



THE  
**FREDONIA LEADER**

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

**Students protest  
faculty cuts**

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**Speakers at town hall meeting question administration  
New law requires free menstrual products in universities  
Fredonia alum wins Emmy awards  
Increased enrollment's impact on athletics  
[OPINION] Is college everything you'd hoped?  
[SATIRE] Losing to 10-year-olds in Dress to Impress**

# THE LEADER

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“And I say to myself: a moon will rise from my darkness.” -Mahmoud Darwish

Proud member of The Associated Collegiate Press.

# Construction overtakes Fredonia

**LEE PYE**  
Staff Writer

**DAN QUAGLIANA**  
Managing Editor

When one construction project is about to end, another begins.

As of Sept. 2024, multiple buildings at SUNY Fredonia are under different stages of construction. Additionally, Reed Library and Jewett Hall will undergo renovations beginning in the summer of 2025.

The Maytum-McEwen-Reed Library plaza construction started in the 2020 Fall semester, though the project was originally proposed in 2011. The entire plaza was closed off for approximately three to four years, when slowly things started to open back up, but what is actually open now?

## The Amphitheater

By now, most students have noticed the Amphitheater's reappearance, with multiple different events already taking place in the pit. A barricade is at the top left of the stage to direct traffic away from the Reed Library stairs.

## Half of the riot stairs

Half of the riot stairs (which disrupt the flow of crowd traffic because of their length) that face towards Fenton Hall are open. The other half is barricaded to direct traffic towards the roof of McEwen Hall rather than the outside pathway that leads to Maytum Hall.

## The large entrance of McEwen Hall

The entrance to McEwen Hall that gives access almost directly to the inside entrance of the Reed Library was opened, offering more foot traffic in that respective area.

## The McEwen Hall roof

The McEwen Hall roof is technically extended to the outside of the first floor of McEwen and the second floor of Reed Library. This is where built-in benches line the outside of Reed Library, facing the Reed Library steps and Mason Hall.

## Accessibility ramp

The accessibility ramp was built during the construction project, which leads from the bottom to the top of the Reed Library steps.

Now, what is still under construction? The Reed Library steps, and both the upper and lower sections of the Maytum Hall roof. The places that are not open are those listed above, along with the outside pathway from Maytum Hall to McEwen Hall, the other half of the riot stairs and the parking lot between Maytum and McEwen, which is also known as Lot 1.

There are a few different construction projects happening, and not all of them are coming from the same pool of money. The Maytum Hall roof work is part of the Campus Let Contracts Program, which is separate from the State University Construction Project. It's two different pools of money.

The money involved in these campus projects is connected to SUNY but is not related to the defunding of Fredonia from the SUNY system. It is also not related to the \$1.4 million dollars



Photo by **REBEKAH GERACE** | Staff Photographer

SUNY recently allocated to Fredonia.

Every year, a budget is passed for the Construction Fund, which SUNY distributes money to.

According to [sucf.suny.edu](http://sucf.suny.edu), "The [Construction] Fund is dedicated solely to act as an agent for SUNY to design, construct, acquire and improve SUNY's state-operated building and infrastructure assets on its 32 campuses and at three teaching hospitals. These assets reflect new construction and the continued restoration and maintenance of existing buildings."

Usually, the Construction Fund asks for roughly one billion dollars per year and receives roughly 800 to 850 million dollars per year.

Patching the Reed Library stairs will be the last step of the plaza project and is expected to be finished before the snow starts falling. Originally, it was supposed to be finished in late summer to early September. However, a few setbacks occurred.

Markus Kessler, Fredonia's director of facilities planning, said, "It's very weather-dependent. The material they are working with is very sensitive to temperature, the amount of water [present and] how long you mix it together. You have a very short timeframe to get that in place. They can't work in the rain, or if there is high humidity, or the temperature isn't right. The contractor will not come out, because the panel will just pop right off."

Loewke Brill is the company that is currently working on the project. They were hired after the original company went bankrupt while simultaneously working on the project haphazardly.

Ironically, the same contractor that installed the stairs incorrectly the first time was hired again by Loewke Brill to replace and fix the stairs.

The stairs of Reed Library would take about two weeks' worth of work hours to complete using weather-safe products. However, with the weather-dependent products they are using, there is not a solid timeline of when the construction for that project will be done. As of Sept. 26th, the guess is about October.

Two sections of Maytum Hall roof are being worked on.

The lower roof, next to Lot 1, is being replaced.

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The work is currently at a stand-still because of a voltage-related valve error. They are currently waiting on the correct valve piece to be received and installed in order to finish the roofing.

The entire process should take about two to three work days once the correct product is received.

The upper roof of Maytum Hall was not as extensive of a job, because they did not remove the roofing membrane. The construction mainly consisted of painting the roof with a seal to protect it for 25 years, according to the warranty of the product.

Jewett Hall, contrarily, hasn't been used by students in the last four years beyond holding a COVID-19 testing facility during the Fall 2021 semester.

"Constructed in 1963, Jewett Hall was the home for science education at Fredonia, and included teaching laboratories, faculty offices, cold room facilities, a 200-seat auditorium and a planetarium," explained Kessler. "The building is 65,539 gross square feet (GSF), consisting of one- and two-story sections above grade, and one story partially below grade which covers the entire footprint."

When asked about the upcoming construction, Kessler said, "[The] project will be a partial gut renovation of the building, leaving the planetarium and lecture hall in place; both spaces are to be rehabilitated."

According to Kessler, Fredonia is trying to "centralize student support services in three adjacent buildings, one of which is Jewett Hall ... This will form a student success corridor in the heart of the campus."

The plan to centralize student support services came about because, "Student support services at Fredonia are currently located in eight buildings across the campus."

The registrar's office, Student Accounts, and the transition services and financial aid offices will be moving to Jewett Hall from Maytum Hall. Academic Advising and the Honors Program will be moving from Fenton Hall, the Educational Development Program, International Student Services, and Office of International Education are coming in from Thompson Hall, and the Career Development Office is moving in from Gregory Hall.

It has not yet been determined what will happen to the spaces those offices are currently housed in.

Brian Rivera, a student who worked in Jewett Hall over the summer, said, "It's empty. All the classrooms are empty, [and] some of the classrooms are boarded up. Nothing is there."

Rivera worked in property control within the Purchasing Department as a summer work study employee, and went into the basement of Jewett Hall for many of his shifts. "The basement smelled [of] thick, pungent, old dust. It smells like 'dead' air, nothing has been moved, nothing has been touched in a long time."

Additionally, "The building will receive a new masonry façade and new windows that allow occupants access to natural light in all of the offices and conference spaces," Kessler said. "Newly added exterior canopies ... [offer] protection from the elements while also calling greater attention to the building [entrances], increasing the sense of welcome that the building projects."

While Jewett Hall construction is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2025, bidding on the construction by various com-

panies will start in December of this year. Construction will not be completed until January of 2028, when the building will be reopened for occupancy.

While Reed Library isn't currently under construction, renovations there will begin in November of 2025.

"The renovation of Reed Library presents an opportunity for SUNY Fredonia to renew and revitalize one of its most prized assets on campus, to serve the students, faculty and greater Fredonia communities for decades to come," Kessler said.

The new design will "celebrate the legacy" of I.M. Pei's original architecture while "prioritizing innovation and academic success."

Faculty and staff offices will be reorganized underneath the current music mezzanine in order to open more study spaces and classrooms for students.

A new tutoring hub will occupy the current music library, and on the main floor, study rooms will be interspersed with the stacks holding books.

Additionally, "Partitions installed in previous renovations will be removed and reconfigured, providing greater transparency, connectivity and improving wayfinding between student services," Kessler noted.

The renovation will include a new cooling and ventilation ductwork system, as well as upgraded finishes, lighting and improved accessibility throughout the building. A new elevator will be installed for the tutoring center in the mezzanine area.

Kessler revealed that, "The renovations will introduce a variety of learning labs, meeting spaces, seminar rooms, [a] classroom, digital scholar lab, podcast studio, one button studio, and study spaces."

Occupants include library faculty, online learning, the Professional Development Center, grant and sponsored programs, the Office of Student Creative Activity (OSCAR) and tutoring.

The renovations are expected to be completed in Aug. 2027.

While renovations are underway, library services will be moved to the adjacent Carnahan-Jackson Center, and the book collection will be temporarily stored in Erie Hall.



Photo by LEE PYE | Staff Writer

# NYS passes a bill requiring universities to provide free menstrual products

**ABIGAIL JACOBSON**

News Editor

Something new will be coming to the bathrooms on the SUNY Fredonia campus.

On Aug. 26, Governor Kathy Hochul signed a bill requiring all public SUNY and CUNY universities to provide free menstrual products in campus restrooms and buildings.

This bill was written by Senator Michelle Hinchey. Hinchey was elected in 2020 to the New York State Senate. According to Hinchey's website, she is "making history as the youngest woman to represent an upstate district."

Hinchey is the chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, but that hasn't stopped her from supporting issues outside of agriculture.

Hinchey is a strong advocate for women's health and this bill shows that.

"Menstrual products are a fundamental health necessity, and no one should be held back in school, work or life because they can't afford or access them," Hinchey says on her website. "I'm incredibly proud that our bill making menstrual products available for free in all SUNY and CUNY restrooms has been signed into law."

Questions regarding specific details about the bill were sent to Hinchey. The response was the quote provided above.

On Mar. 22, 2023, this bill was referred to the Women's Issues Committee by Hinchey. On June 5, 2024, the Senate passed the bill with a vote of 57 - 2. The bill was then delivered to and signed by Governor Hochul on Aug. 26, 2024.

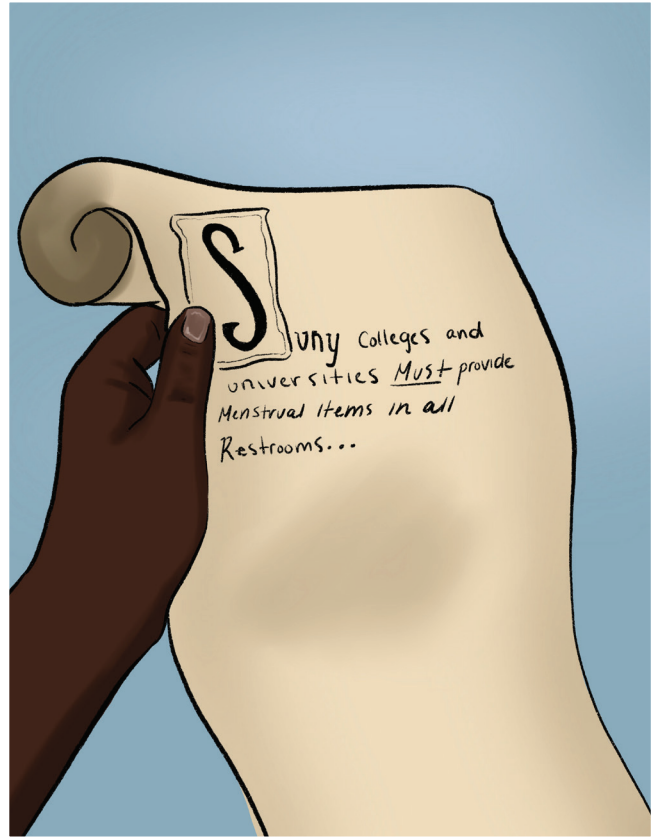
According to Darin Schulz, head of Fredonia's Faculty Student Association (FSA), they planned on having a vending machine, which would hold menstrual products for free, implemented in 2025. However, since this law is now in place, Fredonia must provide them immediately.

Mark Delcamp, the interim co-director of facilities services on campus, was not able to give any insight on how Fredonia will implement this bill.

"Unfortunately, we have not heard anything further at this time," said Delcamp. "We are, however, carefully working to do our part to start planning for our next steps but are trying to not get too far ahead of the process."

According to Hinchey's website, "This legislation is a huge step forward in our fight to end period poverty, reduce financial stress and stigma often surrounding menstruation and bring us closer to true equity and dignity for people who menstruate."

As of Sept. 24, this is all the information that has been given.



Graphic by ISABELLA RIZZO | Art Director

"Senate Bill S5910B ... require[s] all public colleges and universities in the state to provide menstrual products in the restrooms of such school building or buildings. Such products shall be provided at no charge to students."

— **Senate Bill S5910B**

# Fredonia invites WKBW political analyst to speak for Constitution Day

**ALEX BUCKNAM**  
Asst. News Editor

The American Democracy Project (ADP) hosts this year's Constitution Day with keynote speaker, Bob McCarthy from WKBW-TV in Buffalo.

McCarthy is currently a political analyst who works for WKBW-TV in Buffalo. He visited Fredonia to talk about the freedom of the press.

McCarthy gave a speech filled with insightful knowledge on how politicians cannot escape the press and how important the press is.

"Politicians couldn't escape us. They had to answer our questions, and if they didn't, you would put that in your story, which could be worse," McCarthy said.

This isn't the first time McCarthy has been to Fredonia. He has visited Fredonia six times in the past eight years. McCarthy has always loved coming to Fredonia and loves seeing Fredonia's communications department.

"You guys really have an amazing communication [sic] program here," McCarthy said.

McCarthy started his journalism career at St. Bonaventure University with no idea what he wanted to do with his life.

"I really didn't even know what I was going to do when I started there, but I knew that I was never going to be a nuclear physicist [or] anything to do with numbers," said McCarthy. "I knew how to put some nouns and verbs and semicolons and commas together, and so, [I thought that] maybe I could make a living doing that somehow."

It took McCarthy about a year and a half before he got into the communications department at St. Bonaventure. He then started to work for the campus newspaper, The Bona Venture, and the campus radio station, WSBU.

During his time at The Bona Venture and WSBU, he was able to get an early head start on his political journalism career and had a Sunday column called "The Politics."

McCarthy would write about a new subject every week and he would never run out of ideas.

"I was never at a loss for a subject to write about politics and I had the freedom to write in a column format, more than just the what, why, when, where, of [a] structured news story," McCarthy said.

"The Politics" was important to McCarthy: "I had a lot more freedom and I would have a lot more fun, sometimes I'd do crazy things and so I was able to kind of get what I was thinking across to people, but that's what I enjoyed the most."

Even to this day, he still recalls and misses his column.

"I've been at [WKBW] for a little over a year and I've run into various situations where I've said to people, 'I wish I still had my column, because I could address this a lot better,'" McCarthy said.

After graduating college, McCarthy went on to work for the Olean Times Herald and stayed there for six years.

"I was able to build connections at Bonaventure where I was



Some of the Communication professors posing with Bob McCarthy.  
Photo by ABIGAIL JACOBSON | News Editor

able to talk to the Olean Times Herald[s] managing editor and was able to land a job right out of college," he said.

After McCarthy was done writing for the Olean Times Herald, he moved on to do evenings at The Buffalo News, where he has stayed for the past 41 years.

One of his most notable stories was when he exposed wrongdoings committed by the State Liquor Authority and subsequently made the chairman resign. "[Once I found] a bunch of problems in the State Liquor Authority, a bunch of crooked stuff that was going on there, [which caused] the chairman to resign. [This] was part of a team effort on a lot of different things," McCarthy stated.

McCarthy has won awards for his achievements at The Buffalo News; the most notable one was a statewide Publishers Association first-place prize for articles he and his colleague wrote about the nuclear industry. Bob McCarthy was also nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.



A few Leader members posing with Bob McCarthy.  
Photo by MIKE IGOE | Special to The Leader

# Students for Fredonia holds protest regarding 15 possible minor cuts

**ALEX BUCKNAM**  
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Managing Editor

In December of 2023, Fredonia President Stephen Kolison Jr. announced plans to discontinue 13 majors across the university's curriculum. Discontinued majors include philosophy, Spanish and photography.

All 13 majors were officially discontinued by the administration on March 18.

For the duration of the deactivation process, Kolison and Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. David Starrett assured students multiple times that the minors associated with the discontinued majors would remain, and that students would continue to be able to enroll in those programs.

Additionally, many students were of the opinion that the majors in question were not framed as though they were immediately being eliminated, but rather that they would be chosen from a list of possible programs.

Every program on the initial list was discontinued.

In an email to students whose majors were eventually cut, Starrett said, "After careful consideration and utilizing data-driven evidence, the Provost's Office has identified 13 programs, including your current major, that have been recommended for discontinuation in the future."

In a subsequent email sent out by Starrett to all students, faculty and staff announcing the official discontinuation of those majors on March 18, it was stated that "we will keep associated minors."

At the first University Senate meeting this semester, on Sept. 9, the creation of a "Joint Task Force on Academic Minors" was voted on and approved.

The charge of this new task force reads as follows: "The charge of the Joint Task Force on Academic Minors is to contribute to SUNY Fredonia's Roadmap to Financial Sustainability by proposing criteria for academic minors not connected to a current major to be considered for deactivation to the Provost and Executive Committee by October 31, 2024."

In simpler language, this committee was given a list of 15 minors. From this list, they can develop criteria to select the elimination of some of them. The language employed in the original potential major discontinuation email last Fall is the same language that is being used to describe the list of minors that was sent to Senate recently.

It is also important to note that, as stated by the proposal sent to Senate, the purpose of this committee is to allow faculty to have input on the creation of the criteria from which to-be-deactivated minors will be selected. Faculty did not have input on

this process regarding the discontinued majors last year.

The members of the committee are:

- Bruce Simon, co-chair
- David Stringham, co-chair
- Jennifer Hildebrand
- Amy Marshall
- Peter Reinelt
- Scott Saunders

The list of potential minors to be cut includes:

- African American studies
- Art history
- Arts administration
- Athletic coaching
- Film studies
- French
- Latinx studies
- MultiEthnic studies
- Museum studies
- Native American studies
- Philosophy
- Public health
- School & counseling psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish

While some of these minors are connected to the majors discontinued last Spring, some never had a corresponding major to begin with.

With the potential elimination of certain minority studies, SUNY Fredonia is in danger of being unable to teach courses in those disciplines.

The initial major program cuts have led to the university issuing retrenchments to three professors.

A retrenchment is "the termination of the employment of any academic or professional employee during any appointment, other than a temporary appointment which may be terminated at any time, as a result of financial exigency, reallocation of resources, reorganization of degree or curriculum offerings or requirements," according to an email United University Professions (UUP) sent out to all faculty and staff on Sept. 19 at 3:13 p.m.

UUP is the union that represents professional faculty and staff on campus.

Retrenchment notices were issued on Sept. 13 to Peter Tucker, a sculpture professor, Stephen Komp, a photography professor and Michele Bernatz, an art history professor.

According to an email from the Visual Arts and New Media Department, Tucker's last semester will be Spring 2025.

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Komp's last semester will be Fall 2027. As stated, Bernatz was issued a letter of retrenchment, but already planned on retiring at the end of this year.

When news spread about the retrenchments and possible minor cuts, students took action.

On Sept. 19 at 3:30 p.m., Students for Fredonia (SFF) held a protest on the grass between Mason Hall and Reed Library. Student protestors walked around campus, shouting "Pay for staff not for buildings" and "Peter Tucker, Peter Tucker."

Students carried signs, saying "I'm a budget cut?" to "Stop demanding respect for a system disrespecting us." Other signs included, "You cannot put students first if you put teachers last," "Education is a public good[,] not a business" and "Where's the loop??? Inform your students."

The protest ended up stopping at the amphitheater by Mason and McEwen Halls. Here, 5 speeches were given.

Rebekah Gerace, the public relations and social media manager for SFF, began the speeches by talking about some rules and safety. She mentioned how the location of the protest was chosen because it was considered a protest area. All of this information was taken from the campus's freedom of expression statement.

She also mentioned that protests must not interfere with university functions such as a student going to class. After mentioning all the safety rules and guidelines, she passed it to Jasmine Johnson, the vice president of SFF.

Johnson went on to talk about how she thinks the administration is incapable of running this institution.

"We were promised a rounded and quality education," Johnson said. "But since I have been here, they have done nothing but cut corner after corner with no regard to faculty members or the students or the ecosystem, with no regard for the faculty members or students caught in the crossfire."

"They have shamelessly broken their promise to involve student and faculty voices in their decisions."

According to Johnson, these decisions are "an attack on [the] liberal arts and humanities."

"They have cut our faculty but we have yet to see administrators be cut," Johnson said. "When the doors close on this institution, we will know who to blame - and it's the administration."

Benjamin Evans, a co-founder of SFF, also gave a speech. In his speech, they mentioned how he was tired of going to

"When the doors close on this institution, we will know who to blame — and it's the administration."

— **Jasmine Johnson**  
Vice President,  
Students for Fredonia

University Senate meetings and seeing the leaders of SUNY Fredonia give under-researched reports at every meeting.

"There are so many systemic issues that we need to tackle, and I may be tired, [but] there's nothing that students know how to do better than to [be] tired [and keep] working [anyway]," Evans said. "That's a hard lesson I've had to learn, but that's okay, because I've also learned to rely on ... other students."

Mason Fuller, the president of SFF, mentioned in their speech how they were told at the last University Senate meeting that minors may be cut. On Tuesday, Sept. 17, they were told three professors were losing their positions.

"The only people that aren't at the whim of these cuts are the administrators," Fuller said. "We are the people that have to deal with their decisions, not them."

Dakota Richter, the president of the Student Association (SA), mentioned in his speech that he "[thinks] the student voice is the most important thing when these types of things occur."

One of Richter's duties as president of SA is to lead student advocacy. According to Richter, SA has been working tirelessly to advocate on behalf of students and faculty on the SUNY Fredonia campus.

"Trust me, they have been hearing [the name] Fredonia every time I go to Albany," he said.

Richter mentioned how students and professors are the trains of this institution and the administration is the tracks. "Without the train, there is no need for tracks."

Tucker was at the protest and gave a response to the students and faculty protesting.

"All I want to say, because I'm about to cry, is that you guys are fucking awesome," he said.

According to Fuller, about 200 people, mainly freshmen, attended this protest.

"A lot of them heard about everything that was happening when they came in and they kind of thought that it was like all over, for lack of a better word," Fuller said.

Early in the day, around 11 a.m., Fuller met with Mark Suida, the director of Campus Life, and Gordon Carpenter, the chief of University Police (UP). In this meeting, they wanted to make sure everything was cleared for the protest to happen.

When Fuller had left the meeting, they received a screenshot of a YikYak post from one of their friends.

In the YikYak post, someone wrote, "Hope y[?]all can come to the protest today!!!" A comment below this post wrote, "I'm taking my tool wit[h] me. See y[?]all there." Someone respond-



Students protesting against the program and faculty cuts.

Photo by JEAN CESTARO | Staff Photographer



ed with, “Tool??” The original commenter responded, “For mysafety. I got a conceal [to carry], these things can get out of hand.”

Fuller took action and messaged the SFF E-board group chat. According to Fuller, the executive board of SFF felt like “crisis operatives.” They were trying to figure out how to deal with this and, “We didn’t want people to panic because it was an important message, and we didn’t want people to not come because they felt unsafe, because that’s not what we’re trying to create.”

According to Fuller, Carpenter didn’t think it was a real threat. However, it was still an active investigation at the time of his conversation with Fuller and during the protest as a whole.

University Police decided to have uniformed officers attend the protest, so that if anything happened, they could “shut it down immediately and get everyone to safety.”

This was a decision made by both SFF and UP to keep this rumor from making its way to people and causing panic. According to Carpenter, this rumor did not meet any of the guidelines to release an announcement. He did mention how he “greatly [appreciates] the communication” with SFF about this rumor.

As of Sept. 27, this is still an ongoing investigation.

“Students for Fredonia is [a support system, and that’s what we are] here for, and especially with the new Student Association staff...we are pushing for students’ voices to be heard,” Fuller said during the protest.

“Don’t lose hope,” they continued. “It’s really daunting and it’s really scary, and college ... is terrifying, but professors love working here, and they’re in a rough spot [just] as much as we are. People want you to thrive and people want you to do well here ... Some people aren’t giving us the tools to do that.”

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# Speakers at town hall meeting question administrative honesty

**ALEX BUCKNAM**

Asst. News Editor

**DAN QUAGLIANA**

Managing Editor

In response to the release of the list of minors that have the potential of being discontinued, Student Association (SA) held a town hall meeting on Sept. 20.

Several members of the administration were in attendance, including President Stephen Kolison Jr., Vice Provost Dr. Judy Horowitz and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Andy Karafa.

To open the town hall, SA President Dakota Richter asked the administration “to commit to the minors and the students currently [a part of them].”

They reportedly stayed silent in response to the question.

Later in the meeting, Horowitz said that Starrett “should not have said” that associated minors would definitively not be discontinued.

Horowitz was most likely referencing Starrett’s March 18 email.

“While some administrators do care about the student voice,” Richter said, “I believe there [are] a few who don’t take us seriously. This is a concern for me ... if I see an administrator dodging questions, laughing under [their] breath [or] on [their] phone, do [they] really care?”

Later in the town hall meeting, Richter displayed photos of the protest stating, “Here are freshmen standing up for professors who they ... might not have even built a close relationship with yet.”

“Last year, you made a promise to me,” he said. “I was personally told that this would not happen.”

The meeting continued with Richter asking the administration questions he received from students, one of which was regarding how sculpture classes would be taught if there were no professors to teach them.

“We have developed comprehensive teach-out plans to ensure that students can get the degree they came here for in a timely manner,” Karafa said. “Unfortunately, [this] means that we don’t need everyone ... because we will be offering fewer courses.”

This sparked outrage from the audience, with one student saying that, “I don’t really appreciate what you just said about them not being needed, because they are very much needed.”

“Maybe ‘needed’ was the wrong word,” Karafa relented. “But unfortunately, in our curriculum, as we reduce the number of courses for the schedule, the result is that we have fewer classes for everyone to teach.”

Owen Wagner, a sophomore English & ethnic and gender studies major, asked about how, since a lot of the proposed minors for discontinuation are ethnic studies minors, it might constitute a diversity, equity and inclusion violation.

Dr. Naomi Baldwin, the interim chief of staff and executive assistant to the president, responded and said that the campus still wishes to offer the access to diversity that those courses provide, but it is no longer economically feasible to offer seven courses in a specific minor for only a few students.

As of Oct. 1, no further information about the committee and its activities has been released.

“While some administrators do care about the student voice, I believe there [are] a few who don’t take us seriously.”

— **Dakota Richter**  
President,  
Student Association

# Life & Arts

## Marion Art Gallery exhibit showcases the beauty of tradition

**OWEN WAGNER**  
Special to The Leader

From Sept. 3 to Nov. 22, Marion Art Gallery will be hosting Tradition Interrupted, an exhibit which showcases works from 12 international artists that use ancient artistic practices to represent contemporary ideas.

The reception for the event was Friday, Sept. 6 from 6-9 p.m. This reception was free and open to the public.

Carrie Lederer, the curator of the exhibit, said that the dichotomy of the exhibit is designed to remind us not to abandon tradition. This exhibition includes stainless steel, oil and acrylic, mirror mosaic, felt, porcelain and much more.

The participating artists are: Anila Quayyum Agha, Pakistan; Faig Ahmed, Azerbaijan; Camille Eskill, U.S.; Mounir Fatmi, Morocco; Ana Gómez, Mexico; Shirin Hosseinvand, Iran; Dinh Q. Lê, Vietnam; Steven Young Lee, U.S.; Jaydan Moore, U.S.; Ramekon O'Arwisters, U.S.; Jason Seife, U.S.; and Masami Teraoka, Japan.

Barbara Racker, the director of the Cathy and Jesse Marion Art Gallery, commented, "They're not criticizing tradition, they're celebrating and trying to preserve tradition," while praising the inclusion of Asian and Middle Eastern cultures in the curation process.

"Teardrop (After Robert Irwin)," created by Anila Quayyum Agha, features stainless steel cut into geometric and floral ancient Islamic designs. Her piece represents the dichotomy of emotions refugees experience such as "pain and peace" as well as "strength and struggle."

Dinh Q. Lê, who created "Portrait of the Palace," was born in Hà Tiên, Vietnam. One portrait features a child from the infamous S-21 prison. These portraits are created with C-print and linen tape. This reminds viewers of traditional Cambodian structures.

Using oil and acrylic, "Ocean Bed" by Jason Seife is inspired by Middle Eastern carpet designs. Seife takes great pride in pushing the boundaries of this ancient practice to keep it in our contemporary culture.

"Star cluster at night," "Camouflage," "A beam of sunshine" and "Emerald" are the four works featured by artist Shirin Hosseinvand using Persian mirror mosaics. She is an Iranian-American artist well-known for merging ancient Iranian mirror mosaics with consumer objects such as, in this exhibit, Coca-Cola cans. Hosseinvand comments how, "In Iranian culture, mirrors and water represent purity, fortune, honesty and light. This symbolism is believed to be a driving force behind the

use of mirrors in decoration." She illustrates the meaning of her works by stating, "I believe that globalization and industrialism have developed a cultural interaction between nations, but it's lacking the identity that any culture can offer to a product."

Digital imagery, felt, silk, mixed media, wood, mirrors and platforms are all used in "F-Ezra: Made a Woman" and "Taskmaster Fez: Avadim (we were slaves), The Story of Joe" created by Camille Eskill. This piece constructs a story using a traditional Middle

Eastern headpiece and an Ancient Egyptian hat worn by taskmasters. These pieces address gender bias in religion as well as the struggles of Eskill's own family.

"Maximum Sensation" by Mounir Fatmi is a collection of skateboards with prayer rugs replacing the grip tape. Fatmi was born in Tangier, Morocco and grew up surrounded by Muslim prayer rugs. This piece mixes together Eastern and Western cultures to take on a completely new meaning.

Ana Gómez's two pieces, "Vitrina from the Disposable series" and "Maruchan from the Disposable series" feature stone-ware ceramics, porcelain ceramics with enamel, vinyl and gold varnish, as well as hand-painted shelves to comment on our culture of disposables. This piece shows us how disposable con-



Photo by KATHERINE HANLEY | Staff Photographer

tainers have replaced dinnerware.

Jacquard tapestry is used in “Geisha in Ofuro” by Masami Teraoka, an artist from Japan. It illustrates contemporary issues such as cultural collision, religious and political hypocrisy and sexual taboos.

“Gourd Vases with Lotus Pattern” by Steven Young Lee was created using porcelain ceramics and reflects how the artist has always found himself between two cultures. In his piece, he addresses his own struggles with identity, assimilation, place and belonging. Furthermore, it explores how to redefine our standards of beauty.

Jayden Moore, using silver-plated platters, forces the viewer to redefine how we see and understand discarded heirlooms in our contemporary society in his pieces “Specimen (Two Rectangles)” and “Specimen #5.” His work asks us to ponder on our desire to collect and commodify.

“Hal” by Faig Ahmed uses handmade Middle Eastern carpet designs to create a reinterpretation that looks to be melting into a puddle on a platform. The carpet addresses topics such as identity, change and loss.

Ramekon O’Arwisters presents five pieces named “Mending #15,” “Mending #34,” “Mending #16,” “Mending #22” and “Mending #20” using ceramic shards and fabric to create the feeling of comfort and healing, even when one is broken down.

He draws on his past of growing up as a queer Black person.

The hours for the exhibit are Tuesday through Thursday, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. The gallery is closed on Mondays, major holidays and summers.



Photo by KATHERINE HANLEY | Staff Photographer

# Alumni Steve 'Major' Giammaria wins Emmy awards

**MEGAN KIDBY**  
Scallion Editor

In a fast-paced environment like a kitchen, sounds mean everything.

No one understands that more than Steve ‘Major’ Giammaria, a sound recording technology alum of Fredonia, who recently won two Emmys for the hit FX television show “The Bear.”

The 2024 awards specifically recognize Giammaria for his work on the episode titled “Forks,” where innovative sound techniques played a critical role in enhancing the narrative.

Reflecting on his path to the Emmy stage, Giammaria shared how his passion for sound began.

“In retrospect, it was pretty obviously where I belonged, in terms of just making sound effects and such in my everyday life and realizing I could put that to good use by [professionally] designing sounds and mixing sound,” noted Giammaria.

He also credits Fredonia as the place that gave him his current job at Sound Lounge in New York City: “There was a long string of internships and mixers, and I think at one point there were maybe 15 people from Fredonia working here.”

When asked about people at Fredonia that made a lasting impression on him, Giammaria mentioned Professor Bernd Gottinger, the coordinator of the sound recording technology department, and Greg Snow, who he credits with teaching him how to fix equipment in his studio maintenance class.

Giammaria didn’t just find his calling at Fredonia. He also

found love. Giammaria met Greta Boorn while he was there and they later married. He also met the person he credits his career to: his classmate, Evan Mangiamele.

When asked what he would say to his past Fredonia self, Giammaria said, “College is a safer place to fail than when money’s on the line.”

As an Emmy winner, Giammaria is aware that the industry is always in flux, with new technology and storytelling methods continually changing the landscape of sound mixing. But for him, the core of his work remains constant.

“Technology has made it so that there’s fewer barriers of entry, which is both good and bad. Everyone has access to these tools, but ... some people need a little bit more training before they [can] use them properly. It’s a level playing field, which is a net positive.”

Though his focus remains on creating groundbreaking soundscapes, Giammaria is also passionate about mentoring young professionals in the field – even mentioning it in his acceptance speech.

“I’ve been at one place for 18 years and that’s not an accident. Sound Lodge has a great tradition of fostering talent from within. I try and take on as many interns as I can and get folks acquainted with the space ... as much as it’s technical, there’s also an art aspect to it.”

As the entertainment industry continues to evolve, there’s no doubt that Giammaria will remain at the forefront, shaping the way sound enhances our movies and television.

# Nyles Emile presents commentary on race and identity in directorial debut **Fairview**

**DAN QUAGLIANA**  
Managing Editor

For first-time director Nyles Emile, SUNY Fredonia's Performing Arts Company's (PAC) production of *Fairview* is a dream come true.

A 2018 play written by Jackie Sibblies Drury, *Fairview* won the 2019 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

*Fairview* confronts the issues of race, prejudice and class. More specifically, the Pulitzer board describes *Fairview* as a "hard-hitting drama that examines race in a highly conceptual, layered structure, ultimately bringing audiences into the actors' community to face deep-seated prejudices."

The play is about a middle-class Black family preparing a birthday dinner for their grandmother while being watched by four white people.

"The show is very rambunctious, very over-the-top, very funny," said Emile, a senior acting major. "It's like you're kind of living in a sitcom world.

"You meet the Frasers and, in another world, we have this group called the Watchers. [The Watchers are] these four college students who are watching their favorite episode from their favorite sitcom ... We see how the two worlds collide together in the end."

If that sounds unusual and a little confusing, that's by design. "It's one of those things where you can't know that much about it [before watching it]," Emile explained.

But tackling such an ambitious project, on his first time directing, no less, was something that Emile dove right into without a second thought.

"About two years ago I knew I wanted to direct a show [but] I didn't know what," he said. "I knew I was able to do it with the Performing Arts Company ... I went to go see [the play] *Six Degrees of Separation* and I was like, 'Oh my God, I remember *Fairview*!'"

For Emile, seeing *Fairview* was a pivotal moment in his high school career. His interest in the play continued into his undergraduate studies through his upcoming directorial debut.

"I saw it when I was in high school, I did a project on it my freshman year and I was like, 'Let me do this show!'"

Emile started asking other students in Fredonia's theatre and dance program if they'd be interested in seeing him direct *Fairview*, and they all encouraged him to take on the project.

Additionally, it's Emile's first time directing a play.

"Directing is very much like you're the leader of the ship," he reflected. "It's very much teaching me ... how to delegate [tasks] ... and to trust the people around you to know they will get the job done. You have to really count on the people underneath you and trust them to ... know what you need."

Emile felt drawn to *Fairview* because of its importance: "It's really groundbreaking and I found more courage to want to pitch it."



Provided by Alyssa Legrette.

The cultural significance of the play is something that's been felt by audiences all over the country since it premiered off-Broadway in 2018.

"I think that I just have really deeply been moved by [the fact] that the people are having very different reactions in the same audience — and that the reactions don't fall distinctly along color lines," said *Fairview*'s playwright, Jackie Sibblies Drury, in a 2019 interview with NPR.

"It's not that all people of color are moved by it, and all white people are uncomfortable and angered," Drury continued. "It seems much more complex than that. And that, to me, has been really deeply exciting as a human and as an artist."

Emile expressed a similar sentiment, saying that, "This show helps people to see [that] there's so many biases and stereotypes around certain cultures... that's where people immediately click and say, 'Oh, this is about racism,'... which, it has some [race-related] parts to it, but I think ... it's really about people's identities. How does your identity influence the world that we live in?"

According to Emile, this is the first time that PAC has produced a show with Black protagonists.

"I think this show, when you see it, will put a mirror up to [the audience], like, 'Hey, this is who you identify as, and you have to understand what that may come with and the baggage that you may have along with that,'" Emile said. "I hope you're open to understanding what your identity might mean to other people, too."

PAC's production of *Fairview* opens on Friday, Sept. 27, at 7:30 p.m. in the Alice E. Bartlett Theatre in the Rockefeller Arts Center. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for the general public when purchased through the Campus Ticket Office. Additional showings are on Sept. 28 at 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 29 at 2 p.m.

# What to expect at the annual National Transfer Student Week

**GRACE GALIPEAU**  
Special to The Leader

National Transfer Student Week is right around the corner at SUNY Fredonia. It welcomes all transfer students who made the decision to come to Fredonia. This event begins on Monday, Oct. 21.

“The whole point of the week is to essentially celebrate transfer students and all the people who helped to get them where they are,” said transfer student Jordan Stephens.

Stephens transferred to Fredonia from Jamestown Community College (JCC) in order to finish his degree in business. He began his educational journey at Fredonia and decided he wanted a degree change, so he went to culinary school.

After culinary school he went to JCC, which ultimately led him back to SUNY Fredonia to complete his business degree. After his education, Stephens plans to pursue something in the field of sustainability or agriculture.

According to Stephens, Fredonia has done an articulate job in making sure all students, no matter how they get here, are given the tools for success.

“I’m doing the restart program ... Being a ‘double transfer,’ if you will, basically just gave me the opportunity for a completely fresh start that I needed,” Stephens noted.

“Most SUNY schools, as far as I know, are very picky about whether or not they do things like that ... Especially in the Ac-

ademic Advising office, they were like, ‘Here’s this opportunity you can do to basically give you a whole new start to your college career,’ and without that, I would be toast,” said Stephens.

Stephens continuously highlighted the Office of Academic Advising’s understanding, support and motivation. He went on to speak of the excellent character the community at Fredonia contains, which made him happy to transfer back to the university: “It’s just so welcoming and if you need help, people are there.”

Stephens also noted that there are so many people who don’t initially start their college career at Fredonia. Most of the time, it takes a “winding road” in order for one to complete their education from start to finish, like Stephens has experienced.

Students who may have come here from another country, state, college, etc., need to take the time to resocialize and truly adjust.

“The whole point or theme of this year’s National Transfer Students Week is unlocking potential,” said Stephens.

During the week of Oct. 21 through Oct. 26, Academic Advising Services will hold events to recognize transfer students.

The week will begin on Monday with Transfer Tabling in McEwen Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., followed by other events throughout the week, like the Career Development Office Interview Workshop and the Transfer Focus Group. The Transfer Social Event, which will include bingo, prizes, snacks and beverages, will close out the week on Saturday, Oct. 26.

## FRS' Rockin' the Commons raises money for cancer research



All photos by MOLLY SUNICK | Special to The Leader

Continued onto next page



All photos by MOLLY SUNICK | Special to The Leader

# SPORTS

## Sport Management Club revived under new management

**MATT VOLZ**  
Sports Editor

Who knew the best ideas could come from FredFest?

Indeed, the weekend last May provided two sport management majors the inspiration to bring back a club that had been dormant for a few years.

Mason Neale and Alex Smith were hanging out that weekend, blowing off steam from a long semester.

They had both gone to Las Vegas for Super Bowl 58 in February, and from there the two had the idea to bring Sport Management Club back.

Since the Spring semester was essentially over by then, the two made a plan to lay the groundwork beginning in the Fall.

Neale became president of the club, and Smith became the vice president. They brought in fellow juniors Rachel Bayer and Riker Smith as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

"I really want[ed] to get the club back up and running," Neale said to Dr. Kerry Fischer, the club's adviser. "And I think I know the people who can help me."

Fischer, a sport management professor, had technically served as the adviser for multiple years.

But with no students to run the club, Fischer said she was unable to get it off the ground.

"I needed students who were willing to put in the effort, and I'm glad I finally have them," she said.

For a group just starting out, the club is already bringing in some notable guest speakers.

Mark Washo, a Fredonia alum and former adjunct professor, spoke to the club in September about his experience in the world of sport management.

Washo owns Freedom Sports and Entertainment (FSE), a Rochester-based agency that Neale interned for over the summer.

"They're already using their connections to find people to talk to the club," Fischer said of her E-board.

Danny Markino, manager of football communications for the Chicago Bears, and a relative of Bayer's, is speaking to the club on Wednesday, Oct. 2.

After Markino, the club is planning to bring in Marc Witt, general manager of Elmira-based CAN-USA Sports.

Witt was Alex Smith's internship boss over the summer with the Elmira Pioneers, a collegiate-level summer league baseball team.

Witt is speaking to the club on Thursday, Oct. 17.

All of these guest speakers were scheduled within the first few weeks of the semester.

"I'm so impressed with what they have done in the last three

weeks," Fischer said. "I'm just blown away by their initiative."

The group is also working on planning a trip to Highmark Stadium later in the semester.

It would include a tour of the stadium and a networking event with members of the Buffalo Bills front office.

Alex Smith said the trip will likely be in November, and that there is already significant interest among students.

He said the group is also considering planning other events, such as a tour of KeyBank Center, a trip to March Madness in the spring or a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

"We want to grow the outreach of events that we can cover," he said.

In order to be considered for the Highmark Stadium trip, however, he said students must be members of the club and must attend at least one meeting and speaker event.

"I think that's a smart idea," Fischer said. "It's a way to recruit."

Fischer and the students hope that the emergence of the club will help promote the school's sport management program.

"The club is, in theory, going to make being in the major better and get students excited about all the possibilities that are out there in sports," Fischer said.

However, students don't have to be sport management majors or minors to be in the club.

"We're making it really inclusive," said Alex Smith. "We're trying to grow people's networks of connections that they have in the industry."

In the past, the club was responsible for the annual Super Bowl trip, and only club members could go.

"I don't know that I necessarily want to go back to that," Fischer said. "But [having the club] is a good place to start."

Sport Management Club is active on Instagram. They can be found at @fred\_spmgclub.

Fischer said the students started the page on their own, and it's run entirely by them.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of students to bring this up off the ground and get it up and running again," Fischer said. "I'm excited to see where they go with it."

While Fredonia doesn't have the sport management reputation of schools like SUNY Cortland, the program has been on the upswing in recent years, and the hope is that it will continue to soar with Sport Management Club.

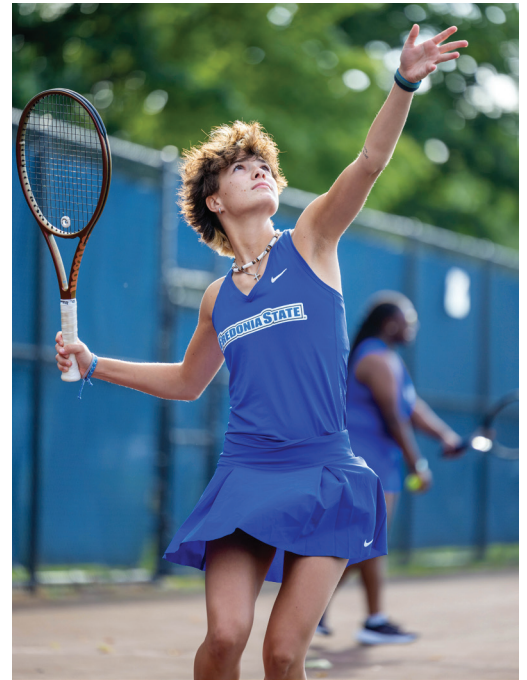


Logo courtesy of Sport Management Club.

# A look into Fall sports



Jack Phelan (#00 Goaltender), Men's Soccer.



Clare LeFevre, Women's Tennis.



Carson Teixeira (#29 Forward), Men's Soccer.

All photos by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer





Jenna Hewitt (#6 Defender), Women's Soccer.



Bronwyn Madden (#9 Forward), Women's Soccer.



Huddy Kwiatkowski (#18 Defender) & Chance LaCroix (#8 Forward), Men's Soccer.

All photos by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

# 5th Quarter Column: First Quarter of the Season Review

**MITCHELL HORUCY**

Asst. Sports Editor

For the first time since 2020, the Buffalo Bills have started the season 4-0.

After a whole offseason of doubt, the Bills look like one of the best teams in the league.

At the helm of it all, Josh Allen is playing some of the best football of his life.

Through three games, he has nine total touchdowns to just one turnover.

He's currently the betting favorite for MVP as well.

Khalil Shakir, as expected, has taken a step up and has become Allen's favorite target thus far.

As I spoke about in my previous column, the Bills talked about an "everybody eats" motto, and that has certainly been what we've seen.

Ten players have caught a pass from Allen so far this season.

Last year, that number was 13 for the entire season.

James Cook has looked like an elite running back both on the ground and in the passing game.

He leads the team in rushing, but is also second on the team in receiving.

However, I think the story of this short sample size we've seen from this team is the offensive line.

Numerous O-Line rankings have the Bills as a top-five unit.

Some O-Line rankings even have them as high as number one.

Allen has only been sacked twice so far, the least in the league.

Also, right tackle Spencer Brown is yet to give up a single pressure.

Despite the injuries, the defensive side has still looked like a very solid unit.

After losing Matt Milano in camp, the Bills have now lost stud linebacker Terrel Bernard and All-Pro nickelback Taron Johnson.

Despite this, players such as Cam Lewis, Dorian Williams, Baylon Spector and Jamarcus Ingram have stepped up in a mighty way.

The team currently ranks fourth in the league in takeaways, and fifth in sacks.

While this is a great look for the players, I believe we have to look to Sean McDermott and Bobby Babich and recognize their work.

This isn't the first time McDermott has taken a defense with unlikely heroes and turned them into an elite unit.

Jordan Poyer was a special teams player until he came to a McDermott defense, and he thrived.

We're now seeing that with players like Taylor Rapp, Jamarcus Ingram and Damar Hamlin.

Bills vs ravens talk

As for the next few games for the Bills, it doesn't get easier.

The team travels to Houston to take on former Bill, Stefon Diggs, but he's not at the top of their list of worries.

Second-year quarterback CJ Stroud is already a top-ten QB in the league and can carve up a defense.

Nico Collins is also a bonafide WR1 in this league and can take over a game.

On the defensive side, former Viking Danielle Hunter can wreak havoc off the edge along with Will Anderson.

Jalen Pitre and Jimmie Ward are above-average safeties who can play the run, as well as cover.

After the Texans, the Bills head to the Big Apple for a Monday night game with the Jets.

Despite a 0-1 start, the Jets have looked better over the past few weeks.

Aaron Rodgers, even though he may not be as mobile as he once was, still has one of the best arms in the league.

Garrett Wilson and Breece Hall are game-wreckers on offense.

Sauce Gardner and DJ Reed are a top-five cornerback duo in the league.

In this game, the Bills just need to continue to keep a lid on things on defense, and on offense, slow things down and trust the run game.

While we're just getting things started, I believe this is the best team in the Josh Allen era and, like I said last issue, it should be a fun season.

**Join The Leader for  
General Body meetings!**

**Every Tuesday at 7 p.m.**

**In The Leader Office!  
S206 Williams Center**



# How the now helps the future of Fredonia athletics

**MITCHELL HORUCY**

Asst. Sports Editor

After numerous years of declining enrollment, Fredonia has welcomed its largest freshman class in three years.

The school announced that the total of first-year, transfer and new graduate students was 1,034.

This means that first-year enrollment is up 10% from last year and graduate student enrollment is up 34%.

While this has a huge impact on Fredonia as a whole, this may have an even greater impact on athletics.

The head coach of the men's soccer team, PJ Gondek, has taken the role of co-interim athletic director and is excited about this incoming class and how it can help the school.

Gondek has 10 freshmen on his roster, which make up almost half of the team.

"Roughly 90% of our revenue is fee-based," said Gondek. "The more students we have, the more money we have to work with."

A lot of this money is used to upgrade facilities on campus.

As Matt Volz wrote about in the previous issue of *The Leader*, the school just installed a brand new turf field.

Next in line is a brand new track, as well as other upgrades to the surrounding area.

Gondek said these upgrades can help with recruiting and attracting new student-athletes to the school.

Gondek also talked about the grass field, which isn't new, but is still a huge attraction for incoming athletes.

Fredonia is one of two schools in the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) that plays their home soccer games on a natural grass surface, something he and women's soccer coach Chris Case have been using to help recruit for years.

"When you get recruits coming in and they see the grass, they also say, 'okay, well what's going on with this turf?' For us, it's also our practice field. It's a pretty nice practice field," said Gondek.

In terms of what's next in the line for upgrades, Gondek spoke about fixing up some of the equipment in the ice rink, as well as redoing the floor and track in Steele Hall.

He also mentioned that the baseball field has drainage issues and that the baseball team sometimes has to play home games away from home. As such, fixing the baseball field is also on the list of things that will be upgraded in the future.

With some of the new facilities, Gondek would love to see Fredonia continue to host local high school sporting events on campus.

He mentioned how, not that long ago, Fredonia hosted the Section VI Track and Field Championships, and would love to see that return.

Fredonia High School plays numerous games on campus such as men's and women's soccer, and basketball games in the winter.

"We always want to host those types of events because I also



Sam Evans (Midfielder), Men's Soccer.

Photo by **BECCA TORNCHELLO** | Sports Photographer

think that will help enrollment," said Gondek.

While Gondek loves the new turf for his team, he also loves that he's seen non-student-athletes using the turf.

"The lights were on and there were students that were non-varsity sport athletes that were out there using the turf," said Gondek. "I think it's great, you know, lights are on and it's just, it's got to be kind of a good feeling."

Annika Andersen, a freshman psychology major and a member of the women's basketball team, is one of the 1,034 incoming students that have entered Fredonia.

Andersen is originally from Florida, but has family from Buffalo, so she's been in the area before.

She mentioned that she'd been wanting to move up north, and Fredonia caught her eye when looking at schools.

When asked what stood out when she looked at Fredonia, she pointed to the sense of community.

"[The team] is so close-knit and they all push each other to be better and be successful," said Andersen.

She also talked about Fredonia's diversity when pitching her case for future Blue Devils to come to the school.

"Students and athletes should come here because the school is so diverse and even though everyone is so different, no one has judgment or prejudice towards anyone," said Andersen.

When it came to her opinion on how the athletic fee should be used, she said she'd love to see more money put into promoting the athletes.

She talked about having more events showcasing the athletes, as well as more gear for specific sports.

While the school as a whole has a long way to go to get back to the enrollment it had in the past, athletics seems to be taking the right step to doing that.

## How technology is impacting us

**AMARAH GHORI**

DEI Chair & Asst. Opinion Editor

In today's world, technology is inescapable.

Phones, laptops, social media and the constant buzzing takes over our lives, especially as college students.

But as we continue to use technology in our society, the effect on students' ability to focus shifts. It's alarming to think that, according to research, students have shorter and shorter attention spans than years prior.

Studies show that as of 2022, students' attention spans were at five seconds. In the year 2000, our attention spans were at 12 seconds.

Our attention spans will only keep decreasing as time goes on, and it's up to us to find a balance between how much we use our phones and how much we focus on other things.

### Shorter Attention Spans

With the constant overload of information, it's becoming harder for college students to focus for extended periods of time.

As the attention spans decrease, it becomes apparent that it's harder for students to keep up their attention and get their work done.

This translates into difficulty concentrating on lectures, studying or engaging deeply with different assignments outside of class.

The overuse of phones seems to be the culprit.

It's easy to mindlessly pick up your phone in the middle of doing something important, just to "check in."

Even doing that for a few seconds of your time disrupts your brain's flow of concentration. The result is that students will feel overwhelmed trying to meet the demands of their work.

### Dopamine and Digital Reward Systems

As a college student myself, it's apparent that phones have become an addiction to our generation. I feel the effects of this addiction as much as anyone else.

When a student receives a notification or uses social media, the brain will release dopamine.

According to Dr. Anna Lembke, a world-leading expert on addiction, "We turn to [phones] for quick hits, seeking attention, validation and distraction with each swipe, like and tweet."

This short-term gratification gives us our addiction-like behaviors, as students will continue to crave the dopamine rush from phones.

Professor Rachel Kerr, a communication professor at Fredonia who teaches media technology classes, explains this idea further.

"[A phone] addiction physically crumples the body's posture, and dims one's vision. It includes making poor decisions that

offer short-term gratification (dopamine shot) but [negative] long-term consequences. Social media business paradigms are entirely dependent on and successful because of that addict-like behavior. They create addiction and then feed it. It's on purpose. It's not a mistake."

This addiction to quick digital rewards can make it difficult for students to engage in real-world activities that require longer-term focus and effort, such as studying or staying on task.

### The Consequences of Overstimulation

Phones are constantly buzzing and social media refreshes with new content every second, and for students like myself, this bombards us with a steady stream of information at all times.

This gives students overstimulation, where the brain becomes overwhelmed with everything it is encountering.

When overstimulation occurs, students can experience feelings of anxiety, stress and being on edge. This can also lead to the inability to concentrate on one task for an extended period of time.

Kerr further emphasizes the physical impact of over-engaging with the media: "The constant stream of media images that range through everything is impossible to digest healthily, but it does feed anxiety. Over-engaging online is as physical an experience as eating too much food, which makes humans sick."

Kerr makes very valid points: overstimulation as a result of excessive phone use can make our brains feel like mush. This will then negatively impact our mental health and performance in school.

### Instant Gratification

The design of our most popular social media apps feeds into this cycle by allowing us to have this dopamine overload. This is because of the instant gratification it offers.

The rapid amounts of content we are given condition our minds to expect fast and easy rewards.

When there is a lot of instant gratification, we then have a harder time being patient, which in turn causes difficulty completing assignments and other tasks as a college student.

Procrastination is another aspect of our short attention spans. When you have the option to scroll and get a rush of quick dopamine, why would your brain want to focus on that test you need to study for?

The short-term mental pleasure of using your phone will begin to outweigh the tasks that you need to focus on for future success.

### Finding Balance

While we live in an age where technology is all around us at all times, it's okay to set boundaries and to take steps to improve your focus.

I like to set timers for myself, where I make sure I don't pick

up my phone in that timeframe and work as hard as I can on an assignment to get it done before the timer goes off.

Finding time to do things that don't involve using your phone is also helpful in restoring our attention spans. Spending time with family and friends, going for a walk or reading can help us out in breaking our dependency.

While implementing these intentional changes, know that you can find balance and better ways to preserve your mental well-being, which will lead to increased success.



Graphic by ROEN CLOUTIER | Staff Artist

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# A Playlist for Every Mood: A lifetime of best friends

**MARISSA BURR**  
Opinion Editor

It's been a rough start to the year. It's been a rough couple of weeks. It's really been a rough few days. I won't get into it — I'm not ready — but I've had to cut a bunch of songs out of my daily listening recently.

One playlist that always helps me feel every emotion I need in order to move forward is my “best friend” playlist. It isn't only happy vibes because I have gone through my fair share of best friends and I'm not on speaking terms with a lot of them. Each of these songs reminds me of someone who, at one point or another, I considered my ride-or-die. While we may not all be close anymore, there is a special place in my heart for each of them. So hug your best friend close and give this playlist a listen.

## “Ex Best Friend” by Caroline Kole

We're starting with a gut punch. I discovered this song right after one of my best friends at the time ghosted me and then revealed on my birthday how much she hated the person I was. It came out of the blue and I had thought everything was fine.

The line “I thought we were better than this” hurts the worst because I thought being in college was supposed to make everyone more mature. I even tried to rekindle the friendship months later and she gave me nothing but apathetic pity responses. When Kole says, “do you talk about me when you're feeling petty?”, it makes my heart ache because even after three years, I still want to know what she's up to and how she's doing.

I've tried to never bash her because even though I didn't understand why she left, I hate that she thought I made her do so. I really hope that she can still think fondly of our memories

because I do.

## “thanK you aMee” by Taylor Swift

I know Taylor Swift and Kim Kardashian weren't friends, but if you listen to this song and imagine they used to be, it makes the lyrics hit even harder.

It makes me think of my first college roommate who I thought would be my best friend forever. We came into college each liking a guy, and when mine ended up being a douche (I should've known since he went by his initials 'cause he thought it was cooler to have the punctuation in there), my friend and I became a three-person group with her guy. Well, she fell in love and went nuts when he didn't, and thought that I slept with him when we were just studying — news flash: I didn't. We didn't do anything sexual until we started bonding over her craziness and after she had already stabbed me in the back. I'm not that kind of friend.

Well, she made our school her entire personality and hated that I came in and wrote for the newspaper she thought she “owned.” Swift says, “I wrote a thousand songs that you find uncool. I built a legacy that you can't undo,” and that's exactly what I did. I became an editor in record time and became a beloved part of the staff (she quit when I became editor). I overcame everything she threw at me and went out and won awards while she cheered at pep rallies. And like the song says, “I don't think you've changed much,” and maybe she never will. Relationships aren't sustainable if both people aren't growing, and I'm happy I outgrew her. Like I said, I don't wish any ill will upon her, but I have the chance so I'll go for it: “fuck you aimee.”

Continued onto next page

### “Oath” by Cher Lloyd feat. Becky G

This one goes out to “my best friend, best friend ‘till the very end.” Ironically she lived across the hall from me and the aforementioned roommate. I’ve accidentally flashed her, spent hundreds of dollars in one store with her, and learned how to make over-easy eggs because of her. She’s made me watch “Home Alone” and “Bojack Horseman” and has almost never tried to kill me by adding allergens to her cooking. Brenda, “Wherever you go just always remember you’re never alone. We’re birds of a feather.” There’s no one in this world I’d rather struggle and thrive through life with. You’re the Phoebe to my Monica and we’re better off without Rachel. I love you endlessly.

### “Everybody’s Fool” by Evanescence

This song reminds me of my longest running friendship (other than with Brenda). In high school, I had a friend whom I loved and we had many thirds in our group, but she ended up betraying me for the last addition. I’m talking about the fact they threw my tennis bag in the gym showers and soaked it and all my stuff — typical 2000s movie petty girl shit. These girls were constantly being revered for their grades, their athletics and their personalities. This song is about girls being fake so everyone loves them, but those closest know how twisted they are. Their parents legitimately hated it when people didn’t “bow down and stare in wonder.” The pain their

bullying inflicted upon me ruined what should’ve been “the good years.” They made me out to be the bad guy and kept being besties, but that’s fine. They can have each other. As the song says, it’s easy to have “no flaws when you’re pretending.” If you still want to know how I feel about the situation, pay close attention to the second half of the bridge.

### “Flying Solo” by Madison Reyes and the “Julie and The Phantoms” Cast

Sorry not sorry, this one is for Brenda too. First of all, she’s watched “Julie and The Phantoms” with me I don’t know how many times, let alone listened to the soundtrack. This album is about the only thing I played in the car for over a year, and I’m the one with the license — she’s a true friend. From the opening line, we knew we were Flynn and Julie; “If I leave you on a bad note, leave you on a sad note, guess that means I’m buying lunch that day.” I’ve never had to fly solo without my best friend because even though we keep moving away from each other, she’s always been there for me. I know a million things about her and maybe couldn’t write her a song, but I could definitely pen her biography. The best kind of friendships appear in a slightly cheesy but overly heartfelt Netflix series. We’re still waiting for Kenny Ortega to discover us. Everyone will wish they had a friendship like ours.



Graphic by JOHN LEAHY | Staff Artist

# Is college everything you'd hoped?

**GEORGIA MORTILLARO**  
Special to The Leader

Around this time last year, I was starting my senior year of high school.

I was preparing my college essay, learning how to navigate the Common App and begging my teachers to write letters of recommendation. I was preparing for the college life that felt so far away, but as every day that ticked by, I felt more and more nervous on what to actually expect. I walked onto campus, settled in my room, started my classes and it felt different from what I thought. Not a good or a bad feeling, but just different from what I thought.

Now that's not the fault of anyone in particular.

Ever since the age of 10 I was pushed to college. Whatever career interested me that week, whether it was astronaut, teacher or mermaid, I would need to go to college. They would tell us how college was different from high school and how you'd make amazing friends who you'll love forever and have crazy adventures with.

Media also took a small part of the blame with shows and movies like "Scream Queens," "Community" and "Pitch

Perfect". It is similar to the effect high school musicals had on kids and teenagers. Growing up and watching all of these shows and movies, I only knew what not to expect.

As I talked to my new friends, we all spoke about what was different from what we expected.

## Healthwise

When I came to college I expected to almost be on my own when it came to my health. I'm an adult who has to make my own big girl decisions and take my health into my own hands. In high school, we would only have a single underpaid nurse who'd slap an ice pack on a broken arm. But for the most part, unless I had a serious medical event or needed some sort of hearing or sight testing, it was something I was on my own for.

The only college show I could think of that even includes a nurse is "Scream Queens," and in that one, the nurse is just a woman looking to get revenge. When I went on my accepted student tour, I was shown LoGrasso Hall, a place you can go to if you need medical advice and therapist appointments. There's a staff of qualified doctors and therapists, and there's things like pads, tampons, condoms, lube, deodorant and soap — things that most college students could and would need.

## Classes

When you're in middle school/high school and you make silly or crude jokes, the first thing the teacher says is "Now, your college professors won't take that."

When I walked into my first class, I expected a tough and strict professor.

TV definitely had a big impact with this one, you would see maybe the one off teacher who had lost their minds or was just looking to get a check. Or like in Pitch Perfect, they were barely in class at all! But instead of that absent or mean professor, I met a lovely one who was excited to teach us about rocks. It wasn't just the teachers, it was the freedom I got with my class-

es. If I didn't want to go, I didn't have to.

I was happy about the freedom that I got when it came to building my schedule; the add-drop process really shocked me. You mean I can just drop a class and add what I want? The thing I least expected was how I'm treated like an adult: I'm able to get up and use the bathroom without asking, I'm expected to remember my homework and turn it in myself and I'm not getting quizzed on if I read the book. There isn't a second bell or passes to detention if I'm late. It's all on me. It's freeing but also a little scary.

## People/Friends

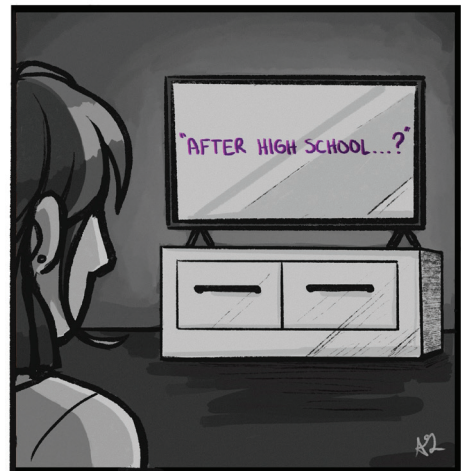
One of the main reasons I chose Fredonia is because I knew it was a smaller college and the people were nice.

My naive self expected to find happy-go-lucky people who would say, "Hi!" as you walked by and smiled. Don't get me wrong, there's people like that and I appreciate every single one of them. But in reality, not everyone is nice.

You meet people your first week and expect to be best friends, but in reality, you very well might find out that the only thing you have in common is that you're freshmen. My friends and I had a few experiences like that. It can be hard to make friends when you come in as a freshman, and not a small group of freshmen, the largest class of freshmen in 3 years. Then, on the other side, you meet people who are a lot nicer than you thought they would be.

The sorority girls and frat guys are usually portrayed as bitchy and mean people. With shows like "Scream Queens" and movies like "Neighbors," you don't really know what to expect. And again, I'm sure there are frats and sororities actually like that, but I have yet to meet one. At Activities Night, I met genuinely nice people, and even if I wasn't interested in joining a club, they were still nice and genuine.

Everyone has their own expectations and thoughts when it comes to new experiences and places. I've found that the best way to deal with those expectations is to experience it yourself and compare them. It helps me prepare for new things and also create stories out of them.



Graphic by ADELIZ GOTTINGER | Staff Artist

# Lovercolumn: Types of Attraction

## THE QUARTERBACK

Executive Producer of Lovercall

## THE MUSICIAN

Lovercall Producer

## RADIO REBEL

Lovercall Producer

Hello!

We are The Quarterback, The Musician and Radio Rebel: producers and hosts of the radio show Lovercall, right here at Fredonia. Lovercall is an anonymous late-night talk show about love, relationships and more. Students who are guests on the show use codenames to protect their identities when discussing potentially personal topics, hence the codenames of the writers of this column. This is your reminder that none of the hosts or guests are professionals, and everything stated is based on personal experiences.

“The Quarterback” is a 20-year-old cisgender man who uses he/him pronouns and is a junior at Fredonia.

“The Musician” is a 22-year-old gender-fluid person who uses they/she pronouns and is a senior at Fredonia.

“Radio Rebel” is a 21-year-old transgender man who uses he/him pronouns and is a senior at Fredonia.

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

Listeners can submit their questions or seek advice either via Fredonia Radio’s Instagram, @fredonia\_radio, on YikYak or through the QR code provided in this column.

We answer your questions live on the radio, then add them to this column in case you missed the episode.

The show will broadcast weekly throughout the semester 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 in print and online at [fredonialeader.org](http://fredonialeader.org).

## Date idea of the week

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

For this week’s date idea, we’re suggesting that you get musical with your partner and create a playlist together!

Music can connect two people on a deeper level, and that’s the idea we’re going for here.

Sometimes, people in a relationship have vastly different music tastes, and that’s okay!

That could be half the fun of this date idea, learning more about your partner through their unique music choices.

You could also add songs that remind you of your partner.

Maybe it was the song you first danced to, or maybe it was a song you associate some other memory with.

You could make different types of playlists with each other,

too.

You might have a playlist for those sweet couple moments or the moments where you’re more physically intimate.

For Spotify users, any two people can create a Blend, or an auto-generated mixture of the two music tastes.

For couples who don’t want to start a playlist from scratch, this could be the option for you!

However, the beauty of this date idea is that it doesn’t have to be done with a romantic partner. You could start a playlist with a friend or a family member, too!

The goal of this date idea is to bring people closer together through music, however that may work for you!

## Types of Attraction

This week our main topic is types of attraction! Everyone is attracted (or not attracted) to different people in different ways, and it is helpful to know the difference not only with a partner but for yourself as well. According to the LGBT Center at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill, there are a wide variety of attraction types which include: sexual attraction, romantic attraction, aesthetic attraction, sensual attraction and many more. One of the more talked-about types of attraction that was discussed was sensual attraction, which is the desire to interact with others in a tactile, non-sexual way, such as through hugging or cuddling. Our guests emphasized that while romantic and sexual touch is nice, sometimes just hugging a friend is just what you need at the time.

We also talked about types of romantic orientation. UNC at Chapel Hill defines romantic orientation as “an individual’s pattern of romantic attraction based on a person’s gender(s) regardless of one’s sexual orientation.” This definition branches out into many types of romantic orientation including a-romantic, biromantic, heteroromantic, gray-romantic and many many more.

Whether you are learning about these types of attraction or romantic orientation for yourself or your possible partners, we here at Lovercall believe that any way you choose to express yourself is valid and we support your journey wherever it takes you. If one of the attraction or orientation types feels right to you, do some research and maybe reach out to a trusted friend, family member or counselor if you feel safe enough to do so.

## Lovercall Calling...

Every week on Lovercall we answer your questions anonymously - all about love, relationships and more. Here’s another reminder that none of the hosts are professionally trained, but we are college students living through the same experiences you are.

This week, we got a call from the Longing Gargoyle, who uses he/him pronouns. The Longing Gargoyle asked, “What do you all think is the best way to actually ask someone out but with the context that you have little to no experience? To be honest, I’m more terrified that they’ll say they’re already in a relationship over them saying no.”

Well, Longing Gargoyle, and anyone else who is also wondering this question, we have an answer for you! Radio Rebel recommended 10 seconds of confidence! This applies to any-



thing: asking someone on a date, sending someone a risky text or even making a nerve-racking phone call. The 10 seconds of confidence rule is where you pause, and take 10 seconds to start something you're scared to do. So hit the send button, say what you want to say, eat a bite of that meal you were scared to try.

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 [wvlylonair@gmail.com](mailto:wvlylonair@gmail.com) or visit Fredonia Radio Systems, located in McEwen Hall 115 and open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

*“The Quarterback,” “The Musician” and “Radio Rebel” are members of Fredonia Radio Systems and are involved in the production of Lovercall.*



## Opinion on opinions

**MARISSA BURR**  
Opinion Editor

Obviously I love hearing and sharing opinions; I would be a really crappy Opinion section editor if I didn't. But lately, my social media feed has been pissing me off because I see people sharing their opinions and acting as though it is fact. What's even worse is that ignorant people are taking these opinions as fact.

Every day I consider going on Facebook or X and ranting and giving my opinion on something that just happened to me — yet I restrain myself. Why? Because I know that some of my followers will take my vent too seriously. Instead, I've worked really hard to channel my frustration and passion into writing well-informed and thoroughly-edited articles. That way I know that the ideas I'm putting out into the world aren't just filled with hate, anger or arrogance.

Everyone needs to start going through a similar thought process when sharing their opinion online.

This isn't a conversation or a dinner party. When posting your opinions on social media you're inviting the entire world to comment and scrutinize every word — and no, your privacy settings won't protect you. Yet the gusto with which people are standing behind their posts, that they didn't even spell check, is abhorrent.

Yes, we live in a country where we have freedom of speech and it has been argued in court that this extends to our right to post freely on social media. But you need to think about the consequences of your words. People may read something you post and without doing any further research, trust what you say as fact. I don't know how we got to this point, but we're here and need to be careful about what we share on social media.

What I like to do as a writer is type my perspective rant into a document. Then I reread it and take out anything that doesn't add to my point or makes me sound ignorant. It's a balance that's hard to find as an opinion writer, because you still want your voice to shine through. However, I understand that my voice is that of an almost 22-year-old woman who is stubborn and (much to my dismay) isn't always right.

In order to get people who initially don't agree with you to see your side, it is important to acknowledge their side and the reasoning behind their opinions. For example, if I said that strawberry jelly is the best jelly to pair with peanut butter sand-

wiches, I would also want to mention how many people prefer grape because it is the more classic combo and tastes less sugary. I'd sound pretty stupid if I tried to convince someone that strawberry jelly is the best because I think so and lots of other people do too or else it wouldn't be on grocery store shelves.

Yet, that's how a lot of people sound on social media.

I understand that this is more of a problem with generations older than ours. They didn't grow up with the internet being so prominent in their lives, so they're going to use it differently than we as Gen Z's and millennials do. Instead, they voiced complaints in person or through letters and phone calls. These messages had to be more thought out, and in turn, filtered. Now that they can voice opinions and get a response in minutes, they've discarded that editing process.

As a younger generation, we need to set a better example. Actually write well-thought-out, fact-based opinions if you're going to turn to social media. This goes for personal posts as well as comments. People will try to argue, but it's hard to debunk factual information gathered through thorough research.

If you want to make a bigger splash though — in the right way, not with rage bait — put pen to paper and write an article. You can submit it to *The Leader* or a local newspaper and ask for it to be published. It can be controversial or ruffle feathers, but if the institution has integrity, they will consider it.

I know what you're thinking, and yes, this is a subtle pitch to write for *The Leader*, but you might be surprised at the effect your words can have once they're in print. Older generations are always suggesting that we read printed publications, so why not write for them as well and print your opinion for them to see clearly?



Graphic by SAFFRON LARREA | Special to The Leader



Satire and parody for Fredonia

## Talk show host runs in election

**ETHAN GOODNESS**

Special to The Leader

**BROCK PAPKE**

Special to The Leader

United States, 2024. A nation trapped in a period of perpetual darkness, with no light in sight. Every day is a civil war. People on both sides of the aisle wage endless battles with each other. Division holds an unfortunate prevalence in our lives. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," and buddy, this house's days are numbered.

Still, we cling to the hope that someday there might be a light at the end of this endless tunnel. The hope that someday, the wars we wage daily may come to an end, and peace will prevail. But, what if the "light" walks among us? And what if that "light" was emitting from a bulb not to be considered the brightest of the bunch? What if the light was Brock Papke, local television host and now presidential candidate?

Ethan: I'm honored to be sitting down with local television host Brock Papke, who has just announced his bid for the presidency. Mr. Papke, thank you for joining me today.

Brock: What? Oh, yeah, of course. Hey, I'm honored to be here.

Ethan: Mr. Papke, I suppose the question on everyone's mind is "Why?" Why are you running for president?

Brock: Well Carter, I'm glad you asked abo-

Ethan: It's Ethan.

Brock: No, it's actually pronounced Brock, and I can spell

that if need be. And to be honest... well... f\*ck, you got me. I didn't really think this far into this... let's see... Oh! Alright, so, last week I was walking through a Halloween store, lookin' for props for my show. Anyways, I accidentally stumbled into a shelf of skeletons and I almost sh\*t myself. But, upon further inspection, I discovered something. Let me ask you, Carter, are you aware that those are fake skeletons being sold in Halloween stores?

Ethan: Brock, what are you talking about?

Brock: Exactly! No one knows about this!

Ethan: Mr. Papke, everybody knows about this.

Brock: Well, then it's an even bigger issue than I thought. Let me ask you something, Carter, do you know how many cemeteries there are in the United States?

Ethan: No, I really don-

Brock: Over 25,000 cemeteries. Now, on average there are at least several hundred people buried in your average cemetery. Let's say several hundred means 300.  $300 \times 25,000$  is equivalent to 7,500,000. Do you know what that means?

Ethan: I'm afraid to learn the answer.

Brock: I would be too if I were you, but I do know the answer. That's why I'm running for president and you're not. That's at least 7,500,000 Americans who are out of jobs, and I aim to change that.

Ethan: Mr. Papke, are you seriously proposing that instead of selling fake skeletons, Halloween stores now sell real skeletal remains?

Brock: Look, no one likes being unemployed. This way, we can start getting jobs back to the American people.

Ethan: Mr. Papke... I think I would like to ask another question now, only so that we may switch the topic to something else. Let's discuss your inspirations. Who can you compare yourself to that the American people are already familiar with?

Brock: Well, let's see. I feel like I combine elements of Eric Andre and Hunter S. Thompson, as well as a tasteful splash of Barney Gumble.

Ethan: Mr. Papke, I meant politically.

Brock: I know.

Ethan: OK. Mr. Papke, what specific skills do you possess that would make you a-

Brock: Sorry, hang on, gettin' a phone call. Yes, hello? You again? Listen, OK, what you're gonna want to do is buy as many shares of J. C. Penney as you can and sell any shares we own in Microsoft, all of it... Yes, I'm sure! Somethin' big is coming, I can feel it in my bones, and you know what I think? I think it spells doom for Bill Gates and his precious company. \*hangs up\* Sorry about that.



Photo by JONATHAN HAGAN & ETHAN GOODNESS | Specials to the Leader

Ethan: Mr. Papke, who was that?

Brock: Oh, that? That was my grandma. She used to be a Wall Street stock broker and sometimes forgets that she isn't one anymore.

Anyways, you asked about skills.

Ethan: Yes, what skills do you possess that would make you an ideal choice for voters?

Brock: Why don't I just show you? Check out how long I can do a handstand for.

Ethan: Mr. Papke, I don't know if that's a very good idea.

Brock: No, here, watch. I got really good at handstands back in college. I was the best keg-stander this side of Lake Erie. I can hold the position for about three minutes. You know one time-

Brock Papke could not in fact hold a handstand for three minutes, let alone one. Mr. Papke immediately fell over into a bookshelf, earning himself a concussion and a few nasty bruises in the process. As Mr. Papke was whisked away in an ambulance, I, too, was whisked away — whisked away to a nation where the dead need not concern themselves with job security, a nation where Microsoft fails and J.C. Penney thrives, a nation where the ability to do a handstand is the metric for eligibility to be president, but above all else, a nation in such dire straits that having Brock Papke in the Oval Office almost sounds like a good idea.



Graphic by ISABELLA RIZZO | Art Director

# Why do 10-year-olds think they're better than me at Dress to Impress?

**ABIGAIL JACOBSON**

News Editor (AKA Researcher of Dress to Impress)

Guys. I can't believe I'm saying this but I hate children. Shocking, I know.

The only children I love are my nieces, nephews and the child I babysit for.

Every other child, hell no. **ESPECIALLY THOSE CHILDREN ON DRESS TO IMPRESS!!!!**

...What was that? You don't know what Dress to Impress is??? Unacceptable.

Just for you, I'll explain it once **AND ONLY ONCE!**

Dress to Impress is an amazing (awful) game on the popular game platform, Roblox.

In this game, you get a theme and have about 325 seconds (about five minutes) to make an outfit inspired by this theme. Then you will be rated by fellow players from one to five stars. At the end of voting, whoever has the most stars wins. Don't forget to pose too!

Yes, I am 21 years old and instead of partying every night, I'm playing Dress to Impress. I'm not ashamed.

I got into this game from this child I babysit for. She came over one morning, around 9 a.m., and was like, "Abby, you gotta play Dress to Impress with me." Who was I to say no to her???

So obviously we played and the first time I played I got dead last. The theme was something like Emotions so I did Joy from Inside Out.

Tell me why I got last place when someone got first wearing **SWEATPANTS AND A GODDAMN SWEATER????? WHAT EMOTION IS THAT MS. GIRL????**

Sorry for freaking out. It was just shocking to me.

We then proceeded to play this the **ENTIRE TIME** she was there, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. With about two first place wins under my belt and **FINDING OUT SOMEONE WAS COPYING MY LOOK**, I was obsessed.

I went off to college, still playing Dress to Impress. Again, not ashamed.

I'm actually playing it right now, for research purposes of course.

The other day I was playing at like 1 a.m. (not ashamed) and the theme I got was news reporter.

I **KNEW** if I lost this theme, I would have to leave. How could I be News Editor and not win this theme???

If I lost, I would have to leave The Leader, leave SUNY Fredonia and never be seen again. It would be shameful.

So I put my whole body into that outfit. **MY BLOOD, SWEAT AND GODDAMN TEARS INTO IT.**

But guess what?

Continued onto next page

Continued from previous page

I FREAKING WON GUYS!!!

I won and my God, I'm so thankful because now I don't have to jump off the face of the Earth and never be seen again.

TAKE THAT 10-YEAR-OLDS!

But guys in all seriousness, I should have way more wins under my belt. Everytime I play when I'm on call with my friends I say, "I'm cooking guys, I'm seriously cooking."

I was cooking, but no one was eating.

Each time I got fourth or sixth OR DEAD LAST.

One time, I was playing and we were in the voting round and someone commented "dirty." So some people responded with, "Who are you talking to?"

So then they were going back and forth about whose outfit sucked the most and blah blah blah.

The person who started it said, "Y'all are just jealous because I'm eating a steak dinner and I'm rich."

Ms. Girl. Does it look like I GIVE A F\*CK????

Someone responded with "Girl you're like 10 go to bed." They then responded with and I'm not lying, "I'm actually 11."

MS. GIRL GO TO BED IT'S LIKE 12 AT NIGHT OMG!!!

She then won the game and I left. I WAS SO MAD LIKE WHAT?? GIRL'S OUTFIT DID NOT MATCH THE THEME AT ALL!!

While I still have you here, I have successfully gotten my boyfriend to play and let's just say, WE ARE SLAYING!!

I just got first place while he got second. The couple that wins together slays together <3

Anyways, back to what I was saying before.

WHY DO THESE CHILDREN THINK THEY ARE SO BADASS AND WIN EVERY SINGLE TIME? HELLO????

Like this is crazy.

These 10-year-olds can get away with using little to no effort and win first place while I'm literally cooking each time. Then they have the audacity to tell me I SUCK?? WHEN I MATCHED THE THEME????

Hell no. Get outta here and go to bed.



Graphic by ISABELLA RIZZO | Art Director

If y'all were smart, you would not play Dress to Impress.

With that being said, I will be doing some more research on a different game (totally telling the truth) and if you hear me screaming, crying and throwing things around, don't be alarmed.

The research tends to get a bit competitive.

# QUIZ: How should you spend your refund check

**MEGAN KIDBY**

Scallion Editor

Every year, people who accidentally or purposely pay too much to the school get some money back in the form of a refund check. I just got my first one this semester, and I spent it all on D.P. Dough after a wonderful night on the town. Take this quiz to figure out what you should spend YOUR refund check on (I AM NOT QUALIFIED TO GIVE FINANCIAL ADVICE).

**Question #1: Pick a color!**

- A. Red
- B. Yellow
- C. Green

D. Blue

**Question #2: If you were a Karen or Kevin, what would make you ask for a manager?**

- A. Being told "no"
- B. A child throwing a temper tantrum
- C. A slight delay at a drive-thru
- D. Someone "breathing wrong"

**Question #3: Pick a section of The Leader!**

- A. Sports
- B. Opinion
- C. News
- D. Life & Arts

**Question #4: What is the state of your laptop right now?**

- A. Peak performance!
- B. Minor cuts and bruises but still going strong
- C. Close to it's last leg
- D. Destroyed. Irreparable. RIP.

**Question #5: Pick your favorite Fredonia bar! (If you're under 21 just guess because I know no one's breaking the law at beautiful SUNY Fredonia)**

- A. BJ's
- B. Old Main
- C. Heenan's
- D. Sunny's

**Question #6: What was your favorite subject in high school?**

- A. Math
- B. Science
- C. History
- D. English

**Question #7: You are a prisoner in a room with two doors and two guards. One of the doors will guide you to freedom and behind the other is a guillotine — you don't know which is which, but the guards do know. One of the guards always tells the truth and the other always lies. You don't know which one is the truth-teller or the liar, either. However, both guards know who's who. You have to choose and open one of these doors, but you can only ask a single question to one of the guards. What do you ask to find the door leading to freedom?**

- A. You don't ask a question and just walk through one of the doors
- B. "If I were to ask the other guard which door leads to freedom, what would they say?"
- C. "Team Edward or Team Jacob?"
- D. "Am I hot, yes or no?"

**IF YOU GOT...**

Mostly As: Save up the money

Hey, listen... I can tell you don't really think before you spend. Maybe just take the money and put it in a high interest savings account. Literally no judgment here though, I do this 24/7/365.

Mostly Bs: Go to the Gucci store bestie

You've wanted those slides for so long and now you have the money to get it! Trust me... this is a good investment for you.

Mostly Cs: Go to the museum!

I'd recommend the Museum of Play in Rochester, but go gain some more knowledge wherever you decide to go! Bring me back a fun fact or a t-shirt. One or the other is mandatory.

Mostly Ds: Go to that concert!

Whether it's Sabrina Carpenter, CupcakKe or a Beatles tribute band, you deserve to go listen to your favorite artist. If you're going to see Liana Flores, you legally have to take me though. That's the rules of the quiz, I'm sorry.



Graphic by LILIAN HOLMAN | Special to The Leader

# HOROS

**ABBIE MILLER**

Editor-in-Chief, absolute zombie

Yes, I am back to give you your horoscopes. No, I haven't slept since I wrote the last ones.

I don't know if it's just me, but between my three papers and an exam that are all due at the end of this week, I feel like college has really been hitting everyone hard lately.

So I'll do what I always do when I am stressed and in need of a break: reminisce about my youth. Long ago were the days where I would sit in middle school study hall and play Papa's Freezeria on Cool Math Games without a care in the world.

If adulthood has got you down, perhaps knowing what Papa's game you are will give you solace.



**Aries**

**Papa's Burgeria**

Your game was released at the beginning of what most Papa's gamers would call the golden era. You procrastinate (we had to wait three years for your game), but in the end, you always deliver.



**Taurus**

**Papa's Pancakeria**

As the ruler of breakfast, it's only right that your game has to do with pancakes. From easygoing Chuck to food critic Quinn, you are able to leave every customer smiling with your talent and kindness.



**Gemini**

**Papa's Freezeria**

Cult classic. You are constantly on the move, both in the game and irl. Things don't always go your way. You may forget to put chocolate sauce on an order or you may over-mix your most critical customer's ice cream, but you always pick yourself back up at the end of a shift.



**Cancer**

**Papa's Wingeria**

I have yet to encounter a single person who has ever played this game, but this just serves as a testament to your uniqueness. You serve as an escape for a very select few who may not be very loud about it, but who are internally grateful for you nonetheless.



**Leo**

**Papa's Pizzeria**

The oldest of the Papa's games, you are a wise soul. As the eldest among your siblings, you are constantly looked to for advice and comfort, a burden that can be exhausting at times. As the youngest sibling myself, I may not understand you, but I do appreciate you.

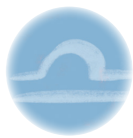


**Virgo**

**Papa's Bakeria**

Some say that you're one of the easiest Papa's games. I would respond by saying that no Papa's game is "easy". You have some easy-going aspects of your personality, but you also find value in having things be a certain way — your way.

# COPES



## Libra

### Papa's Sandwicheria

As someone who made sandwiches at a food service job for three years, I know that the real life experience of making sandwiches all day is nowhere near as good as the game. But maybe that's just it: maybe you make every experience better with just your presence. Maybe you are able to make the worst of times seem like the greatest memories.



## Scorpio

### Papa's Susheria

Widely revered as one of the hardest Papa's games, you are a bit of a tough nut to crack. It takes a while for you to open up to the people around you, but when you do, they marvel at the strength that you have to overcome all of the obstacles you face.



## Sagittarius

### Papa's Donuteria

While the limited amount of food items produced in this game make it quite niche, that matches you well. You're not everyone's cup of tea, but those that get you really get you.



## Capricorn

### Papa's Pastaria

With Olive Garden's all-you-can-eat pasta deal making its footprint on my TikTok For You page (and in my dreams), you are quite the popular commodity. Your celebrity extends both in and out of this Papa's game, because you have so many variations. Handmade pasta is real work though, and you are too.



## Aquarius

### Papa's Taco Mia

As you can tell, your game's name is not like the others. You're quirky, but that's part of the reason why you stand out so much in a crowd. In a room full of imposters, you are the most genuine person among them.



## Pisces

### Papa's Hotdogeria

What is more all-American than a hotdog? You're favorite holiday is the Fourth of July, and you wear clothes that have the American flag on them.

Education is a  
Public Good  
Not a Business

