Vodacek, Joseph Marciniak, Matt Neary.



CHLOE KOWALYK
Managing Editor

ALEX ERWIN
Staff Writer

HUNTER HALTERMAN
Special to
The Leader

HEATHER OCCHINO
Special to
The Leader

SUNY Fredonia got goopy last semester with alumni Jackson DiCarlo and Ben Anderson's production, "The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker."

DiCarlo and Anderson were seniors in the COMM-464: Fiction II video production class before graduating last May.

DiCarlo majored in communications: video production while Anderson double majored in communications: video production and audio/radio production. The duo was tasked with creating a short film as the capstone of their video degree. As close friends and roommates, the two co-directed the film.

In the summer of 2021, DiCarlo and Anderson started writing the script. The short film featured the hosts of a monster-themed college radio show who end up getting involved in an investigation of two of their classmates who went missing.

The short film is filled with mystery, entertainment and charismatic characters.

The movie was inspired by works such as "Goosebumps" and "Dracula." Characters and plot lines were inspired by DiCarlo and Anderson's own personal lives.

After DiCarlo, Anderson and their team of over 30 students involved in the production finished the final film last May, they decided to screen the film at the Dunkirk Cineplex. The film was so popular with students and community members that it actually outsold tickets to Marvel's "Doctor Strange: The Multiverse of Madness," which was screening next door.

However, the film's success stretches far beyond Fredonia and Dunkirk.

In fact, "The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker" received international recognition in France at Cannes Film Festival, a prestigious film festival that features new movies, documentaries and similar works from around the world.

DiCarlo and Anderson's Fiction II project was enough to wow judges, leading them to win Best Short Feature: Festival Directors Award. The Fiction II class was taught by associate professor and chair of the Communication Department, Roslin Smith.

After watching the students grow and hearing of their success, she said, "Over the summer, we heard that they had submitted it to Cannes Student Short Film Festival, and they won. They won best short film."

"That's phenomenal again, because it's really hard to get anything screened, let alone something screened internationally and win an award. So that's almost a double whammy," Smith added.

"The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker" is one out of only six recipients awarded for the film and video narrative competition.

DiCarlo emphasized how this award will help the cast and crew apply for and get accepted into future careers and programs. "All of us who worked on this project have that validation, that stamp of approval and professionalism that not only did we accomplish something, but we did it to the highest," he said.

The short film remains something that DiCarlo looks fondly on.

"I am very proud of the film," DiCarlo said. "I spent so much time agonizing over every single word on the page, moment on screen, frame and the edit, and it came out beautifully. ... I will always scrutinize everything I do with utmost accuracy, but I am really proud of what everyone was able to accomplish."

Not only did the film win an award at an international festival, the short film also won the Award of Excellence from the Broadcast Education Association.

"Winning that award was truly something amazing," DiCarlo said. "I mean, when we were working on this project, we put everything we had into it."

"The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker" cast and crew efforts didn't go unnoticed by Smith either.

"[The project] was very ambitious, and it was extremely hard work for them. At one point, they never thought they were going to finish because of the deadlines. But they went above and beyond the call of duty," Smith said.

The success of "The Cryptid Cast vs. The Goopy Ganker" continues to be celebrated by students, alumni, professors and the community.

To learn more, follow @cryptidcast-film on Instagram.



Crew filming in the woods from left to right: Nicolas Dohre, Kasimer Clark, Jackson DiCarlo. Photographs courtesy of Jackson DiCarlo.

Honors Program to embark on chilling Dunkirk Lighthouse ghost tour

ALANA WINGATE

Special to The Leader

The Fredonia Honors Program is ditching their books on Saturday, Oct. 22 for a supernatural hunt at the Dunkirk Lighthouse. Honors Program Director Dr. Natalie Gerber says fun is needed from time to time.

“We have three pillars: learn, lead, live,” Gerber said. “In the past, we focused a lot on scholarship[s] and academics. That still matters, but what I’ve seen in the past two to three years through the pandemic is people want an opportunity to go outside their classes to connect and to have other experiences that are unexpected.”

The paranormal tour will have a cover charge of \$20 per person. The Honors Program will offer transportation for students by providing a campus van to transport students to and from the tour. However, if a student is going with their family, they will need to find alternative transportation.

“We set this up for Family Weekend as an opportunity, with three tours for the campus and then a late one — the scary, spooky one — at 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. reserved for Honor students,” Gerber said.

The lighthouse will conduct three separate tours, containing groups of 16 people per tour. Although the tour will be a paranormal experience, Dunkirk Lighthouse Director David Briska says it will also offer an educational look at Fredonia’s past.

“There is going to be a little bit of a history tour involved in that hour and a half,” Briska said. “Then, the local ghost hunting group, the Fredonia Ghost Hunters, is volunteering to come down with their equipment and go into the buildings with small groups.”

The Dunkirk Lighthouse also known as the Point Gratiot Lighthouse, and it has been on the Point Gratiot property on Lake Erie since the early 1800s.



Graphic by MaryBeth Meier.

“There’s been a lighthouse on the property since 1826. Unfortunately, the original house and tower were taken down in 1875 and rebuilt,” Briska said. “So, the lighthouse itself now is from 1875.”

The paranormal tour and ghost hunt will act as a fundraiser for the lighthouse. All proceeds from the event go to help further keep the property up and running.

“It’s great,” Gerber said. “It’s a fundraiser for them, and it’s wonderful that the ghost hunters, paranormal individuals who pursue paranormal activity are donating their services because this really helps the lighthouse keep going.”

Although this will be the Honors Program’s first time partnering with the Dunkirk Lighthouse for a paranormal

tour, it will not be the first time the lighthouse has conducted one.

“We do other public ones, like three or four times a year [besides Halloween],” Briska said. “It’s always fun to see what kinds of experiences the people have that come down and take one of these tours because it is a fundraiser for us. Of course, I’m always excited about having people come down and put some money into the museum so that we can continue to do interesting things and update our buildings and grounds.”

For those interested in seeing how many of the ghost hunts are run, you can visit YouTube and type in “Dunkirk Lighthouse ghosts.” You’ll find many videos of things that have happened at the Dunkirk Lighthouse that ghost hunters have uncovered.

Life & Arts

Take a magical journey

'Into the Woods'

in Marvel Theatre

WILL KARR
Life & Arts Editor

From the story of Little Red Riding Hood, to the tale of Jack and the Beanstalk, many fairy tales have been passed down to children from generation to generation. James Lapine's and Stephen Sondheim's "Into the Woods" embeds multiple children stories into one single narrative.

"[Into the Woods] weaves together timeless fairy tales from our youth and takes them into different endings, capturing elements of wishing, responsibility, family and community with great wit, moving lyrics and music," said Paul Mackovak, the director of the Fredonia Department of Theatre and Dance production of "Into the Woods."

The department will kick off the 2022-23 Walter Gloor Mainstage Series



"Into the Woods" cast from left to right: Mackenzie Bush as Little Red Riding Hood, Kelly Follette as the Witch, Erin Grace Kelly as Cinderella, Drew Jensen as the Baker and Emily Minch as the Baker's Wife.

with six performances of the musical "Into the Woods," from Oct. 21 to 29 at the Marvel Theatre in the Rockefeller Arts Center. The showtimes are Oct. 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m., with a special matinee on Oct. 23 at 2 p.m.

"Into the Woods" is framed around the story of a baker and his wife. The pair set out to reverse a curse that was cast on them by a witch, Rapunzel's mother; the spell prevents them from having a child. In order to reverse the curse of infertility, the enchantress sends them out on a quest to retrieve her four different items: a cow as white as milk, a cape as red as blood, a yellow lock of hair and a glistening glass slipper.

"In Act I, it is clear what [the baker and his wife] want and what they have to do to get it. Of course, there's obstacles along the way. In Act II, all the things they did to get what they want are all coming back to bite them," said senior musical theatre major Makenzie Bush, who will play the innocent and youthful Little Red Riding Hood in the production.

In the story, the baker and his wife's journey soon brings them into contact

with classic fairytale characters such as Jack Spriggins, Little Red Riding Hood, Rapunzel and Cinderella.

While the pair wish to have a child, Cinderella wishes to attend the King's Festival, Jack wishes for his cow to produce milk and Rapunzel wishes to be rescued from her tower. Although each character's wishes are granted, many implications still result. Each character's individualistic actions and pursuits create consequences for the whole group. The characters blame each other for their circumstances in the musical number "Your Fault."

"I think what makes 'Your Fault' such a successful number is that everybody is accusing everybody else, but everybody makes a valid point. You can accuse anyone, but they all have reasonings for why they did what they did. It is kind of everyone's fault at the end of the day," said junior musical theater major Zach Liddick, who will play Cinderella's father.

By the end of the film, the disparate characters must join forces and work together.

"For me, at its core, [Into the Woods], is about finding a family where



The Witch's lament on the Baker and his wife. Photographs provided by Lilly Melquist.

there is no blood connection,” Bush said. “[For example], Little Red has lost everybody and she is clinging to who she sees as motherly and fatherly figures.”

Bush is from Arizona and briefly attended Daemen College before transferring to Fredonia. She said that she is excited to take on a leading role as she has previously been cast in more supporting roles.

“Looking back, I remember when it was extremely frustrating to be cast as an understudy, where I didn’t get to be on stage to do any of it,” Bush said. “... But the value that I got from those experiences was that they stressed the importance of watching others and how much you can learn.”

Bush is now ready for her turn in the main spotlight. “Into the Woods” will mark a leading role for Bush on the Mainstage, as she said she has done a lot of understudying in past productions. In her high school’s production of the musical, she played Cinderella. She explained how Little Red Riding Hood differs from other female roles she has occupied

“All the other roles I have understudied for and [played] in the past were adult women, so playing Little Red has been a lot of fun,” Bush said. “... It has been very cathartic and healing for my inner child, just to let those ridiculous sides of me come out. In everyday life, you suppress your imagination. ... You have to be mature and professional ... [so] it’s a lot of fun to be pouty.”

Unlike Bush, senior musical theatre major Margot Mills will be playing a maternal role: Cinderella’s evil stepmother.

“I have a lot of fun playing characters that people do not like because the actor has the challenge of finding something

they like about them. I like the stepmother’s authoritative personality,” Mills said. “... I am very much strong willed and I know what I want.”

Mills is from the Bronx, and the last time they performed in a full musical was during high school. Mills described booking the role in “Into the Woods” as the culmination of their time at Fredonia.

“I am surprised that I even made it to my senior year,” Mills said. “... My dad passed away five days before my freshman year and then I left for college.” Mills can’t fathom how they were able to push through to senior year.

“You have to be such a strong person to go through what [Margot] has gone through,” said Liddick. Liddick is from Buffalo. Although Liddick said that his character is not in very many scenes, he is extremely grateful to be involved.

“I’ve never been in a show where my role has been small enough that I get to watch the show and it comes together,” Liddick said. “... The most fruitful thing that I have taken from this rehearsal process is watching my friends grow and learning from them. I’ve learned more about my own creative process from watching the show come together, rather than the four or five scenes I am in.”

Bush, Liddick and Mills believe that theatergoers will ultimately be able to take away valuable lessons from the production.

“The biggest theme at the end of the film is to be careful of the things that you say because children are listening,” Bush said. “Whatever example you set for the youth of today, they’ll grow up to maybe one day mirror that.”

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE PRESENTS A WALTER GLOOR MAINSTAGE SERIES EVENT

INTO THE WOODS

MUSIC & LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE

Fri., Oct. 21 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 22 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 23 @ 2:00 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 27 @ 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 28 @ 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 29 @ 7:30 p.m.



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Fash Forward

Dakota Garcia struts across gender boundaries and New York Fashion Week runway

WILL KARR
Life & Arts Editor

**You can read about Dakota Garcia
in the first column below:**

Welcome to Fash Forward, The Leader's newest fashion column. Fash Forward will spotlight Fredonia students with a keen and unique sense of style. The columns will be written by myself and biology student Dakota Garcia, who is the subject of this first article.

"The fashion on campus here is actually really good," Garcia said. "I don't think people appreciate it."

In every column we will profile a Fredonia student and ask them to provide fashion tips to the campus community.

Balancing school and extracurricular activities can be difficult in themselves, causing fashion to often be the last thing on a student's mind. Through this column, from simple cuffs to easy tucks, we want to provide students with effortless ways to elevate their looks.

As a young child, Fredonia student Dakota Garcia would parade around his house in his dad's work boots and overalls, and his mom's high heels and dresses. His parents provided him and his siblings with the liberty and agency to openly express themselves, breaking down gender norms and distinctions in the process.

"Growing up ... we didn't really have phones, [my siblings and I] were always playing outside, playing dress up and playing with dolls," Garcia said. "My mom and dad kind of let us experiment with that a bit ... like if I put on a dress, they wouldn't say anything."

Unlike his parents, Garcia admits that not everyone allowed him to freely explore his interests.

"There were times when not my parents, but other people would say things to me," he said. "... Like my grandpa and grandma would say to my parents, 'Why do you let him play with that stuff? He's a boy.'"

Garcia is a sophomore biology major from the small town of Derby, NY. After graduating from SUNY Fredonia, he plans to attend medical school. In addition to science, he is passionate about fashion, sports and social media, but most of all, helping others.

He has amassed over 140,000 followers across his different social media platforms, which include Instagram (@garciadakota) and TikTok (@garciadakota).

In 2021, Garcia modeled in Victoria's Secret Campus Pride social media campaign, which helped raise money to make college campuses across the U.S. safer spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals.

At the beginning of this past September, he walked in his first runway show during New York Fashion Week for the Black-owned, LA-based clothing brand Orunmila, through The Modeling Experience.

"My New York Fashion Week experience was very fun and fulfilling. My friend brought the [opportunity] up to me through social media and I applied for it," Garcia said. "... I went through the application process, met with some great designers and walked the runway. It was the company's first time putting on a show in NYC, and they had over 800 models walk during that day alone."

Garcia has been into fashion ever since he was a little kid. He grew up in a large family of ten siblings: eight brothers and two sisters. At the age of 12, he started posting videos showcasing his personal style online for the first time ever. As he approached his mid-teen years, his social media posts really started to take off and resonate with an online audience.



Dakota Garcia poses on The Modeling Experience's NYFW red carpet in his signature high-wasted pants and pearls.

“When I started off, I wanted people to see my own unique fashion, and it kind of just branched off from there. People started following me and sending me direct messages asking where I got my clothes from,” Garcia said. “... Social media became an outlet for me to really let my creativity flow.”

When people ask Garcia where he gets all his clothes from, he said that he never has a definitive or solid answer to give. He finds most of his clothes at thrift shops. High-waisted pants, short sleeved v-neck sweaters and pearl necklaces have all become signature staples in Garcia’s wardrobe. However, he said that his style often shifts depending on the weather and the seasons.

“I kind of change my clothes based on the emotions and the seasons,” Garcia said. “Right now it’s fall, so you’ll probably see me in more earthy tones: oranges, greens and browns. ... I love pairing clothes that have the same color or that have an orientation together.”

In today’s society, while clothing is often gendered, Garcia prefers to forego adhering to gender labels and distinctions.

“Clothing doesn’t have a gender; it’s for everybody. Sports doesn’t have a gender either; it’s for everyone,” he said. “We just perceive it as male or female dominated.”

Garcia chooses to wear whatever his heart desires. Growing up, he expressed that he never felt like he fit into a single box due to his wide range of interests.

“I played football, wrestling, track and cross country, but I still always liked fashion. I think there’s this weird boundary or tension between masculine and feminine — like clothing is ‘feminine’ and sports are ‘masculine,’” Garcia said. “I don’t think that’s true. I think anyone can do sports and anyone can do fashion, it does not just pertain to one single gender. People would see me in a sports uniform one day and outside of sports, I’m wearing pink, a v-neck and pearls another day.”

Garcia, however, believes that the tendency to distinguish things by gender is declining and reversing. With new generations, new values and ideals rise and often come to fruition.

“I think people are definitely scared to express themselves,” he said. “But, with us being one of the new generations, we are very open minded, where the generations before us may have not been.”

Garcia offered some tips to individuals that may be struggling to feel confident in their own skin. He is glad when people reach out to him for fashion advice.

“I would say wear whatever you feel comfortable in ... your character shows the clothes,” he said. “If you are confident in whatever you are wearing, it’s going to look good. If you walk confidently, head up high and shoulders back, people are going to look at you and say that’s a really good fit because of the character and how you are presenting it ... fashion right now is everyone’s own unique taste.”

Although he has a keen passion for fashion, Garcia ultimately wants to pursue a career in the healthcare field.

“I love fashion to death. But, I’m going for biology with the hopes of becoming a physician assistant,” Garcia said. “... As much as I love fashion, for me, it will always be a hobby.”

Growing up, Garcia said that he spent a lot of time in hospitals, which fostered his medical aspirations.

“In a family of 10 siblings, there was always someone beating someone up and someone getting a black eye,” he said. “... I was always in doctor’s offices and I saw how they could help others.”



Garcia poses on Orunmila's debut runway show during NYFW in September 2022. All photograph provided by Garcia.

Garcia is now eager to give back, turning what he witnessed as a child into action as an adult.

“Growing up in a very small poor town, I saw some people going through things and I couldn’t do anything to help them,” he said. “But now that I am older, I feel like I can help once I get into the field.”

Overall, whether it’s fashion or practicing medicine, Garcia loves making an impact in whatever capacities he can.

“I really love helping people,” Garcia said. “I can not see someone who is sad, someone who is going through something, and just turn away and not look at them.”

Dakota’s Fash Forward Tip is layering

**“Right now, it’s fall.
You could pair an unzipped hoodie
with some type of abstract t-shirt and
jeans to make everything cohesive.”**

If you would like to receive fashion advice from Garcia or to be featured in our next issue as a fashionista, please direct message us at our instagram page (@leaderfredonia) or email Life & Arts Editor, Will Karr at karr6505@fredonia.edu.

Quinn Nova explores queerness, death and mental health in solo-exhibit 'Ego Death'



"Budding Interest"



Quinn Nova with her girlfriend, Sasha McCoy, at "Ego Death" reception.
Photograph by Charlotte Mahaffy.



"Discovery"

WILL KARR Life & Arts Editor

Fredonia art student Quinn Nova grew up reading the Christian scriptures in Sunday school. However, as she approached middle school, she began questioning her faith for the first time.

"I started questioning why would God make us perfect, but also in the same sense hate gay people. I remember asking my mom if gay people were really going to go to hell and she just danced around the subject," Nova said. "It just really filled me with fear and that's when I started straying away from religion. When I went to college for the first time, I finally had the freedom to experiment and explore my sexuality."

Nova is a sophomore fine arts major with a minor in film studies from Bolivar, NY. She graduated from high school in 2014 and briefly attended Jamestown Community College.

After taking a few years off from college, she came to Fredonia in the spring of 2020 before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a 26-year-old sophomore, Nova recognizes that her academic journey is somewhat untraditional.

"[After leaving JCC in 2014], I felt like a failure," she said. "... It took me

five years to figure out what I wanted to do and to regain my confidence. Going back to college five years after everyone is something that I still get down on myself about. But, my girlfriend reminds me all the time that everyone's journey is different."

Nova originally started out as a video production major before eventually transitioning over to fine arts. Her artwork is currently on display in a solo-exhibition titled "Ego Death" in the Emmitt Christian Gallery on the second-floor of the Rockefeller Arts Center, through Oct. 13. The exhibit opened with a reception on Monday, Oct. 3.

The exhibit features a wide range of work from across artistic disciplines, including acrylic paintings, monotype prints and collages. The colorful pieces explore themes of sexuality, mental health and the beauty in death. Recurring symbols and motifs in the exhibit include eyeballs, mushrooms, skulls, cleavage and other body parts.

From coming to terms with her sexuality to battling with mental health, the exhibit offers the viewer a unique glimpse and insight into Nova's state of mind at some of the most formative and poignant periods of her 26 years of life.

Her pieces "Discovery" and "Budding Interest" specifically symbolize the

process of her recognizing that she was lesbian and not straight for the first time after watching lesbian porn. In "Discovery," a woman can be seen holding a television screen with an image of a nude female body. The woman's face flutters into a butterfly after viewing the screen, which represents Nova's recognition of her queerness.

"The pieces deal with my sexual journey — finding my best [female] friend attractive," she said. "I find the female form so much more attractive than the male form. The two pieces are like a really big gay explosion."

In "Budding Interest," Nova depicts a woman wholeheartedly expressing sexual desire and agency for another woman's body.

"I just find women's bodies so beautiful; their bodies are art," said Nova. "... ['Discovery' reflects when] I was coming out of the discovery stage ... like going from the caterpillar, to the cocoon and to the butterfly. In a way, the piece symbolizes the full metamorphosis of discovering my sexuality and who I am."

Nova parallels 'coming out' as queer with the eclosion and emergence of a butterfly from its chrysalis.

The nude images of women in "Budding Interest" are cutouts from vintage playboy magazines. In her collage

pieces, Nova said that she often uses clippings from vintage magazines, dating all the way back from the 1940s to the 1980s. From antiques, to vintage fashion and magazines, Nova loves collecting and using older items.

“When you think of Playboy, you probably think of misogyny or [women] being sexualized in a negative way,” Nova said. “I like to twist it and make it more of a feminist statement to take the power back and change the perspective.”

Through collage, Nova transforms the male gaze into an queer women’s perspective. In her work, she often takes existing images and offers the viewer an alternative vision.

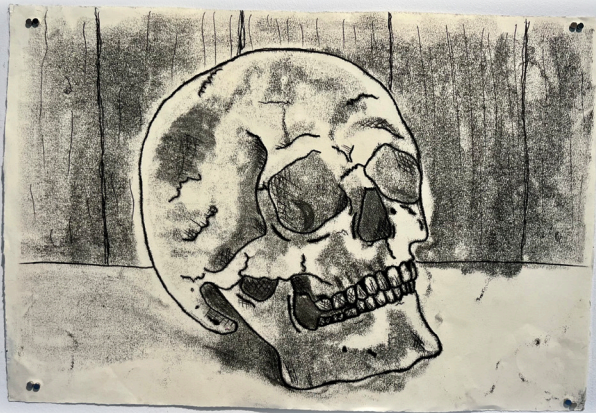
In her monotype drawing “My Future Self,” she depicts death and aging as a natural, imminent and inevitable part of life, rather than something to fear, dread or shy away from. She openly acknowledges and embraces that one day, all that will likely be left of her earthly self, after her flesh fades away, is a skeleton.

“Death doesn’t necessarily scare me,” Nova said. “... I used to be afraid of the world and everything. Our generation has grown up in very scary times with the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the news and everything; it all just really filled me with fear. But at this point ... I now know that death is part of the cycle of life.”

Instead of viewing death as the end, she views it as the beginning of a new journey and extraterrestrial course for the soul after finishing life on earth.

“I believe that after we die, that’s not it — whether it’s reincarnation or our souls going somewhere else,” she said.

Nova has had three very close run-ins with death. Through her work, she has become candid, transparent and open about her ongoing struggles and battle with mental health.



"My Future Self"

Throughout her life, she said that she has been diagnosed with a multitude of conflicting mental health disorders, including Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Both of the disorders have significantly impacted many facets of her life such as by causing sudden shifts in her mood and by putting significant strains on her interpersonal relationships. She explains that she sometimes feels afraid of herself.

“I see myself as a monster at times. When I see myself spiraling and going through the motions, I tell myself to snap out of it, but I can’t,” Nova said. “I am constantly battling with myself ... there are all these contrasting feelings ... [However], maybe it’s all just because I am a Gemini.”



"Mood Disorder"

Nova references these personality shifts in her exhibition piece “Mood Disorder.” The piece reflects the highs and lows of life that come along with having a mental health disorder.

“‘Mood Disorder’ reflects how I feel on any given day ... one day I’ll be feeling normal, then something will happen and I’ll be feeling so low,” Nova said. “Then, the smallest thing will fix my mood, and I will be happy again.”

Nova said that surrounding herself with friends, family and a vibrant art community has overall helped her cope with her mental health struggles. Although she doesn’t want to be defined by mental health labels, she recognizes that they have ultimately shaped the person she has become today, leading her to live more fully in the present moments of life on Earth.

“If I didn’t have my mental health disorders, I’d be a completely different person. Even the experiences with being so close to death have humbled me and have helped me find the beauty in the world, art and human existence,” Nova said. “Whether we are here for 20 years or 60 years, we are never going to get a chance to re-experience the journey that we are having right now.”

Quinn Nova, the subject of this article, serves on The Leader's executive board as Art Director.



"It's All In Your Head"



GRAD WEEK

• October 24-26 •



Graduate School Fair

Tuesday, October 25
at 4:00 – 6:00 PM

Williams Center MPR

- ▶ Meet representatives from more than 60 graduate and professional schools
- ▶ Learn about the application process and funding
- ▶ Learn how to best prepare through undergraduate courses and experiences

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Graduate School Workshops

Monday, Oct. 24 • 4:00 – 5:00 PM

Presentation: All Things Graduate School: A conversation with a graduate assistant and CDO Counselor.

Williams Center, S-204DE

Tuesday, Oct. 25 • 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Pathways to Public Affairs Universe

Williams Center, S-204E

Health Professions Application Process

Williams Center, Leadership Classroom

Career in Student Affairs Panel

Williams Center, S-204D

Wednesday, Oct. 26 • 4:30 – 5:30 PM

College of Education Reception

Location TBA



GRAD FAIR

• Fall 2022 •



Tuesday
October 25
4:00-6:00 PM

Williams
Center
MPR

Graduate Programs in:

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FINE ARTS/MUSIC
HEALTH/MEDICINE
HUMANITIES
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Graduate school fair list
of participating programs and
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Fredonia students, alumni, and
community members are invited
to attend. The event is free;
advanced registration is not
required.

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- Meet representatives from more than 60 graduate and professional schools
- Learn about the application process and funding
- Learn how to best prepare through undergraduate courses and experiences
- Attend workshops on graduate school preparation

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Casey Kocher: Blue Devil pride at 2022 Homecoming Pep Rally



2022 Homecoming Court:
From left to right: Laurell Brown (Runner up), Makayla Barone (Royalty), Grace Ojatonwase (Runner up), Ilene Thompson (Runner up) and Kasi Williams (Royalty)





Homecoming performances featuring:

- Fredonia Cheer Team
- Fredonia Dance Team
- Some Like It Hot
- The Guerrillas
- Orchesis Dance Company
- EnFusion Dance Team
- Premium Blend
- Rince Irish Dance Team
- Divine Sound



Casey Kocher is an intern for Marketing and Communications.

2021 Marion Fellowship awardee Sarah McKenzie presents 'To See Inside: Examining Prison Architecture'

JAINA BERARDI
Special to The Leader

In 2021, a Colorado-based artist named Sarah McKenzie became the recipient of the Marion International Fellowship for the Visual and Performing Arts. Because of this, her project, "To See Inside: Examining Prison Architecture," was funded by this foundation. After over a year, her project finally concludes with an exhibition in the Marion Art Gallery on SUNY Fredonia's campus. The exhibit opened with a reception in the gallery on Thursday, Oct. 13, which was followed by an artist talk with McKenzie.

Each year, SUNY Fredonia alumna, Cathy Marion and her husband, Jesse, select a recipient for their foundation, The Marion International Fellowship for the Visual and Performing Arts. The couple are avid supporters of the arts and education, and so their foundation annually promotes and funds projects through a ranking and interview of the applicants. A small group of some of the best artists are then chosen by professionals from SUNY Fredonia. The top three artists are chosen by the Marion Fellowship Circle Members, and the winner is then determined by Fredonia's administration.



Students view painting from "To See Inside: Examining Prison Architecture" exhibit in Marion Art Gallery.

McKenzie is primarily a painter from Connecticut. She graduated from Yale University with magna cum laude, and had a professor who pushed her in the direction of painting after recognizing her talent. This professor also encouraged her to apply to graduate school, so she went on to receive a master's of fine arts at the University of Michigan.

McKenzie has had her work featured in many magazines such as The New York Times, The Huffington Post and New American Paintings. She has also received several awards for her work, like the Alexander Rutsch Award for Painting and the Santo Foundation's Individual Artist Award.

McKenzie explained that many of her past projects surrounded architecture, many involving

museums. She was drawn to the idea that a museum is a vessel for art because its space and structure are dependent on how we experience the art. She said that the last project she did got her thinking about institutions in general.

"The structures that we build are supposed to reflect our cultural and social values ... and the museum represents the top of the cultural ladder," McKenzie said.

She then talked about how she believes there is an unspoken rulebook of how to behave in and move through museum spaces.

"So when thinking about other institutions, I thought it'd be interesting to look at prisons because they're so different from museums in some ways," McKenzie said. "But for some reason, I suspected that there would be some similarities in the unspoken rules."

Located on the first floor of the Rockefeller Arts Center, McKenzie's exhibit is free, open to the public and will be on display through Nov. 18. McKenzie worked with incarcerated artists for the project. She met these artists through The University of Denver's Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI).



All photographs by Derek Raymond.



DU PAI creates programs for those that are inside U.S. prisons to have an opportunity to try their hand at art. McKenzie reached out to this organization at the start of lockdown looking for a chance to voluntarily assist in their programming. DU PAI responded about six months later asking her to design and teach a drawing class with a series of instructional videos starting the following March.

Two-hundred fifty people across all of the Colorado state prisons had signed up for McKenzie's class, and 18 of them are featured in McKenzie's in the exhibit.

McKenzie also physically taught a Drawing & Creative Writing class at Sterling Correctional, the largest men's prison facility in Colorado. The class was co-taught by Matt Labonte, an incarcerated writer who has a leadership role in the DU PAI, after being a consistent member of it for five years. McKenzie explained that he made it more of a seamless transition for her to teach there because he had already established trust with the other men.

Each week, McKenzie would give a prompt or theme for her students to draw and write about, such as their beds and what they mean to each of them. Some of these drawings and poems were featured in the exhibition. The responses were interestingly scattered, as some described their bed as their place of solace, while others denied the bed in question as their bed at all.

McKenzie said the project aims to show that prison facilities are spaces that society has physically hidden away so the general population cannot see them — the tactic of out of sight, out of mind. In sharing her work and that of incarcerated artists, she wants to ask people who wouldn't typically look inside to consider these artists, their perspectives and the fact that we all have a responsibility to allow them to maintain their humanity.

"We can't say that has nothing to do with me," she said.

McKenzie also plans to eventually bring the gallery back to Colorado, so the artists' friends, families and anyone in their past can see that they still exist, have a purpose and must not be forgotten.

She said that one of the biggest goals of the entire project was to give the artists she featured an opportunity to find purpose, to give them a voice and for them to know that "even if they can't step outside, they know their art is."

Like the professor that encouraged her to become a painter, McKenzie also expressed how delighted she was to observe her students in their beginning stages of their artistry. She explained that some of them already had some prior experience while others were "very intimidated to pick up a pencil."

McKenzie found it rewarding to watch the students realize that they are actually able to create art. Artists who have participated in DU PAI have also told McKenzie themselves how much of a positive change it had brought to their lives and the way that has given them a sense of purpose.

From her art, McKenzie hopes to inspire conversations about the American incarceration system, as many political figures argue for law and order, but often do not consider whether their justice system is actually orderly.

McKenzie explained that the exhibition represents a culmination of the support she received from the Marion Fellowship, and while it's coming to an end, the project for her is ongoing. She plans to keep the type of work she did with them as the focus for her studio practice for up to the next 10 years.

"I like this work and this world. I still have a lot to learn, a lot more facilities to visit, teaching to do, and people to meet and hopefully collaborate with," McKenzie said.

McKenzie left one important lesson to share: "To enact change, you have to dream big."

She reminded gallery-goers that even if the reality is that change won't happen tomorrow, you have to envision it at the very least to have something to go after. In the meantime for her, organizations like DU PAI are helpful in the fact that they are doing transformative work now.



Gallery goers view McKenzie's exhibit.

SPORTS

Blue Devils sports roundup

MATT VOLZ

Special to The Leader



Bri Grazen dribbles up field during Oct. 15 match versus Plattsburgh.



Izzy Audette kicks ball in play against SUNY Plattsburgh on Oct. 15.



Alexis Lindamer looks to strike on goal against Plattsburgh goalie.
All photographs by Derek Raymond.

Women's tennis concludes tough season

Fredonia State's women's tennis team saw their 2022 season come to an end with a 7-2 loss to Plattsburgh State on Saturday, Oct. 8. With the loss, the Blue Devils dropped to 0-12, ending their campaign without a win.

In the match against the Plattsburgh State Cardinals, the Blue Devils saw their top doubles pair, Bella Surma and Caitlin Snyder, come away with an 8-6 win in a first-to-eight pro set. Snyder also played 2nd singles and came away with a hard-fought win (6-2, 3-6, 10-8).

Both Snyder and Surma are concluding their senior seasons, so the Blue Devils will have to lean on their young players and recruit well heading into 2023. Fortunately, much of the team is young, and freshmen such as Brianna Gentile, Sierra Allen and Lexi Hawley provided significant contributions to the squad in 2022. It can be hard to find positives coming out of a winless season, but for this women's tennis program, there's nowhere to go but up.

Volleyball shut out on the road

The Blue Devils were unable to win a set in either of their road contests this past weekend, falling 0-3 to both SUNY New Paltz and SUNY Oneonta. In their matchup against SUNY New Paltz on Oct. 14, Fredonia State was able to hang tight with their opponents before falling in each set (25-19, 25-17, 25-17).

Amaya Lewczyk led the Blue Devils in kills with 7, while Kourtney Krchniak tallied 22 assists and Gabrielle Sordetto led the team in digs with 10.

On Oct. 15 against SUNY Oneonta, the Blue Devils had a rather slow start, dropping the first set 25-8. The second set was a nailbiter, with Oneonta taking it 25-20 as well as the third set 25-11. Freshman Gabrielle Chilcott led Fredonia State in kills with 7, as Krchniak came up with 17 assists and Kailea Sullivan led the team with 7 digs.

At 4-16, the Blue Devils have four games remaining on the schedule, with all of them at home and two of them coming up this weekend.

Their next game is scheduled for Friday, Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. against SUNY Brockport in the Dods Hall Gymnasium. The Blue Devils will also be in action on Saturday, Oct. 22 for a 1 p.m. home contest against SUNY Geneseo, also in the Dods Hall Gymnasium.

Men's XC finishes top 20

At the Rowan Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 15, the Blue Devils were able to finish in 19th place out of 36 teams. Junior Josh Walters was Fredonia State's top finisher, coming in 80th place out of 306 runners with a time of 26:31. Fellow junior

Sembel Koshi was right behind Walters, coming in 84th place with a time of 26:35.

Also scoring for Fredonia State were: Kyle Campbell (105th, 26:52), Patrick Kilnger (111th, 26:58) and Ted Tomasello (119th, 27:05).

The Blue Devils will be off next week to prepare for the SUNYAC Championships on Saturday, Oct. 29th in Oswego, NY.

Women's XC impresses at Rowan

Competing against six other teams at the Rowan Invitational on Saturday, Oct. 15, the Blue Devils took home a 4th place finish.

Sophomore Alexandra Battaglia won the 8K race, beating out 86 other competitors with a time of 23:55. Junior Vanessa Ryhal was Fredonia State's second finisher, coming in 17th place with a time of 26:09.5. Finishing just 0.4 seconds behind her was the Blue Devils' third finisher, junior Elizabeth Gloss, whose 18th place finish gave her a time of 26:09.9.

Senior Kristin Kelemen, a graduate of nearby Maple Grove High School, came in 43rd place with a time of 27:22. Fredonia State's fifth finisher, freshman

Erin Cool, finished in 70th place with a time of 29:09. Saturday was the third time all season that the Blue Devils were able to field the necessary five runners to score as a team, and they rewarded head coach Tom Wilson with a top-5 finish.

Like the men's team, the women's cross country team will be off next week as they prepare for the SUNYAC Championships on Saturday, Oct. 29 in Oswego, NY.

Women's soccer falls to Plattsburgh

Fredonia State's women's soccer team dropped a 2-0 decision to SUNY Plattsburgh on Saturday, Oct. 15. The loss dropped the Blue Devils to 2-7-4 on the season and 0-5-2 in SUNYAC play.

The Blue Devils are still searching for their first conference win of the season as well as their first win since Sept. 13. In the eight games since the team beat Allegheny College on that Tuesday night, they have recorded five losses and three ties, with most of the losses coming in close, nailbiter fashion.

Leading scorer Bri Grazen will look to get the Blue Devils out of their current funk in their last few games. With three games remaining in the regular season, Fredonia State has a chance to get a

couple wins and pull closer before the SUNYAC Championships begin.

Their next contest is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 19 against the Lakers of SUNY Oswego, 3 p.m. at University Stadium.

Men's soccer picks up big win

On Saturday, Oct. 15, the Fredonia State men's soccer team defeated SUNY Plattsburgh 3-2 in Plattsburgh. Markus Johansson scored the Blue Devils' first goal and his first of the season early in the second half.

With just a handful of minutes remaining, Kaleb Steward picked up his fourth goal of the season to tie the game at 2 before defender Robert Aboagye scored the winner with less than three minutes remaining. With the win, the Blue Devils improved to 3-8-3 on the season and 2-4-2 in SUNYAC play.

Fredonia State has two games remaining before the SUNYAC Playoffs begin, the next of which is slated for Saturday, Oct. 22 at noon against SUNY Oneonta in Oneonta. The Blue Devils will finish the regular season at home on Tuesday, Oct. 25 against Alfred, 7 p.m. at University Stadium.

Can the NY Yankees fight their playoff demons?

TYLER PACOS
Sports Editor

Although the Yankees still have to play game five in the opening round of their playoff appearance this season, New York faithfuls are still weary that the first-round curse will strike the Yanks again.

The American League Divisional Series isn't officially over until Oct. 18, but as the 2022 American League East Champions see it, this series should've been over after game three.

For the past three seasons now, the Yankees haven't advanced farther than the divisional round of the playoffs.

Although to some, this may be seen as an accomplishment. How could a team making the playoffs be a bad thing? The issue isn't that the Yankees continue to make the playoffs — it's the way they perform during the postseason that is highly concerning.

For starters, the Yankees have the third highest payroll in the entire MLB. This shouldn't be a surprise to anyone after acquiring Giancarlo Stanton, Gerrit Cole and Josh Donaldson, but with the amount of money they pay certain players, it should be highly concerning for the front office in the Bronx when these players aren't showing up in the postseason.

Specifically speaking though, star player Aaron Judge is the main culprit. Judge is coming off a historic regular season for New York, hitting 62 home runs and breaking the 'unspoken'



Aaron Judge batting for the Yankees. Photograph by Arturo Pardavila.

American League home-run record. He rejected the Yankees offer this spring of a seven year, \$213.5 million deal, respectfully so. He passed legends like Babe Ruth and Roger Maris, so he should have earned his right for a big paying contract, right? Yes and no.

Although Judge did something that may never be done again, he still seems to struggle heavily in the postseason, a point in time where performance matters the most.

As of the final pitch in game four of the series, Judge sits on one home run in the entire series, was struck out for every at-bat during games one and two, and has a batting average of .125. In 2021, his average was .250 and in 2020, .133. To compare, he had a .311 batting average during the regular season, hitting 177 times off of 570 'at-bats.'

We are facing yet another situation in the sports world where a player who might not always be reliable during trying times is searching for a huge pay-check. When will it ever go back to payments and contracts based on performance?

2022-23 Winter sports guide



Jake Blackwell skates past opponent during last winter season.



Men's hockey team discussing the previous play. Photographs by Abdullah Yusuf.

TYLER PACOS

Sports Editor

With the fall sports season quickly approaching the end, winter sports will be starting very soon here for the Fredonia Blue Devils. With a quick turnaround from the two seasons, here is everything you need to know and lookout for this winter sports season on the Fredonia campus.

Men's hockey

The men's hockey team comes off a very successful season to say the least. The Blue Devils managed to go 10-11-1 overall in the 2021-22 season, and 8-8-0 in the SUNYAC.

They managed to qualify for a spot in the SUNYAC playoff tournament, but were knocked off in the first round by SUNY Cortland with a final score of 3-1. Ranked sixth out of ninth in the SUNYAC Coaches Poll, the men's team is looking to keep their success running into this season.

The squad, led by captains Ethan Kirbis, Antonio Demacopoulos and Craig McCabe, will be a force to reckon with this season. Add netminder Logan Dyck into the mix, who ranked second out of all goalies in the SUNYAC as a rookie and was voted Fredonia State Male Athlete of the Year and Male Rookie of the Year in 2021-22, this team has the potential to do some serious damage this season.

They open the season on Oct. 28 at Trine University, then return home for the start of SUNYAC play, hosting the Buffalo State Bengals on Nov. 4.

Women's basketball

Despite exiting the SUNYAC's last season in the first round against SUNY Geneseo in a very close tilt, the women's team is hoping to carry their momentum with them into this upcoming season.

Finishing 12-14 overall and 7-11 in the SUNYAC, highly-experienced coach Sarah Cartmill looks to lead the squad back to the SUNYAC playoff tournament in demanding fashion.

The women's team will open their regular season on Nov. 8 at home in Dods Hall Gymnasium against Hiram College. From there, SUNYAC play will start Nov. 29 as they will travel to SUNY Oswego and take on the Oswego Lakers.

Men's basketball

Coach Sean Smiley and his team look to bounce back in the SUNYAC this year, coming off a challenging season in 2021-22.

Finishing 3-22 overall, and 3-15 in the SUNYAC, young-gun and transfer student Aaron Collins looks to keep his success going. After only appearing in 13 games for Fredonia, he managed to lead the team in points with 198, and averaged 15.2 points per game.

A full season with Collins in Fredonia could be a huge impact for the team and may be the answer the Blue Devils are looking for.

The first game is scheduled for Nov. 8 as they travel to Allegheny to take on the Gators, then they will open SUNYAC play on Nov. 29 as the men's team travels to SUNY Oswego to take on the Oswego Lakers.

Men's and women's swimming and diving

After serving as an interim head coach this past season, William Bradley was officially named head coach during the off-season. Bradley and his team are already in full form here as the season has already begun for both the men's and women's team, as they opened up their season against Pitt-Bradford.

Both teams also started up SUNYAC play against SUNY Brockport and SUNY Buffalo State on Oct. 15 as the men's took two out of the three matches and the women's dropped all three.

With a busy schedule heading into winter break, the Blue Devils will look to increase their record before the SUNYAC playoff tournament, which is scheduled in February.

Men's and women's indoor track and field

Star performers Haley Lerner and Nick Abdo look to continue their success into this season, which will start during winter break in January with the schedule yet to be determined.

If the indoor track and field season is anything like the cross country season this fall, this outstanding group of athletes will be making a statement across the SUNYAC for certain this upcoming indoor season.

Stay tuned for Fredonia Sports updates throughout the season by checking out our website, tuning into Fredonia Radio Systems, or visit <https://fredoniabluedevils.com/index.aspx> for real-time updates and stats from our winter sports teams.

The opinions voiced by writers and artists in the Opinion section of The Leader reflect those individuals' opinions, not those of The Leader as a whole.

OPINION

Only stories clearly marked as Editorials reflect the opinion of The Leader's executive staff.



"THE PLUMBER"

Executive Producer of Lovercall

"THE ELECTRICIAN"

Lovercall Producer

Hello!

We are The Plumber and The Electrician: two producers of the radio show Lovercall right here at SUNY Fredonia. Lovercall is an anonymous late-night talk show about love, relationships and more. Students who come on the show use a codename to protect their identities when discussing potentially personal topics, hence the codenames of the writers of this column.

On each episode, the hosts and guests of Lovercall participate in a variety of segments. The cast discusses a relevant news story, a date idea, a wacky discussion and finally a main topic for the episode.

Listeners also write into the show, either via Fredonia Radio's Instagram, @fredonia_radio, or through the QR code listed in this column.

The show is streamed weekly on Thursdays from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. on WDVL 89.5 at www.fredoniaradio.com.

This column runs in conjunction with Lovercall and can be found both in print and online at fredonialeader.org.

"The Plumber" is a 21 year-old cisgender male who goes by he/him/his pronouns and is a senior at SUNY Fredonia.

"The Electrician" is a 20 year-old cisgender female student who goes by she/her/hers pronouns and is a junior at SUNY Fredonia.

Together, we hope to provide our best advice about college relationships, dating, friendships and other aspects of college life.

Lovercolumn

Establishing trust

Date idea of the week

We also hope to provide our fellow students with a fun and unique date idea in every column. For this week's issue, we at Lovercall think you and your partner would have a great time jumping into giant leaf piles.

Simply go out with your partner dressed in your warmest fall gear and grab a rake. Gather up the biggest pile of leaves you can and jump in!

Not only is it fun to jump in and lay in the leaves, it also helps you clean up your lawn!

This fun and practical idea is the perfect fall date.

Lovercallers

We call those who reach out to us "Lovercallers." We use this space to answer your questions and listen to your stories.

First, we got a response from Tiny Violin on our Google Form. She said, "So my boyfriend cheated [o]n me. I know, I know that's already a [red] flag if not an atomic bomb of a sign. However, that was four months ago, and he's really been putting in the effort to work on us. ... He knows I don't completely trust him, and he's been very understanding and supportive in my moments of doubt..."

We shortened Tiny Violin's response to fit in The Leader.

We, The Plumber and The Electrician, advise you to take some time to reflect on how you are feeling. If you find yourself feeling like the relationship is not a good fit due to the actions your partner took, don't feel you need to stay in the relationship because your partner is attempting to mend it. On the other hand, if you feel that you and your partner can work past this and continue your relationship in a positive way, you could go this route instead.

When you are both apart, take some time to reflect alone without the pressure of your partner being there affecting your decision. This is the best way to ensure that you prioritize yourself and how you feel.

Crystal Lagoon, a 19-year-old sophomore, also reached out to us. They said, "My boyfriend's been having a lot of anxiety recently. He's never had it as bad as this semester. I've given him my advice on how to handle his anxiety, but sometimes it doesn't work. I want to help him with it as much as I can but sometimes I don't know what to tell him when my advice doesn't work. Do you have any advice on how to help your partner with their anxiety?"

Paul said, "Sometimes, it's not about the advice."

You can give your partner as much advice as you'd like, but sometimes just being there with them and offering your support goes a long way.

In addition, you may want to refer them to the campus counseling services in LoGrasso Hall and online at <https://www.fredonia.edu/student-life/counseling>.

Finally, Star reached out to us.

She said, "The issue with my love life ... [happens when I am] dating someone, and eventually I'll say something that hits them in a certain way. This then leads to them realizing they have to work on something in themselves, and removing themselves from the dating scene. It's happened to me four times, and things usually end positive and mutually, but I'm starting to feel more like a mentor than a partner. ... so my fear is that I'll never find someone actually ready for a relationship."

We have shortened Star's response to fit in The Leader.

Continued from previous page.

Star, we feel you should assess yourself. Is there something you've said to these people you've been with that is the same throughout your relationships?

This could explain why they feel they need to work on themselves.

Perhaps there is an issue with the way you approach your relationships. We think you should take time to work on yourself before getting into another.

Reach out!

Do you want to ask the authors of *Lovercolumn* a question? Do you need advice? Fill out the form by using this QR code.

Interested in being a guest on *Lovercall*? Email frs@fredonia.edu or visit Fredonia Radio Systems, located in McEwen Hall 115 and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



“The Plumber” and “The Electrician” are members of Fredonia Radio Systems and are involved in the production of Lovercall.

Students weigh in on dine in or take out preferences

ALANA WINGATE

Special to The Leader

To dine or not to dine — that is the question.

Several of SUNY Fredonia's dining halls have added grab-and-go options to accommodate students' busy schedules, but do students prefer to eat in a dining hall with their friends? I asked Fredonia students their thoughts.

“I feel like the environment of the dining hall is very good, warm and open,” said public relations major Anthony Pascal. “Friendly staff, very clear instructions as to food, large variety of food daily, tvs with entertainment and news, large areas to sit.”

Although Pascal does enjoy the company of other students while eating his food, he said that he also isn't opposed to dining alone.



Student ordering from Willy C's kiosk. Photograph by Drew Paluch.



Students dining together in Cranston Marche. Photograph by Alyssa Bump.

“I can eat in both [settings] — at the dining hall and alone. If I eat alone, I'm eating in the rec room, not in my room,” Pascal said. “If I eat with friends, I usually go to Cranston; although I eat there alone sometimes as well. Willy C's is only for late night meals usually.”

Sophomore video production major Brooke McIntyre voiced her feelings about eating alone, sharing that the option isn't one she wouldn't normally choose.

“I prefer not to eat alone. Especially not in my dorm room,” McIntyre said. “I mean, if I need a grab and go [option], I will, but I refuse to eat alone in my dorm. That's just something I can't do.”

For many students, they find that dining on campus is a great way to connect with others.

“Being at Fredonia, I've become more social, and I actually really like eating with friends,” McIntyre said. “I've made most

What's with all the chit-chat on Yik Yak?

ABIGAIL MILLER

Special to The Leader

Yik Yak is a popular social media app available in the United States. Users can post anonymously and set their location to see posts from other users nearby. In November of 2021, the app surpassed 2 million users, and a large proportion of them are college students.

Fredonia has a prominent community on Yik Yak. Every few minutes, a new post appears on Yik Yak from someone within a five mile radius of the Fredonia campus. With so much content being posted daily and shared throughout the student body, it seems word spreads faster than ever now at Fredonia.

I reached out to both on-and off-campus students in an attempt at gaining a general consensus about students' feelings toward Yik Yak. Twenty-four different users responded to my posts on Yik Yak and I received additional points of view from six students from outside of the app. Here's what they had to say:

Do you have Yik Yak?

Out of the students I spoke to, one student had not heard of Yik Yak, two students had heard of Yik Yak but did not have it, and the majority, 27 students, had heard of Yik Yak and have the app.

Why did you download Yik Yak?

The majority of responses indicated that users are most likely to know of Yik Yak through word of mouth and most likely to download the app because their friends are on it. There were also users who stated that they downloaded Yik Yak for reasons such as wanting to know how long the line is at Starbucks and wanting to know the locations to parties, both of which are sometimes posted on the app.

What sort of information do you get from Yik Yak?

Yik Yak intrigues student users, first and foremost, by allowing them to get updates about what's going on around campus, as well as entertaining them through lighthearted posts and giving them insight into campus drama.



Painting by Quinn Spook.

One student said, "I go on Yik Yak for the same reason I go on any other social media platform: for entertainment. ... I also like to use it to stay updated on things going on around me. I feel like I'm usually lost when it comes to current news within my age group, so it's nice to be in the loop and know what's happening around me."

What is your favorite feature of Yik Yak?

It's clear that the main attraction of Yik Yak is its anonymity. Users are drawn to the fact that they can voice their opinions without having to take responsibility for the impact that comes with them.

Unlike other social media apps, since Yik Yak does not require users to reveal their identity, students can feel comfortable knowing that they will be perceived fully on what they say, instead of who they are.

"It's nice to have a place to vent or express yourself and people don't know you so they don't prejudge what you're saying," one user revealed. "Coffee [this user's emoji] is just coffee. Coffee is not a race or a specific gender or a certain major."

What would you say is the worst part about Yik Yak?

Students have expressed concern over the amount of bullying that occurs on the app, which includes fat shaming, transphobia, ableism and sexism.

Other disapproval is targeted toward the amount of spamming on Yik Yak, as well as the continuous sexual requests of some users.

Do you believe that misinformation exists or is spread by Yik Yak?

The reply to this question was a unanimous "yes." However, there is a minor number of students that believe that it is not a very prevalent issue.

Do you believe that Yik Yak is beneficial to campus inclusion?

Overall, the majority of students agree that Yik Yak is beneficial to campus inclusion. Users cited their connection to the campus community resulting from the app as the reason for this sense of inclusivity.

Do you believe that faculty, in addition to students, are on Yik Yak?

Surprisingly, several students were adamant about their belief that there are faculty members who are users on Yik Yak. There were multiple users who claimed to have been outright told by faculty members that certain faculty have accounts on Yik Yak.

Do you believe that Yik Yak has more of a positive or negative impact on the campus community?

Out of each of the questions I presented, I received the most divisive response to this one.

While four students said that Yik Yak had both a positive and negative impact on campus community, four students believed the impact to be more positive. Whereas, four students believed the impact to be more negative, respectively.

"As far as I know, it's really the only thing you have to know how everyone else on campus is feeling about something," one student said.

Another student responded, "It can be annoying at worst, and you can meet new people at best."

All in all, it seems that Yik Yak has its fair share of student critique, but also a substantial amount of student support.

"There's a lot of negativity on here," noted a Yik Yak user. "However, there are a lot of people who come to the app for help anonymously, and I've seen a lot of people help each other behind a screen."

THE SCALLION

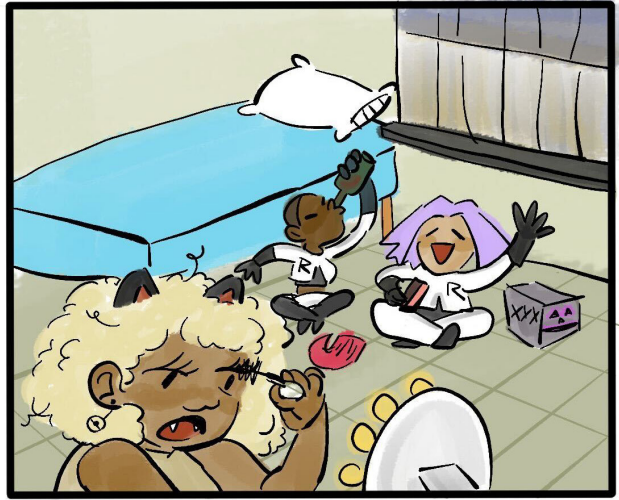
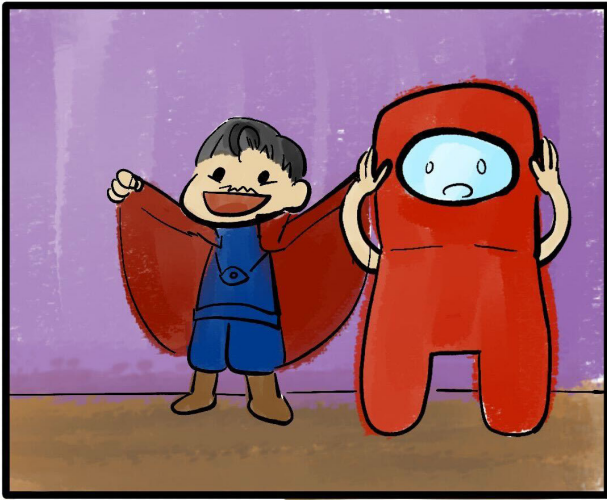
Satire for Fredonia



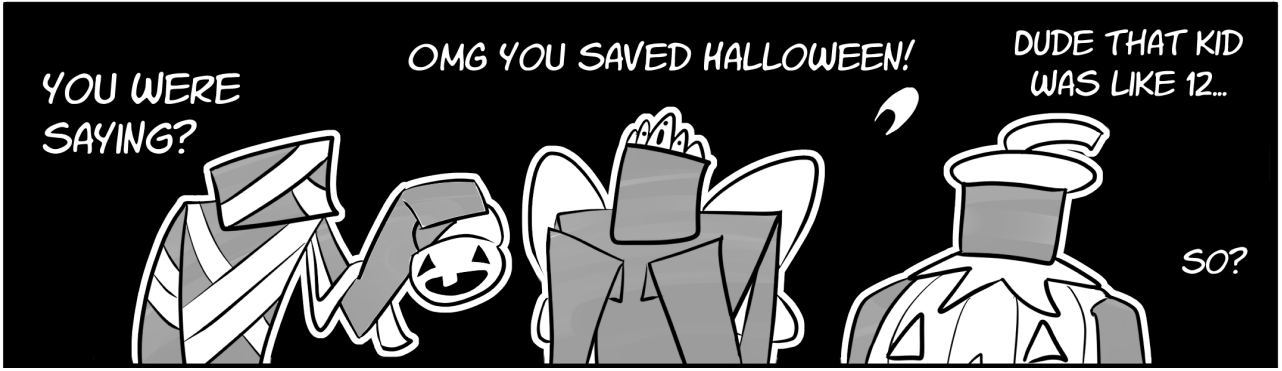
NICOLE THORSON: BEDTIME ROUTINE



NICOLE THORSON: THE EVOLUTION OF HALLOWEEN



RYAN LUDU: FREE MAN HILL HALLOWEEN



HOROSCOPES

JAY BYRON
Staff Scallywag

Hi friends! Here's **what you should be for Halloween based on your sign**, since obviously now is the time to think about it.



Aries

Three Man Hill with your friends.



Taurus

Ask your friends what breed of dog you are and be that specific dog.



Gemini

Calzone from DP Dough.



Cancer

Something something politics.
Make everyone cringe!



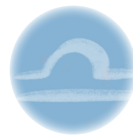
Leo

Me, Jay Byron.



Virgo

Something something religion.
Make everyone guffaw! Jk.
Sexy nurse or whatever.



Libra

Pun time! Make people really confused.
Then, explain it to literally everyone
because no one gets it.



Scorpio

Muppet.



Sagittarius

Avocado.



Capricorn

Your favorite professor.



Aquarius

Just don't do it. Be yourself.
Make people mad at you.



Pisces

Your mom. B)

