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THE FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

**Natasha, Pierre,
And The Great
Comet of 1812**

See page 8

Student Guide To The Israel/Palestine Conflict
Black Student Union's A Walk In Their Shoes
Saint Blind Artist Profile
Why Doesn't Fredonia Provide Menstrual Products?
Lovercolumn: Struggles Around Communication
[SATIRE] Who Will Be The Next U.S. Senator?

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THE LEADER

News

3 Israel/Palestine Conflict

5 Homecoming Weekend

6 BSU A Walk in Their Shoes

7 CDO Hosts Grad School Fair

Life & Arts

8 Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812

10 Twilight Biography

11 The Return of Safe Halloween

12 Saint Blind Profile

14 The Silence Between, Before and After

Sports

16 Sports Roundup

17 Caitlyn Snyder Profile

18 Blue Devils Top EHL All-Stars

Opinion

20 Where Are The Menstrual Products?

21 Student Art: Luke Johnson

22 Lovercolumn

24 Writer's Ring Contest Winners

Scallion

26 Who Will Be The Next U.S. Senator?

28 Nicole Thorson Comic

29 FNAF Movie Review

30 Horoscopes

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"Bad times are just times that are bad" – Animal Crossing

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STUDENT GUIDE



TO THE



ISRAEL/PALESTINE

CONFLICT

DAN QUAGLIANA
News Editor

EJ JACOBS
Life & Arts Editor

Ej Jacobs, who was interviewed for this article, is a co-writer of the article.

On Oct. 7, the militant group Hamas, operating out of the Gaza Strip on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, launched an attack on the bordering nation of Israel, firing over 3,000 rockets in the initial launches. Since that date, Israel and Hamas have waged a relentless, destructive war against each other, permanently changing the modern geopolitical landscape of the Middle East.

What led Hamas to attack Israel has been building up for many years.

What led Hamas to attack Israel has been building up for many years.

Hamas isn't an actual country like Israel, but is a terrorist organization that essentially governs the Gaza Strip, which itself is a Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Israel, on the other hand, is a relatively young nation, having only been around since 1948.

Both Israel and Palestine have been fighting since Israel's

Both Israel and Palestine have been fighting since Israel's creation — essentially since the end of World War II.

creation — essentially since the end of World War II. This followed directly after Israel gained its independence from Great Britain, which had controlled the territory since World War I. After the war, the newly created United Nations recommended that Israel should be separated into two states — an Arab state and a Jewish state. This would become known as the British Mandate.

This prompted a civil war between what should have been two separate countries. The British withdrew before the process of partitioning the land was completed, and Israel and what would eventually become Palestine couldn't figure out how to divide the land. This still forms the root of the conflict today.

Hamas, which is short for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement), was created in 1987 during the first Palestinian uprising as the Gaza branch of the Muslim Brotherhood, which itself was based out of Egypt. They have since morphed into a terrorist organization with the sole goal of obtaining the land that Israel “occupies,” according to them.

Hamas issued a statement calling on, “Muslims everywhere to launch an attack.”

After launching their initial attack last month, Hamas issued a statement calling on, “Muslims everywhere to launch an attack.”

In response, Israel immediately declared war on Hamas and has been carrying out a continuous bombardment of the Gaza Strip in order to drive out Hamas’s militants. As a result, many civilians in the Strip have been killed and left without food, water or humanitarian aid.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected calls for a cease-fire, saying that they are “calls for Israel to surrender to Hamas.”

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Instead, Netanyahu has said that Israel’s goal is defeating Hamas, and he wants all “civilized nations” to support Israel in its war efforts.

Over the course of the currently ongoing war in the Gaza Strip and Israel, the United Nations and many countries have called for a cease-fire, with both sides of the conflict being accused of having committed war crimes in order to achieve victory.

Over the course of the currently ongoing war in the Gaza Strip and Israel, the United Nations and many countries have called for a cease-fire, with both sides of the conflict being accused of having committed war crimes in order to achieve victory.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees, has claimed that Israel is carrying out a “collective punishment” of Palestinians.

“We are on our knees asking for that sustained, scaled up, protected humanitarian operation,” said Dr. Rick Brennan, the World Health Organization’s regional emergencies director for the eastern Mediterranean region. “We appeal to all of those in a situation to make a decision or to influence decision-makers to give us the humanitarian space to address this human catastrophe.”

Students at SUNY Fredonia have felt directly affected by the situation due to the rise of anti-semitism and anti-Palestinian sentiments. “I’ve noticed that a lot of students have felt unsafe in their environment,” said EJ Jacobs, the president of Hillel, Fredonia’s Jewish student union.

“[However,] the university has done a good job of unbiasedly being there for students,” she noted. On Oct. 16, the university

“For me, it was one of the most powerful moments I’ve ever had in my life. And at the same time [at] Fredonia, seeing that a lot of people are against me and against what I represent makes me feel like maybe Fredonia is not what I thought.”

—ALON HAIMOVITZ

Senior Criminal Justice Major,
SUNY Fredonia

organized a moment of silence open to the whole campus to pay their respects.

The following Wednesday, there was a healing circle event held by the Multicultural Center. This gave students the opportunity to come together in a more relaxed environment.

“For me, it was one of the most powerful moments I’ve ever had in my life,” said Alon Haimovitz, a senior criminal justice major and member of the Jewish community on campus. “And at the same time [at] Fredonia, seeing that a lot of people are against me and against what I represent makes me feel like maybe Fredonia is not what I thought,” he added, referencing the increased antisemitism on campus and across the world.

It is important that SUNY Fredonia does not let hateful sentiments regarding ethnic and religious groups propagate on campus. In solidarity with all those affected, we have put links for people to educate themselves and help those in need.

Further reading:

<https://apnews.com/article/israel-hamas-war-live-updates-11-05-2023-08a560320c5f1493fb2abc741e345e95>

<https://www.nytimes.com/column/nicholas-kristof>

<https://puck.news/tragedy-in-israel/>

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/11/01/opinions/israel-flawed-strategy-defeating-hamas-paper>

Additionally, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz is available for Fredonia students to read through the Newsbank database on Reed Library’s website. The link to the database list can be found here:

<https://fredonia.libguides.com/az.php?a=n>

This is a developing story, The Leader will continue to update readers in future issues and online: www.fredonialeader.org



DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor

Annual Homecoming, Family & Friends weekends draw crowds to campus

DAN QUAGLIANA
News Editor

Every year, SUNY Fredonia's annual Homecoming and Family and Friends weekends bring hundreds of visitors to the campus.

Homecoming weekend, which was hosted from Oct. 20 – 23, featured a cornucopia of events that were specifically designed to bring alumni back to Fredonia. Some of these events included a 60th anniversary celebration of the Department of Geology, the 20th anniversary of the 1970s Reunion Jazz Ensemble, a Homecoming Pep Rally in the Steele Hall fieldhouse and reunions for the classes of 1973 and 1993.

The Pep Rally was the centerpiece event of the weekend, and it was described as “a really fun event” by Rachel Martin, the associate director of Campus Life. “The [exciting] tradition of crowning Homecoming royalty always wraps up the event,” she said.

This year's Homecoming royalty winners were Nizell Bruce and Dakota Richter, and the runners-up were Mae Heckathorne and Tahaani St. Bernard.

“It was really nice to see all these clubs and other students come out and support each other,” said Dan Granados, a junior double major in audio production and video production. “The activities there were creative and fun, and all the student performances were great.”

The following weekend, Campus Life coordinated events for Family and Friends Weekend, which ran from Oct. 27 – 29. Events on that weekend were targeted more towards, aptly enough, families of current students to come and experience everything that the campus has to offer.

The weekend was kicked off by a welcome dinner on Oct. 27 in the Williams Center, and events seemed to exponentially multiply from there.

“The welcome dinner was new this year, as we haven't had a dinner in 10 years or more,” Martin said. “FSA did a wonderful

job with the catering and Dr. Jill Reese hosted mixtape bingo. There was even a surprise rock band consisting of Fredonia administration [members]. [Campus Life] look[s] forward to planning [it again] for next year!”

Prominent activities around campus that weekend included Fredonia Radio Systems' Great Ghostly Games, Fredonia Immersive Theater's Terror in the Trees and Spectrum's Fall Fun.

“The Great Ghostly Games is an annual event that includes a scavenger hunt around Fredonia's campus,” Granados, Fredonia Radio Systems' business manager, said. “It turned out great! With it being held during Family and Friends Weekend, we saw a lot of unfamiliar faces who had a lot of fun.”

Terror in the Trees is an annually held guided tour through the campus woodlot, with members of Immersive Theater portraying Halloween creatures and acting out scenes in a nightmarish fashion.

Fall Fun is an event that was planned to be the tonal opposite of that. Another annual event, but this time held in the Williams Center's Multi-Purpose Room, Spectrum Entertainment plans Fall Fun to have many activities that can be enjoyed by families of all ages.

“It included snacks such as donuts and apple cider,” said Rowan Potzler, Spectrum's treasurer. “There was also an airbrush tattoo guy ... and a family photo booth. We had several stuff-a-bears [stuff-it-yourself stuffed animals] that families could choose from. The many Halloween events happening around campus led to a lot of people coming in and out of the Williams Center at the time. Overall, [the] vibes seemed really cool!”

Martin said that, “Many new events [were] hosted by clubs and departments, [but we also saw] some returning events and traditions. Family and Friends Weekend was a great success!”

Dan Granados, who was interviewed in this article, is the business manager of The Leader.

Black Student Union raises awareness of domestic violence in campus walk

KRYSTYNA PORTUGUES-KLOS

Special to The Leader

Over 12 million men and women face domestic abuse every year.

This is a silent issue on campus no longer, as the Black Student Union of Fredonia held a walk for domestic violence on campus on Oct. 28.

The event, coordinated by Tnyas Catalan, a senior business marketing major, and David White, the director of the office of Multicultural Services, was successful at bringing awareness and making voices heard regarding domestic violence.

Domestic violence is when a partner uses violence to gain control over the other partner in a relationship. A large issue that often goes unnoticed, it can be hard for victims to notice the red flags of their abusers and leave the dangerous situation.

Sometimes victims even blame themselves for the abuser's actions. Excuses are often made and there can be threats involved in order to keep victims silent.

Prior to this year, Take Back the Night was an event hosted by the Fredonia Feminists to bring awareness to domestic violence as well.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the Blue Lounge was covered in the color purple, showing support for those who have previously or are currently experiencing domestic violence.

Posters decorated the walls with phrases like “never a victim forever a fighter” and “love shouldn't hurt,” showing the support and positive energy of the event.

Shirts were sold for \$18, with the money made going to local support agencies.

The walk started at 10 a.m. at the Williams Center Blue Lounge, went to the clock tower, and then back to the Blue Lounge.

During the walk, empowering chants of “stop the violence, no more silence. Let's fight back!” rang through the streets as a group of 58 supporters marched on campus.

After the walk, there were guest speakers who came to share resources available in neighboring towns and stories of empowerment.

Kristina Catalan shared her experiences and how she survived domestic violence, changing her life for her three children and creating a better future for herself.

As an inspirational message of courage and survival, she exclaimed, “your life, your respect, your dignity matters.” The president of Black Student Union, Shanty Figueroa, stated, “We have to acknowledge domestic violence not as a second problem but as a grave violation of human rights.”

She also talked about the WARM (We All Really Matter) Organization. They help victims of domestic abuse and promote individuals' recovery all over the world.

Elizabeth McElwain, a guest speaker from The Salvation Army Anew Center in Jamestown, informed attendees about the resources available at the Center.

Speaking with Tnyas Catalan after the event, she stated that, “Even if one person took away [something] from the event to-

“We have to acknowledge domestic violence not as a second problem but as a grave violation of human rights.”

—**SHANTY FIGUEROA**

President of Black Student Union,
SUNY Fredonia



Fredonia Black Student Union raises awareness against domestic abuse through sharing stories of resilience | Image provided by Kristina Catalan

“Even if one person took away [something] from the event today, it would be a success because that is making a difference. If you see red flags, step away, don't keep making excuses.”

—**ELIZABETH MCELWAIN**

Guest Speaker,
The Salvation Army Anew Center

day, it would be a success because that is making a difference.”

She also gave some advice for preventing domestic violence: “If you see red flags, step away, don't keep making excuses.”

Tnyas Catalan and White hope that this event will be an annual one hosted by the Black Student Union.

Shirts from the event can be purchased online or through contacting White at david.white@fredonia.edu.

The Salvation Army Anew Center can be reached at (716) 661-3897 and the 24/7 Crisis Hotline at 1-800-252-8748. Counseling services on campus are also available at the Counseling Center located in LoGrasso Hall.



AMARI MCNAIR | Special to The Leader

CDO hosts annual graduate school fair

ABIGAIL JACOBSON

Asst. News Editor

After graduating with your degree, there's always one question in mind: "Where do I go from here?"

The Career Development Office (CDO) can help with that. They host a graduate school fair every fall semester.

The graduate school fair featured graduate schools around New York and some parts of Pennsylvania. Each graduate school comes in to offer their programs to students.

This annual event brings together over 60 institutions to offer students the chance to get a glimpse into what may become their future. These graduate schools include many different fields of study such as medicine, liberal arts, law and more.

The fair is open to undergraduate and graduate students at Fredonia.

The first graduate school fair Fredonia hosted was back in 2009 and ever since then, they've done one every year.

Since the graduate school fair only happens in the fall semester, the CDO hosts events focused on jobs and internships in the spring semester.

Chris LaGrow, the interim director at the CDO, hosted this gathering.

The main purpose of the job and internship gathering was to provide students with the opportunity to figure out if they wanted to go to graduate school.

"Some of them are looking for the answer to [the question]: 'Should I go to grad school?,'" LaGrow said. "I'm hoping that this event will help them clarify whether they should or should not."

The recent graduate school fair was hosted on Oct. 24 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Williams Center Multi-Purpose Room.

The schools that visited this graduate school fair ranged from Binghamton University, Buffalo State University and Niagara University, as well as different departments in Fredonia.

Duvi Sanchez, a Fredonia alum and assistant director of recruitment at the University of Buffalo's Graduate School of

Education was there and gave her input on the importance of these types of events.

"I hope students can begin to see possibilities for their future," Sanchez said.

While at Fredonia, Sanchez was majoring in social science and did not know of all of the opportunities and things she could do with her major until she had already graduated.

"Events like this allow students to network and see careers or graduate school opportunities they may have not considered," Sanchez said.

Sanchez believes attending these types of events early on in students' undergraduate careers is important because it gets students thinking about what they want to do in the future.

The University of Buffalo's Graduate School of Education has attended these types of events before, especially for Fredonia. She mentioned that her and her boss enjoy coming to these types of events, since both are Fredonia graduates.

"I really enjoyed meeting all the students that came up to my table and learning what they're thinking of doing after they complete their studies at Fredonia," Sanchez said.

LaGrow hopes Fredonia students take advantage of these types of events and think about their future.

"I would definitely recommend that anytime you have the opportunity to make a personal connection in person, to try and do it," LaGrow said.

If you have any questions about graduate school, potential next steps after college or about the graduate school fair, feel free to reach out to the CDO.

Email: careers@fredonia.edu

Phone: (716) 673-3327

Website: <https://www.fredonia.edu/student-life/career-development-office>

Location: Career Development Office (CDO) Gregory Hall, 2nd Floor

Abigail Jacobson, the writer of this article, works for the CDO.

Life & Arts

'Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812' fills Marvel Theater

ELENA FITZGERALD

Special to The Leader

The Robert W. Marvel Theater staged a musical last month called "Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812." Audience members walked in to see dazzling lights, multiple stages and tables for people to sit and watch the show.

It was unlike any production Fredonia has seen before.

Directed by Jessica Hillman-McCord, and produced by the Department of Theater and Dance, the production ran from Oct. 20, through Family and Friends Weekend, until Oct. 28, with multiple evening shows and a matinee.

"Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812" follows Natasha as she waits in Moscow for her fiance Andrey to return from war. She lives with her cousin, Sonya, and godmother, Marya, who help her around Moscow.

The show also follows Pierre, a man in a bad marriage just trying to get through his life. He misses his best friend Andrey, Natasha's fiance.

The plot of the show is based on a small portion of the novel "War and Peace," written by Russian author Leo Tolstoy in 1865.

The design process for the production began in the spring, and resulted in multiple performing stages within the audience and a large staircase on the stage that was utilized throughout the show.

This is what made "Great Comet" an interactive experience with the audience.

"A lot of thought was put into the front end of the process. Actors and audience members both had to give consent [to sit in audience participation seats], as actors would kiss audience members on the hand and give them props and have conversations," said Olivia Kaye, a junior theater production and design major. Kaye was the stage manager of the production.

"It became a point of conversation as well when we were talking about where to place the pit band. The conductor, Dr. Paula Holcomb, had to be somewhere where the pit band and the actors in the house and on the stage could see her," she explained. "We ended up placing her pretty much center-stage, and we placed monitors throughout the house ... so that everyone had a clear vantage point."

The process of adding stages also added extra rehearsal

time for the cast in the Marvel Theater. Hillman-McCord said, "We couldn't fit that entire layout in a rehearsal room, necessitating more time to space the staging in the actual theatre ahead of tech."

During the show, audience members had conversations with actors, had items handed to them and sometimes even added to the plot of the show. "I think it really helped keep the audience engaged throughout the show, making it a little more active," said Connor Raposa, a junior acting major with a minor in dance. Raposa played Pierre in the production.

"Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812" not only had a spectacular stage, but complex songs with cast and pit band integration. With the pit band already being on the stage instead of underneath it, certain members of the band would walk downstage to play their parts while the cast members performed. Cast members would also play instruments on stage during songs throughout the performance.

Raposa spoke about the integration of the pit band and the cast, as he played the piano and learned accordion for his role. He mentioned how it was not learning the instruments that was difficult, but incorporating the instruments into the storyline of his character.

"I had to come up with ways to justify why this guy happens to be playing piano or accordion in some of these songs," he said. "I was presented with lots of challenges like the rest of the cast, and I think all of us rose to the challenge."

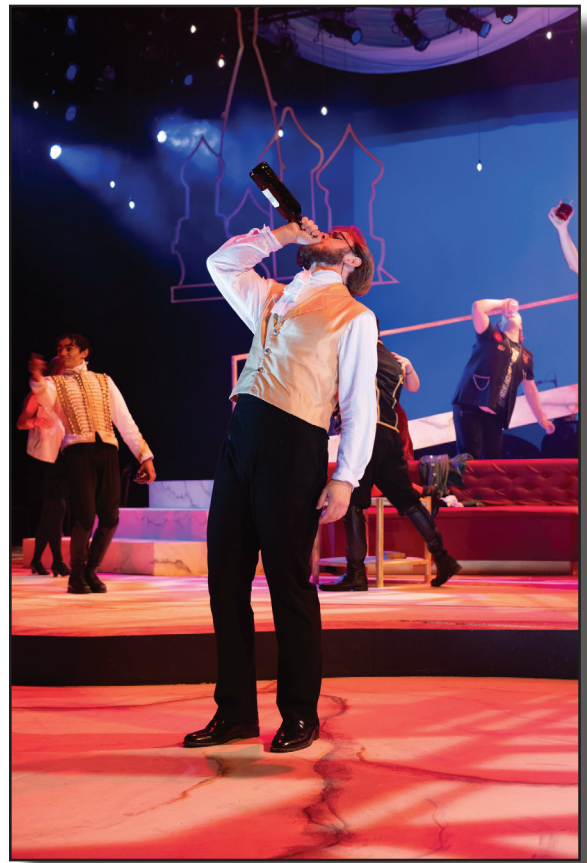
Since "Great Comet" was a production featuring almost entirely students, it was a learning opportunity for many of them.

With so many people involved in the production, and with the amount of rehearsals put into the production, the students involved worked hard to make the production as close to perfection as it could be.

"We had three days of extra time on the stage to restage the entire show so it could fit in the space it was made for, instead of the dance studio," Kaye explained.

Hillman-McCord reflected on the fact that, "It was a particularly hardworking cast, production team and crew, all dedicated to getting this unique and very challenging work of art on its feet."

"Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812" was only able to be produced because of the hardworking team of students that brought an incredible amount of expertise to their roles, both on the stage and behind it.



All photos by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Staff Photographer

Twilight the dog continues to spark joy through biography

CHLOE KOWALYK

Editor in Chief

Just a few years ago, the small, white paws of a chihuahua pranced around Fredonia, excitedly walking through the campus and closely following her owner.

This small, yet spunky chihuahua was named “Twilight.”

Twilight was a white, long-haired chihuahua owned by Fredonia alumna Karen Oconnell.

Oconnell used to attend Fredonia, and frequently brought Twilight along with her, leading the small dog to become well-known across Fredonia’s campus and among students and the community alike.

Fredonia alumni and current students (mostly upperclassmen), had gotten to know the duo well.

Oconnell and Twilight held a tight bond, and were practically inseparable.

In 2019, The Leader published an article about the duo, detailing how the two often walked around stores and visited the salon together, in addition to their time on Fredonia’s campus.

Oconnell said Twilight never barked, meaning it was easy to bring her to different places.

Twilight was Oconnell’s first dog, and she made many unforgettable memories with the small companion.

Oconnell and Twilight were bound by friendship for 14 years until Twilight recently passed away.

The news was hard for Oconnell, who had practically lost one of her best friends.

O’Connell then began to seek ways to honor Twilight’s life and legacy.

Even after Twilight’s passing, Oconnell is still recognized around campus.

She said students often ask her about Twilight, and share their memories of seeing her around.

Most commonly, Oconnell said she sees students who remember her in the campus Starbucks.

With how important Twilight was to both Oconnell and Fredonia students, Oconnell has published a book in honor of Twilight, titled “Memories of Twilight.”

In her book, Oconnell describes her life with her dog, and recaps some memories she has had with Twilight, including those on Fredonia’s campus.

“This has been a long grieving process and a difficult road,” she said.

Writing her memoir about Twilight served as a coping mechanism for Oconnell. “I still continue to think about Twilight and I was so attached to her,” she said.

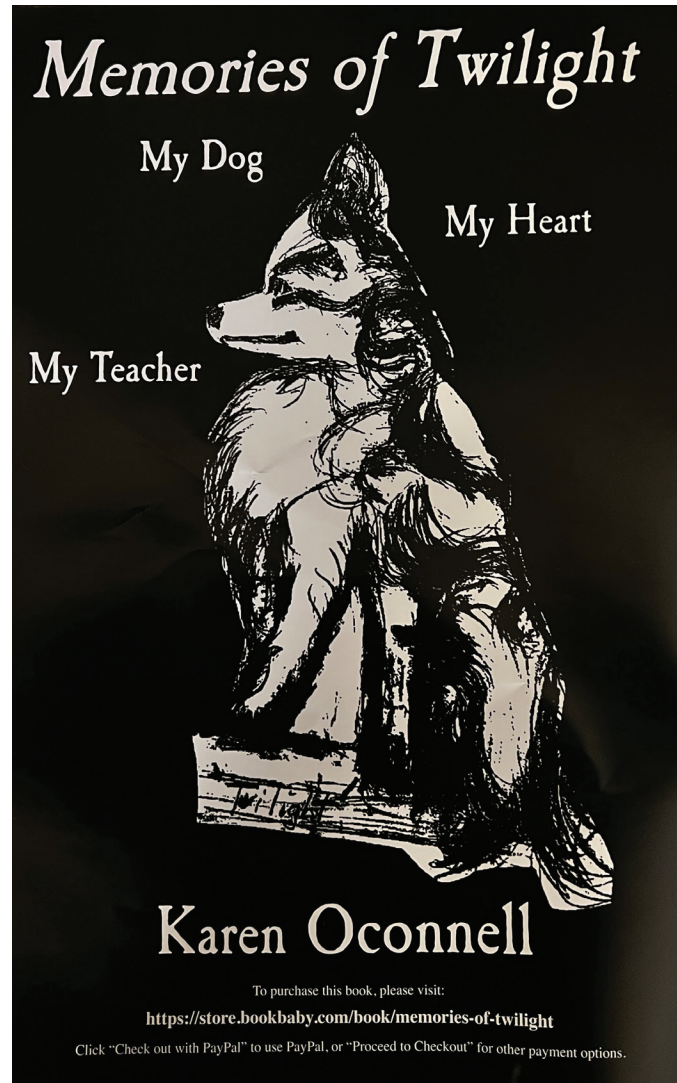
Oconnell wrote the book and created the cover art for it herself.

Because she took several art classes at Fredonia, and enjoyed drawing, she decided she wanted to be the one to do the illustration of Twilight on the cover.

Her art for the book was completely hand-drawn.

Oconnell’s book also contains photos of Twilight.

Hoping to share her memories with Twilight to the com-



"This has been a long grieving process and a difficult road."

—**KAREN O'CONNELL**

Fredonia Alumna,
SUNY Fredonia

munity, Oconnell held a book sale outside of the PetSmart in Dunkirk.

She sold 50 copies of her book, and is hoping to do another book signing soon in front of the Next Chapter Bookstore. Oconnell also hopes to hand out bookmarks showing off the illustration of Twilight on the cover of the book soon.

The return of the Safe Halloween event

ROSEMARIE RAPISARDA

Staff Writer

Halloween is often celebrated by children going door-to-door and trick-or-treating in their neighborhoods. However, the SUNY Fredonia community wanted to offer an alternative.

This year, Safe Halloween was brought back to the SUNY Fredonia campus for the first time since 2019, with the largest turnout ever.

Safe Halloween is an event in which children and families come to trick-or-treat in a safe, enclosed area.

Children ages 14 years and under were welcome, but had to be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times.

In previous years, the event was led by the student-run organization Percussion Guild and the School of Music.

This event did not happen for some time due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other circumstances.

This year, the Percussion Guild and the Student Association of Fredonia decided to get the ball rolling again and start Safe Halloween back up.

The event took place in the second-floor practice rooms of Mason Hall, where each participating club was able to have their own room.

Children and families walked down the hall, room to room, collecting candy from students.

Joseph Fiumano, co-president of the Percussion Guild, said that there were “various signs across Mason Hall pointing parents in the right direction during trick-or-treating.”

Signs also led parents to live musical performances by the School of Music clubs.

Not just music clubs were in attendance, but also theater groups and even WNYF-TV, the campus TV station.

“This was my first experience volunteering for Safe Halloween... I am glad to have helped contribute to its success,” said Alexandra Giles, the maintenance technician for WNYF who volunteered at the event.

Giles also noted her favorite aspect of the event: “I enjoyed seeing the kids smile alongside the creative costumes.”

John Anderson, Percussion Guild’s events coordinator added, “[In the future] I hope other clubs around Mason Hall or campus will become interested in taking part so the event carries more momentum going forward.”

Even parents were happy with the event’s return.

Rachel Martin, a local mom as well as a SUNY Fredonia faculty member said, “I was happy to see the Mason Safe Halloween event back on campus. It was always a fun event in the past, and this year was just as enjoyable. It was nice to see our campus clubs engaging with the community. This was a great addition to the Family and Friends Weekend schedule.”

With productive collaboration between the Percussion Guild, the Student Association and other participating clubs, the event was deemed successful, according to Carolyn Stonefelt, distinguished professor and chair of percussion studies. “The attendance number is impressive, but more impressive was the organization and cooperation involved.”

Stonefelt also mentioned how “this event attracted 605+ people [through] strategically placing flyers and outreach with the public schools in Fredonia and Dunkirk...I know that candy is a big draw, but I doubt that there would have been such a successful turnout were it not for the outreach on the part of the student group and cooperation.”

Fiumano added, “Thank you for the time and effort that everyone put into this event to make it a smash and smooth sailing. Even if someone put up a single flier, this act got more people to attend and more happy community members in the safe doors of Mason Hall.”

Due to this cooperation, children were able to safely trick-or-treat with their families while bringing a sense of community to our campus. Hopefully, Safe Halloween will stick around for the long run.

Rosie Rapisarda, the writer of this piece, is the president of the Student Association.

Alexandra Giles, who was interviewed for this piece, is the assistant photo editor of The Leader.

Join The Leader for General Body meetings!

Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.

In The Leader Office! S206 Williams Center



The art of being two people at once: SAINT BLIND artist profile

JORDAN BUDD

Staff Writer

Aaron Schapiro, also known as A.W. Schapiro, started his musical project SAINT BLIND in Igoe Hall 311A by trying to be two people at once.

Schapiro emulated a method done by Johnny Marr and Morrissey of the band The Smiths.

SAINT BLIND's origin was inspired by a documentary on The Smiths, in particular, a scene that shows how the band created their popular B-side "How Soon is Now."

The story goes that Marr recorded the track with the other instrumentalists.

Schapiro said, "Then the very next day, Morrissey comes in and gets in the studio. He's never heard this song before."

Morrissey pulls out his book of poetry and flips to a random page. Schapiro said, the lead singer "just starts singing whatever notes come to his head as he's listening to this track for the very first time."

Bored in his Igoe Hall dorm room, Schapiro embarked on a musical experiment. He attempted to play both sides of the Smiths while creating his piece.

First, acting as Marr and the other instrumentalists, he made a track, which he described as having no lyrics, tonality or even chord progressions.

The fluid instrumental, which was later released as "Cherubim (and Seraphim)," combines steel drum-like synth and a funny sample of someone saying something about Indiana Jones. As the off-kilter beat kicks in, rubbery synth bass and haunting vocal harmonies bleed together.

After completing this instrumental, Schapiro found a poem he had written as an assignment in a creative writing class when he was in high school.

Without thinking of any specific melody or how it would affect the structure of the song, he opened up the track he made in GarageBand on his iPhone, hit record and sang the words.

Schapiro said, "And I liked it. I was really surprised by how much I liked it."

Wanting to release the track, but not having an artist name to do it under, he decided to go by SAINT BLIND.

Schapiro said, "It was just me making something for fun... liking it way more than I thought I would, and then putting it out."

Schapiro continued to have success with this creative process, completing the rest of his debut EP as SAINT BLIND, "IG-OEHALL (pt. 1)" in a similar manner.

And so it became The Igoe Hall series, a four-part collection of EPs entirely made by Schapiro in his sophomore year dorm room. The 2021 releases were a gradual introduction of SAINT BLIND into the Fredonia music scene.

Among these tracks, Schapiro became known for embodying a wide variety of sounds. For SAINT BLIND, new wave, honky tonk, baroque pop, electronic, and neo-psych, among other styles, are all on the table.

Before Schapiro would create the genre-bending tunes of SAINT BLIND at Fredonia he was writing piano pieces in fifth

grade in East Amherst.

When he was a kid, Schapiro was mostly listening to orchestral music. He said, "I remember being really into

Tchaikovsky. Camille Saint-Saëns was a big one for me in middle school... Erik Satie was [also] a big one."

By the time he was a junior in high school at Williamsville North, he was already writing for a full symphony orchestra. He premiered his first orchestral piece, played by a 150-piece group of musicians, that same year.

Schapiro described it as, "The most surreal thing that's ever happened to me... That was the moment where I was like, 'Oh sh*t, maybe I can like, do music.'"

The piece was called "A Night at the Circus." Schapiro said the influences ranged from Danny Elfman to Modest Mussorgsky.

Before this orchestral performance in high school, Schapiro was creating music within the pop and rock sphere with Jacob King, another artist in the Fredonia music scene.

The two have known each other since second grade.

King said, "I remember being in gym class hanging out with this other kid named Aiden. Then Aaron came by and he just grabbed both of our heads and bonked them together... And then, it was one of those things where our parents organized the playdate. And I was like, 'Wait really? Like that guy? He wants to hang out?'"

Far beyond the elementary school bonking, by late middle school, they were already releasing music together.

By high school, King and Schapiro formed the rock band, The Sans. Their 2017 release, "Clear Your Head," sets the stage for what they'd go on to do in future projects.

King said their overlap of influence came from artists who embodied a psychedelic approach to songwriting, like The Beatles and The Doors.

When the two went off to Fredonia, they formed a four-piece band focused on King's solo music called King & Co. The group played one show before dissolving. Later on, the two musicians would play together in Fredonia alumna Halle Cook's indie-folk band, Hal & Pals, before she graduated in 2022.

Aside from The Igoe Hall Series, SAINT BLIND would go on to release a plethora of other singles as well during his time at Fredonia.

One single called "Devil May Care," was a turning point for Schapiro, as it incorporated the orchestral music of his earlier work into his SAINT BLIND material.

For this to happen, Schapiro would work with Dylan Rohr, a sound recording and technology major who was a junior at the time.

Rohr said of Schapiro, "He wrote a crazy amount of parts for that song. There [were] three clarinet parts, all triple tracked... There [were] a bunch of cello tracks. I remember he wrote a trumpet part for it, and then the guy played pretty much all of the bass instruments himself. He played the acoustic guitar, the drums, the piano [and] obviously, he sang on it. I think he put both stand-up and electric bass on it."

Rohr said Schapiro did it all with "an air of confidence and conviction that you don't really see a whole lot."



SAINT BLIND | Photo by CHLOE KOWALYK | Editor in Chief

While playing live, the SAINT BLIND band has included both Rohr and King within a rotating door of other musicians.

Some of them have had shorter stints than others; Rohr was the drummer for just two weeks.

In his time, he learned how Schapiro's high standard in the studio transferred over to the live band as well. Rohr described Schapiro as "methodical," and "fixated on an idea."

Schapiro said "Honestly, when I started SAINT BLIND, the idea of playing it live on a stage...it wasn't even in the question."

He mentions his inspiration from the Beatles' "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart Club Band," a project that was more of a studio production than something that was meant to be played live.

Earlier in the band's history, King played drums. He also was a fill-in on bass for one gig and played guitar for another.

Referring to the fun challenge of playing in Schapiro's band, King said, "If you're playing drums or playing electric guitar, it's like, 'Alright, how do I recreate this orchestral-electro song, like whatever the hell this is.'"

King said, "He had a song off of one of his earlier EPs that was my favorite. I was like, 'Yo, we should play this song.' And [Schapiro's] like, 'We will never be able to play that song.'"

King said, "It was difficult and on some level, I think he kind of had to accept that the band had to be its own thing...It is very theoretical music."

Despite many recordings, releases and performances as SAINT BLIND in Fredonia, Schapiro did not have the most focused education experience here.

He started as a music education and music composition double major then changed to an English adolescence education major with a minor in music. After a short period of that, he switched to business management and marketing with a minor in accounting as well as his original minor in music. When things still weren't working out, he decided to drop out for a bit to come back with a renewed plan.

Over the summer, he took a calculus class at Erie Community College to become a sound recording technology (SRT) major in the fall. He was an SRT major for three months before he dropped out for good.

Although both Schapiro and Rohr aren't at Fredonia anymore, one not finishing his degree and the other having graduated in 2022, the collaboration between them is still intact.

Their latest effort together is one called The Bughouse Collective.

Since high school, Schapiro had wanted to form a group of like-minded musicians that have a common goal of creating and working with one another.

He was largely inspired by The Elephant Six Record Label, along with its accompanying documentary.

That loosely-defined musical collective emerged in the late '80s and peaked in the mid to late '90s. Elephant Six featured groups such as Neutral Milk Hotel, The Apples in Stereo and The Olivia Tremor Control, among countless others scattered throughout the US with hotspots in Athens, Georgia, and Denver.

While working on his own dream collective, Schapiro decided that to incentivize artists to be in the group he'd offer services to them.

He immediately thought of Rohr to help with the technical side.

Rohr latched onto it immediately, ready to offer his skills in production, mixing and mastering, photography and videography at exclusive rates to Bughouse members.

The remainder of this article can be found here:



The silence between, before and after: A concert analysis

LUKE VILLAVICENCIO

Special to The Leader

“Music is the silence between the notes.”

— Claude Debussy

Rosch Recital Hall, Oct. 22 — You could hear a pin drop.

The crowd is quiet and the Ekstasis Duo, made up of Fredonia's own Dr. Natasha Farny (cello) and Dr. Eliran Avni (piano), has taken the stage, yet, for a gorgeous moment outside of time, neglects to play.

Farny is staring passionately into the balcony as if she's seen the bittersweet ghost of a dear friend. Avni is delicately scanning the ivory-painted keys, planning the powerfully graceful route his hand will take during the next 10 minutes of Sergei Prokofiev's “Ballade in C minor”.

Despite this extended silence and stillness, they still have everyone's attention; we are all frozen with them.

This intentional inflection is a beautiful example of a concept known as framing. Silence is to music as the wooden frame or plain beige wall is to a painting, hence “framing.” In the case of music you can have smaller sections of a larger piece each in their own little frame, thereby complementing the sound with the lack of sound.

“I love the energy that one can create when one takes risks like this,” said Farny, “allowing for the space [between the notes] to happen.”

Preceding and appending a piece of music with complete silence can create a great contrast between the music and everything else — such as the daily stresses of the audience or even simply the pop song you've had stuck in your head. It adds professionalism through the means of attention that separates the concert hall musician from the buskers at Penn Station.

In a conversation with the head of Fredonia's composition department, Dr. Rob Deemer, the compositional perspective of the inclusion of silence in music was brought to light: “As a composer, I think silence is both an important ingredient in music but also one that depends a lot on the style and context of the piece... However, I try my best to make sure that the music that I'm writing is connected in some way to life itself and specifically how we as humans live and breathe, which necessitates us being quiet from time to time.”

As composers and performers, we are enamored with the sound we create — if you hear a critic talk about a performance, they'll likely talk about the effective use of each instrument and the beautifully-crafted melody in one particular movement. But it's the silence that comes somewhat unexpectedly right when we are engaged in some climax or expressive figure that creates that almost unexplainable feeling. The performers are frozen in place. The audience is frozen with them, ironically holding our breath while the music breathes.

There is a famous, or infamous, depending on who you ask, piece of music written by the composer John Cage in 1952 simply titled 4'33" (four minutes and thirty-three seconds) named

after its duration.

If you are unfamiliar with this composition, it is a piece of music without any playing: four-and-a-half minutes of silence. This, of course, was extremely controversial from the day it premiered to this day, as it lives on as a joke of sorts with most music students.

The writer, music critic, musicologist and professor of music at Bard College, Kyle Gann, writes in his book “No Such Thing As Silence” a quote from Cage about the very first time this piece was performed as well as the following days. “They didn't laugh — they were irritated when they realized nothing was going to happen, and they haven't forgotten it 30 years later: they're still angry.”

Gann goes on to say how people got up to leave during the performance because of how mad they were — they viewed this intentional silence as a waste of time despite its clear purpose to deliver a message. “To Cage, it seemed, at least from what he wrote about it, to have been an act of framing, of enclosing environmental and unintended sounds in a moment of attention.”

While I'm not going to sit here and justify 4'33" as music (I would but The Leader might send me a bill for the cost of all the extra paper and ink (Kyle Gann did it much better than I could anyway)), I will say that it is extreme while also making a necessary point about the value of silence, rather, the value of sound in context to silence.

This was not Cage's main intention as the piece was rooted in his theory that any auditory experience can count as music and that the small sounds that sprouted during the “silence” were music, but in the context of our modern, boisterous world, the interpretation of the piece changes, at least to me.

In my milling about in the world I often try to avoid, I've noticed something in most people within the millennial generation and younger: everyone has earbuds in their ears. This isn't going to turn into a curmudgeon lecturing “the kids these days” on attention spans, reliance on devices and whatnot, I simply wish to bring attention to this new need for constant sound or background noise.

This, like all habits and dependencies, has psychological reasoning. In a Huffington Post article on background noise, it was denoted that this is caused by avoidance. “Background noise may be used in an attempt to distract from or avoid unpleasant emotions and thoughts.”

This is completely understandable but can go on to have very negative effects on your mental health, in a way similar to the common coping mechanism of ‘bottling it up’; your emotions are left unaddressed and may continue to fester.

The article states, “Basically, you aren't able to work through the anxiety; you're just pushing it under the rug again and again. While this is certainly understandable, it's not the most helpful.”

I didn't initially intend for this article to tangentially arrive at a call to action for those who may be dealing with heavy conflicts and pressures, but mental health in college students is commonly considered to be poor (I refuse to attempt to choose just one source for this as I'd wager there are no sources proving



Photo via fredonia.edu

the opposite). As an advocate for therapy and constantly bettering oneself, I feel this topic I've stumbled on (not unlike how one may stumble on the anxieties they've pushed under the rug) is worth a world of attention. I'll also add that you don't even need to muster up the confidence to pay a stranger to confide in, I encourage the idea that therapy exists sometimes the strongest within those we love.

I, myself, have been working on my mental health and anxieties more than I have in the past and I'm finding that the fear of silence, sometimes referred to as sedatephobia, that I and many others experience when left in a room with nothing but our thoughts is beginning to fade. Through addressing my emotions as they arise and intentionally exposing myself to the silence, I've come to love and look forward to it.

I'll bring it back to the idea of framing; in indulging in silence from time to time, you're framing the moments in your life; you're allowing the beauty of your existence, the sounds of your world, to breathe. And you guessed it — that breathing room only makes it more beautiful (or at the very least more tolerable).

In music, adding more silence to your life makes music more beautiful when you once again get a chance to listen to it. Many of us can't just go for a quiet walk, cook dinner, clean or relax without having one of our favorite playlists on.

But we can gain a new appreciation for music if we deprive ourselves of it to put an end to our glutinous consumption of music and gratuitous dissociation with the world around us.

The final piece of the concert, a Ritournelle by Vítězslava Kaprálová, ends strongly with two accented notes on the cello and two chords hammered fortissimo on the piano in perpetuity.

Then, once again, silence.

Avni's hands are floating above the keys he was just touching and Fanny has her bow held in the air as we all feel the spirit of the final notes drift away like the snow-white rosin dust coming off of the horse hairs that then slowly disappear into the atmosphere of the recital hall.

We're all caught, for the final time that night, holding our breath.

Though the applause and a standing ovation eventually broke the silence, these moments got me thinking about the famous quote by Claude Debussy that I began with: it sounds rather incomplete.

In my pre-professional opinion, he should have said that music is the silence between, before and after the notes. If you're listening to music all day and then you go to a concert, you're just continuing the noise that has permeated your day, right?

While I don't have a fully-fledged theory of what is or isn't music, I can say that it definitely has to do with the value of the sounds. Similar to how dining hall food may get old after a while of eating it, or how words that get frequently repeated may lose meaning after a while, music, after being played all the time, may lose its value (unless you're using music as a way to hide from your emotions as we talked about).

If what someone would usually have considered a beautiful melody was played on repeat every hour of every day of the year, they wouldn't consider it beautiful anymore; they'd either go insane or their mind would eventually register it as just noise. There's a reason why we call them "pieces" of music or "pieces" of art and that's because we can only enjoy them in pieces. If there were, say, a whole metaphorical Art, we'd just feel bloated and not want anymore.

These thoughts that I've expressed, funnily enough, all stem from my earbuds dying early in my senior year of high school. I made the fifteen-minute walk to and from school every day in silence and boy did they fly by. I simply took in the sound of the wind rustling, the leaves and cars flying past me, the birds and squirrels quietly minding their business, similar to myself. So I'll leave you with this: let your earbuds die.

Upcoming Fredonia School of Music Events (all in Rosch Recital Hall):

Brass Chamber Ensembles & Brass Choir – Mon, Oct. 30, 2023 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Student Composers Concert 2 – Tue, Oct. 31, 2023 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

8th Annual Claudette Sorel Piano Competition – Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 12 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Fredonia Percussion Ensemble – Mon, Nov. 6, 2023 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Guitar Chamber Ensembles – Thu, Nov. 9, 2023 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

SPORTS

Blue Devils Sports Roundup

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

The beginning of November typically signals somewhat of a lull in Fredonia sports, as most fall sports have come to a close but some winter sports have yet to begin.

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams are currently in season, but they were off this past weekend as they prepare for a three-team meet that will take place on Saturday, Nov. 11 at Alfred University.

Only two teams—hockey and volleyball—saw game action over the weekend.

HOCKEY

Fredonia's hockey team was on the road over the weekend for a pair of early-season SUNYAC matchups, dropping both.

On Friday, Nov. 3 against Oswego, the Blue Devils kept it close in the early going but let it slip late.

The Lakers, who entered the game ranked ninth in the nation, came away with a 4-1 win.

Junior forward Johnny Malandruccolo scored Fredonia's only goal, a shorthanded tally midway through the first period.

The Blue Devils were outshot 33-25 in the game.

On Saturday, Nov. 4 against Cortland, Fredonia jumped out to an early lead thanks to freshman Antoine St. Onge's first collegiate goal.

However, the unbeaten Red Dragons would score the next three goals and wouldn't look back, eventually winning 5-2.

Junior forward Ryan Bailey scored Fredonia's second goal, his first of the season.

As the Blue Devils continue to rotate goaltenders through the early part of the season, sophomore Charles-Anthony Barbeau got the start against Cortland, stopping 28 of 33 shots.

The losses dropped Fredonia's record to 0-4, and they will look for their first win of the season when they host conference rival Buffalo State at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 10.

VOLLEYBALL

The Blue Devils volleyball team traveled to Rochester to close out their season, falling in both games they played.

On Friday, Nov. 3 against RIT, Fredonia split the first two sets before dropping the next two, ultimately losing the game 3-1.

Junior Gabrielle Sordetto was the overall game leader in aces with five, as junior Erin Callahan had three and senior Elora Sherman had two.

Both teams recorded 13 aces in the game.

Sherman led the Blue Devils in digs with 14, and Callahan



KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer

led the team in kills with eight.

Freshman Molly Cassidy had a team-best 23 assists.

On Saturday, Nov. 4, Fredonia traveled to Geneseo for a neutral site matchup with Pennsylvania-based Carnegie Mellon, resulting in a 3-0 loss.

Freshman Sasha Zayatz ended her season with a bang, however, leading the team with 12 digs and a trio of aces.

Cassidy again reached the 20-assist mark, while fellow freshman Kylie O'Brien had a team-high seven kills.

The Blue Devils finish the 2023 season with a record of 5-20, an improvement upon last season's 4-20 mark.

Much of the team's core is expected to remain intact entering 2024, as Sherman is the team's only graduating senior.

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

Be sure to tune in to "Big Blue Sports Podcast" every Wednesday morning from 10 to 11 a.m.! Each week, I talk about Fredonia sports, provide sports news updates, recap Bills games and more!

I'll also make my picks for the upcoming NFL games and recap the games of the week before.

You can tune in on WCVF 88.9 FM in Dunkirk and Fredonia or stream live on fredoniaradio.com.



ALINA MARSH | Staff Artist

Dual Sport Athlete Caitlin Snyder: getting the best of both worlds

MITCHELL HORUCY

Staff Writer

As if playing one college sport isn't challenging enough, Caitlin Snyder is a member of two teams at Fredonia.

Snyder, a senior biochemistry major, is a four-year member of the Blue Devils basketball team.

She also joined the tennis team after her freshman year and has been on the team since.

Snyder picked up a basketball for the first time when she was a kindergartener, which led to her wanting to play collegiate basketball.

"I was recruited to play basketball in college, so that became a reality when coaches started reaching out to me my sophomore [and] junior year[s] of highschool," said Snyder.

She mentioned that she had hopes of playing both basketball and tennis in college, but was unsure if she'd be able to make it work.

She didn't pick up tennis until later in her life, seventh grade to be exact, and fell in love with it.

After her freshman year, the tennis team needed players, which led to her being asked if she wanted to join.

The rest, as they say, is history.

As one could imagine, Snyder says that managing school work on top of being on two sports teams is tough.

"It can definitely be a challenge to stay on top of everything I need to get done, but it has taught me very good time management," she said. "If I have homework or a test, I need to set aside time before or after practice to make sure I get it done."

This has worked well for Snyder, as she has been a member of the Commissioner's List for having a GPA of 3.30 or higher.

While being a part of two teams has its benefits, it sometimes means she has to miss things involving the other team.

With tennis being in the fall and basketball in the winter, there may be times where she has to miss an offseason lift for either team due to a conflict with the team currently playing.

Snyder says it's challenging because she loves both teams and wants to be there for everything.

She is no stranger to playing multiple sports, as she was a multisport athlete in highschool as well.

She noted that the level of commitment in sports is much different from high school to college.

"In high school, out of season we would do the occasional open gym for basketball or go hit with friends for tennis, but in college, out of season, there is still lifting or playing pick-up multiple times a week," she said.

As a senior, Snyder feels it's very important to be a leader on both teams she's on.

"A lot of times, the younger teammates feel as if they have to be quiet or [as] if their opinion isn't relevant, so I try to create a fun, loving environment where everyone feels comfortable expressing their thoughts or opinions," she said.

Off the court, she mentioned that the transition from high school to college can be tough, so she wants to be able to help



CAITLIN SNYDER | Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer

"A lot of times, the younger teammates feel as if they have to be quiet or [as] if their opinion isn't relevant, so I try to create a fun, loving environment where everyone feels comfortable expressing their thoughts or opinions."

—CAITLIN SNYDER

Senior Biochemistry Major,
SUNY Fredonia

those who need it.

She also said that on the basketball team, a lot of her teammates share the same major, so they assist each other with picking classes and professors.

Snyder and the rest of the Blue Devils tip off their season on Nov. 11 at 1 p.m. when they take on Hilbert in the Dods Hall Gym.

Blue Devils top EHL All-Stars in overtime thriller

ADA PACHUCINSKI

Special to The Leader

With the start of the hockey season, the Blue Devils played host to the EHL All-Stars on Friday, Oct. 20 for an exhilarating scrimmage, leading to a 3-2 win in overtime.

The game garnered enthusiastic support from Fredonia's student body, with significant appearances from the women's soccer team, women's lacrosse team and men's baseball team.

The game began at a steady pace, only to burst into action when Baxter Kimball netted a goal midway through the first period, courtesy of assists from Nicholas Newman and Evan Wammes.

Newman's experience playing against the EHL All-Stars stirred a wave of nostalgia, transporting him back to the days when he proudly wore the Protec Junior Ducks jersey, competing in the EHL.

"My experience in the EHL was very enjoyable," he said. "I had a lot of fun playing against good competition and meeting so many new people."

Junior Assistant Captain Ryan Bailey also put in an un-wavering effort during the match, recognizing that, as the first game of the season, it revealed areas where the team needed improvement.

"We did not play our best," Bailey said. "We could be a lot more physical as well as work on possessing pucks a lot more to make better offensive plays."

Bailey also played in the EHL before coming to Fredonia.

"I really enjoyed playing in the EHL, it was a fun couple of years and included great competition," he said.

The game's second goal was scored by freshman Dillon Schmidt, and assisted by Spencer Quinn and Parker James.

Quinn, who also played his EHL games with the Protec Junior Ducks, said he forged enduring memories in his career while living with teammate Nicholas Newman.

Sophomore Joe Santoro explained that his EHL experience on the New Hampshire Avalanche felt a bit different compared to a regular hockey season.

"It was weird during the season because COVID was at its peak, so there was a lot of change on the fly," he said.



RYAN BAILEY | Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer

With these difficulties, numerous opportunities were dealt to Santoro. He was living with teammate Baxter Kimball during his career with Avalanche, and still does during his career here at Fredonia.

"Living with [Kimball] was fun, we became best friends," Santoro said. "He committed first, which is a huge reason why I committed to Fredonia as well."

The game reached its end when freshman Xavier Fortin scored the decisive goal in overtime, with the pivotal assist coming from senior Cam Birkeland.

Fredonia Head Coach Jeff Meredith led his team to victory, noticing the differences in levels of play between EHL and SUNYAC.

"The EHL players are younger, even if it is just a year compared to our freshman, but they could be four years younger than our seniors, so obviously the age difference plays a huge role in level of play," he said. "The college game is different compared to EHL, it is a lot more physical, there is a lot less time to make plays with the puck then there is in junior leagues."

Coach Meredith and his players said they are very optimistic about the upcoming season, with their next home game at Steele Hall Ice Arena on Friday, Nov. 10.

"The EHL players are younger, even if it is just a year compared to our freshman, but they could be four years younger than our seniors, so obviously the age difference plays a huge role in level of play."

—JEFF MEREDITH

Head Coach,
SUNY Fredonia Hockey



JOHNNY MALANDRUCCOLO | Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer



A SITDOWN WITH Brock Papke

Airs Every Other Thursday at 10:00 PM on WNYF-TV

Menstrual items: Where are they?

ABIGAIL JACOBSON

Asst. News Editor

You're walking to your class that's located in Thompson Hall, when you feel it.

If you're someone who uses menstrual items then you know exactly what that feeling is.

If you don't, the best way I can describe it is where your stomach has this weird pain. For me, it feels like someone hits me with a baseball bat.

You can call it whatever you want. The time of the month. Aunt Flo. Shark week, whatever.

However, every person experiences their period differently.

Everyone uses different menstrual items. There's pads, tampons, menstrual cups, period underwear and so much more!

Why is this important to SUNY Fredonia?

Because SUNY Fredonia does not offer menstrual items in the bathrooms for their students and faculty.

If they do, then I assume they are invisible.

I think not supplying the bathrooms with menstrual items is wrong and unacceptable.

According to the Student Demographics Fall 2023 on the Fredonia website, the undergraduate women on campus are more than half of students. SUNY Fredonia undergraduate women hold 57.6% of the entire headcount as of Fall 2023.

Comparatively, SUNY Fredonia graduate women hold 76.4% of the entire graduate headcount as of Fall 2023.

The SUNY Fredonia campus is made up of mainly women, so why does SUNY Fredonia not offer menstrual items to women and others on the SUNY Fredonia campus?

That is the big question.

I see more condoms and lube given out on campus than I do menstrual items.

SUNY Fredonia should provide those who experience periods menstrual and sanitary pads.

On April 25, 2023, The State University of New York (SUNY) provided a memorandum of support. The subject was of A.4060/S.5910, which says it "amends the public health law, in relation to requiring menstrual products in public colleges and universities."

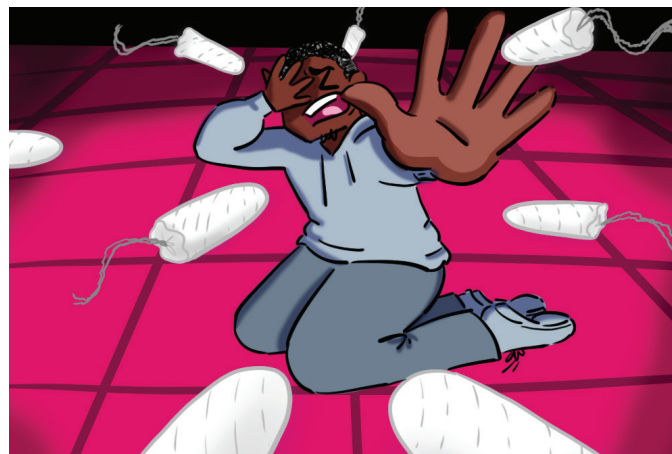
In this memorandum of support, menstrual items are considered a fundamental necessity and should be supplied and stocked just as toilet paper and soap is.

Now yes, menstrual items are not free. However, considering a majority of SUNY Fredonia student's are women (who I assume experience periods) then there should be no question in providing students with menstrual items.

I reached out to a few students from other schools for their input.

Abigail Starkweather, a student from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), gave me her input on RIT supplying menstrual items.

"I would say a decent amount [of places] on campus do have



NICOLE THORSON | Art Director

little baskets with pads and tampons in them," said Starkweather.

According to RIT, they had 6,987 female students in Fall 2022. Considering that RIT has a more male-dominated student body, they still provide baskets of pads and tampons for their female and period-experiencing students.

Kristina Foster, a student from SUNY Oswego, provided me with how her school provides menstrual items.

"They have pads and tampons in the women's bathrooms," said Foster. "They just started putting them in the men's bathrooms as well, which people are unhappy about."

Having a period is quite the experience and in my opinion, it's a struggle. I think many other people can agree.

"It's really good for people to have access to free period products," said Foster. "It's a hidden struggle that's not really talked about and it's important for a lot of people."

In Fall 2022, SUNY Oswego's female student population was more than half. The female population was 52%, while the male population was 48%.

This brings a question to attention: Why do other SUNY schools provide menstrual items while Fredonia does not?

From what I've seen around the women's bathrooms on campus, there are no menstrual items anywhere. If there are some in the bathroom, I only see an empty bag or basket.

The only areas on campus I have seen menstrual items are in Gregory Hall and Fenton Hall, both of which have, at most, two menstrual items.

I believe SUNY Fredonia should supply free menstrual items in the women and men's bathrooms on campus.

As a woman myself, this is an extremely important topic to me. Considering I have and still do experience periods, having to have a full-blown search for a pad or tampon in my bookbag or even rolling a bunch of toilet paper up, is not a fun time.

If SUNY Fredonia supplies free menstrual items in every bathroom on campus, I can guarantee many students and faculty would appreciate it.

INNOVATIVE INSTALLMENT
Luke Johnson:
"Violence So Pretentious Bath Tub"





Lovercolumn:

Struggles and effective communication around sex

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 WDVL 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 class-

mates or you can even go solo for a fun activity in Fredonia.

This week, we here at Lovercall recommend getting together to look through old photos!

We think this can be a way to enhance your relationship on a much deeper, more personal level.

Oftentimes, people are embarrassed to look back at old pictures of themselves, but they find old pictures of their significant other to be super cute!

Hearing your partner call your younger self “adorable” sounds like an immediate boost to your self-confidence!

Our guests discussed that looking through old pictures is typically a date you’d only find in an already well-established couple, so anyone hoping to do this on a first date might be out of luck.

But, as we’ve discussed before, there are such things as “self dates”.

You can always look back through your old pictures by yourself as a way to see how much you’ve grown since then. That sounds like a great form of self-love, which we at Lovercall are always in full support of!

Lovercallers

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

This week, we looked to the Google form for questions. We answered one from a Lovercaller going by the name of Yellowstone.

He asked, “I recently got broken up with, and it was quite sudden. My ex seemed to have taken the time to distance herself from the relationship before the breakup, but I had no clue it was coming. I haven’t talked to her since, it’s been over a month, and I feel like I still haven’t gotten closure from the relationship. What should I do to get closure from it all?”

Us at Lovercall gave Yellowstone the advice to take some time to himself.

Although you may still hold feelings for your ex, it seems that she has already moved on from you a while ago. And as hard as that is to hear, understanding that might help your closure a little.

It may seem cliché, but it’s important to take the time to focus on yourself and heal your own wounds, finding your own path to closure.

For everyone, this path is different.

Your closure might come in a couple weeks, months or even years. And maybe you find it through hobbies, digging yourself into academics, or something else.

But it will get better, and you have to trust that.

Struggles and effective communication around sex

On our Oct. 18 episode of Lovercall, we had a special guest on the show.

Erica Rose, a professional intimacy coach, joined the Lovercall crew to talk about love, sex and relationships.

As an intimacy coach, Rose was able to provide professional opinions and advice to both our guests and listeners.

Rose talked about several different topics throughout the episode, but one of the most important topics was the struggles and effective communication surrounding sex.

Sex is often seen as a taboo topic that can be hard for many couples and individuals alike to discuss.

We here at Lovercall, along with the help from Rose, created some ideas we think can help ease the tensions around discussing sex.

For couples looking to try something new in the bedroom, it helps to communicate your desires and apprehensions towards your partner before spicing things up in the bedroom.

Rose suggests doing a “red light, green light” game to help see what you and your partner are into.

This game lists several different things to try out when getting intimate, such as roleplaying.

Each partner will check off the things they like, and put an “x” through the things they do not like.

Then, the partners can trade lists and see what each other would be interested in trying when getting intimate.

If there are some similarities, partners then know what to try out and what each other are okay with doing.

This way, the conversation about trying new things can be had outside of the bedroom, avoiding any awkwardness while in the act.

It is extremely important to be completely clear and honest with your partner about what you are okay with and what you aren't.

Nothing about sex or intimacy should be “embarrassing.” A true partner is one who understands the awkwardness of having sex and how vulnerable the exchange can be.

If something feels good for everyone, that's great! It's something to keep in mind for the future.

If something doesn't, have a conversation about it, and be

upfront about your feelings.

Your partner cannot read your mind, and you cannot read theirs.

Fostering a healthy environment to talk about sex is incredibly important to the health of a relationship.

For those not in a relationship, it is important to find a safe space or outlet in which you can talk about sex and your feelings towards the topic.

There are several communities around campus that would be more than willing to help, including writing into our column right here in The Leader or attending a STEPS event.

Alternatively, find a friend or family member you trust to talk about these things.

Friends who truly care about you will not judge you or make comments about your preferences.

While you can't always see it, sexual support is all around.

Reducing the stigma about talking about sex is one of the reasons why we started Lovercolumn.

We believe that no one should feel insecure talking about sex, and frankly, there needs to be more education surrounding it.

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.



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Writers' Ring

Halloween contest winners

Writers' Ring is a writing club on campus, and each week the club discusses a different genre of writing. Writers' Ring had their annual Halloween Poetry and Prose Competition within the month of October. On Halloween, the winners of them were announced.

The judges for this competition were Professor Michael Sheehan, Professor Sandra Liggins and Professor Rebecca Cuthbert.

The winners were divided into three categories; poetry, fiction and overall winner.

The winner for poetry is Airlea Deutscher, "My Mommy's Eyes are Blue"; the winner for fiction is Jake Davis, "Untitled"; and the overall winner is Kathleen Ball, "Ghost Stories".

Poetry Winner Airlea Deutscher:

My mommy's eyes are blue
Like the skies above.
She made sure I knew this
From a very young age.
I'd stare into them as her blond bangs
Hung over her forehead.
She used to quiz me,
Or tell me in a song.
"This I know is true,
My mommy's eyes are blue."
I never forgot.

When I was about nine,
The color started to shift.
One eye was still blue like the sky,
The other brown like dirt.
Mommy said they changed sometimes,
That was normal.
She would tease her dark black curls
As I sang a different tune.
"This I know is true,
One of Mommy's eyes is blue."

When I was about twelve,
The color shifted again.
One eye was still brown like dirt,
The other green like grass.
But I knew I trusted Mommy
With her beautiful red braid,
And Mommy said the change was normal.
"This I know is true,
Green comes from blue."

I got a small present from Mommy
On my sixteenth birthday.
A blue like the sky jewelry box.
"Open it," Mommy said,
And so I did.
And Mommy's eyes stared back at me.
Blue like the sky.
I looked back up at Mommy,

And beneath her blonde bangs,
Where I once saw ever-changing eyes
Were sunken valleys dripping with blood.
This was definitely Mommy.
I still don't know who the other two women were.

Fiction Winner Jake Davis:

Dan shivered in the cold as he stood in the open doorway and watched his daughter Abby get into the back seat of her mom's van. She was just a flash of red against the dim overhead light as her mom pulled out of the driveway. It had been daylight when the silver minivan pulled in, but now, even its obnoxious LED headlights did little to fend off the darkness as it swallowed his ex-wife and daughter just a little ways down the unlit street. He waved goodbye and flicked off the porch light, smiling slightly as he closed the door. He limped down the hall towards the old sagging couch he had set up in front of the TV, dragging his booted foot along behind him. He was supposed to have Abby for halloween this year, but after breaking his foot at work, he wasn't going to be able to take her trick-or-treating so her mom had stepped in to help. No one ever came trick-or-treating down his out-of-the-way street, and even if they did, everyone knows to skip a house if the porch light is off, so all he had to do was relax and watch some shitty horror films until Sarah dropped Abby back off. He grabbed the remote and sank into the couch's deteriorating brown cushions, flicking through channels until he found some black and white slasher that must've come out back when he was in middle school.

Overall Winner Kathleen Ball:

"Bloody Mary isn't real," you say, sitting in a circle with your friends, pajamas on and music blasting from someone's phone behind you. All of your friends nod but the girl across from you, who leans closer.

"That's not true. My sister saw her," she says, a smile on her lips, but her eyes are serious and squinted.

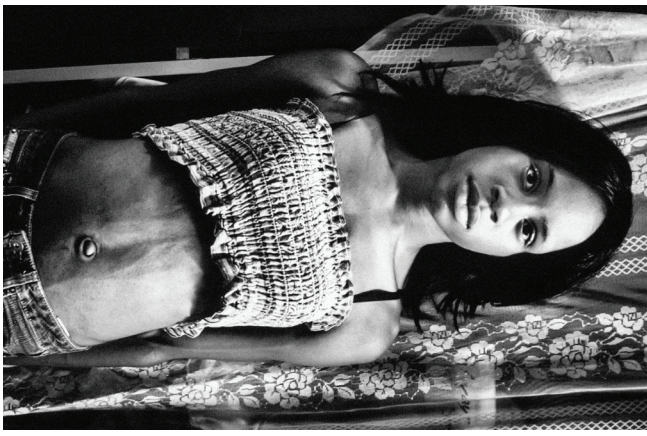
Mary Tudor was the daughter of King Henry VIII and his first wife Catherine of Aragon. In her youth she was used as a political pawn, betrothed and bargained with like a chip for power. Despite the focus on her hand in marriage, Mary often refused these advances and arranged marriages, claiming she would marry who she wanted on her own time. She was known for being a bright girl with a beautiful voice and articulate speech, which she got from her mother.

"You liar!" someone shouts.

"No, I'm serious!" she answers, but her eyes are still trained on your own. "She said that a few years ago she had a sleepover with her friends just like this and they played Bloody Mary, and," she pauses, taking a breath in, "she saw her. Right in the mirror."

These are excerpts of each of the winners, the full stories can be found on The Leader website:



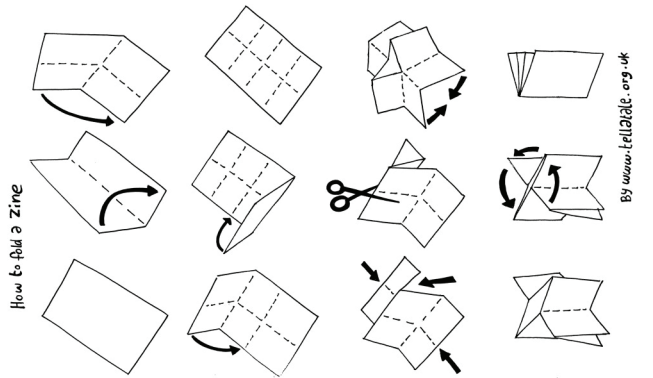


There's more to gender than just male and female.

NOT GAY

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THE SCALLION



Satire for Fredonia

Who will be the next U.S. Senator?

MEGAN KIDBY

Scallion Editor

Ding dong, Dianne Feinstein is dead!

Dianne Feinstein, the 90-year-old former senator, passed away on Sept. 23, 2023 and people fought for her spot on the Senate.

Even though Laphonza Butler acquired the spot, she does not intend to permanently fill it.

Thus, an opportunity arises.

As the political expert of The Leader (eat it Dan Q), I have some ideas on who should and should not take that spot once she leaves.

Here are my thoughts.

The Shoulds

Grimace:

Grimace could honestly do it.

Imagine all of the old dudes and ladies just sitting around and then in pops the gigantic, purple fuzzy triangle in a suit who wants free healthcare for all.

Did y'all know that according to McDonald's, Grimace is supposed to be the "embodiment" of a milkshake?

WE NEED THAT IN THE SENATE.

Maybe the sight of him could finally be the thing that does Mitch McConnell in? Purple people rise up and get Grimace on the Senate floor.

Megan Kidby:

Now hear me out...I know I am not old enough and I do not live in California, but I could absolutely do this.

If George Santos can lie about almost everything on his resume and still stay in Congress, I think I can just lie about both my age and my home state and still be a senator.

Plus I'm really good at interviews.

"MEGAN... Do you like our government?"

"No comment."

"MEGAN...Do you think you could gather all the young people and stage a coup in which we take over from the inside?"

"No comment."

"MEGAN...how are you so cool and amazing and pretty?"

"No comment ;)."

It's so easy. If not Grimace then it has to be me.

Vermin Supreme:

He's the only presidential candidate to release his dental records and I personally think that says something.

I want someone running our country who will pass a law requiring people to brush their teeth.

He's also very conscious of the zombie apocalypse and has a zombie-based energy plan for when the time comes.

I also personally like his style. I think the boot on his head really brings out the color of his eyes.

He also promises a free pony for every American soooooo I say that he is a winner.

GET HIM IN THERE Y'ALL I WANT MY PONY.

Literally ANY Libertarian:

Y'all do not understand how based their takes are.

I watched a Libertarian debate where someone got booed for saying that people should get a driver's license in order to drive a car.

As a person who does not have a license but wants to drive I say that they need to get their ideas out there.

Vermin Supreme said that Libertarians "are just about abolishing the government and letting shit fall where it may" and honestly that's what we need in the Senate.

Maybe they can start that coup that I have no comment on? Who knows?

The Shouldn'ts

The Devil:

Ted Cruz already has a seat, he doesn't need another one.

Megan Kidby:

I've changed my mind. I don't actually want to run.

Today I realized that if I get even the tiniest bit of anger or anxiousness in my body, I start violently shaking and I don't want anyone seeing me like that because they'll think I'm weak.

That is not a valid thought to have but most politicians rarely have a valid thought.

There you have it!

My opinions that I will not have challenged by anyone else. Want to fight me about it?

Meet me outside of Sunny's at 12 a.m.

I'll definitely show up and fight instead of just staying home and avoiding conflict like I normally do.



Graphic by KELLY NGUYEN | Asst. Art Director



You like drawing? You like writing comics? You like reading the news? You wanna be a part of something big that you can put on your resume?



GRAPHIC ARTIST



Contact me @

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Brought to you by Art Director:

Nicole Thorson



Five Nights at Freddy's:

A movie review

ABIGAIL JACOBSON

Asst. News Editor

I'm pretty sure we all have heard of the recent horror film, *Five Nights at Freddy's* (FNAF), that came out on Oct. 27. You may have heard good reviews, bad reviews and other things as well.

The FNAF movie, in my opinion, was terrific! For a star rating, drum roll please... A 9 out of 10!

I grew up watching two of my favorite youtubers play the FNAF franchise. Those youtubers being iHasCupquake and CoryxKenshin.

Watching both of these youtubers play the first game to the most recent has been a rollercoaster.

So when I heard they were making a movie out of the first game, *Five Nights at Freddy's*, I knew I just had to see it.

I was able to watch it via Peacock, an online streaming service.

Five Nights at Freddy's was released on Oct. 27. It was directed by Emma Tammi and distributed by Universal Pictures.

For some background information on myself, I HATE horror movies. I will avoid them at all costs. But since I knew this one was about a game I grew up watching youtubers play, I knew I had to watch it.

Before I begin my review on this film, I will NOT put any spoilers in here! I don't like spoilers so I'm sure nobody else does as well.

So I started watching it and I was intrigued with Michael Schmidt's childhood and his relationship with his little sister Abby. (I'm probably gonna have nightmares since we share the same name).

Michael Schmidt was played by Josh Hutcherson, who played Peeta in *The Hunger Games* franchise and Abby Schmidt was played by Piper Rubio. There were a few other actors who played in this movie such as Elizabeth Lail, who played a local police officer named Vanessa Shelly, as well as MatPat (a youtuber) who played a waiter in a diner scene. (When he came on screen, I recognized him but didn't realize who he was until a few minutes later).

It was funny seeing Matthew Lillard, who played a career counselor named Steve Raglan, in the movie. I grew up watching him, mainly in the live-action *Scooby-Doo* and *Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed*.

Watching Schmidt work his shifts (while also falling asleep) gave me so much anxiety. Again, I'm not a big fan of horror movies so I had a lot of adrenaline going through my body.

While watching the movie, I was trying to remember the lore behind the FNAF series. For me, I've always had a little trouble processing the whole lore. So while the movie was playing, I kept asking myself "Who is that?" or "I don't remember this person."

There are a few scenes from the movie I would love to dive



ISABELLA RIZZO | Asst. Art Director

deeper into. However, I do not want to spoil anything for those who haven't seen it yet!

Throughout some of the last few scenes (I won't mention to avoid spoiling it), my mouth was agape. I was shocked. I literally gasped maybe fifteen times??

I remember there was a scene that made me and my boyfriend literally go "OH MY GOD." It was insane.

When the movie had ended and we were rolling through the credits, I couldn't stop thinking about the movie.

I thought it was well-done and the plot behind it was amazing, and I could easily find myself thinking ahead.

I believe the casting was amazing, especially casting Lillard and Hutcherson. I think the actors were incredible and really made it believable.

The set was incredible and it makes me want to go there (maybe when there aren't animatronics running around).

All in all, the FNAF movie was everything I expected. The cast was awesome, the set was amazing and the plot was easy to follow and well thought out.

If you haven't seen it yet, I encourage you to!

You should also watch it with a friend because if I didn't watch it with my boyfriend, I would have to sleep with the light on for a while. For like months.

HOROS

JACE JACOBS

Asst. Scallion Editor, Certified Wayne Brady Superfan

Hello, my lovely astrology fans! Halloween has sapped all my energy, and since I couldn't do an "Oops! No horoscopes!" page (because I would never leave my loyal readers in the dark), here I am with something for the people who grew up like me, watching daytime game shows because there was nothing else to do. Keep reading to find out what you would do on America's most-tolerated game show, "Let's Make A Deal"! Note: Not all of these costumes have appeared on "Let's Make A Deal", but they are all approved for TV.



Aries

Something Displaying Your Love of Wayne Brady

Even if you're not really in love with Wayne Brady (good, because he's mine), your desire to win this show will outweigh how indifferent you feel towards the host. You can't go wrong with an "I love Wayne Brady" shirt, hat and sign combo. Bonus points: Include something musical, like a keyboard around your neck. He's a singer, he'll love that!



Taurus

Las Vegas Showgirl

You thought I was going to say some type of food, right? WRONG. Us Tauruses are always reduced to loving food, but we also love other things! Like being hot and winning money! Bonus points: If you make it yourself everyone will be so impressed with you, which means more attention and more potential to win money!



Gemini

A Bunch of Grapes

You plan to take up as much space as possible to get the attention of the people who choose the contestants. If you show up with a whole bunch of purple balloons taped to your chest, you're getting picked to compete, no questions about it! You need that money so you can stop working so dang hard all the time! Bonus points: Find someone to come with you dressed up as cheese. Now you're a charcuterie board!



Cancer

Left Shark

While not the trendiest costume, I agree with you, Left Shark will always be cool. At this point, you don't want to spend the time or effort to do a complicated costume, so a shark onesie will suffice. Bonus points: Dress as a different sea creature. Prove me wrong, but I'll still be right.



Leo

An Actual Cosplay

Leos love to be the center of attention and never do anything halfway, so I could see a Leo busting out one of their expensive, real cosplays just to make a splash and hopefully get on TV. Leo, I know you would absolutely make sure it's as accurate as possible to whatever character you're dressed as, and for that, I respect you. Bonus points: Dress as an obscure fantasy character you'll have to explain to the hosts, thus increasing your airtime.



Virgo

A French Person

This is purely because Virgo is typically represented by the goddess of wheat and agriculture. I just want to see you carrying around a baguette for the sake of "art" (aka a crappy costume). Bonus points: Don't make this sexy. Wear a fake mustache, and make it as "stereotypical French person costume" as humanly possible.

COPEES



Libra

A Made-for-TV Judge

Libras are all about balance (and are literally represented by scales), and I know deep down you also love being judgy. Let's face it, everyone does! You would wear your best Judge Judy costume because if there's one person you respect, it's her. Bonus points: Make it seem less Judge Judy and wear a powdered wig. Extra bonus points if you carry around a gavel!



Scorpio

A Vampire

In my experience, Scorpios are the most mysterious of the signs. Nothing screams mystery to me like an "out-of-season" vampire (I know that vampires exist in all seasons. Trust me, I'm not part of the woke angry mob), especially if said vampire has no blood on themselves. Bonus points: If it's summer and you wear a velvet cape, you're so cool. That's it. I just think you're cool. It won't affect your air time or chances of being selected to play to win money. You'll just get validation from one person.



Sagittarius

A Train

Sagittarius is always on the move and is constantly busy. Due to that, you would find time in your busy schedule to make yourself a cardboard train costume. You don't care if you can barely sit down in it, because that will get you attention, which means you'll probably be chosen to play! Bonus points: If you make this a photorealistic train and not a cartoon train, that would be so sick. I have no further commentary.



Capricorn

A Clock

Capricorn is another notoriously busy sign, seeming to run out of time frequently. Dressing as a clock would be one of the most ironic things you could do, and I support you in that endeavor. Bonus points: Dress as an analog clock. None of that digital crap up in here. Confuse the kids, they'll never know what's going on.



Aquarius

An Animal of Some Sort

Every Aquarius I've ever met has had a deep-rooted love of animals, and even though this is a little basic, I could see you getting in on the animal onesie idea with Cancer. But you would be a land animal because, in your eyes, those are the only real animals. Fish aren't animals, and birds work for the government, so... your options are pretty limited here. Bonus points: Go beyond the basic onesie and find a way to make your costume yourself. Now that you've been called basic, I know you'll find a way to make it yourself.



Pisces

Something Punny

As someone who knows several Pisces, I feel the need to ask... Are y'all okay? Across the board, every Pisces I know copes with humor (same girl, same), so I think you would pull off a deviled egg (a shirt that looks like an egg accompanied with devil horns, a tail, a pitchfork and a cape) or another visual pun. Bonus points: Be so out of the box and make people think! This will increase your airtime so you better milk it!

