

2.6.24 — Issue 1 — Volume CXXII



# THE **FREDONIA LEADER**

**SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper**

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"Don't let those who say it can't be done interrupt your motion." – Nigel Sylvester

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# PROGRAM CUTS: Proposal Overview

**DAN QUAGLIANA**  
News Editor

There's 13 things that have been on everyone's mind here at Fredonia — the 13 majors that have been proposed to be cut from the university's offerings. What remains unclear is how things got to this point.

It's well-known to the campus community that Fredonia's been going through budget problems for about a decade, but this is the first time that significant changes have been made to the way that the university is planning to operate. Cutting majors, and thus refusing to offer them to prospective students, is an entirely different ballpark than something like not renewing the contract with Tim Hortons two years ago.

The first sign that something big was about to happen was revealed during the University Senate meeting on Dec. 4, 2023, where President Stephen Kolison said that he was, "looking forward to having a [meeting] with the campus sometime [that] week ... about the future of the university." He didn't reveal any more information about the meeting at that time.

The meeting in question was hosted by the president on Dec. 6, 2023, two days later. In the meeting, he announced that, in order to save costs due to our budget deficit, the university had made the decision to no longer offer 13 different majors. At the end of the meeting, the president declined to answer questions from the audience, leaving most people who attended it confused.

The majors that have been proposed to be discontinued are: BA Visual Arts New Media: Art History, BA French, BA French Adolescence Education, BS Industrial Management, BS Mathematics: Middle Childhood Specialist (grades five – nine), BA Philosophy, BA Sociology, BA Spanish, BA Spanish: Adolescence Education, BFA Visual Arts and New Media: Ceramics, BFA Visual Arts and New Media: Photography, BFA Visual Arts and New Media: Sculpture, BSED Early Childhood Education (birth – second grade).

The reason given for these proposed cuts was because the SUNY Board of Trustees had just announced a new budget for the SUNY system on Dec. 5, 2023. Despite the state legislature giving them \$163 million in additional funding, the Board only gave \$2.8 million of it to Fredonia.

This amount isn't enough to fill the university's deficit alone, which has been said by various campus administrators to range anywhere from \$21 million to \$9 million per year.

It also came as a surprise to many in the community that seemingly no one outside of the President's Cabinet was consulted before this was announced to the public.

Every faculty member that The Leader has reached out to has expressed that they both disagree with the logic used to determine which programs would be discontinued, and that they have no idea what that logic is to begin with.

It's a common belief among faculty and staff that the administration didn't seem to know what they were doing when they selected the programs for discontinuation.

The Leader also contacted the University Senate's Planning and Budget Committee. They did not give out any information, citing their confidentiality agreement, which restricts what they can release to the public, "especially when dealing with personnel reductions, reallocation or staffing models."

On Dec. 7, 2023, the day after the president's presentation, Kolison hosted a meeting of the Student Cabinet, a group made up of the Student Association Executive Board, the four undergraduate class presidents and a graduate student representative.

When asked about how it was determined which programs would be recommended for discontinuation, the president said, "[Executive Vice President and Provost] Dr. [David] Starrett, came up with some criteria, and he shared that with a group of individuals on campus saying to look at the criteria that would be used to look at these programs. There was some input to that, and the provost adjusted the criteria, then applied the criteria, and then identified the programs."

Kolison did not specify what the criteria was or who the "group of individuals" who looked at it consisted of.

He was also asked about the lack of transparency regarding the process with the rest of the campus, and he said, "So the issue of transparency is really not, to me, much of an issue there. It's more of, if we had just decided, say, last month, and then [said] that these are cut, and that's it, yes, someone would say that 'you didn't give us a chance to look at the formula, you didn't give us a chance to give us advice, and so you were not transparent in the process.' So when someone says we're not transparent, I will have to disagree with that."

As of the writing of this article, almost no new information has been released by the university.

Students have taken it upon themselves to voice their disapproval about the proposed discontinuations.

On Dec. 7, 2023, a protest outside Maytum Hall was organized by two students, Benjamin Evans and Alexander Fisher. A new student organization called Students for Fredonia has also been created. Led by co-presidents Sophie Myers and Abigail Tartaro, the group advocates for students, faculty and staff both on and outside of campus.

Over the course of the semester, as new information becomes available, The Leader will publish more articles on this issue to keep the campus informed.

"So the issue of transparency is really not, to me, much of an issue...When someone says we're not transparent, I will have to disagree with that."

**—STEPHEN KOLISON**  
University President,  
SUNY Fredonia



# What is Students For Fredonia?

**CHLOE KOWALYK**

Editor in Chief

Many students felt a fire light underneath them following the list of cut programs announced by SUNY Fredonia President Stephen Kolison last semester.

Angry, frustrated and outright disappointed, Fredonia students joined forces to advocate for the campus and the students, faculty and programs that were affected by lack of funding to the college.

Because of this, two students, Alex Fisher and Ben Evans, coordinated the protest that occurred last semester on Dec. 7, 2023.

Over 300 students showed up to this protest, voicing their concerns for the college.

Following the protest, the Student Association held an open forum for students to share their opinions on the situation.

After the forum, students gathered and bonded over the anger they felt about the potential loss of several programs.

“We started talking about the injustice of it all, and I could see that everyone there was driven by a strong sense of anger about what had been done to students and faculty with the program cuts, and even with the way the announcement itself was handled,” said Sophie Myers, a senior psychology major.

Myers found herself becoming increasingly active in the conversation the students were having, as more and more students began to pitch ideas for how to create change.

“We had a lot of ideas, but someone needed to organize them and plan out [exactly how] we were going to accomplish them,” she said.

This led Myers to take the lead on setting reasonable goals for the group to accomplish. These goals included researching program cuts, interviewing professors and students and reaching out to local politicians and United University Professions (UUP), a union of higher education faculty representing the SUNY system.

“Our pace was truly breakneck,” she said. “Because a lot of the work we did was during finals week, many of us had plenty of free time, so we were meeting multiple times a week, scheduling back-to-back interviews, recruiting more members and basically doing whatever we could.”

This is when the group Students for Fredonia (SFF) was formed.

What started out as a mutual frustration among students has now led to the creation of a full group, with an e-board and a member base.

Myers herself serves as one of two co-presidents of the group. The other co-president is Abigail Tartaro, who is also a senior psychology major.

Today, Myers describes SFF as a, “student group dedicated to supporting and advocating for faculty, staff, students and departments at SUNY Fredonia.”

The group has worked together to organize events and protests on campus, and has even organized a trip to Albany for students to meet with state legislators to advocate for Fredonia.

SFF is now looking to grow.

According to Tartaro, SFF is working towards becoming recognized by the Student Association (SA) as an official campus club. The group is currently recognized by Campus Life.



Photo by ABIGAIL JACOBSON | Asst. News Editor

Once the group gains recognition from SA, Myers explains that they will begin hosting meetings and will continue to host campus events.

Right now, Myers explained that the group collaborates closely with UUP, who has also advocated for fair funding for Fredonia.

“They’ve been gracious enough to provide us with funding, to connect us to their political departments, to connect us with media and to meet with us to continue planning throughout the semester,” Myers said.

Logan McGranaghan is a sophomore music composition major and co-PR chair of SFF. He leads social media for the club and has worked on field interviews.

McGranaghan said the mission of SFF is simple: “Get our programs back, and get the funding we were supposed to receive but didn’t. We also want to spread awareness as widely as possible.”

Myers hopes that eventually, the group will “focus on unifying smaller SUNYs so that we can advocate collectively.”

As the group grows and collaborates, they hope to hold true to their mission.

SFF is a club that was formed because of the shared frustration of students, and the members seem to hold their motivations for starting the club close to them.

Myers said she got involved in SFF because she was “furious” about the program cuts, and the fact that many of them were liberal arts programs.

As a sociology minor, Myers has found a love for liberal arts and finds them important for students to learn.

“The more I learned about why program cuts were happening, the angrier I was, because they’re completely unnecessary,” Myers said. “UUP advocated and won \$163 million for all SUNY campuses, and that money was intended to take them all out of debt.”

Myers then described how the Chancellor of SUNY, John B. King, and the SUNY Board of Trustees took that money and distributed it unevenly, favoring larger SUNY campuses such as University at Buffalo.



“Fredonia doesn't have to be in debt, and it really doesn't have to cut programs,” Myers said. “No one in [the] administration has been able to tell us how much money these program cuts will save, or how they plan to retain faculty in these cut programs for students that are being ‘taught out.’”

Myers has also found a love for her professors, and saw how saddened they were about the cuts. She provided an example of an adjunct professor in the Sociology Department, Danielle Lewis, who helped her develop her research and has encouraged her to further her education.

“It is important to show SUNY that we are united and we will not back down until we get the funds we deserve. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to work with my amazing e-board, club members, UUP, faculty and alumni who have supported us throughout this journey,” Tartaro said.

It is these reasons that many students are hoping to keep SFF's mission alive to save programs at Fredonia.

McGranaghan said, “I believe that SUNY hoped that whatever retaliation (which I applaud you, fellow students, for such great retaliation) occurred at the end of last semester would lose traction and be snuffed out by semester break. In reality, the result has been quite the opposite.”

So far, SFF has seen success in their actions.

“SUNY is noticing what we're doing, and that our voices

have power. The more students meet with legislators, the more they show up to protests and advocate, the more scared the administration gets,” Myers said.

SFF has a high number of students, alumni and professors supporting their work.

“We are already making an impact,” said McGranaghan. “SUNY was not expecting such an aggressive response to the program cuts. Kathy Hochul currently has a mountain of letters on her desk from Fredonia students. We are pressuring them.”

SFF is available for all students of all majors to join, and has an open-door policy.

Students can find information about upcoming events and other information on their Instagram page, @Students.For.Fredonia, and can send an email to studentsforfredonia@gmail.com.

In addition, students can still attend campus events if they are unable to attend meetings.

SFF represents a group of students with a shared interest: saving Fredonia and its programs.

McGranaghan said, “SUNY, on behalf of Students For Fredonia, the teachers whose careers you have ripped away, the students whose path you have destroyed, I would like to inform you that your ignorance has only fueled our aspirations further. We will not concede.”



Photo by ABIGAIL JACOBSON | Asst. News Editor



# United University Professions responds to potential program cuts

**ALEXANDER BUCKNAM**

Special to The Leader

President Stephen Kolison made an announcement on Dec. 6, 2023, where he notified the campus community of program cut proposals, which left many students angry and upset.

Fredonia unions quickly took action to make up plans on how they could help save the programs.

United University Professions (UUP) and Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) are two of the biggest unions Fredonia is affiliated with, which makes them responsible to protect SUNY Fredonia faculty and staff.

It's important to note that these program cuts are not yet official. The announcement made to the campus was only a proposal. We do not know when or if these programs will get cut.

"At this point no programs have been deactivated yet," UUP Chapter President Christopher Taverna said. "We are at the beginning of the process. My understanding is that 10 of the 13 programs being considered for deactivation have submitted plans for consideration."

Nobody knew about the meeting until a few days before President Kolison's speech. Faculty, staff, unions and students were all kept out of the loop as to the content of the meeting.

Programs that are potentially being cut consist of all of the foreign language programs Fredonia offers, four visual art programs and two education programs.

It is a possibility that significantly fewer programs will be deactivated than were initially listed. A list of the 10 programs that have been submitted for being deactivated was not given.

Without any program being fully deactivated yet, it's still too early to tell what effects it might have on the campus as a whole.

Program cuts may result in professors being let go and students transferring, which could bring down the graduation rate and cause an even lower enrollment rate.

These effects are only potential. Currently, no professors have been fired.

Last fiscal year, UUP advocated and won \$163 million for 18 financially distressed campuses. Fredonia got \$2.8 million when they were supposed to get \$16 million.

Fredonia isn't the only campus that has turned to potentially cutting programs. SUNY Potsdam is currently facing similar problems as Fredonia. Potsdam will potentially cut 14 different undergraduate programs, and three master degrees.

With a total of 18 SUNY campuses facing financial deficits totaling \$160 million, this means the \$165 million UUP advocated for would have been more than enough to fix every financial deficit in the SUNY system.

When the state legislature announced the amount of money SUNY was getting, they left it up to the SUNY Board of Trustees to distribute it, as is usual.

SUNY chose to disproportionately distribute this money to certain schools based not on their need, but on the money they could generate the Board, thus denying all 18 financially



Graphic by NICOLE THORSON | Art Director

distressed campuses the money they would need to escape their debt.

"UUP's advocacy started before these cuts were announced," said Taverna.

UUP argues that it is not done fighting for Fredonia and other financially distressed campuses and has multiple things planned for the future.

In December, UUP held a silent march, to protest the unfair distribution of the \$163 million.

This silent protest is what gave students across campus the idea to form a last-minute rally on Dec. 7, 2023.

After the students protested, the then-unofficial club Students for Fredonia (SFF) was formed. Since then, UUP has helped SFF put together speeches and events to make sure faculty and students' voices are heard.

UUP is planning to keep advocating in Albany and has even scheduled an event titled UUP Advocacy Day in March. On this day, members of UUP will travel to Albany and speak to lawmakers to ensure that the money they are advocating for gets to the campuses that need it the most.

UUP is also helping SFF plan a trip to Albany in February, whereby 50 students from Fredonia will go and talk to legislators and advocate for campus faculty and students.

The Leader reached out to CSEA Chapter President Stephanie Teachman, but she said she would have to go through her communication department before being able to take questions.

As of right now, no information has been provided as to what CSEA has planned to help Fredonia get its fair share of funding.

Since the programs have not been officially cut from the curriculum, many students believe that now is the time to have their voices heard in order to keep the programs that they have come to love.

Things you can do to advocate for the continuation of the programs at risk include writing to your congressperson, messaging Kathy Hochul, messaging people on the SUNY Board of Trustees and putting a "we demand fair funding for Fredonia" sign in your window.

According to Taverna, "The time is now for everyone's voices to be heard before any final decision is made."



# Students For Fredonia plans trip to Albany to speak with legislators

**KRYSTYNA PORTUGUES-KLOS**

Staff Writer

The capital of New York State is the target for the Students For Fredonia and United University Professions (UUP), where they will go head-to-head with legislators and discuss the program cuts that perplex Fredonia's student body and faculty.

Four members of the Students for Fredonia (SFF) organization explained in full detail what the Albany trip entails. Sophie Myers, a psychology major with minors in creative writing and sociology, and Abby Tartaro, a psychology major with minors in sociology and human services are co-presidents of the group.

SFF's goal is to help students bring a voice to the legislators that hold the decision for more funding in their hands.

The trip is scheduled for Feb. 12-13 of this year, and over 50 students and faculty members have signed up to go, with transportation and hotels provided by UUP.



Graphic by JOHN LEAHY | Special to The Leader

In Albany, they will talk to legislators about how Fredonia has received so little funding that it can't even cover the debt that the school has.

The funding is not promised until there are signs of progress, which means that, according to President Kolison's "Roadmap to Financial Stability," they will get the funding they need after 13 programs are cut.

SFF members will center their discussion with legislators around how cutting the programs will not save the school money, and how the funding has stayed the same for the last 13 years. The effect of inflation means that stagnant funding actually results in 40% less money given to the school each year.

Other schools, including Stony Brook University, University at Buffalo, SUNY Albany, and Binghamton University, are receiving a lot more funding. These four colleges are what SUNY calls "university centers."

"Higher education can not be about money, ... otherwise there's no point to it."

—**MASON FULLER**

Co-Vice President,  
Students For Fredonia

The difference between Fredonia and these other schools is that university centers are huge in the fields of research and development. Most of the money goes to these big research schools because they generate more profit, and compared to Fredonia, are making much more, especially in the scientific and medical fields.

The profit-based focus of the funding means that the amount colleges receive is less about the academic needs of students, and more for the generation of revenue for SUNY.

Mason Fuller, a social studies adolescent education and ethnic & gender studies double major, and Ben Evans, an animation & illustration and writing double major are co-vice presidents of SFF.

Fuller stated that, "Higher education can not be about money, ... otherwise there's no point to it."

Both Evans and Fuller believe that Fredonia is a good school to have because students from farther towns who may not be able to go to schools like Stony Brook or University at Buffalo have the opportunity to attend a more cost-efficient and closer school.

Having a smaller college also provides more one-on-one help and stronger connections with faculty and professors, which can greatly impact a student's motivation and quality of education.

Fredonia, as well as other smaller higher education institutes, offers social mobility, and opportunities that can be harder to obtain at huge universities like Stony Brook and Binghamton.

Myers stated, "The cuts are ridiculous — Fredonia is a liberal arts college and they are cutting many of the arts programs."

She believes that for a school that has its arts in their own separate building with multiple stages and theatres, it is a little absurd for nearly half of the visual and new media arts programs to be cut.

The trip to Albany will be a turning point in the fight for the saving of programs, and she said Fredonia students will not let up until their voices are heard, for both faculty and students.

## Resources:

Abby Tartaro, specifically for taking statements from students: [tart8897@fredonia.edu](mailto:tart8897@fredonia.edu)

Students For Fredonia email: [studentsforfredonia@gmail.com](mailto:studentsforfredonia@gmail.com)

Students For Fredonia instagram: [@students.for.fredonia](https://www.instagram.com/students.for.fredonia)



# Fredonia students fight for fair funding

**ISABELLA INZINNA**

Staff Writer

To say that students were upset about program cuts would be an understatement.

While many students were distressed, two decided to take things into their own hands. Benjamin Evans and Alexander Fisher organized a protest in under 24 hours after the address from President Kolison.

Unfortunately, Fisher is off-campus this semester, and was unable to talk.

However, Evans was able to provide some information about the protest. Evans is currently a junior with a double major in animation illustration and writing.

"I felt deep anger and shock," he said when recalling his emotions after Kolison's address. He pointed out the lack of evidence and sources along with the decision of the programs being cut.

Evans and Fisher had far different plans for their evening before the address. They were planning to work on a project for Evans about experimental architecture. After the address, Fisher decided he wanted to do something and Evans was ready to help.

Many were curious what inspired the two to take matters into their own hands. Evans said, "I think a lot of people, especially our age, have a lot of pent-up anxiety and frustration about things in the world kind of going downhill and not knowing what to do about it."

He continued, saying, "There was an element of 'I know this is a bad thing they're doing.' A lot of that inspiration came from the relief of knowing what the right thing to do was."

To Evans and Fisher, there was only one clear answer: to make sure the administration knew that students were upset and wanted things to change.

There were two main goals for the protest: stopping as many cuts as possible and getting the administration to listen.

"We wanted to get Kathy Hochul's attention, get on the news, and show that there's a problem here," said Evans.

He mentioned that when SUNY Potsdam's cuts were announced, students didn't do much to fight back.

When Fredonia's program cuts were announced, 300 people gathered, a majority of them being students.

Evans said, "I think they were shocked that we were so deeply angry about it." He recalled, "We had a sense of community at the protest instantly, we were all driven, we were all passionate."

He also acknowledged that the protest was just the beginning. Many people stayed after the protest ended and presented ideas of what to do next.

In addition to the protest, Students For Fredonia has assisted other students in sending letters to Governor Hochul. During Activities Night, they had a table set up where students could sign letters and label them to be sent to Governor Hochul. Evans said that there were 80 letters sent but that this was just the start.

After the protests, Evans and Fisher didn't rest as they began researching and gathering information.

Evans says that, according to research, "SUNY officials in news articles say that [cuts are] happening because of low en-

"SUNY officials in news articles say that [cuts are] happening because of low enrollment. But what you really see is our funding got cut and then enrollment started to drop."

**—BEN EVANS**

Co-Protest Organizer,  
Students For Fredonia

rollment. But what you really see is our funding got cut and then enrollment started to drop."

Aside from research, some students, including Evans, attended an open college council meeting. Evans said, "In that meeting I was deeply shocked with how out of touch they are with Fredonia."

Evans also noted that those who were in agreement with the program cuts seemed unwilling to listen to professors or justify themselves.

Students For Fredonia are now looking towards their next steps. They noted that this issue is bigger than the arts or world language programs being cut. Evans said there will be more protests, but they are unsure of a date at this point.

Further down the line, there will also be a benefit concert in which Students For Fredonia wants to give back to UUP, who are funding the Albany trip.

Evans hopes the sense of community from the protest continues as students fight for themselves and their peers. Evans reminds students, "Follow the Students For Fredonia instagram (@students.for.fredonia), stay tuned and don't get sad about this, get angry."



Photo by ABIGAIL JACOBSON | Asst. News Editor



# New Planet Fitness location opens

**HUNTER HALTERMAN**

Staff Writer

Many students were surprised to return to Fredonia for the spring semester to see that a brand new Planet Fitness had opened up.

This “judgment free” gym first opened its doors on Dec. 22, 2023, for a soft launch, taking over a previously vacant area on Bennett Road.

It shares a plaza and parking lot with Dollar Tree, the Dunkirk Multiplex, Domino’s and other businesses.

Although it came as a shock to many students, the opening of a new Planet Fitness has actually been in the works for a long time.

Ashleigh Polverini, the general manager of the Dunkirk Planet Fitness, has been with the company for over two years. She shared that a Dunkirk location has been on the radar for a couple of years now.

“They came and asked around if there’s any areas that they think might be a good spot to put another Planet Fitness in our franchise, and I know they mentioned it here,” Polverini said.

Since returning to Fredonia only a couple weeks ago, some students have had a chance to try out the new gym. Jordan Budd, a senior double-majoring in music industry and journalism, was one of the many.

“I wanted to try it because it seemed to be really cheap and they were offering a free day to try things out and get a tour if you downloaded the app,” he said.

Budd wasn’t the only one that took this opportunity, though.

“We have quite a bit of members so I’d say the majority is locals, but we have seen an influx of students now that they’ve come back after winter break.” Polverini said.

She noted that they’re “exceeding expectations,” and estimates that they have reached a couple thousand members.

What is the draw of going to Planet Fitness, though?

For many members, it’s a low-budget gym with a basic plan coming in at only \$10 per month. There is, however, a \$39 startup fee and \$49 annual fee.

Although it may seem to be a good, cheap experience for students on a budget, it’s not the most budget-friendly option.

Students of SUNY Fredonia have access to the on-campus gym in Dods Hall, free of charge.

The Blue Devil Fitness Center is accessible to students Mondays through Thursdays from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Fridays from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 1-7 p.m., and Sundays from 4-7 p.m.

The gym is equipped with your standard workout equipment for cardio, weightlifting and more. It also features a two-sided rock climbing wall available to all members.

This gym, however, is closed during breaks, leaving students staying on campus without a gym.

With Planet Fitness’s basic plan, you get access to the gym 24 hours a day Mondays through Fridays, or 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturdays or Sundays. This may be eye-catching for some busy students who don’t have the time to work out during the day, or for those who prefer to wake up and work out early in



Photo by HUNTER HALTERMAN | Staff Writer

the morning.

In addition to this, Planet Fitness is open year-round, only closing on Christmas day.

With the \$24.99 per month plan, students traveling home for breaks may even benefit from their membership far away from Fredonia.

This higher-tier membership grants you with a PF Black Card, giving the user access to any Planet Fitness location in the world.

As of Jan. 30, 2024, there are over 2,400 locations, 138 of which are within New York State, according to data company ScrapeHero.

The experience becomes much more than just a fitness gym with this plan, though.

With a PF Black Card, you also get access to the gym’s massage chairs, HydroMassage, tanning beds and wellness pod.

“If you need to just kind of get away or need something to relax with, I feel like that’s a good opportunity,” Polverini said. “We want to keep you mentally healthy as well as physically [healthy].”

There may be more perks coming to Planet Fitness members in the near future, though, regardless of membership level.

Polverini explained that they are, “actually hiring a trainer as well ... so if [customers] wanted to do some free fitness training to design [their] own programs or to do fitness classes, that’ll be available for them.”

Overall, Planet Fitness brands itself as a very non-judgemental, welcoming space for newcomers or experienced members.

As shown on their website, the core focus areas of Planet Fitness are access, inclusion and sustainability.

They claim to strive to be an environment where members can relax and go at their own pace, without any fear or worry of being judged by others. Customers also have access to staff at any time if they need help.

“It’s a slow and steady process,” Polverini said. “We don’t try to be like ‘here’s our quick fix in 10 days’ ... I try to make sure everybody’s fitness journey is healthy.”



# Life & Arts

## Clubs create unique ways to promote at Activities Night

**SARA LODESPOTO**  
Special to The Leader

Fredonia truly comes alive when all the clubs get together to show what they are capable of.

This past Wednesday, Jan. 31, Activities Night reflected SUNY Fredonia's wide variety of clubs from music to Greek Life. Traditionally, Spectrum Entertainment has hosted this event. However, the role of leading Activities Night has shifted this semester.

This Spring, Activities Night was the first time it was co-hosted by Spectrum Entertainment and the Student Association. Rosie Rapisarda, president of the Student Association (SA), stated "Spectrum Entertainment decided they could no longer host due to falling membership." Therefore, next semester, the Student Association will be fully hosting Activities Night.

Rapisarda recognizes how Activities Night was made possible with the help of the clubs.

The tables for each both play an important role in the event according to Rapisarda.

She personally thanks Kappa Sigma, Delta Chi, Black Horse Rugby and Fredonia State Women's Rugby for arriving at Steele Hall more than an hour early to set up and staying later to take down tables.

During the event, there were student performances from various clubs like EnFusion Dance Club, Rince Fredonia Irish Dance and The Fredonia Improv Collective.

Before she went to perform, Molly Gibson, the president of Improv Club stated "Activities Night is one of our favorite nights of the year ...we'll [the improv club] show everybody a little taste of what we got and all the different sounds we can make."

Lively and fun, clubs had tables across the gym with music and candy. Each table displayed a piece of what they were about through photos and colorful posters. Throughout Activities Night, clubs found nifty ways to attract new members.

Emma Mannix, the Chess Club media coordinator, recalls how students had stood around the table in awe watching their secretary play chess blindfolded.

On the other side of the gym, Fredonia Radio Systems started a conga line using a big sign to lead new possible members to their table.

This leads to the question: What's the most effective way to get new recruits?

Caleb Schwab, a freshman who was browsing through the event explains that being a noisy booth works way too well. "Everyone who I have stopped at, I've either already wanted to go there or they were really loud" he states.

The sports clubs were lined up for new members.

Both rugby teams walked around in their uniforms handing out informational slips. Madison Evans, member of the women's rugby club, had brought her service dog, Sunny, who was wearing a jersey to show support.

Placed in the back of the gym, fraternities and sororities had matching attire and displayed big Greek letters. Greek Life is one of the ways students can make new friends. "We're a great group of guys, we have our own values; we value friendship, we value our brotherhood most of all" said Delta Chi member Alex Acosta.

If Greek Life and sports are not your thing, consider joining a club that aligns with your major. The Teachers of Education Club (TEC) helps education majors find opportunities for student teaching and how to teach. McKayla, the president of TEC, had a great turnout at Activities Night with students specifically in music education.

There are many ways to get involved at Fredonia. With more than 120 clubs and organizations to join, how do you decide which one? Rapisarda suggests finding a club that piques your interest and attending a general body meeting.



Photo by CHANDLER COTTER | Asst. Photo Editor



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APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED:  
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# The students behind the art: Drew Paluch

**EJ JACOBS**  
Life & Arts Editor

Of the 13 programs that are potentially getting cut, photography is one of them. Photography is something that is used in many different aspects of SUNY Fredonia.

From The Leader to campus marketing, promotional content photography helps Fredonia succeed.

Students are what keeps SUNY Fredonia running and populated. With various majors, students feel a sense of possibility and potential on campus.

Students, staff and faculty alike have been outraged by the proposal to cut programs. This proposal came as a shock to many due to its abrupt announcement. The programs being considered for discontinuation are primarily arts-related.

Overall, the program cuts affect more than just the programs they are directed toward. The cuts will also affect campus life as a whole.

Activities Night, which took place on Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m. in Steele Hall, is an event that brings together clubs of all majors. Every semester, like clockwork, on the second Wednesday of the semester, you know where most of the student body will be. Since clubs offer so many different majors, they will also be affected by program cuts.

Drew Paluch, a junior majoring in photography, touches on this by saying, “I just recently was put on the [c] board for Fredonia Feminists as a historian... that position is meant to document events on campus and stuff that [those] groups do. So that will be impacted, as well as The Leader... you’re going to be losing a lot of photographers who do a decent amount of work at the newspaper.”

This will have a significant impact on campus life and its longevity.

Some college students pick which school they go to based on the programs they wish to pursue. Paluch said, “I initially picked Fredonia because it is one of the only SUNY schools that offers a photography program.”

Paluch’s photography program is one of the majors that has been proposed to be cut. This decision was made based on the number of students enrolled in the program. With these discussions, students have been rethinking whether the higher education university they chose is right for them.

“With the cuts, it has made me feel as though my program, as well as the arts [in general], are not seen as an important career... [It] feels as though [they are] being overlooked,” said Paluch.

SUNY Fredonia has a rich history of being a school primarily focusing on the arts and education. While the university does offer a wide variety of other programs, what sets it apart from other SUNY schools is its dedication to housing organized and populated arts and education programs.

“Fredonia is known for its music, art and its education department...and it’s a little disheartening that they are the first ones to go [as that’s what] the school has always been known



Photo by **DREW PALUCH** | Photo Editor

for,” said Paluch.

The way that the program cuts work is that they are proposed and if that proposal gets approved, then the University will graduate everyone out of the program and then proceed not to offer it in the future.

Paluch expressed worry about her career post-undergraduate studies. “I will be graduating in a year and a half,” said Paluch, “and in four years, my program isn’t even going to exist. I do worry that potential jobs will look at my resume and be like ‘that doesn’t exist when I Google it.’ So, I think future credibility will be questioned.”

When potential employers look at where a student got their degree from, whether or not the degree program continues to exist can have lasting effects on how an art student is looked at in a hiring pool.

Cutting programs affects students directly and makes them have to think about what their futures will look like if these decisions go through. The campus has been taken over by a fear of what will come in SUNY Fredonia’s future.



# Photo Gallery by Drew Paluch





# Remebering Shannon T. Jonas

**LEE PYE**

Special to The Leader

Professor and Ph.D. Dr. Shannon Tate Jonas passed away suddenly on Dec. 23, 2023. Jonas was born on February 12, 1978, making him only 45 years old.

Jonas became a professor at Fredonia in 2018, teaching courses like Craft of Writing, Intro to Creative Writing and Intermediate and Advanced Poetry.

In Fall of 2023, he taught two classes of Intermediate Poetry, which was the first time Fredonia was able to fill 40 seats for poetry classes. Jonas advocated for more poetry classes, and regularly overrode students so they would be able to participate in the class.

Professor Shannon T. Jonas' memorial for students and staff occurred this past Thursday, Feb. 1, at 5:00 p.m. in room 105 in Fenton Hall. His friends joined in on Zoom and his family attended in person, listening to the stories that were told by students about their favorite professor.

The people in attendance were India Jonas, wife; Justin Jonas, brother; Peggy Alderman, mother-in-law and his aunt and uncle-in-law. Zoom attendees were Adam Clay, best friend and Sean Kotz, former professor.

The memorial started off with English Professor Michael Sheehan at the front podium, giving the floor to the students and staff if they wanted to speak about the matter.

Slowly, a student would stand, explaining how they met Professor Jonas and how he affected them. Then, the student would read a poem written by either themselves, as inspired by Jonas, or written by Jonas himself.

More and more students stood, repeating the process of reading their poems, then sitting back down while the room filled with snaps in a classic poetry-reading fashion.

Some reminisced on how he taught, with his love for 14-line poems, or his classic writing exercise of flipping through a book, choosing words he liked, then having the class create poems out of those words.

Chair of the English Department Dr. KimMarie Cole read a piece of a letter during the memorial. The letter was from the nomination of Shannon T. Jonas for a statewide award, the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. It was stated by Cole that Jonas cannot win the award because the person needs to be a staff member at the time the award is presented. However, the department decided to share the nomination of Jonas and was met with snaps of approval.

"Shannon was a soft-spoken and large-hearted colleague. We were all shocked and deeply saddened by his death and wanted to gather together to share how Shannon changed the spaces we work and write and learn and teach in, as well as how he and his poetry continue to shape who we, as a community, are and will be. His death was a terrible loss to the Fredonia English Department, to the poetry and creative writing community on campus, to all his students, including alumni and to his friends and family. And to poetry in general."

The English Department writing club Writers' Ring, Profes-



**SHANNON JONAS** | Photo via fredonia.edu

sor Michael Sheehan and Drew DiPirro, a graphic design major, are currently working together to create an art and writing memorial for Professor Jonas. A collection of poems are in the works that will be curated to eventually display an art piece of Jonas. The poems would include Jonas' poems, students' poems inspired by Jonas and poems written in Jonas' class.

Any student can submit their work, as well as faculty and staff members if they so choose. A date is not set for the release of the memorial project, but a plan is in place and they began collecting poems as of last Thursday. The photo is a QR code where students and staff can submit their Jonas-inspired poems.

Finally, from Amigone Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Jonas' obituary reads, "Poet, teacher, and much-loved husband and friend, Shannon Tate Jonas died suddenly on Dec. 23, 2023. Born on Feb. 12, 1978, he grew up in the Appalachian mountains of Virginia where he developed a deep appreciation for the natural world, solitude and the art of thinking in layers. Shannon loved language, books, music, baseball and finding true quiet.

Shannon believed in education, which helped cultivate both his voice and his vocation. He earned his Ph.D. in English and creative writing from Western Michigan University, along with an MFA from the University of Arkansas and a BA from Vir-



ginia Tech. At these places, with the people he met, he evolved into a masterful writer and teacher who positively influenced those who knew and loved him.

Shannon was a true poet in every sense of the word. He published two collections, *Battle Sleep* and *The Rake*, with numerous poems appearing in journals and magazines over the last 20 years. His deep love of nature can be seen in each of his poems, and he wrote prolifically about what it means to be human, never shying away from topics like life, death and memory.

He cared fiercely about teaching and his students; his empathy and kindness toward them were evident on a daily basis. Shannon's classroom was a place for learning, but also a place to model what it means to care for others and leave the world a better place than we find it. Through his support of his students and their work, he instilled in them a sense of belief and confidence they will carry for the rest of their lives.

He was the beloved husband of India (Fulbright) Jonas, who inspired and encouraged his work as a writer. He was the son

of the late Danny Jonas, brother of Justin (Jennifer) Jonas, son-in-law of Peggy (Garland) Alderman, brother-in-law of the late Paul Fulbright, and friend to Bryan Robertson, Adam Clay and the late Matthew Henriksen. He leaves behind many other friends, colleagues and students whom he enriched profoundly. the light above the light is beautiful the light above the light is all risen voices-gone-now-& to come."

Multiple students commented on the page, discussing their interactions with Jonas.

Joel "Frosty" Tobar, a junior audio/radio production major, expressed, "I took beginner and intermediate poetry with Shannon. More than what I learned in that class, what I remember is the sense of warmth and community that he fostered in his classroom. No idea was wrong. No creativity was shunned and no poem was something worth skipping. Week after week, attending his classes became a safe haven."

One of Jonas' poems that was read during the memorial was "Architecture."

# Architecture

To know what it sounds like  
I lay in the other room to hear  
the music playing in the room  
I once was in. I've been in  
thousands of rooms or so  
for seconds & days & years  
& all are different & I've changed  
few if any of them. You were  
with me in a few of them, as I recall.  
History describes the vile. Art the beautiful.  
At times. When I reach for you, I'm trying  
to be that. Like you I've been in thousands  
of spaces. Like you,  
I remain in only a few  
& am with you there



# SPORTS

## Fredonia's annual 'Pink the Rink'

**MITCHELL HORUCY**

Asst. Sports Editor

It's often we hear the phrase, "it's more than a game."

This is especially true when it comes to Fredonia's annual Pink the Rink hockey game.

"It's become a tradition for us," said head coach Jeff Meredith when asked about the importance of the game. "It brings a lot of emotion to the area, people who buy a jersey brings their whole family to the rink."

The team wears pink jerseys with the name of someone who has been affected by cancer.

A family member can purchase the jersey and choose who to put on it for \$250, which is then donated to the American Cancer Society.

"Every jersey is a love story," said Meredith.

Back in 2009, when the team first started wearing pink jerseys, they were featured on ESPN.

They were also the first collegiate hockey team to wear pink jerseys.

Senior forward Brendan Dempsey wore a jersey for his cousin who battled breast cancer.

Dempsey said his cousin, her husband and kids, his aunt and uncle and his parents from Michigan would be in the stands.

"[I] definitely will be playing for them, and everyone is playing for someone else," he said.

Both Dempsey and Meredith spoke about how emotional the game would be.

Meredith talked about how it's important to harness that emotion and just play hockey.



Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer

"Your first instinct is to go out there and run around like a lunatic," said Meredith. "It takes a lot of mental focus."

While trying to keep your emotions in check, Dempsey still thinks the team plays a little harder.

"When you see the names on the back of the jerseys, you think about what they had to go through," Dempsey said.

Having been a part of Pink the Rink since its beginning in 2008, Coach Jeff Meredith has many stories involving the game.

One of his favorites that was brought up was the story of former Blue Devil, Taylor Bourne.

Bourne lost his mother to cancer during his freshman year at Fredonia. His father also passed away a year prior to the passing of his mother.

Therefore, when a player's family is supposed to receive the jersey and take a picture during the postgame ceremony, Bourne didn't have anyone.

When they got to number 29, Bourne's jersey which read "mom" on the back, the entire team met him to receive the jersey and take the picture.

"That was an emotional time, it was incredible," said Meredith.

After the conclusion of the game, coach Jeff Meredith announced they have hit \$114,000 of donations.

"That's a lot of money," he said. "It's a lot of stories, a lot of people wanting to honor loved ones."

"It shows you how many people have been affected by cancer," said Dempsey.

Dempsey also added that he could've had a lot of names on the back of his jersey. Last year, he played for his best friend's mom who lost a battle with cancer.

The game itself was a great showing for the Blue Devils.



Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer





Photo by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer

Junior Ryan Bailey, who leads the team in points, started the game off with a goal less than one minute in.

Fredonia added two more in the second period from senior Cam Birkeland and freshman Nolan Underwood.

Morrisville got their lone goal of the night midway through the second period to make it 3-1 Blue Devils heading into the second intermission.

Fredonia then shut down any chance of a comeback with two goals in the final frame, making the final score 5-1 in favor of the Blue Devils.

Junior David Sudbrink and senior Kurri Woodford were the

two to put the exclamation point on a great performance.

This was also a crucial game, as the Blue Devils are fighting for a spot in the SUNYAC playoffs.

They currently sit in sixth place in the SUNYAC, where the top six teams make the playoffs.

They're tied with Buffalo State, and hold a one point lead over Brockport with a game in hand as well.

The team has four games remaining, all of which are important SUNYAC matchups.

They have two remaining home games, starting on Friday, Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. against Geneseo. They then host Brockport on Saturday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m in a crucial game in the SUNYAC playoff race.

"It's become a tradition for us. It brings a lot of emotion to the area, people who buy a jersey brings their whole family to the rink."

**—JEFF MEREDITH**

Hockey Head Coach,  
SUNY Fredonia



Photos by KAYLA WELSH | Sports Photographer





# 5th Quarter Column: Super Bowl Prediction

**MITCHELL HORUCY**

Asst. Sports Editor

In what seemed like the blink of an eye, the NFL is down to its final game of the season.

Throughout the past 22 weeks, 32 teams have battled it out on the gridiron.

The Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers are the last two teams standing.

Despite my personal feelings for these teams, this is going to be a great game.

The 49ers have been widely regarded as the best team in the NFC all season.

On the other side, after a shaky season, Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce put it together and have been stellar in the playoffs.

The defense has also been lights out under play-caller Steve Spagnuolo.

He'll need to call a great game to combat the ultra-talented San Francisco offense.

Led by head coach Kyle Shanahan, this offense is loaded with players.

With Mr. Irrelevant, Brock Purdy, at the helm, there's talent at every position.

Joining him in the backfield is my pick for MVP, Christian McCaffrey, along with first-team All-Pro fullback Kyle Juszczyk.

The team also has a ton of talent catching passes with players such as Deebo Samuel, Brandon Aiyuk and George Kittle.

When it comes to the Chiefs offense, it's not ridiculous to say that this is the worst it's been with Patrick Mahomes.

With that being said, like I mentioned before, they're starting to click at the right time.

Mahomes and Kelce are looking like the best quarterback-receiver duo in football again.

The offensive line is playing stellar, allowing only two sacks in the playoffs, while averaging 127 yards on the ground.

Both defenses have been stellar for most of the season, and have made plays when it mattered in the playoffs.

I think the X-factor of the game will be if the Chiefs wide receivers can make a play.

In both the divisional round and conference championship, a Chiefs wide receiver has made a big play to change the game.

In the divisional round game, Marquez Valdes-Scantling only made two catches, but both were huge.

He made a 32-yard catch to set up the Chiefs inside the red-zone, which led to a touchdown.

He also made a 30-yard catch on the first play of the second half to set up another touchdown.

In the AFC championship game, the same receiver, Valdes-Scantling only had two catches once again.

However, his second catch was a 32-yard catch on third-and-nine to seal the win for the Chiefs.

He, or one of their other receivers, will have to make a play, not just Travis Kelce.

Kelce will also have an interesting matchup with the 49ers.

The 49ers have linebackers Fred Warner and Dre Greenlaw, widely regarded as the best linebacker duo in the league.

They will have a huge impact on the game as they try to

keep not only Kelce, but the run game, including Mahomes' legs, in check.

For the 49ers, the biggest X-factor will be if Brock Purdy can play a clean game or not.

After a tremendous start to the season, he has 11 interceptions in his last 13 games.

If he can play a turnover-free, mistake-free game, it will be hard for the 49ers to lose.

As for a prediction, it's very difficult to predict how this game will go.

The Chiefs defense could turn Purdy over early and take over the game.

At the same time, Purdy could come out slinging it, get the run game going and keep Mahomes off the field.

No matter who I pick, I'm not going to be confident with my selection.

With that being said, I'm going to pick the San Francisco 49ers as your Super Bowl 58 champions.

I think the 49ers run the ball well and let CMC eat.

This will set up the play-action game well and allow Brandon Aiyuk and Deebo Samuel to get out in space and make plays.

For the defense, I think they create one turnover or get a big fourth down stop and steal a possession.

I think Christian McCaffrey wins Super Bowl MVP as he goes for over 150 scrimmage yards and two touchdowns.

At the time of writing, the O/U is at 47.5, and I predict that the score goes over that number.

## The 5th Quarter Super Bowl Predictions!

Tune into the 5th Quarter on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. on 88.9 WCVF and streaming on fredoniaradio.com.

Current Standings: (not a good week for the boys)

Mitch: 8-4

Matt: 7-5

Parker: 6-6

San Francisco vs Kansas City (Sunday, Feb. 11 at 6:30 p.m. on CBS) Favorite: San Fran. -2

Mitch: 28-23 San Francisco

Matt: 24-20 San Francisco

Parker: 31-23 San Francisco



Graphic by ISABELLA RIZZO | Asst. Art Director



# Why do sports matter so much to fans?

**MATT VOLZ**

Sports Editor

There's nothing like being a sports fan.

Celebrating the highest of highs, mourning the lowest of lows — it can be quite the emotional roller coaster.

But for people who don't follow sports, it doesn't always make sense. Why would anyone get so bent out of shape over something that's "just a game?"

Why do fans care so much about sports, even though they don't have any control over the outcome of their favorite team's games?

Believe it or not, there's actually a psychological aspect to all of it.

Aimee Brunelle is an adjunct professor at Fredonia, as well as a full-time athletic trainer at a high school. She teaches a class called Sport Psychology which takes different concepts of psychology and applies them to sports and exercise.

She cites the "social identity theory," a theory which says that people get a sense of self-concept and identity from being a part of social groups.

A social group is defined by the University of Minnesota as being "two or more people who regularly interact on the basis of mutual expectations and who share a common identity."

Brunelle says that fans can form emotional connections with the symbols and colors associated with a team.

Various fanbases hold a strong connection to the colors of their team, like the Las Vegas Raiders with silver and black or the Pittsburgh Steelers with black and yellow.

Even college fans can attach heavy emotional connections to their team's colors, maybe even more than fans of professional sports.

It's also no surprise that fans can sometimes have major emotional reactions to tough losses. The Leader's own staff writer, Parker Gurnett, face-planted in a snowbank following the Bills' playoff loss to the Bengals last season.

Some fans use sports as an escape from their everyday lives, or even as a coping mechanism, according to Brunelle.

This was clear in 2020, when people had to stay home and isolate themselves due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

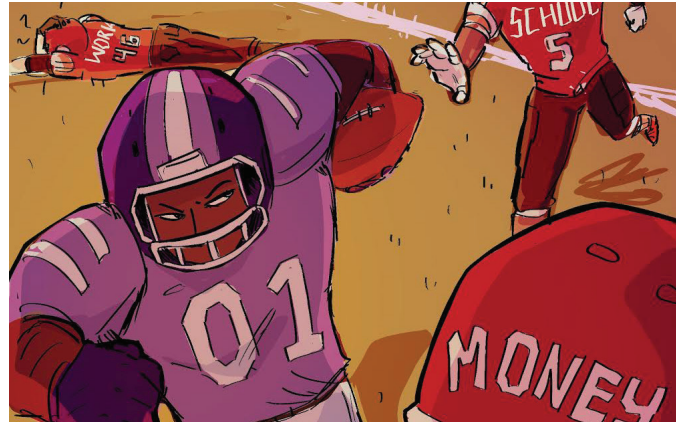
As most sports came to a screeching halt, many fans didn't have things to distract them from the realities of the world anymore.

Fans were so desperate to watch sports that some started waking up at 3 a.m. to watch Korean baseball on ESPN, as it was one of the only sports still on TV.

Stock car racing was one of the first American sports to return to action following the initial shutdown in March 2020, and because of that, NASCAR's TV ratings boomed throughout the summer.

There have also been some moments where sports were far more than just a game, moments where a single play or a single game helped to heal a team or its fans from tragedy in the outside world.

In September 2006, the New Orleans Saints returned to their home stadium, Caesars Superdome (formerly the Louisiana Superdome) 13 months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area and caused damage to the stadium that some thought may be irreparable.



Graphic by GWEN DEVLIN | Special to The Leader

The Saints' return to "The Dome" was a matchup against the division rival Atlanta Falcons on Monday Night Football. Following Atlanta's opening possession, Saints special teams ace Steve Gleason blocked a punt which New Orleans recovered for their first touchdown at home in two years.

The ESPN broadcast crew remained silent, allowing the crowd to speak for themselves in a moment that has since become synonymous with the city's healing and rebirth after the hurricane.

Five years earlier, the New York Mets returned to play 10 days after the Sept. 11 attacks destroyed the World Trade Center and devastated New York City.

With the Mets trailing the rival Atlanta Braves 2-1 in the eighth inning, catcher Mike Piazza launched a two-run home run to give New York the lead, a lead they would never relinquish.

It was a moment that, while it didn't change the realities that the city was facing, it allowed New Yorkers to breathe somewhat of a sigh of relief.

We've seen something similar play out in Western New York, too, with the Bills' response after the injury to Damar Hamlin.

On Jan. 2, 2023, Hamlin collapsed during a game against the Cincinnati Bengals, needing CPR for over nine minutes in a moment that shook not only Hamlin's teammates and coaches, but the entire NFL world.

The rest of the game was canceled as a result.

Six days later, the Bills returned home for their regular season finale against the New England Patriots. Many fans wondered if the Bills would be ready to play following such a traumatic incident.

However, Buffalo answered the call, as running back Nyheim Hines returned the opening kickoff 96 yards for a touchdown.

The CBS crew remained silent and allowed the thousands of fans at Highmark Stadium to narrate the moment, much like the ESPN crew had done in New Orleans in 2006.

The outcome of the game didn't change what had happened the week before. Hamlin was still in the hospital in Cincinnati, and it wasn't clear if he would ever play again.

But it allowed the Bills and their fans to take a deep breath and feel like, for just a moment, everything was going to be alright.

That's sports in a nutshell — they can break your heart, but they can also uplift your spirits.

To many fans, it's not just a game; rather, it's a way to deal with the world and keep on going.



## (ART-icle) The most powerful art surrounds us: How artists use their voice through local public art

**JIMMY KELLER**

Staff Writer

Driving through Buffalo as a kid, I remember being impressed by the faded oversized blue lion painted on Delaware Avenue.

Looking up at that lion, I saw strength.

I noticed the confidence in the lion's painted expression and how it radiates power watching over the community.

Inadvertently, I saw the power in art.

Public art stands for something that differs from art displayed in galleries, museums, and private collections.

It lives in the community where it can be viewed by anyone, at any moment.

On the way to work, you see murals. On your walk through a park, you can experience a sculpture.

It does not reside in a box that is hidden from the streets, it simply exists among us like the trees and the sky. In this way, it holds an unmatched significance.

The power that public art possesses is similar to the weather. As the snow falls, we bundle up. Some might contentedly gaze at the delicacy of each flake while others might curse out the weathercaster.

The weather is a constant in nature and in our environment.

It always exists and in return we react accordingly, mostly based on our personal preferences.

The same is true for public art.

Artists have a responsibility with their creative visual voice that spreads beyond the walls of their studio.

Many artists in our surrounding area acknowledge their potential influence and take advantage of it in a public way.

They respond to local and national issues through pieces that create a community dialogue, bringing us together.

In the past decade especially, artists and art programs have transformed spaces creating welcoming areas around Western NY. My connection to that lion as a child continues to live, but is now stronger than ever through the additional projects that have taken over the region.

We are currently experiencing a local and international explosion of public art that is impactful beyond what the art world has previously seen.

### **The Rise of Recent Murals**

Adeyemi Adegbesan (AKA Yung Yemi) is a Toronto-based multidisciplinary artist that highlights the achievements of Black culture beyond what history has taught.

His Afro-surrealism mural titled Queen City on the corner of Main and Utica in Buffalo has impressive details, emphasizing colors and modern take on history, which gives this community something to look up to, physically and metaphorically.

This piece accentuates the achievements of local public figures Annette Daniels Taylor (artist, author, professor), Jillian Hanesworth (Buffalo's first poet laureate) and Curtis Lovell (musician, healer). This mural becomes a symbol of pride for Buffalo's community.

After visiting the Buffalo area, Adegbesan said, "I was deeply inspired by the interconnectedness, the dedication to community, and the will to create and hold space for others."

Billy Hare moved to Buffalo 13 years ago and immediately realized the diverse culture through the artwork.

To Hare, murals like Queen City "contribute to a more inclusive narrative, enriching our collective identity and promoting empathy among its residents. Public art in Buffalo not only beautifies our surroundings but also acts as a catalyst for dialogue, celebrating our community's richness and fostering a sense of unity."

Hare isn't alone.

According to One Columbia for Arts and Culture, a non-profit organization, 73% of Americans say that art helps them understand diverse cultures more effectively.

Contemporary art is defined by the influences it possesses from the current events, issues, and topics that shape our lives.

I personally find myself asking, "How can the art that I create today make our community a better place tomorrow?"

This is a dramatically large task but it is a weight on artists' shoulders in which we have a responsibility to bear, especially on a personal level.

On May 14, 2022, a single terrible act of racism was transformed into love from the entire nation and most importantly WNY.

Neighbors united in sorrow and remembrance after the Tops mass shooting.

Meanwhile, a mural was being planned on London Street in Buffalo to commemorate the loss and establish a new hope for that community.

Jon Harris, writing in the Buffalo News, stated, "While Connors and Heard [the artists] were the effort's key coordinators, the duo brought together many community members to get it done."

As people walk by, they are reminded not only of the loss on that day, but also how people came together in an embrace of solidarity.

Art expresses complex vulnerabilities that amplifies and humanizes topics to a place that gains imperative recognition.

Racial injustice, climate change, or traumatic abuse for example, reasonably exist as subjects and concentrations for artwork because of the creative voice artists acknowledge, hoping their work effectuates conversations in a worthy direction.

One Columbia for Arts and Culture states 70% of Amer-



icans believe the “arts improve the image and identity” of their community.

The Buffalo waterfront and Riverworks has been reinvented within the past decade with new sculptures and art installations, putting a concrete desert on the map.

The Music is Art Festival takes over the area for a weekend and active locals take to the paths looping around permanent sculptures and installations.

### **A New Look at Local Sculptures**

Casey Riordan Millard’s sculpture Shark Girl was one of AKG’s (formerly known as Albright Knox Art Gallery) first public art initiatives back in 2013.

It has become a symbol for Buffalo since it moved to Canalside in 2014.

Many using the sculpture for a good selfie might overlook the installation’s deeper meaning though.

With many viewers not even realizing it, by sitting beside Shark Girl as if a friend, they are acknowledging the significance that the piece holds.

The AKG writes “Shark Girl can be seen as Riordan’s diversionary tactic or as her mechanism for confronting the challenges of contemporary life. Shark Girl’s yearnings and desires for normalcy and acceptance trigger equal parts laughter and empathy. The boulder upon which she sits gives viewers an opportunity to bring the work to life by taking a seat and initiating a friendship.”

By welcoming Shark Girl into Buffalo with such open arms, this sculpture is experienced in a way that acknowledges the potentially unknown meaning.

This is the reason it lives among the public.

When artworks have the intention to educate, elevate awareness and inspire the community at large, a greater audience can mean a greater impact.

Viewer potential and awareness is limitless with public art because it doesn’t live inside the walls of a gallery nor is there a cost to appreciate it.

Homeless Jesus is a sculpture at the bus stop of Main and Church in Buffalo.

It is a controversial sculpture that was actually passed up by cities such as Paris, but lives with replicas of the original Toronto piece spread throughout the world, including at the Vatican.

Public artwork such as Homeless Jesus by artist Timothy P. Schmalz, holds power in a way that can be witnessed by anyone.

It says something that can’t be said any better through words, but rather the controversy, recognition, and influence without boundaries creates a piece that contains monumental meaning.

Western NY has an advantage when it comes to understanding the importance of public art because we are so culturally diverse and welcome creative expression like no other region does.

This is true especially due to the monumental support from the numerous art organizations, museums, galleries and major artists in the area. We are fortunate to be able to experience artwork in our everyday lives and need to continue to expand on this powerful strength of ours in this region.

“Art creates spaces that people share, whether neighbors or strangers, alike or dissimilar, Buffalo-raised or from far-flung places. A work of art gives us a moment to pause and reflect, and, when experienced with another, an opportunity to meet and connect,” wrote the AKG.

Since the start of the public art initiative in 2013, the AKG has rolled out 59 public artworks across WNY.

Museums and galleries are an integral element to the contemporary art scene. There is no arguing the importance that these spaces will forever carry as they evolve with the art scene.

The difference lies in the exposure and purpose that an artist wants to convey with their work that transforms common spaces, infusing our everyday lives with a creative inspiring environment.

Just as oil paint might be right for one artist and rusted metal for another, public art plays a different role than museums and galleries.

It manifests itself in the community, welcoming the world’s opinions and thoughts.

### **Use The Voice You Have**

Important artists have something to stand for.

They understand how their artwork can change history and manipulate actions in a way that transforms understanding of diverse cultures, issues and local communities.

The world is struggling and artists can invent solutions with their brush.

The power which lies in paint and sculpture can facilitate awareness.

The world consists of hatred and artists can remind us that love and community can overwhelm that darkness.

We are in constant need more than ever for artists to implement their voice on a world that cannot stand without coming together, without initiatives of conversation, and without highlighting our current strengths on a local level.

I know there are more artists who have something to say to the masses through public art and it is their time to rise.

We have come so far reaching the point where we are now and it has proven impactful in our local development.

We need more artists like Timothy P. Schmalz and Adeyemi Adegbesan.

This is the art and these are the artists that the community will grow with.

Today, it is up to us all to decide: What will future creatives learn to stand for?



Photo by JIMMY KELLER | Staff Writer





# Lovercolumn:

## College hookup culture

### 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.

On each episode, the hosts and guests of Lovercall participate in a variety of segments, discussing 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.

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](http://www.fredoniaradio.com).

This column runs in conjunction with Lovercall and can be found both in print and online at [fredonialeader.org](http://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's date idea may take some of you back to your childhoods, as we're going to be building a fort!

We think there's something sweet and fun about piling up all the couch cushions and blankets. Then, of course, you can get all cozy inside the fort you've built!

The Quarterback also talked about an old fort-building kit from his childhood; did anyone else own a "Build-a-Fort"?

This date idea is perfect for anyone who's not looking to drop a whole bunch of money on something like going to dinner or the movie theater.

Much like a previous date idea we've had, looking through old photo albums, building a fort can help you to recall positive memories from your childhood and share them with your significant other or your friends, making your connection with them even deeper and more meaningful.

### College hookup culture

College hookup culture refers to the lifestyle that many college students take on that involves having non-committed sexual relationships, often with different partners.

When coming into college, many students feel the pressure to become sexually active as it is often deemed "part of the college experience."

However, we here at Lovercall feel that you should not pressure yourself to enter this type of relationship if you are not comfortable.

Although some may enjoy the fast-paced lifestyle of hooking up with different people, many fear getting hurt.

If you don't want to be a part of hookup culture, don't force yourself. Good people won't, and shouldn't, judge you for not wanting to be a part of it.

Instead, we think college is about finding yourself, whatever that means. For some, it might be participating in hookup culture and finding what you do or don't want. For others, it may be taking the time to find that perfect person. It's a good time to figure out what's best for you.

On the show, we discussed that college is often the first time people begin to explore their sexuality, and many may even lose their virginities for the first time.

Your first time is often so romanticized by movies and TV, when in reality, it can be awkward and maybe even gross.

Don't let the mischaracterization of a first time pressure you into participating in college hookup culture.

Remember that you're still in college.

As we said, this is the time to figure things out. You could always test out college hookup culture, and if it's not for you, you can stop.

If you're going to get in a long-term relationship in college, don't forget that you're still in college and it's still your time to figure yourself out.

### 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](mailto: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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# Danger in the dorms: College residence halls and the harassment within them

**CARLY WIXSON**  
Special to The Leader

*Trigger Warning: prejudice, homophobia, racism, sexual violence*

It's January 2023, and packets containing homophobic and racist content were found outside of a residence hall at Rhode Island College.

Students on the school's paper immediately went to cover this incident, but when writers contacted the police about what happened, there was no response.

Nine months later in September 2023, and residence staff at Point Loma Nazarene University informed their residents that an act of vandalism had taken place in their residence hall.

The words "fuck gays" were scrawled on the door of a resident's room, and on the hall whiteboard it read, "no gays allowed."

The university is investigating and hoping to hold the perpetrator accountable.

A 2022 survey conducted by the American College Health Association found that 27% of students over a span of 51 different colleges and universities identified as being non-heterosexual.

They are feeling this heaviness of on-campus living with part of their identity being targeted.

An article in Inside Higher Ed reports that 40% of LGBT-identified college students hear derogatory terms being thrown around in their residence halls.

Hearing these terms can have a tremendous impact on their mental wellbeing, knowing that the place they live is not safe.

Higher education should be a place that is safe for students to come out and express themselves the way that they want to, especially since evidence has shown that queer students are more likely to come out in college.

But the discrimination doesn't stop at homophobia.

In March 2022, there were two incidents of racially motivated acts of hate at Ohio University. First, a student left a trash bag outside of the room of a Black student with racial slurs written on the side of it. Then, a white student urinated in the room of their Black resident assistant, and ultimately was given criminal charges for his actions.

Race plays a vital role when it comes to on-campus housing, from disparities in housing to feelings of not being able to fit in on university campuses that are primarily white.

A 2020 study in the Journal of College and University Student Housing found that many Black students will separate themselves in the dorms from their white peers to escape microaggressions.

Even with the best of intentions from college housing organizations, such as randomly assigning dorms or having programs to stop microaggressions and racism from happening, it is hard to entirely prevent the occurring racism.

Besides homophobic and racist incidents, students also experience sexual assault in their residence halls.

According to "Know Your IX", 19% of women will be sexually assaulted at some point during their time at college, as well as 5-6% of men. Twenty-six percent of the time, these assaults

take place in residence halls.

Long story short — danger lurks in the dorms.

For most college students, living on campus for at least one year is mandatory. This means subjecting themselves to the very real possibilities of disparities, harassment and sexual assault.

These horrors can be a reality that impact mental health and wellbeing in serious ways — but one bothersome question remains: What could we be doing more to fix this?

That is not to say that college campuses are not trying.

It has been an age-old task of university residence hall staff to figure out the perfect way to configure a sense of belonging and safety for the students that live in their halls.

Primarily, these halls are where students will receive most of their socialization.

The Society for College and University Planning found that there is a correlation between relationships and a built community in a residential hall and its social climate.

Through a 2016 study, it was found that there is a need to promote more social interactions between residents, even in corridor-style buildings that already attempt to promote this.

It is more than vital that residence halls are safe spaces.

Eddie Stakelum, former Resident Assistant at SUNY Fredonia, and current LGBTQ+ Living Community Graduate Assistant at Binghamton University, in an October 2023 interview, said that, "if a student doesn't feel like they fit into a space they are less likely to engage with their environment, which can lead to isolation which can decrease academic performance."

This inherent loneliness and lack of engagement, of course, is only heightened by the very real threat of violence that lurks in some dorm halls.

According to James G. Speight's book, "Ethics in the University" (2016), harassment of any kind can lead to a decrease in social activity of a student.

This includes their attendance and performance in class.

The sheer fact of living on campus, a sometimes-necessary evil, should not hinder the way in which college students perform.

Most are here primarily to learn — is it fair to throw additional hardships their way?

Grace Breen, former Resident Director at SUNY Fredonia, brought up Maslow's hierarchy of needs when asked about how a living space may affect a student's learning in an interview in October 2023.

This is a theory which states that people must have their basic needs met before their more complicated needs can be.

Breen said that, "living on campus provides these necessary structures that allow students to achieve personal and professional goals... and increased levels of student engagement with their peers shows a higher likelihood of degree completion and academic retention."

A resource available on all SUNY campuses is a Title IX coordinator, who is in charge of dealing with such reports of harassment.

A Title IX coordinator must provide the members of their organization with protection against discrimination.





Graphic by NICOLE THORSON | Art Director

The Title IX coordinator is Dr. Vicki T. Sapp, and she can be contacted through email or through submitting a bias, discrimination, or Title IX incidence form through the Fredonia website.

However, many students are not aware of this resource on their campuses. A 2023 SUNY Fredonia administration survey found that only 35.6% of students knew how to contact the Title IX coordinator.

Yet, harassment on campus still happens, and happens often. Most of the population of students have either been harassed or witnessed harassment of some capacity, according to Speight's book.

When this is true, there is a need for change.

Reporting an issue doesn't equate to the end of the problem, either.

"Ethics in the University" reports that many students experience levels of stress after reporting to a Title IX coordinator, ranging from anxiety, sleeplessness and depression to changing their career path and impacting their relationships with others.

"After my suitemate used [racist] remarks against me and verbally assaulted me, I reported it to Title IX [a Bias Incident Form] and after the whole situation I've felt like I never truly got justice. It has really affected me," Alaya Moore, a sophomore BFA Dance major and Ethnic and Gender Studies minor said in a November 2023 interview about her experiences.

Simply reporting and hoping for change is not enough, and it never will be enough.

The change needs to start at the smallest level — in the residential halls.

Stakelum provided insight about their own experience with SUNY Fredonia's training for their resident assistants, explaining that they "learn about how to address issues relating but not limited to mental health concerns and crises, bullying and harassment, sexual misconduct, Title IX and various forms of discrimination."

These types of training are required by the state.

When further asked, though, he elaborated on how the system could be better. "I honestly think that having a building contract that is signed by all students in the hall would be beneficial," he said.

Tahaani St. Bernard, a current resident assistant at SUNY

"Living on campus provides these necessary structures that allow students to achieve personal and professional goals...and increased levels of student engagement with their peers shows a higher likelihood of degree completion and academic retention."

**—GRACE BREEN**

Former Resident Director,  
SUNY Fredonia

Fredonia, said in a November 2023 interview that "there was a two-day long training for Title IX [for RAs] with a quiz at the end."

St. Bernard further added that residence halls could do more by ensuring that residents feel safe to come and speak with their RAs about things that happen to them, both on campus and off. "They really do care if [they] feel that [they are] in danger", she said.

Kevin Hahn, Associate Director of Residence Life at SUNY Fredonia, provided further insight into how ResLife goes about training for resident assistants.

He described the reporting structure at Fredonia as "robust" and said "[they] do a lot of training with RAs to help them understand how to submit [Title IX] reports and how to be supportive to students."

He also explained how ResLife intentionally chooses their resident assistants to be "really approachable people that students will come to to talk about things that are going on whether it's in the residence halls or sometimes even in other areas of campus."

Putting the policies clearly out for all residents to understand can be an effective tool to help prevent this, and allows for something even more important, something that can be used to act against those who break these policies — accountability.

Breen said, "Education is an effective way to combat hateful behavior and ignorant rhetoric."

Accountability and education in conjunction could do wonders for the residential hall system at colleges, SUNY and otherwise.

These topics need to be tackled directly with less trying to appease those who believe the system is infallible.

Students deserve to have a safe place to live and study, and for that to be true, action needs to be taken.

There should be an implementation of more supplementary education in the residence halls, as well as a clearer and indisputable understanding of the rules in terms of respecting fellow students in the dorms.

No one should have to feel unsafe in their living space, and it's time that something was done about those who believe respect is not required.



# THE SCALLION



Satire for Fredonia

## WTF SUNY????

**MEGAN KIDBY**

Scallion Editor

In a stunning move that has left students scratching their heads and faculty members questioning their life choices, SUNY has announced a revolutionary plan to overhaul its educational system.

Brace yourselves, folks, because SUNY is cutting all programs, effectively transforming itself into a "Program-Free Zone."

In a press conference that felt more like a bizarre episode of a dystopian sitcom, SUNY Chancellor John B. King declared, "We've heard the cries for real-world relevance, and we're ready to take action. Our bold strategy involves removing all programs, majors and courses, paving the way for a truly innovative education. This is the future, people!"

SUNY claims that the decision was inspired by a desire to prepare students for the challenges they'll face in the real world.

Apparently, the real world is devoid of specialized skills and knowledge, and success is measured by one's ability to navigate an information vacuum.

Students, however, are expressing a range of emotions, from confusion to outrage.

"I just spent four years studying business, and now they're telling me it's all for nothing? What am I going to do with my vast knowledge of coloring in the lines?" lamented one disgruntled senior.

Faculty members are also reeling from the announcement, with some expressing concerns about job security and others wondering if their expertise in physics or postmodern literature is now obsolete.

In response, the Chancellor assured everyone that they could still teach, as long as they avoid any specific subject matter.

To fill the void left by the elimination of programs, SUNY plans to offer a single, all-encompassing course titled "Life 101" throughout all campuses.

This course promises to cover everything from basic survival skills like cooking ramen noodles and doing laundry to advanced topics such as navigating social media drama and deciphering cryptic job descriptions.

SUNY's marketing team is already working on catchy slogans to attract prospective students to the new and improved institution. "Join SUNY – Where Ignorance Meets Ambiguity" and "Degrees Are So Last Century – Welcome to the Era of Gener-



**ROEN CLOUTIER** | Special to The Leader

alized Knowledge!" are among the top contenders.

As the university prepares to roll out its groundbreaking initiative, the rest of the academic world watches with a mix of amusement and disbelief.

Will the future of education be a program-free utopia, or is SUNY leading the way to a world where everyone's a master of nothing? Only time will tell.

In the meantime, students are advised to brush up on their ramen-cooking skills and embrace the uncertainty of the Program-Free Zone.



**The Leader Presents...**

# **The Bachelor**

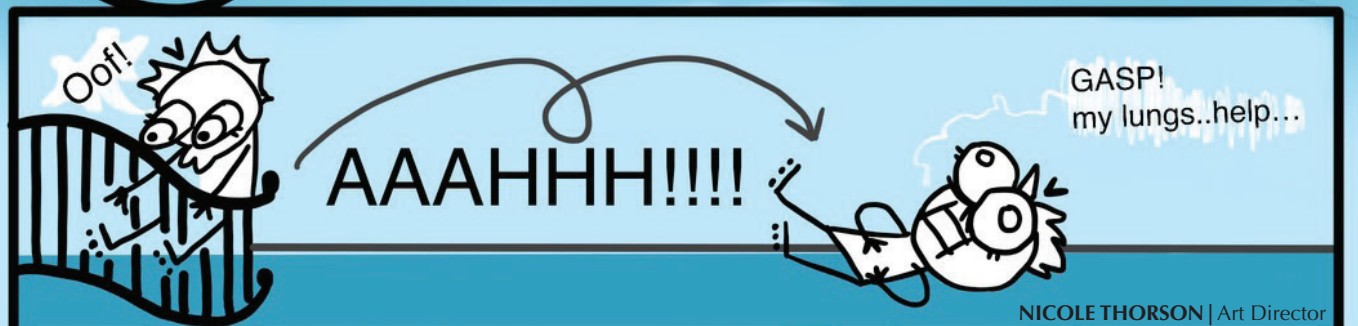
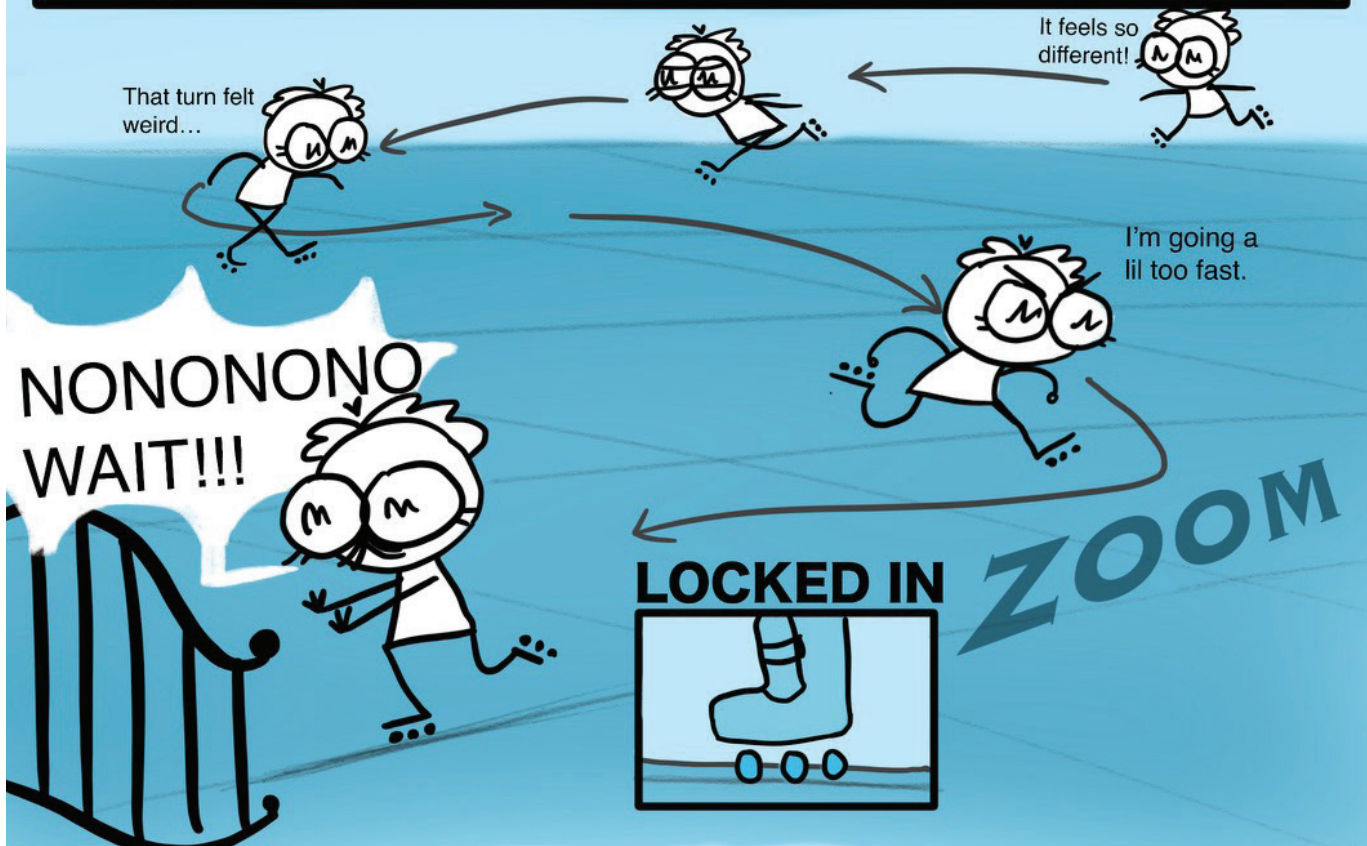
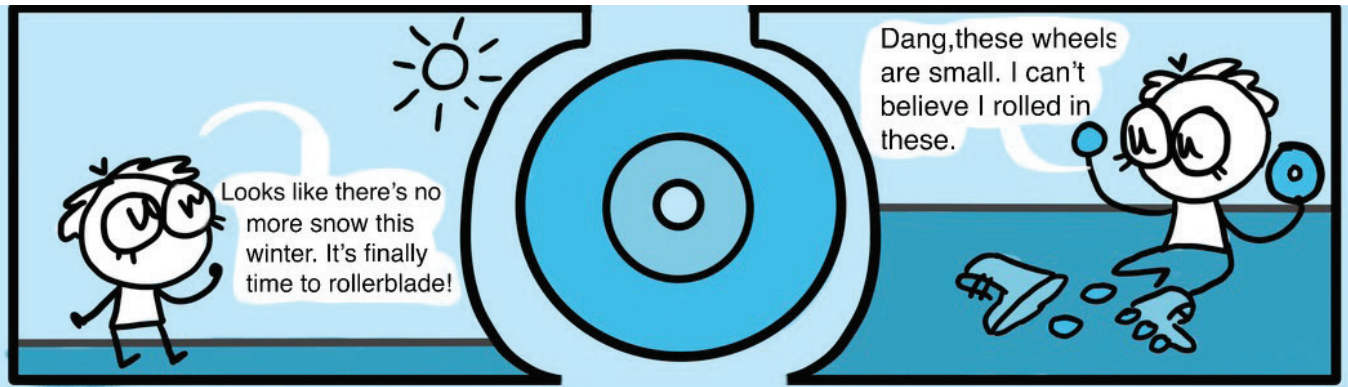


**Use QR code to sign up!**



**Winner gets a one-on-one date with THE Jace Jacobs of The Scallion**





NICOLE THORSON | Art Director



# Jace's Mom Speaks Out: An Op-Ed for The Scallion

**RUTH JACOBS**

Guest Scallywag, Jace's Mom

Dearest Gentle Readers,

This is an op-ed by the mother of your assistant editor of the Scallion, Mr. Jace Jacobs.

First, I would like to defend myself and tell you all that I am a loving and devoted mother to my children, regardless of how I was portrayed in the holiday horoscope column of the Scallion 6th edition.

I am not the hard ass that you might think I am.

I love that my children still give me a Christmas list.

That being said, sometimes they get a bit carried away with their requests.

I mean, how many Squishmallows does one person need?

Sandals that look like lobsters?

That just seems dangerous!

So, you see, I was protecting my son from a potential catastrophe.

And as Jace pointed out, how many magnets, hand towels, books and socks are too much?

Would he really use/read/wear them?

Probably not.

I mean, Jace still has books from several Christmases past that still have not even been cracked open!

The reality is that I have a house full of "stuff" that will one day need to be packed up when I move to a new home, (or senior living facility), and I know that my children will say "Mom has so much crap"!

In my own weird way, I am trying to spare them from a similar fate...or worse...becoming hoarders!



# HOROS

**JACE JACOBS**

Asst. Scallion Editor, Local Cynical Senior

Get excited, Fredlings, IT'S MY FINAL SEMESTER IN THE DOG FOOD TOWN!!! I mean...oh no boohoo oh so sad! Nooooo!!! But seriously. I love it here, but oh my god there are so many things wrong with this place. I want to stay forever but also...no, I absolutely do not. As we continue through the harsh winter of Fredtown, I'm giving the signs their government-assigned Fredonia Inconvenience (hi, I'm the government, they're assigned by me).



## Aries

Never-Ending Starbucks Lines

Aries tend to be almost as impatient as Tauruses, and that's a compliment. No matter how long the line at Starbucks is, nothing will stop you from getting your iced chai latte and your breakfast sandwich. It doesn't matter if you're late for class, you joined the line, you made your bed and now you're going to lie in it. And I respect you for that.



## Taurus

Never Being Able To Find A Parking Space

And I'm not talking about a good parking space, I'm talking about a parking space in general. One of my friends who has a car is a Taurus, and I remember spending so much time our sophomore year circling the main parking lot, prowling for a prime location. To my fellow Tauruses, we are far too stubborn for our own good. Please just accept that whatever open spot you find is probably the last one available.



## Gemini

All Of The Good Food Options Being Gone

Once upon a time, the Fredonia campus had more than two food options. The student body was unified in their enjoyment of the food. Tim Hortons, now the Blue Devil Lounge, had short wait times. The closed-off area next to Willy C's used to be The Blue Devil Grill. When they announced the campus was to be rid of these, the land fell into despair. 'Twas the beginning of the end...I know Gemini's value good food. I'm so sorry for how much you've suffered. I feel your pain.



## Cancer

Dog Food Days

Cancer, I'm so sorry, but you're one of the most stubborn signs, almost as stubborn as the dog food smell that comes around almost every other day here in Fredonia. I remember when I was a freshman I didn't think the smell was that bad, but, well...it only seemed to get worse as I got older. Now when I smell the dog food in the air, I almost feel...nostalgic (this is a lie, I still hate it).



## Leo

Creepy Professors

Every Leo I've met at this school has a story where a professor has been creepy to them, and for that, I am so sorry. Everyone sucks. I hope the next time someone is creepy to you, you punch them in the stomach. Chances are they deserve it.



## Virgo

Empty Dorms

Virgos can be overly emotional and hypersensitive, but I think that's part of their charms. As an upperclassman who used to live in Schulz Hall, it's so weird seeing it empty. I made so many great memories there, and I'm still best friends with the people I lived with. I still work in the Esports Lounge there and I legit teared up when I passed by the side of the building where my friends and I used to live. I feel like that was a very Virgo move of me, so I feel like y'all would get emotional with me over it.



# COOPES



## Libra

Rising Tuition Costs

If there's one thing I know Libras are concerned about, it's their financial situation (same). Let me let you in on a little secret: inflation is a made-up problem. At the risk of angering the NFT bros (who definitely read their horoscope in the school paper), maybe we should just print more money. If you get angry enough, Libra, I know you'll figure out how to solve inflation purely because you're so sick of paying exorbitant amounts of money even for the small things. I believe in you, please girlboss too close to the sun, and figure out how to lower our tuition.



## Capricorn

Majors Being Defunded

Womp womp. I love that Capricorns are business-minded and tend to be practical, but I know no Capricorns would make all these cuts without considering how their students would be impacted. Yay money, but at what cost? You know the vibes.



## Scorpio

Freshmen That Travel In Herds And Block The Entire Sidewalk

Scorpios hold grudges like no one else does, and I find it very entertaining. If you're an upperclassman and you see a herd of freshmen blocking the sidewalk, preventing you from getting to class, there's no way you'll be making friends with any of those people. It doesn't matter if you become coworkers, classmates or are members of the same club, you'll always hold resentment towards them for being annoying, even if you were the same way with your friends as a freshman.



## Aquarius

Unreliable Campus Wifi

While Aquarians are typically one of the most trustworthy signs, they can sometimes act detached or indifferent towards people. That's how the campus wifi is. I've always trusted her, but she likes to act like she doesn't know me more often than I would like her to. In a perfect world, it would be never, and she would never tell me to leave her alone for the rest of her life. But the wifi is a fickle lady. Just like Aquarians.



## Sagittarius

Un/Under-Salted Sidewalks

As one of the most impatient/busiest signs, you have places to be and people to see. You don't have time for the inconvenience of slipping and falling! You have to speedwalk everywhere, which I totally understand, but you need to be careful and take care of yourself. Please invest in snow boots and take your time picking your way across the ice! No one will judge you for moving slowly.



## Pisces

Sunny's Consistently Having The Worst DJs

As one of the more creative zodiac signs, I believe every Pisces ever in the world would make a better DJ than most of the people Sunny's hires. I've been to Sunny's maybe twice but the music deters me from going again. One time my friends posted a video where the DJ actually played good music. Where was I? Stuck in Mason Hall at 1:00 a.m.. I'm not bitter about it at all. Anyways, maybe you should apply next time they're looking for a new DJ.



