

THE FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper



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"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams" - Eleanor Roosevelt.

SUNY Potsdam program cuts: A preview of what's to come?

DAN QUAGLIANA

News Editor

On Tuesday, Sept. 19, SUNY Potsdam announced that they were cutting numerous degree programs in the near future in order to get their looming budget deficit under control.

Similarly to Fredonia's deficit, Potsdam has an annual budget deficit totalling \$9 million.

Potsdam's president, Dr. Suzanne Smith gave a speech on Sept. 19 about the situation.

She said, "The aspirations of our students, the degrees they want to hold and the careers they wish to pursue have evolved. Now, we must realign our academic programs with these changing student and market needs."

In order to do this, the college is releasing a plan that "focuses on aligning academic programming with student enrollment needs, charts a path for investments in strengths and growth areas and leans on the college's strengths to establish a future-focused fiscal health framework," according to a statement released on the same day.

Potsdam is cutting 14 different bachelor's and master's programs across the board, including liberal arts college staples such as the philosophy and art history programs.

According to data released by the college, the affected programs only represent 6.3% of their total enrollment.

These programs were chosen in order to save as much money as possible, while at the same time minimize the number of students that will be affected.

Smith noted that, "Every student in these programs will have the option of completing their degrees here with the SUNY Potsdam name across them."

She also said that graduates that hold degrees in discontinued programs will still have those degrees recognized.

Potsdam's chapter of United University Professions (UUP), the union that represents SUNY's faculty and professional staff, said that this academic year "will present significant challenges to our college as our administration, faculty and staff work to realign the campus to meet the new demographic realities."

One of their goals as a union will be to band together, "in a single, engaged voice to demand that the college fulfill its contractual obligations."

Despite the negative connotations associated with these decisions, various groups affiliated with Potsdam do support the decision.

"As proud alumni of SUNY Potsdam, we support the College as it assesses the strength of its academic offerings," said SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association President Peter Galloway.

College Council Chair June O'Neill added that, "We fully support President Smith and the plan to restore our beloved institution to fiscal health."

She added, "Now with the new framework in place, and our strategic planning process already underway, the College Council has full faith and confidence that SUNY Potsdam will ultimately emerge stronger and ready for the future as a result



SUNY Potsdam. Photo via Potsdam.edu

"The aspirations of our students, the degrees they want to hold and the careers they wish to pursue have evolved. Now, we must realign our academic programs with these changing student and market needs."

—DR. SUZANNE SMITH

President,
SUNY Potsdam

of this painful but necessary realignment."

As has been repeatedly made clear to faculty, staff and students here at Fredonia, this university is also facing a significant budget deficit.

However, no program cuts have been announced yet.

"It [makes] me worry about what could happen to...our campus," said Rosie Rapisarda, the president of Fredonia's Student Association. "[Program cuts] would be a bad idea. That would just [cause] enrollment [to] drop even more. There would be [fewer] options in majors, which would make Fredonia unappealing to others trying to come here."

Fredonia's president, Dr. Stephen Kolison, has revealed that he has been "working on a plan" to address the university's deficit.

The exact details of Kolison's plan and how similar it is to Potsdam's, if it is at all, remain unknown.

More data is expected to be released in approximately two to four weeks.

The Leader reached out to both Potsdam's administrative staff and Student Government Association, but received no response from their SGA.

The administrative staff instead offered links to official press releases.



Photo by LEE PYE | Special to The Leader

A breakdown of the McEwen and Maytum construction project

LEE PYE

Special to The Leader

McEwen Hall, Reed Library and the Maytum Hall plaza have been under construction since the fall of 2020.

Unless students are in their fourth year on campus, they have never stepped foot onto the concrete stairs outside of Reed Library.

Many questions have been floating around campus about this project, and answers have not been forthcoming from those involved.

There are two ways to complete construction projects on campus.

One is through the State University Construction Fund (SUCF), which allows the university to oversee the project while the state funds it.

All of that money can be used for the specific project in question, and the campus does not have to give the money back to the state.

The other method is specifically reserved for residential halls. A debt service is put in place where money is spent on these projects.

The money, however, needs to be paid back in bonds.

The plaza is funded through an SUCF fund, requiring the money allocated for it to remain committed to the plaza.

Markus Kessler, the director of facilities planning on campus, said, “I think people get a bit like, ‘why are we spending millions of dollars on doing this [one project] when we have this

[other project]?’ It’s two different pots, and it does not impact the campus’ budget whatsoever.”

Kenneth Schmitz, the capital project manager, added, “We can’t move the money from one pot to another.”

This project actually started back in 2011, where a facilities master plan was created to decide what to work on for the next 20 years.

It is considered a “living master plan,” which can be changed based on necessity and urgency.

Every year, during a work plan meeting, projects that need to be worked on within the next five years are identified.

The plaza construction fell within this timeline.

Kessler was in charge of creating a project request for this specific plan and explaining what exactly needed to be done.

That traveled through the SUCF, which pieces the budget together.

Then, a project manager was identified, which in this case was Schmitz, who works with the construction fund, architect and contractor.

He also is in charge of creating a plan if something goes wrong or needs to be redone.

The timeline for this project has been changed — the original prediction for its duration was two summers, and it’s now been three.

Then, the finish line changed to August of 2023, and now it’s been pushed back again.

COVID-19 was only a minor pushback for the construction, though.

“It slowed it down maybe by four months, but COVID happened in a time where there wasn’t a heck of a lot of work that they really needed to do,” Kessler said. “Once [the contractors] came up with their COVID plan and submitted that plan, they could go back to work. So I don’t want to say that COVID really held this project up.”

Within this large construction project, multiple things were worked on.

The construction crew replaced the horizontal concrete surfaces because they were a tripping and safety hazard.

A large portion of the stairs that lead to Reed was removed and replaced with a ramp for ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) accessibility.

The walkway between McEwen and Reed has two purposes as both a walkway and the roof.

The roofing system underneath the walkway had to be replaced as well.

New pavers were also installed to cover it.

Lighting was put in the stairways and walkways. A stair was removed between the McEwen and Reed entrance, and railings and structural work was put in.

The construction is currently in a “Punch List” phase, which means that the project is almost complete.

To keep track of progress, Schmitz, Kessler and the architect physically and repetitively walk through the project and evaluate what still needs to be done or touched up.

Schmitz said, “The biggest thing that needs to be done is that the work that was done to repair the concrete steps needs to be

“Nothing is being worked on right now. The contractor has gone bankrupt...And we are unfortunately five feet from the finish line.”

—KENNETH SCHMITZ
Capital Project Manager,
SUNY Fredonia

redone. Within a week of doing some of that, it started to fail because it wasn’t done properly. That’s probably going to be our biggest headache.”

There are smaller tasks that still need to be done as well.

The face of the canopy has missing precast panels, which need to be produced and put in.

Because the fabrication of those panels takes time, they can’t finish the ceiling or the roof until it’s done.

There are touch-ups for electrical work for the lighting in the stairs and railings.

The torn-up lawn from the construction needs to be graded and seeded to get the grass back.

Some of the asphalt walkways weren’t done properly, so those also need to be redone.

Schmitz broke the news that, “Nothing is being worked on right now. The contractor has gone bankrupt. Not because of this project, but because of a project that they have with the Dormitory Authority at Alfred State. So they have filed for bankruptcy. When that happens, every contract that’s bid has a bond and a bonding company associated with it. So if the contractor defaults, or we can’t get them to do the work, or they go bankrupt, that company takes it over. You can imagine the legal mess that comes with that.”

This “legal mess” consists of negotiating with the bonding company to get contracts transferred, getting insurances settled, then also trying to bring back the workers to finish the work they started. “And we are unfortunately five feet from the finish line,” Schmitz said.

However, Schmitz and Kessler have been attempting to get at least some of the campus back.

They have been advocating to the SUCF for students and staff.

Their idea is that even though the construction is not done, the sections that are safe for students and staff should be opened, and the fencing barrier should be restricted to only the locations that are unsafe.

However, the fencing company needs to approve and take down the fence.

Nobody on campus can take it down, and there is no approval pending to remove it at this point.

It could be a few months until the area opens back up, and it could be another full summer until the construction is actually completed.

It’s a guarantee right now that all of the things that need to be done will not be completed by the end of this year. Since it’s an outside project, there are multiple factors.

The weather can put a stop to construction and the asphalt plants tend to shut down for winter because it’s too cold to lay the asphalt.

At this point, it seems like it might be a while before this project can call itself “completed.”



Photo by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Staff Photographer

Student-run Snack Shack opens in Thompson Hall

CHLOE KOWALYK

Editor in Chief

DAN QUAGLIANA

News Editor

Ask any returning student their thoughts on the closing of the Tim Hortons FREDEExpress, and you will never get them to stop talking.

After the closure of the Tim Hortons FREDEExpress in Thompson Hall almost two years ago, the building has been without a cafe for students to grab food from between classes.

That recently changed with the opening of the Snack Shack, an independently-run cafe operated by the School of Business and located in Thompson Hall W103.



Volunteer Cashier Caiden Campese gives a big thumbs up for Snack Shack. Photo by ALEXANDRA GILES | Asst. Photo Editor

While the Shack may technically be operated by the university, it falls to business students to keep it up and running on a daily basis.

Cole Harris, a senior business administration major with a concentration in management, serves as student manager of the Shack.

Harris said that the inspiration to reopen the dining location is due to a few reasons.

Firstly, there is not a coffee shop on the far side of campus where Thompson Hall is located. Because of this, Harris feels many students will have another option at this new location.

In addition, according to Harris, Mason Cafe will be closing this fall due to a renovation. So, the new Snack Shack will serve as a substitute.

“Hence, we think this store will be well-used,” Harris said.

The Snack Shack is going to serve several different food items. Not only will they offer snacks, but they will also offer “pre-packaged FSA foods such as sausage egg and cheese ba-

gels, chicken caesars and turkey provolone sandwiches,” Harris said. “We also will be serving more classic options like tossed salads and ham, egg and cheese croissants.”

In addition, students can find classic FSA snacks like cinnamon rolls, chocolate chip cookies and yogurt parfaits.

It’s important to note that the new Snack Shack does not accept FSA meal plans or cash. Rather, they only accept cashless transactions such as debit and credit cards.

Since the Snack Shack will be student-run, Harris feels that this is a great opportunity for business majors.

“I think gaining entrepreneurial experience at our age will help build the skills needed to differentiate yourself from others while pursuing whatever career you may be interested in,” he said.

There are currently four student interns working for the Shack. Each of the interns are working specifically for internship credits.

Harris added that students are also able to acquire indispensable work experience while working for the Snack Shack.

“I think entrepreneurial skills, as well as teamwork and leadership skills, are an invaluable part of working at the Snack Shack,” he said. “I hope to continue to grow my skills in these areas while I’m here.”

Students not working the Shack also stand to benefit from the new location.

Hunter Halterman, a senior audio radio production and video production major, is happy to see the opening of the Snack Shack.

Halterman said he has had many classes in Thompson Hall, and has used the time between classes to sit and study in the space where Tim Hortons used to be.

“I’m glad to see the space being utilized,” Halterman said. “Thompson Hall has all walks of life going through it and I’m glad to see there’s a [food] option there again.”

The Snack Shack is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Photo by ALEXANDRA GILES | Asst. Photo Editor

College of Education hosts annual Youth Activation Committee conference

DAN QUAGLIANA
News Editor

While teaching future educators is the main goal of the College of Education, Health Sciences and Human Services, the college and its associated student-run clubs also hold events to bolster student engagement.

One such event that was held earlier this month was the kickoff conference for the Youth Activation Committee (YAC).

Every year, a public school district in Western New York is selected to host the kickoff event for the YAC.

The Youth Activation Committee is an organization affiliated with the Special Olympics. Their main goal is to promote unified sports in public schools.

Unified sports are sports that allow students with special needs to participate in school sports with a youth leader.

“YACs [also] take responsibility for promoting and sustaining their school Unified Sports teams,” according to the Special Olympics’ website.

Last April, the Dunkirk City School District was chosen to host this year’s event, and they reached out to Fredonia’s College of Education to help.

All three student organizations within the College of Education, which include the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), Teacher Education Club (TEC) and Kappa Delta Pi Education Honors Society (KDP), helped Dunkirk in hosting the event, which was held on Oct. 6.

CEC is an education-based club that focuses on working with students with disabilities and strengthening young professionals that work with them, like teachers and speech pathologists.

TEC is a club for teacher candidates to understand the field of education and to make professional connections.

KDP is an education honor society that offers membership to junior- and senior-year students from all majors in the College of Education that meet certain requirements.

Traditionally, the YAC summit is located in a school within the district that hosts it that year, but Dunkirk decided to take advantage of the college campus on their doorstep. This “gave them added publicity for the event,” said Kennedy Neckers, the president of CEC and a senior early childhood/childhood education major.

Executive-board members of all three clubs were heavily involved in planning the event, along with professors, coordi-

“It was really incredible to see local school communities come together with the university to host such a large event.”

—KENNEDY NECKERS
President of CEC,
SUNY Fredonia



Students participate in the YAC conference.
Photo via College of Education.

nators and graduate assistants in the College of Education.

“There were seven schools in attendance [this year], and over 100 students and student athletes,” Neckers said.

There were over 20 volunteers from SUNY Fredonia, which included education students and the entire women’s soccer team.

The summit included icebreaker activities for students to get to know each other as they arrived, as well as assorted breakout sessions, which students could choose based on their interests.

These breakout sessions were hosted by professors from not only the College of Education, but the School of Music as well.

“It was really incredible to see local school communities come together with the university to host such a large event,” Neckers said.

She noted that plans are in the works to make the summit an annual event.

Life & Arts

Women in music: Wise words for the next generation

LUKE VILLAVICENCIO

Special to The Leader

If someone asked you about classical music and composers, chances are you'll likely think of "the greats": Ludwig van Beethoven, Johann Sebastian Bach, Felix Mendelssohn — the list goes on.

But how many of those that come to mind are women?

Many people will feel an immense sense of guilt when they fail to name even one.

This is completely common and makes sense when you delve into why these wildly talented women composers have had so little fame in the past.

This was one of the many topics that was touched on by the Claudette Sorel Visiting Artist Valerie Coleman, Music Director of the Buffalo Philharmonic JoAnn Faletta and our very own Dr. Emily Shaad in the recent Sorel Artist Roundtable Panel: Women in Music this past Thursday, Oct. 12.

"You just don't have what it takes."

This was how Valerie Coleman's very first composition lesson went during her first semester at Boston University.

The statement's harsh rhythm and dismissive certainty sounds like a line straight out of a movie.

She had been self-taught up to that point and was simply looking for any professional guidance, only to be met by a stiff professor who she later found out, "was going after all the women composers in the composition program."

Injustice similar to this is precisely the kind that has persisted throughout the generations and ties a ball and chain on the legs of any wide-eyed young girl looking to create and express herself to the world.

JoAnne Faletta recalls looking into performing the music of Fanny Mendelssohn at a library only to be told, "the Mendelssohn family had given the directive that Fanny's music was never to be shared because Felix was the composer and she wasn't."

Shock came over everyone's faces in tandem after this was said.

"It was just so sad to me to think that she probably never thought of herself as a composer," Faletta said. "We can't let that happen."

These stories given by the members of the roundtable are heartbreaking, but times have changed and things are looking up.

More and more conductors are open to adding female and minority composers on concert programs.

Just take a look at concerts around our very own campus; the Fredonia concert band, conducted by Carrie Pawelski and

"It was just so sad to me to think that she probably never thought of herself as a composer. We can't let that happen."

—**JOANNE FALETTA**

Music Director,
Buffalo Philharmonic

assistant conductor Devin Banning just recently put on a concert called "The Speed of Heat" with works by Nicole Piunno, Dana Wilson and Julie Giroux.

There will be multiple chamber and orchestral works by Coleman scattered across concert programs for this entire academic year.

"I think it's an amazing time of opportunity to put women in the spotlight," said Dr. Emily Shaad. "Young people are expecting to see some more diversity out of the composers they play [and] the performers they watch, and I love it."

Some female composers to explore the works of (in addition to those previously mentioned) include Florence Price, Ashley Lucero, Hildur Guðnadóttir, Clara Schumann, Amy Beach and Barbara Strozzi.

Upcoming Fredonia School of Music Events (all available on the Fredonia School of Music Youtube channel after their concert date):

Video Game Orchestra:

Wednesday, Oct. 18, 8 p.m. in King Concert Hall

Guest Artist Recital:

Tony Caramia, piano - Thursday, Oct. 19, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Rosch Recital Hall

Fredonia Jazz Orchestra:

Friday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. in Rosch Recital Hall

Fredonia String Chamber Ensembles:

Monday, Oct. 23, 8 p.m. in Rosch Recital Hall

Fredonia Clarinet Ensemble:

Wednesday, Oct. 25, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Rosch Recital Hall

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Open Mic Night: Showcase your talents!

ROSEMARIE RAPISARDA

Special to The Leader

Do you have a special talent that you want to showcase?

Stop by the Williams Center's Blue Lounge any Friday between 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.

All students are welcome to come up on stage and show off any talent they might have ranging from playing an instrument, singing karaoke, stand-up comedy, slam poetry and many more.

Do you have a little stage fright?

No worries!

Even if you're not performing, it's a perfect opportunity to come and support your fellow students who are.

Campus Life is conducting these weekly Open Mic Nights, "To provide some regular Friday night fun for students ... [The goal is to] connect students to peers and clubs, as well as foster a sense of belonging on campus," said Rachel Martin, the associate director of Campus Life.

Martin also mentioned how this idea came about.

"After talking with students and other campus departments, we felt like students would enjoy regular and consistent programming, something they could participate in," she said. "Karaoke and Open Mic Nights have been very popular in the past and are a great way for students to connect and have fun."

Student-run clubs and organizations are also able to host a night.

"We are hoping that clubs are interested in partnering with each other and with the Campus Life office on these events," Martin said. "Many clubs are saying that they need more club members and this is an opportunity to promote those clubs. These events are a great way for students to join in on the fun even if they haven't decided to join a club yet."

To host a Friday night event, clubs can contact Martin at rachel.martin@fredonia.edu.

This past Friday, the Student Association hosted an Open Mic Night in hopes of spreading the word that other clubs could do so as well.

Bethany Anderson, the Chief Justice of the Student Association, shared her thoughts on why clubs should be interested in hosting a night.

"Having other clubs host a night allows the event to be switched up weekly and have a different spin on it ... It is also a good way to get your club out there since it's a fun and easy event," she said. "It gives you the floor to speak about your club since you could get a lot of engagement and interest from guests who aren't a part of it."

As for spreading the word about the event, Anderson said, "Reposting on social media is where most students are active, it's a great way to gain more attention and have a big turnout."

Anderson also shared some tips on how to keep the crowd going when hosting.

"I think it was a good idea to have one or two people as a consistent MC ... it encourages people to come up on stage and entertain the crowd between performers. So if you have one or two energetic people in your club, it would be amazing to have them come up and lead hosting," she said.

Sangai Keita, a senior public relations and political science double major, was one of the many students who participated in Open Mic Night.

"My favorite part of Open Mic Night was meeting and speaking to people that I normally have seen but have never gotten the chance to speak with," Keita said. "Open Mic Night gave a platform for people to just talk about anything random and everyone is still enjoying it."

Keita also shared her thoughts on advice for future students who are interested in hosting.

"In terms of the host [Student Association Comptroller Brian Lyght Jr.], I think it was nice seeing how uncut and real he was. I think most of the time students or people who come to Open Mic Night are just looking for reliability and inclusivity and that is exactly what the host did ... I would like to see these same qualities in future hosts!"

Keita said for spreading the word about the event, people should "Reach out to people you may not typically reach out to. A lot of students love to get involved and be included and you wouldn't know until you reach out to them."

It's that point of the semester where many are feeling stressed, so an Open Mic Night may allow students to relax, have fun and unwind.

Join The Leader for General Body meetings!

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

In The Leader Office! S206 Williams Center



The Archives: A hidden gem of Fredonia

ISABELLA INZINNA

Staff Writer

Only the few and curious will ever dare to venture into the tower archives. In your time at Fredonia, it's not likely that you'll ever visit the archives.

You'll certainly pass by them, but only a select number of majors enter. Other than that, only the curious students who have heard of the tower archives are brave enough to enter.

When looking back into the blueprints and plans for Reed Library, the tower always existed. There was never a version of the blueprints without the tower.

Mandi Shepp, coordinator of special collections and archives, gave a lot of insight into the history of the archives.

It's important to note that the archives are only accessible if you make an appointment with Shepp. They highlighted a curved wall that runs through the building.

Shepp described the shape of the building saying, "the design for this building was always meant to be geometrically weird."

Shepp continued saying, "The first version of this building looked like the Nickelodeon splats, like amoebic blobs."

The archives didn't really exist until the 70s. There wasn't really a need for one until the Stefan Zweig collection came to the school in the 60s.

Stefan Zweig was an Austrian writer who in the height of his career, was one of the most widely translated writers worldwide. Many of Zweig's works were burned by the Nazi regime since his works were seen as "Un-German."

With so many of Zweig's books being burned, all of his writings are cherished, including letters he wrote. Hence, the archives were created in order to house this very important collection.

For some time, books were not properly sorted into the archives. Many books were just placed in the archives due to their appearance.

Some books were placed in the archives due to their age. Regardless, these were not the right reasons. Shepp said that for about fifteen years, there was no archivist position, which is what led to the disarray in the archives.

Now, a big part of Shepp's job is educating others on what to look for and why books go into the archives.

When going to see the archives, it might be a bit confusing.

You walk into the library, turn right and walk all the way to the Carnahan-Jackson Center. Then, when the elevator is just in front of you, ignore it and make another right.

On your left are some offices, but on your right, you'll see some black and white pictures. Moments in the history of Fredonia that directly involve SUNY Fredonia students.

Once you step through the doors, it feels almost magical.

The little round room is lined with old books on either side and you can smell the worn, aged paper.

The room is cool in order to keep the books in good condition. There's very little sound in the room aside from the door closing behind you and your footsteps on the floor.

Directly across from the door, there are some sculptures



Photo by ALEXANDRA GILES | Asst. Photo Editor

on display.

There are some tables in the middle of the room where you can get lost for hours flipping through fragments of history.

However, books are only the beginning of what you can find in the archives.

The archives hold: documents, reel to reels, artist books, art prints, paintings, sculptures, textiles, old band uniforms, musical instruments, music scores, vinyl collections, photographs, scrapbooks, yearbooks and a VHS yearbook from 1992.

You might not have noticed this when you entered, but the wall in the back of the room is flat, which doesn't match the curve of the building.

Upon further investigation, you'll find a spiral staircase behind the wall.

The stairs lead up to a slightly less magical room with tall metal shelves. This is where the rest of the archives are.

Aside from the special collections held in the archives, on the fourth floor, there's a study lounge. The lounge has two floors.

The first floor is more of a reading room with some tables and chairs for students to do work. However, just up the stairs is another study area.

With small windows that overlook the Fredonia campus and a skylight, the room is naturally lit. There are some chairs scattered around the circular room with little tables accompanying them.

There are lots of cobwebs, making the tower lounge feel much older than it is. The lamps on the top floor feel antique, with their old, yellowing lampshades.

The tower lounge feels like a prime study spot.

Reservations to visit the lounge can be made through the Reed Library website.

Shepp's final thoughts are that not enough students are aware of this resource that's available to them on campus.

Shepp said, "I think it depends on the [student's] major. My job is to tell faculty about [the archives] so they tell students."

Shepp also said that more students are becoming aware of the archives which is exciting.

So the question is, are you brave enough to venture into the archives?

The column as communion: Fredonia alumnus Sean Kirst and the soul of Upstate N.Y.

DAVID HERRING
Special to The Leader

The Buffalo News columnist Sean Kirst does something unusual in newsrooms: he wears sandals. But Kirst didn't realize his affinity for sandals like most would by trying them out. Kirst first wore sandals to make a point to school kids who insulted someone close to him.

The gesture was fitting because the point Kirst made with the sandals is the same idea he's conveyed to so many Upstate New Yorkers for decades. His tales are about everyday folks, regardless of who they are. Tales about their victories as well as losses and how they persevere.

These "fundamental elements of humanity" captured by Kirst's unique columns, "is the soul of a hometown," he said in his book, "The Soul of Central New York." Kirst views his columns as a way of providing Upstate camaraderie in the community. Or as he puts it, Upstate communion.

Kirst has been telling Upstate New Yorkers stories about their communities for the last half-century. In 2009, he received the prestigious Ernie Pyle Award for human interest in journalism. Since he was a boy listening to his mother's tales, Kirst knew he wanted to strengthen his community with storytelling.

Kirst has an uncanny ability to form and maintain connections with people. He distinguishes himself as a journalist by empathizing, listening and earning his community's trust. His ability to have compassion for the people he writes about is at "off-the-chart levels", according to Kirst's longtime colleague, Mike McAndrew.

The story behind one of the most revered storytellers of Upstate New York couldn't be timelier and more inspiring, especially considering high mistrust among the public for news media, according to recent Pew Research data. But it ain't all mudslinging in news writing these days, as evident by journalists like Kirst.

Kirst reminds readers of their shared experiences riding the rollercoaster that is life. Through narratives of average citizens, his columns provide a sense of communion to unite the community. "He's very good at finding the small story that tells the larger story. Without being overly sentimental, his writing does tug on our heartstrings," said Margaret Sullivan, former Buffalo News Editor and New York Times best-selling author.

Kirst's journey in journalism traces back to Chautauqua county. It's here where he was born and inspired as a writer for SUNY Fredonia's student-run newspaper, The Leader.

Entering Biscotti Cafe in Syracuse, New York is a reprieve from this winter morning in February. The senses became overstimulated by the aroma of fresh coffee and the sight of delicious cannolis.

A man appeared in the periphery. He was away from the showcase of goodies to make evident he wasn't waiting for or ordering something. The man was there to pick up a cake for his family and to share his story as a journalist with a student reporter. The man was Sean Kirst.

Kirst wore sweatpants, a hoodie with a thicker coat over it



Kirst talks to Sen. Charles Schumer about sandals.
Photo courtesy of Michelle Breidenbach.

and a beanie. He looked like he was in his early fifties, about a decade younger than his actual age. He had distinguished-looking salt and pepper stubble on his face. He looked somewhat tired at first glance.

But the fatigue vanished when Kirst spotted me, the student reporter from his alma mater, SUNY Fredonia.

Kirst was born and raised in Dunkirk, NY. Kirst was the youngest of six children in his family. His parents experienced hardship when they were young. Kirst's mother was an orphan and his father grew up in an orphanage. But Kirst saw a silver lining to his parent's struggles. "It was a benefit though, man. Because all the biases or prejudices and all the other preconceptions that can go with coming out of the working family were stripped away from [his parents] them," he said.

Kirst's father often worked nights at the steam station transporting the coal that fueled Mohawk Electric. As Kirst described in his book, "The Soul of Central New York", his mother could find "beauty almost anywhere." She saw her neighborhoods as places of "communal warmth," had passion and knowledge for the English language and was fond of birds, particularly robins.

This story in its entirety can be found here:





Natasha, Pierre & The Great Comet of 1812

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Student tickets \$10 in advance; \$15 at the door

Campus Ticket Office, Williams Center
M-W-F from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Tickets 24/7 at fredonia.edu/tickets

 **FREDONIA**
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

'Earth, Wind, and Pliers'

BECCA TORNCHELLO
Staff Photographer



Artist Andrew J Semo, art pieces of "Untitled Long Stitch Bindings" made from Handmade paper, dried flowers, paper, linen thread. And art piece called "Untitled Leather Binding" made from leather, linen bands, paper, linen thread.



Artist Lilly Baer, art piece called "Dragonfly" made from Aluminum wire, steel wire.



Artist Regan Haran, art piece called "Juliet's spoons" made from Black walnut, plum, heartnut.



Artist Jasper Glow, art piece called "Dearest King" made from found objects, foam clay, acrylic paint.



Artist Henry Domst, art piece called "Signified Journeys, #1 #2, #3" made from Aluminum sign, cord, paint, canvas, thread, ink, metal hardware, plywood.

SPORTS

Brian Rigali: A new assistant hockey coach

MITCHELL HORUCY

Staff Writer

The men's hockey team will have a new coach behind the boards this season, as Brian Rigali joins head coach Jeff Meredith as an assistant coach.

A graduate of the University of Connecticut (UConn), Rigali was a member of the men's hockey team for all four years he was there.

During his senior year, he was named an assistant captain.

"It meant everything. I always wanted to be a leader," said Rigali, on what it meant to be granted the "A."

He was also named an assistant captain in his final year playing for Sioux City, a junior team in the United States Hockey League (USHL).

He finished his college career at American International College (AIC) after being granted a fifth year of eligibility due to COVID-19. He was a part of the AIC team that won the Atlantic Hockey Conference championship in the 2021-2022 season.

During the fall of his fifth year at AIC, he came to the realization that his time playing hockey was coming to an end.

He knew he wanted to stay involved in the sport, which led to him wanting to coach.

As an assistant coach, Rigali is in charge of running the defense as well as the team's power play.

He is also heavily involved in recruiting.

In fact, he just recently went to Calgary, Alberta on a recruiting trip.

One of the things he's stressed as a coach is the importance of using video and film.

"Seeing yourself in [the] game is huge," said Rigali.

He said they use video and film a lot as a team, but he also loves to use it with individual players.

Having been around the game since the age of five, he's learned a lot from a wide variety of people. When he was asked what he wanted to bring to Fredonia from what he learned in the past, he had one word: transparency.

He said it can be tough sometimes and not everyone wants to hear it, but it helps.

Rigali also mentioned that at UConn and AIC, everyone in the locker room didn't just want or think they'd win, they expected to win.

He hopes he can bring that mentality here.

Besides winning, Rigali hopes to get a lot out of coaching. He said he likes being the young guy and helping players develop on and off the ice.

He also mentioned how the "little things" can lead to winning in the long run.

Because he is only one year removed from being a collegiate hockey player himself, he says he is finding a lot of differences between being a player and coach.

He's watching film all day, everyday, and he is also helping the team find their identity, which is different from what he experienced as a player.

Before becoming the assistant coach, he said he didn't know much about Fredonia at all.

He heard about the opening through his coach at AIC, Eric Lang, who has a connection with Meredith, the head hockey coach here.

Rigali says he is still new, but he's liking the area so far.

He says he's made a ton of memories playing college hockey. He's met a lot of lifelong friends at both UConn and AIC, and he even met his girlfriend at UConn, who he's still with.

He said his favorite memory playing was when AIC won the Atlantic Hockey Conference championship which led to them getting a berth in the national tournament.

They lost to the top-ranked Michigan Wolverines in a close game, 5-3.

Rigali said he's extremely excited for the season to get underway. "I think we're gonna surprise a lot of people in our conference," he said.

The team kicks off their season against the Eastern Hockey League (EHL) All-Stars Friday, October 20 at 7 p.m. The game will be played in Steele Hall.

GRADUATE SCHOOL FAIR

Networking, prep and more!

Tuesday, October 24



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



Career Development Office (CDO)
Gregory Hall, 2nd floor
(716) 673-3327
careers@fredonia.edu



Featured Events



Monday, Oct. 23 • 4:00 – 5:00 PM

WORKSHOP – open to all!

Grad School Application Prep

(Career Development AND Graduate Studies)
Williams Center, S-204DE



Tuesday, Oct. 24 • 3:00 – 4:00 PM

PRESENTATION – open to all!

**College of Arts
& Sciences Programs**

(University at Buffalo)
Williams Center, S-204DE



Tuesday, Oct. 24 • 6:00 – 7:00 PM

PRESENTATION – Pre-Health

**Health Professions Programs &
The Application Process**

(UB School of Medicine/ Biomedical Sciences)
Williams Center, S204DE

Excitement on the ice: Fredonia Blue Devils take on EHL All-Stars

PARKER GURNETT
Special to The Leader

Fredonia hockey will look to claim the name of "All-Stars" on Oct. 20.

That night, the team will play a preseason scrimmage against the Eastern Hockey League (EHL) All-Stars.

The EHL is a hockey league of 23 teams in four divisions, similar to the NHL.

The EHL is a league designed for players to play in before they head to college.

The league has been regarded as one of the leaders in advancement to NCAA division II and III levels.

This will be the sixth year that the EHL has had an All-Star team play a division III school, according to Associate EHL Commissioner Neil Ravin.

Fredonia and the EHL have worked closely together since the league's formation 11 years ago.

In fact, since 2014, 34 players have committed to play for Fredonia, the second most by any school in the league behind Brockport.

The league has had continuous support for these scrimmage games against its All-Stars. Every year, more and more schools reach out wanting to have them come and play against them.

The league now has multiple All-Star teams including what they call first team and second team, again similar to the NHL first team and second team.

"It is the least we can do as the league ... Give back to a school who has given so much to the league," Ravin said.

Fredonia will be facing the All-Stars first team.

Fredonia head coach Jeff Meredith has had his own two sons play in the EHL which, he says, "makes their All-Stars coming a little more special."

Being a career coach and having had numerous players come from this league, Meredith described the event as "an exciting opportunity to see more possible Blue Devil athletes."

The All-Stars plan on arriving at Fredonia on that Friday around 3 p.m. After their arrival, they will be given a facility tour by Meredith who says that, during the tour, "they will learn about the history and tradition of the program."

He has hopes that seeing the facilities could motivate one to want to play at Fredonia.

There is more excitement behind the All-Star scrimmage than usual, as there will be 25 prospective players here, Meredith said.

The hope is that with a mixture of facility tours and playing against the Fredonia team itself, the players will get a feel for the program.

The puck drop for this game will be at 7 p.m. in Steele Hall.

This is the Fredonia hockey's first live action of the year, which means it is time to fill the rink and be loud.

"The players have put in a lot of hard work and effort this offseason so it will be exciting to see their efforts pay off," Meredith said. "Our existing group told me they weren't satisfied with a sixth place finish ... They are hungry for more."

The first regular season home game will be Friday, Nov. 10, but before that, let's get to Steele Hall at 7 p.m. on Oct. 20 and cheer on our Blue Devils against the EHL All-Stars.

Big Blue Sports Podcast to air again Wednesday, Oct. 18

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

Attention sports fans: "Big Blue Sports Podcast" is now at a different time!

Tune in each Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. for all kinds of sports updates, reactions and opinions.

"Big Blue Sports Podcast" covers the Bills, Sabres, national sports news and of course, our very own Fredonia Blue Devils!

Tune in on WCVF 88.9 FM in Dunkirk and Fredonia or stream live on fredoniaradio.com.



ALINA MARSH | Staff Artist

Home field advantage: Ultimate frisbee team takes on a tournament at home

BROCK PAPKE

Special to The Leader

For many athletes, a tournament is a testament to competition, athleticism and team bonding.

You drive an hour or more to other colleges, sometimes even another state, to play against 3-4 random teams to win, all while bonding closer to your teammates.

But what happens when you host your own tournament?

Well, that's the challenge Fredonia's very own club ultimate frisbee team, the Terrifying Turtles, faced four weeks ago.

For those who are unaware of what club ultimate frisbee is, captain and fifth year history and political science major Seth Porter describes the club as, "a 7V7 team sport in which each team tries to pass a disc between their members towards an endzone — basically like football."

Fellow captain and psychology major Alex Staco also describes it as, "an opportunity to socialize and talk with other people but also grow as a group of individuals that have one common goal in mind... You can develop certain skills that you can probably use later on."

It was the first Fredonia-based tournament in 10 years.

Fellow captain and double communication major in journalism and video production, Brandon Jeanotte, commented that, "There are some people [on] the team [who have] been here for five years, and they've never had the torment at home, so I think it was great to have that."

Porter spoke on the achievement, "It's our first tournament in 10 years-ish... something like that. It's been a long time. So it was really cool to see it actually come to fruition, and it was a great experience to see a lot of people experience their first

little taste of a tournament."

Club secretary Asa Ostrowski, a music education major and the former club president, said, "We had other people on the E-board that also helped set up this tournament and we had to get in contact with a lot of schools [to see] if they were interested. A lot of discussions [occurred between] the school, Athletics and SA to get the events going through."

"We also had the grounds crew help us a lot [by] painting their fields," Ostrowski said.

It was definitely a unique experience for the team, who in previous tournaments had to drive to Fort Niagara and Edinboro, PA.

About the experience of having a tournament in Fredonia, Ostrowski said, "Because we were hosting it, we're able to sleep in our own beds. We were able to not have to worry about travel time. We were able to get up at a reasonable hour, walk in, warm up and just start playing."

There were four schools, which included Cortland, Binghamton and University at Buffalo. Each school split up into seven A & B teams, where one would have veteran players and the other rookies.

You can tell that they aren't just teammates and fellow students, but a family unit with no stopping in sight.

As they prepare for future and larger-scale tournaments, Jeanotte said, "Throughout that tournament, you were able to tell who was actually bonding with you, and how much it actually means to be able to synergize with one another."

Not only did the home tournament allow for home field advantage, but it also made cheering on teammates and bonding with friends that much seamless.



Photo by ALEXANDRA GILES | Asst. Photo Editor

Fredonia's swimming and diving teams dip their toes into a new season

MASON NEALE
Special to The Leader

Dive into the excitement and splash into the fun, because the upcoming Fredonia swimming and diving season is going to make some waves!

"I really like where our team is at right now, we have a great group of people, they all are really enthusiastic teammates," Head Coach Bill Bradley said. "They work hard every day and make it fun to go to practice — we have a really high character team this year."

This is Bradley's third year coaching the team, and the team is hoping to make this the best season yet under him.

The men's team has four swimmers on the roster this year and are led by juniors Noah Wisniewski and Patrick McCrone. They may be on the smaller side by the numbers on the roster, but they are a strong team.

The women's team is led by senior Kaylee Constantino and juniors Megan Orrange and Lilly Baer.

This year, the women's team has 11 swimmers on the roster.

They are looking to have a truly remarkable season, having already won their first competition 97-74 against Pitt-Bradford, where they took first place in many events.

"Already, in practice everyone seems to be ahead of where we were at this time last season, so I have a feeling it's going to be a good season," Baer said.

The teams are starting to look very impressive, and they are determined to perform better this year at SUNYACS than last season.

"There's always room for improvement in swimming, but everyone has their own things to work on," Baer said. "We've all been working on the technical aspects of each stroke by doing drills in practice, and then working hard to get faster as well."

According to Baer, the Blue Devils have been working really hard and have been putting in the hours in the off-season and in practice to improve and be better than ever this season.

Coach Bradley agrees, saying, "The team has already improved in areas we needed to improve. The team is really clicking this year and pushing each other to be the best that they can be."

Fredonia will hopefully be hosting a two-day invite in December, and the team is currently working on getting another one in November.

Everyone wanting to support the Fredonia Blue Devils swimming and diving team should take a trip down to the Natatorium located in Steele Hall.

There's more to gender than just male and female.
Learn about trans identities.
Visibility can help destigmatize nonbinary individuals and open people's minds.

NOT GAY

OPEN THROUGH NOVEMBER 12



Zanele Muholi (South African, born 1972), *Lerato Dumse*, Syracuse, New York, 2015

MARION ART GALLERY
ROCKEFELLER ARTS CENTER
SUNY FREDONIA

Gallery Hours

noon – 4 pm Tuesday – Thursday
noon – 6 pm Friday and Saturday
noon – 4 pm Sunday

(ART-icle) Fredonia's unfulfilled responsibility: Art display

JIMMY KELLER
Special to The Leader

Art has an ability that people may only subconsciously recognize.

Spaces have the potential to facilitate greater productivity, lower stress and enhance energy levels, among other benefits. If this is true, why don't environments, especially those around our campus, consist of more student artwork?

Rockefeller Arts Center is flourishing with artistic life. The energy within the building is unmatched to the other 30 academic and administrative buildings, with the possible exception of the music that erupts from Mason Hall.

While many places beyond Rockefeller have either artwork or sculptures, there are many areas left bare and unlively.

Artwork has a place beyond the walls of the Arts Center, and has tremendous positive effects that are very much underutilized. Art transforms emotions and energizes spaces beyond what traditional architecture can do.

A study of more than 6,000 office workers concluded that a well-designed space (including inspiring artwork) helps workers be 20% more productive.

It then seems to be clear that student and faculty productivity could experience benefits by incorporating more artwork in study spaces, hallways, residence halls, common places and throughout the grounds of campus.

In Art Forum's most recent meetings, a large group of students from inside and outside of the art department have expressed concerns with the lack of student artwork across the university.

Sara Neumar, public relations representative for Art Forum, elaborated on this thought process.

Neumar said, "We mentioned adding a mural to a section of McEwen, and maybe some more outdoor installations as well. We also discussed the idea of collaborative work with other clubs, and perhaps even other schools, like the local elementary, middle and high schools."

The section described is the dreary stretch that people are forced through to access the library. It is the same path that is not only walked by students, but also by a great amount of the community. It's almost as if the designers were intentionally trying to make an uninspiring place where students didn't want to hang out.

Artwork has a place within the static environment of the Williams Center. It can lighten up the colorlessness of Thompson and Fenton. Even with the modern architecture of Houghton Hall and the Science Center, art can be utilized to expand knowledge of environmental science or even detail collaborations with current research.

Biology major, Alyscia Le-Tran, gave her thoughts on the topic, as she spends a majority of the time within the Science Center. "It would be interesting to see more interactive compo-

nents to the Science Center, even if it was just for fun. It could also serve as an educational tool."

Art has a place in all majors and all buildings, and can positively impact more than just what we see in Rockefeller.

Where is all this new art coming from though? The campus needs more art, and meanwhile, there are hundreds of Visual Arts and New Media (VANM) students trying to seek out real-life experiences and more exposure for their artwork.

Students have an inherent drive to improve the campus they will occupy for four years. SUNY Fredonia will forever be a part of each and every one of us and many students would be ecstatic for the opportunity to create a commission that will have a lasting effect on their school.

Whether this commission is funded by a newly formed scholarship, donated or created in collaboration with Art Forum and other clubs, there are many sources for student artwork. It can form a mutualism between students and the rest of the campus.

For art students, it would support professional and career development, which is already very challenging for these students due to the lack of education on how to make a living as a professional artist.

Neumar stated, "I believe that art, especially student-made, can bring more liveliness to this campus, as well as create more opportunities for art- and non-art-major students to be creative outside of class work. I also feel it can encourage discussions [and] expose students to peer work." In Neumar's opinion, "It would be a missed opportunity to not utilize our collective talents in beautifying the campus."

SUNY Fredonia has a responsibility as one of the top-rated SUNY art schools to fulfill its potential and expectations. Every student and faculty member wants Fredonia's campus to become the best it can be, but we all realize there is room for improvement. So why not tap into a core strength of the campus to push this artistry even further?

The diversity among campus is impressive.

Students choose Fredonia's art program for a reason. With VANM consistently increasing in enrollment and now becoming the largest liberal arts program on campus this year, it will continue to grow in the future.

I think SUNY Fredonia has a responsibility to transform the environment into an even greater flourishing art community beyond just Rockefeller Arts Center. It cannot be done alone though, and needs support from administration, which shouldn't be a problem considering the significant benefits improving the campus would have on current and potential students. Fredonia's art scene can be pushed further, but often gets put on the back-burner.

Art has the power to transform spaces into more energized, productive environments for the students, for the public, for the faculty and for thousands of other undecided individuals searching for an inspiring campus.

Selections in poetry: Anna Smith

The Love of Self

the love of self,
plainly stated,
is an elusive
and, admittedly,
unknown thing
to me.

i've heard it said
that this thing,
when — or in my case,
if — acquired,
can change one's life
for the better,

that all the facets
of being a damned human
are somehow made
more tolerable:

the learned judgment
from and of others,
the menial and meaningless
"work" of a society
that only speaks 9-5,
and the fear of being alone,
and of dying —

all these facets,
are somehow deemed
irrelevant, powerless,
and unblighting
of the higher human spirit —

a spirit refined
from the release of fear
and the embrace of suffering.

no,
suffering is no longer suffering.
it is instead
room to grow,

and that fear
becomes an equal parts uncanny
and just-as-intentional love
for one's life.

and so, perhaps,
the damnation that comes from being human
really is made tolerable,
actually, more than —
perhaps, cliché and strangely so...
beautiful.

so, the Love of Self,
i will find you
esoteric and elusive as you are;

i will find you.
i will find you.
i will find you.

and stake my claim
on all of what was stolen from me
by an insecure, shaking-in-its-boots kind of world
i will show it
through undeniable proof of my own
that there is a better way.



Lovercolumn:

Gay Culture at Fredonia

THE ELECTRICIAN

Executive Producer and Host of Lovercall

THE ARCHITECT

Lovercall Producer

THE QUARTERBACK

Lovercall Host

Hello!

We are The Electrician, The Architect and The Quarterback: producers and hosts of the radio show Lovercall right here at 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.

“The Electrician” is a 21-year-old cisgender female student who uses she/her pronouns and is a senior at Fredonia.

“The Architect” is a 20-year-old cisgender male student who uses he/him pronouns and is a senior at Fredonia.

“The Quarterback” is a 19-year-old cisgender male student who uses he/him pronouns and is a sophomore at Fredonia.

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 game and a main topic for the episode.

Listeners also write into the show, either via Fredonia Radio’s Instagram, @fredonia_radio, on Yik Yak, or through the QR code provided in this column.

We typically answer the questions asked right here in this column, so be sure to look out for student stories and questions in future columns.

The show is now being streamed weekly on Wednesday nights from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. on WDWL 89.5 on www.fredoniaradio.com.

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

Date idea of the week

We hope to provide our fellow students with a fun and unique date idea in every column. These “date” ideas aren’t just for romantic partners — you could go with your friends, your classmates or you can even go solo for a fun activity in Fredonia.

This week, we here at Lovercall recommend dancing in the rain!

With the seasons changing, we’ve had plenty of rainy days that would be perfect for this.

Dancing in the rain, as cliché as it might appear in a mov-

ie, is a small but super romantic thing to do with your significant other.

While most couples might choose to do this during the day, you could also go at night and dance with only the car headlights shining on you.

You could even enhance the dance by playing a song you both love and dancing to it.

However, as we discussed, it might be a good idea to have a change of clothes after you’re done dancing — after all, nobody likes walking around in rain-soaked clothes.

Lovercallers

We call those who reach out to us with stories about love, sex and relationships “Lovercallers.”

This week, we answered a question from our Google form.

A person using the codename “WubblezBubbles” asked for some advice about flirting and being confident when talking to new people. WubblezBubbles identifies as pansexual.

Here at Lovercall, we advise getting to know people before beginning to flirt.

Many of us prefer to have friendships with people before dating them.

This allows you to get more comfortable with that person while getting to know them without any stakes.

Plus, once you feel more comfortable around this person, you may gain the confidence you need to flirt with them.

You could always join clubs on campus to help you find people with similar interests, but sometimes just talking to people in the Starbucks line or around campus is a great way to branch out to other students.

Although talking to new people can be scary, consider that there really aren’t any consequences if someone doesn’t match your vibe.

All you need to do is move onto the next person and you will surely find someone who you enjoy being around.

Gay Culture at Fredonia

Our topic this week was Gay Culture at Fredonia.

Conveniently, this past episode fell on National Coming Out Day, on Oct. 11.

Each of our guests identified as a sexuality other than heterosexual (not counting the hosts/producers).

With the diversity among our guests, we were able to gather a wide variety of perspectives about the climate of gay culture at SUNY Fredonia.

Each of our guests felt that Fredonia is a welcoming and accepting place.

They felt that there was more of a gay culture at Fredonia than other schools.

Continued onto next page

For instance, one of our guests, "The Librarian," transferred to Fredonia from a religious college.

She explained that sexuality was never really something that was talked about.

At Fredonia, there are several accepting spaces. The college has clubs such as a pride alliance that welcome different sexualities.

Fredonia also has a chosen name program and many teachers ask students their preferred pronouns.

Our guests also provided advice to those who are gay and are looking to meet others.

Generally, everyone agreed that most people on campus are accepting.

Goose explained that people on campus are pretty nice if you just talk to them.

It's important to remember that we are all students and many of us are sharing the same experience.

As for resources for students regarding their sexuality, many of our guests have had positive experiences with the counseling center on campus.

This resource is free to all students, and the counselors are always willing to talk to students about navigating their sexuality.

Patty, one of this week's guests, explained that there are plenty of resources, but students are responsible for seeking them out themselves.

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 Electrician," "The Architect" and "The Quarterback" are members of Fredonia Radio Systems and are involved in the production of Lovercall.

Coming Soon:

Intimacy coach Erica Rose

Be sure to tune into Lovercall on Wednesday, Oct. 18 at 10 p.m. as a special guest will be coming onto the show!

Professional Intimacy Coach Erica Rose is officially returning to the show.

Rose works particularly with those who own vulvas to help educate them about their bodies, build confidence and help couples and individuals understand their sexual desires.

Rose focuses effective communication and other essential skills used to navigate relationships.

Rose has come onto Lovercall in past semesters to help educate students about intimacy, love and relationships.

This semester, Rose and the other guests of Lovercall will be exploring topics such as the struggles and effective communication around sex and the fear of missing out on hook up culture and pressure to conform to society's standards of relationship and intimacy.

The show will still include segments such as "Date Idea of the Week" and "Lovercallers."

However, a special hour-long discussion will occur during the second hour of the show that will tackle the aforementioned topics.

A discussion between the student guests and Rose will provide advice and similar experiences for students.

If you are interested in asking Rose and the hosts of Lovercall a question or are looking for advice, please be sure to scan the QR code to submit your questions.

As always, Lovercall will be airing on WDVL 89.5 on fredoniaradio.com.

We hope to catch you on the waves!



A playlist for every mood: Murder Mystery Party

MARISSA BURR

Opinion Editor

October is in full swing, which means it's officially "Spooky Season."

Store shelves are lined with costumes, candy, pumpkins, skulls and more.

As Halloween approaches the number of parties will increase, and, as always, safe practices are encouraged.

Have a designated driver, keep track of your friends, don't consume anything from strangers and most of all respect the choices of people around you — "no" means no my readers.

Now, if you want to be extra cool this year and add a little something special to your party, I highly recommend the theme "Murder Mystery."

You can go as gory as "Saw" or as chill as "Clue" and still ensure your guests have a great time.

The key detail: a playlist that fully encapsulates the dark mystery that you're going for.

It's easy to find a pre-made playlist on Spotify that has classic Halloween songs like "Monster Mash," but that could make your party seem childish.

The best way to scare your guests is to take songs they could hear on the radio and group them together in just the right way so they'll truly feel haunted.

"Panic Room" by Au/Ru

It's only fitting that this song is the opening to your Murder Mystery Party playlist; I mean the opening is literally a warped voice welcoming you to the panic room.

Its lyrics, depending on the context you're listening to them in, ring similar to both thoughts from a haunted house or psychiatric ward.

I believe the scariest songs are those that remind us that these scary thoughts we have are common, but not necessarily normal.

In an artistic sense, this song builds your adrenaline as you listen to it.

The verses have minimal background noise, forcing you to listen to the words.

They end with "the monster's much bigger than I can control now" before rushing into the chorus with a heavy bass and layered voices. It signifies how the monster has taken over momentarily and that's why there's such a panic.

The song ends with the repeated line "I'm ready for the worst," which perfectly leads listeners into the rest of the playlist full of horrors.

"Breakfast" by Dove Cameron

At first listen, this song seems more subtle about its dark undertones than others on the list, but its chorus ensured its spot: "I eat boys like you for breakfast."

Cameron isn't discussing an actual crime or even something inherently terrifying but rather it toes the line of creepiness.

If you grew up with Dove Cameron, you think of the bubbly blonde from Disney Channel, but she's done a complete 180 with both her look and this 2022 song.

It's almost as if our favorite childhood character has gone to the dark side (while she's still an amazing person), and the death of her prior persona deserves to be on a tombstone at your party.

The D minor key, creepy dolls on the album cover and of course talking about how they're "one by one hung on my necklace," lets this song stand on its own merits at your Murder Mystery Party.

"No Body No Crime" by Taylor Swift feat. HAIM

It starts with sirens.

Whispers saying "he did it."

Then country instrumentals.

Now we've got the perfect platform for an old-western murder story.

As each minute ticks by, the plot thickens from a cheating husband to the wife's disappearance and murder. Suspicion grows as the chorus repeats, and now it's the husband who lies six feet under.

Our vocalist takes her revenge for the murder of her best friend, without ever admitting to it.

Old country lovers are reminded of "Goodbye Earl" by The Chicks, but in a more mysterious tone.

The diversity of sounds between HAIM's backup vocals, the harmonica, guitars and the slow consistent drum beat take us on a journey we'd see on Criminal Minds.

There's nothing like a good murder narrative to remind your party guests where they are.

"Two Black Cadillacs" by Carrie Underwood

I couldn't mention Swift's song without also recognizing a similar tale released eight years before by country star Carrie Underwood.

She tells her own story, this time two women taking revenge on their cheating lover.

What makes the two songs so unnerving is that neither ever admit what they did, but we all know.

The best line is "they shared a crimson smile and just walked away and left the secret at the grave."

The imagery that both the wife and the mistress showed up to the funeral, both in black veils and black cadillacs, portrays their bond.

Neither will ever rat the other one out, and they both were given justice.

They say hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, and any man walking into your Murder Mystery Party better be sure they've been faithful or they might just be caught being the night's corpse.

Continued onto next page

“Zombie” by The Cranberries

I’ll start off by saying there are two versions of this song, and I debated back and forth about which one I should include. In the end, the original won because Dolores O’Riordan’s voice fits perfectly into this playlist.

The cover is by Bad Wolves, and it’s definitely worth a listen to, especially because they were supposed to work with the band on the song, but O’Riordan unfortunately passed away before they could do so.

To honor her they changed the lyric from “since 1916” to “since 2018.”

No matter which version you favor, everything from the title to the drums to every lyric makes this the perfect addition to your Murder Mystery Party. It’s eclectic and raw while also being an awesome song to blast through your speakers.

This is the theme song for the apocalypse, especially with it not ending with vocals. Instead, there’s a section of pure instrumentals that is reminiscent of the fact that life has been eradicated and there’s no one left to sing.

“If Looks Could Kill” by Jeremy Shada

If you’ve read prior editions of this column, you’ll know I’m obsessed with Jeremy Shada, so I listened to this song the night it was released and watched the hauntingly beautiful video with his wife Carolyn starring as a ballerina.

It was one of the singles for his album *Vintage*, and the black-and-white elegance of it all is wrapped up perfectly by this song.

Each line is its own poem, and his smooth vocals quietly lead the listener through the song and ultimately to their death.

The bridge is perfection; it keeps you right on the edge of your seat.

It goes “you could kill me right now, take your shot and take a bow,” followed by many more phrases that are just as encapsulating.

I won’t spoil every one though, because it’s worth a million listens.

The sound effects throughout the song also add to the mystery. With every glass shatter and open guitar chords, you’re never quite sure what comes next.

This is actually the song that inspired this entire playlist, and if there was one I would suggest listening to, it would be this one.

I listen to these songs on repeat when writing their descriptions and this one took me the longest because I had to stop so many times just to sing along.

This could be the soundtrack for a *Clue* scene with Miss Scarlet and no one would know it was produced in 2021 as opposed to the original game released in 1949.

But beware: if you see little clues in a trail of blood, you might just be the next victim.

“Start A War” by Kleryg

If this song sounds familiar, you may have heard it in a season one episode of “*Riverdale*.”

That’s where I discovered it at least, and I’ve been listening to it ever since.

Similar to “*Panic Room*,” the verses are calmer with less instrumentals backing up the lyrics, only to build up to the chorus.



Graphic by JOHN LEAHY | Special to The Leader

The contrast between the still utterance of the lyrics, as opposed to what they’re actually saying, “bang, shots fired,” is eerie in its calmness.

The beat drop in this song is so heavy it might just pop your sound system if you have an older car. This contributes to its intensity and keeps listeners on edge.

Each repetition of the chorus builds on the last, making it feel as though something is chasing you and it’s only getting closer.

By the end, it all seems to calm down, but it makes you wonder, is that because you escaped, or you were killed?

“I Warned Myself” by Charlie Puth

This song serves a dual purpose for this playlist, and like every other song its position is no accident.

The idea is that he’s warned himself but he’ll “do it one more time” when it comes to having an affair with this married woman, and despite the fear he has about getting caught and being killed for it, he’s going to continue.

This reminded me of why people love going to these haunted houses that scare them so much that they throw up or pee or have nightmares.

They just keep coming back year after year. We’re attracted to what incites a strong reaction, whether it’s positive or negative.

Our nerves love to stand on end and be stimulated.

This song does that in a more “pop” genre than many others on this list, but Puth’s careful consideration for the deep static bass beat being the only instrumental in his verses prevents listeners from getting comfortable. One particularly “creepy” aspect is towards the beginning when he says “‘cause if you do I’ll be the first to put my hands around your throat” and on that last word he chokes himself out to simulate the actual action.

Watch out for reaching hands at these Murder Mystery Parties, you never know when someone will grab you!

For a full list of the songs that inspired the series “A Playlist for Every Mood” follow @gummymnb’s playlist of the same name on Spotify!



THE SCALLION



Satire for Fredonia

My qualms with pocketless clothing

ISABELLA INZINNA

Staff Writer

There's an age-old issue that anyone who wears women's clothes struggles with.

Something that, for whatever reason, we can't seem to fix.

An issue that many people are very familiar with:

Pockets.

Everyone loves pockets, they're very handy. With a good pocket, you can eliminate the need for a backpack.

If you can fit your phone, wallet and keys all in your pockets, it's more convenient.

The question here is, why do women's clothes never have pockets? Or sometimes, clothes designers even have the absolute nerve to give us fake pockets.

What's up with that?

We have just as many things to carry as anyone else. And yet, the pockets we get are so small they can't fit anything.

But then, there's so many things that have pockets with no need for pockets.

For example, baby clothes.

Why do baby clothes have pockets?

What are they really going to do with them?

Stuff random food and dirt in them?

Babies have literally nothing to carry and get more pockets than grown women.

Who decided that? What conscious adult made that decision?

Also, why did pockets in skirts only just become popular? I remember five years ago, having pockets in your skirt was a massive flex.

People wearing skirts, (including myself), would be like, "y'know the best thing about this skirt?... IT HAS POCKETS!" WHY WAS THIS SUCH A BIG INNOVATION???

But can we talk about the pockets we do get?

There are three ways to categorize pockets.

The first category of pocket is very common, a small pocket.

This type has barely any room to hold anything, hence why women resort to purses and backpacks.

Just the other day, I tried to put my phone in the front pocket of my jeans.

I couldn't even fit half my phone into my pocket. I couldn't even take a step without my phone getting pushed out of my pocket.

The second category of pocket is very, very rare: a good pocket. Good pockets have actual room and can fit everything you need.

I only find these types of pockets on clothes that are gender neutral or men's clothing. I feel like that says something about

fashion's thoughts on women.

The third category of pocket, the most infuriating pocket: fake pockets.

More common than they ever should be.

What is the point of making a pair of jeans that looks like it has a pocket, only to sew said pocket shut? Why can the pocket not just exist at that point?

I will never understand the concept behind these stupid, sewn-shut pockets. They're absolutely ridiculous.

The disappointment when buying anything and you realize the pocket is sewn shut. At that point it becomes a question of if the clothes are cute enough to sacrifice pockets.

We shouldn't have to choose between cute clothes and clothes with pockets. They should be one and the same!

We deserve better.

We deserve pockets.

Not just any pockets, but the good ones. The ones that let you go out without a purse or backpack.

Enough with the silly, tiny pockets or the annoying fake pockets.

The question is, who will be brave enough?

Stand with me, to protest!

It's time we fought for our right to acceptable pockets!



Graphic by KELLY NGUYEN | Staff Artist

QUIZ: Which nostalgic computer game are you?

MEGAN KIDBY

Scallion Editor

I'm gonna be honest with y'all, I've been really sad recently. Sh*t just happens and you feel like you're not slaying the haus down boots queen wig like you really want to. When that happens, I play Wizard 101. What game should you play? Take this quiz to find out!

Question #1: Your mom says you can have a sleepover but you can only invite three Leader members. Who are you inviting?

- a) Dan Q, Chloe, Capri
- b) Megan, Abbie, Matt
- c) EJ, Dan G, Sierra
- d) Jace, Drew, Henry
- e) Alexandra, Nicole, Elmer

Question #2: It's recess time! What do you want to go on first?

- a) The swings
- b) The monkey bars
- c) The slide
- d) That one spider web rope thing
- e) You read by a tree instead

Question #3: You're trading Silly Bandz with the cool kids. Which one would you trade?

- a) I would NEVER trade my Silly Bandz
- b) A dino
- c) Halloween ghost
- d) Barbie Silly Bandz
- e) SpongeBob Silly Bandz

Question #4: Which after school snack do you like the most?

- a) Cheese and crackers
- b) Ants on a log
- c) Those Oreo 100-calorie cookies
- d) Granola bar
- e) Apple slices with peanut butter

Question #5: What did/would you buy at the Scholastic book fair?

- a) Those hand pointer things
- b) A fuzzy pen
- c) The long twisty erasers
- d) Smencils
- e) An actual book

Question #6: It's your birthday! What are you bringing in for the entire class? (if you have a summer birthday just pretend)

- a) Cookies

- b) Ice Cream
- c) Cake
- d) Those cupcakes baked in ice cream cones
- e) Nothing

Question #7: Oh no!!! A bully is approaching you and asking for your lunch money. How will you stop them?

- a) Screaming and running from them. They can't hit you if they can't catch you
- b) Setting up a therapy session for them. It's clear they have unresolved traumas
- c) Boring them with your 10-year business plan.
- d) Sending them \$10 over Venmo and recruiting them as your bodyguard.
- e) Casting a spell on them when you get home.

IF YOU GOT...

Mostly As: You're Poptropica!!

You're adventurous, smart and hardworking! Your curiosity and imagination makes you the best at creating new and fun things to try. You never give up when things get tough, even if that means playing for days on end to complete a Poptropica world!

Mostly Bs: You're Webkinz!!

You're kindhearted, sweet and caring. When there are fights breaking out at the bars (or on the playground if you're under 21), you are always the peacemaker that gets everyone to make up. You have a nurturing and sensitive way about you, and you light up every room you enter!

Mostly Cs: You're Club Penguin!!

You're independent, witty and a go-getter. You know what you want in life and know exactly how to get there. While other kids were playing on the monkey bars, you were making an empire selling Silly Bandz from your school desk. See you on the cover of Forbes in a few years, kid.

Mostly Ds: You're MovieStarPlanet

You're bold, eye-catching and daring. All eyes are on you when you step into a room. When there's an open call for a new movie or TV show you immediately jump on it and you get it! Try not to let the fame go to your head though. Remember me when you're famous.

Mostly Es: You're Wizard 101

My personal favorite!! You're mysterious, trustworthy and honest. You tell it like it is and people really respect you for that. You're definitely that one person in class that every person wants to date because they're so cool and mystifying. You also definitely thought you had powers in elementary school. Maybe you do and the government was just trying to suppress you. Who knows?

A football guide for Swifties

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

I used to be the only one who liked football and Taylor Swift.

I can remember a time where I wore my Josh Allen jersey and Taylor-inspired friendship bracelets, confusing the heck out of everyone who passed by.

I was the one and only “Football Swiftie,” if you will.

Nope.

Not anymore.

Now that Swift and Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce are dating, everyone and their mother has suddenly become obsessed with the Chiefs.

(Not my mother. My mom is still a loyal Bills fan.)

I understand that many new “Football Swifties” might not be too familiar with the ins and outs of the game, so I thought that, as the sports editor, I could break it down for you.

Are you ready for it?

RULES OF THE GAME

When the offense gets the ball, they move down the field in a series of plays collectively known as a “drive.”

(Please save the “Getaway Car” references for the end, thank you.)

To start the drive, the offense has four chances to get 10 yards.

This is known as “first and 10.”

If they do so, the down and distance will reset to first and 10.

But, as I mentioned, you only get four chances.

If a team does not get past that yellow line on your screen in the first three tries, and they’re close enough to the endzone, they will bring out their kicker for a field goal.

But, if they aren’t close enough for a field goal, they will use fourth down to punt the ball back to the other team in hopes of giving their opponent poor field position.

So, yes, there is a player on the team whose entire job consists of giving the ball back to the other team.

I can practically hear people poking fun at the Bills, saying, “Isn’t that what Josh Allen does?”

Haha.

Very funny.

Now get out.

No Bills slander is allowed here.

SCORING

I understand that many of you may be wondering: “Why is scoring so weird in football? Shouldn’t a score only be worth one point?”

I don’t know. Don’t blame me.

As an offense, your goal is to score a touchdown. This happens when a player catches the ball in the endzone or carries it into the endzone.

Touchdowns are worth six points, but in football, you get an encore performance after scoring one.

What comes next is called the “PAT,” meaning point or points after touchdown.

Typically, a team will bring out their kicker to kick the ball

through the goalposts for one extra point.

As I mentioned earlier, the kicker can also be called upon to kick a field goal if your offense isn’t close enough for a touchdown.

Those are worth three points.

Sometimes after a touchdown, the coach will decide to go for two extra points.

When this happens, the team will get the ball two yards short of the endzone with the goal of scoring, the same way you would try to score a touchdown.

So, if you score a touchdown and successfully complete a two-point conversion, you would come away with eight points on one drive.

If you score a touchdown with an extra point, that’s worth seven points, and a touchdown with an unsuccessful PAT is worth six.

If you’re a Chicago Bears or Denver Broncos fan, however, don’t expect to be scoring too many touchdowns anytime soon.

WHO’S HOT, WHO’S NOT

This brings me to my next lesson—who’s good and who isn’t. As many “Football Swifties” already know, the Kansas City Chiefs are a good football team.

They have been to the Super Bowl three times in the last four years, and they have won it twice in that span (including last season).

The Philadelphia Eagles, Swift’s hometown team, are also pretty good. Kelce’s brother, Jason, plays for them.

You might remember Donna Kelce, Travis and Jason’s mom, on pretty much every single commercial imaginable leading up to last year’s Super Bowl matchup between the two teams.

Other teams who are currently in their “winning eras” include: the San Francisco 49ers, the Cincinnati Bengals (not so much this season, but in the recent past) and the Buffalo Bills.

No, I don’t want to hear any of your Bills jokes.

I promise you, I know them all too well.

Save ‘em.

Some teams used to be good, but their castles have crumbled in recent years.

The New England Patriots are the prime example of this, as their six championships seem like a memory of the distant past.

Speaking of six championships, the Patriots and Pittsburgh Steelers are the most bejeweled of any team in the league, with six Super Bowls to their name.

END GAME

Hopefully, many of you “Football Swifties” come away from this with a greater understanding of the game.

Maybe you’ve even gained an interest in the sport beyond Kelce and the Chiefs.

Maybe you now understand why some people are as passionate about football as you are about Taylor Swift.

If you’re like me, you’re extremely passionate about both.

I wish you all the best of luck in your football watching.

Oh, and by the way—I’m still THE original “Football Swiftie.”

HOROSCOPES

JACE JACOBS

Asst. Scallion Editor, Amateur Skeleton Wrangler

Happy spooky season Fredheads (I know spooky season is an outdated phrase but I'm allowed to use it, I keep my Halloween decorations up year-round so you can't judge me!)

I have discovered a recent passion of mine, and that is wrangling skeletons.

Lately everywhere I go, it seems like I see at least one type of skeleton that is both spooky and kind of cool. So, I have brought it upon myself to assign each zodiac sign a different skeleton I have encountered in the wild (or maybe I'm telling the skeletons what their signs are. To be honest, I'm still learning how this all works).

Please read with caution lest ye bones be rattled.



Aries

Competitive Ballroom Dancing Skeletons

My sweet Aries, you have a major competitive streak which will stay with you for eternity. You are this adorable dancing skeleton couple that I found at my local Michaels over October break. They told me they are eternally competing in a ballroom dance competition with several other couples lined up behind them, but since they were at the front, that definitely means that they're winning. They didn't have time to tell me anything else but if their fate is any indication, you will be a winner even in your afterlife.



Cancer

The Skeleton In You Right Now

Cancers have an innate ability to have both a complex internal and external life, and...dude, I don't want to freak you out, but...There's a skeleton inside you right now. I'm not even kidding. There's a skeleton INSIDE YOU RIGHT NOW. You can't see it...Okay...But you know it's there, right? ...Right?!



Taurus

Bubble Bath Skeleton Couple

One thing about us Tauruses is that we enjoy a nice, relaxing evening and an occasional bubble bath when the opportunity presents itself. The skeleton I feel best represents us is this really cute bathing skeleton couple I interrupted at my local Michaels over October break. They have everything: an ornate tub (money), drinks (probably alcohol), flowers (pretty) and each other (love or at the very least, tolerance). I felt really bad for peeping on them so I didn't ask them any questions, but they seemed pretty content to spend an eternity soaking in the tub with each other! So cute!



Leo

The Distinguished Gentleman

Leos are fancy until the very last second, but you also pride yourself on being a certified Distinguished Gentleman (being a Distinguished Gentleman is not gender-specific, it is simply a way of life).

Your skeleton is my dear best friend's Fancy Wall Skeleton. He is practicing being a Distinguished Gentleman for all of eternity which is on display for everyone to see. If that doesn't scream Leo, I don't know what does!



Gemini

"The Day Robert Palins Murdered Me" Skeletons

Gemini's are such hard workers so it's no surprise that you'll just keep chugging along into eternity. Your skeletons have never been seen, but they have been sung about in a tale of old. Your skeletons are the skeletons from the song "The Day Robert Palins Murdered Me" from the Netflix original show I Think You Should Leave. Skeletons that have created their own economy is the most Gemini thing I've ever heard, and for that, I respect you immensely.



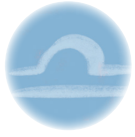
Virgo

Skeleton in a candle

Virgos are notoriously busy people, and are known for burning the candle at both ends. Hence, you're this kind of weird skeleton in a candle I found at my local Michaels over October break. He was chilling though, he's just glad to be at rest for a bit. His current state might be how you feel at the end of an especially busy day, just try not to get burned.



HOROSCOPES



Libra

The dancing skeletons from "Spooky Scary Skeletons"

The one thing I know to be true about Libras is that they love balance and symmetry. Although the "Spooky Scary Skeletons" song is kind of an outdated meme, I personally believe Libra is well-represented by the charming animation of the old cartoon! Plus the skeletons form these awesome symmetrical lines while they're dancing, which is absolutely something Libras would try to do if they were choreographers.



Capricorn

The "Skeleun" from "Nerdy Prudes Must Die"

Capricorn is represented by a mythical creature, and I feel that in keeping with that, you should be represented by a skeleton that isn't a real skeleton. The musical theatre company Team Starkid just released their newest horror-comedy musical "Nerdy Prudes Must Die," and there is one brief scene where one of the main characters, Max Jagerman, sees what he calls a "skeleun". I will not be elaborating further. You're going to have to watch the musical if you want to understand. I don't make the rules.



Scorpio

Dilapidated Wreath Skeleton

Scorpios are so misunderstood, but they just want to be creative and use their energy in the ways they want to! I feel Scorpios are best represented by this little dilapidated dude I found sitting in the middle of this beautiful wreath (in my local Michaels over October break).

The skeleton assured me that he was okay, he's just a little under the weather while he recovers from the incredible amount of energy it took for him to create the wreath that is his current home.



Aquarius

The 12 Foot Tall Skeleton from Home Depot

Every Aquarius I've met has been a trendsetter, which causes me to believe that you are best represented by the 12-foot-tall Home Depot skeleton. He is very special to the cultural zeitgeist and to people that love making ridiculous Halloween displays in their yard. He's become such a legend, just like many Aquarians want to be!



Sagittarius

Glow-in-the-dark Skeleton

I have found in my incredible life experiences that Sagittarius are natural-born leaders, much like this gaggle of glow-in-the-dark skeletons currently residing in my local Michaels. After much excitement from my mom, I felt very encouraged to speak with them. The general consensus from the group was that they just want the chance to shine and provide joy to people in the dark of the night, which seems very Sagittarius to me.



Pisces

The Small Army of Skeletons on Brigham Road

Pisces is an incredibly empathetic sign, which means they tend to make friends easily. This means Pisces gets not one, but a million skeletons to represent the incredible (and sometimes overwhelming) range of emotions they feel. The skeletons I feel most represent Pisces are the absolute ARMY of skeletons in this one guy's front yard down on Brigham road, near Park Place. I'm not even kidding when I say this, it's worth taking a walk out there just to see this display. It's freaking nuts and I love it (he also has a skeleton santa with a sleigh for Christmas)!

