

10.22.2024 — Issue 3 — Volume CXXVI



THE
FREDONIA LEADER

SUNY Fredonia's Student-Run Newspaper

**RHA and RAAB host
activities for students
staying over Fall Break**

See page 12

Harris v. Trump: Where they stand on national issues
County health department declares Lena's Pizza safe
What will happen to freshmen with a discontinued major?
A Gen(s)erational Tennis Legacy
[OPINION] The impact of the war in Gaza on the 2024 election
[SATIRE] Ranking Political Merch

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THE LEADER

News

- 3** Harris v. Trump: Where do the candidates for president stand on the issues?
- 5** Unify America fosters political discussions among opposing students
- 6** Chautauqua County's LWV works to inform citizens
- 7** County health department declares Lena's Pizza safe after YikYak scare

Life & Arts

- 9** What will happen to freshmen who are attending Fredonia with discontinued major?
- 10** TADA to perform "Legally Blonde: The Musical"
- 12** Peppermint from RuPaul's Drag Race visits SUNY Fredonia

Sports

- 13** A Gen(s)erational Tennis Legacy
- 14** 5th Quarter Cloumn: Coop, there it is
- 18** Plight of the small-town fan: The heartbreaking reality of losing your team

Opinion

- 20** An English minor's top ten books

22 The impact of the war in Gaza on the 2024 election

24 Lovercolumn: The Transgender Experience

26 Ten horror movie recommendations

Scallion

28 Ranking Politicians' Merch

30 Horoscopes

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“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.” -William James

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Harris v. Trump: Where do the candidates for president stand on the issues?

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

Election season is upon us once again, and in today's America, that doesn't necessarily mean it's time for civilized discussion between the candidates running for office.

It seems to have become the norm to have politicians regularly insulting each other and lying about each other rather than discussing their own policies — this year is no different. Especially in the late stage of the election season that we're in, Democratic candidate Kamala Harris and Republican candidate Donald Trump seem more focused on bringing the other down than boosting themselves up. So when you peer through the name-calling, what are their actual policies? What's at stake in this election?

According to her website, "Vice President Harris and Governor [Tim] Walz [of Minnesota] are fighting for a New Way Forward that protects our fundamental freedoms, strengthens our democracy, and ensures every person has the opportunity to not just get by, but to get ahead."

According to former President Donald Trump's website, "America needs determined Republican Leadership at every level of Government to address the core threats to our very survival: Our disastrously Open Border, our weakened Economy, crippling restrictions on American Energy Production, our depleted Military, attacks on the American System of Justice, and much more."

But neither of those statements actually says what either candidate plans to do. So what do they plan to do about the various issues facing our country?

Note: This article is not meant to be seen as a comprehensive outline of the policies of each candidate.

Abortion

Harris wants to codify the overturned *Roe v. Wade* into law, so everyone who needs an abortion is able to get one. "I am being precise. We need to put into law the protections of *Roe v. Wade*," Harris said in a *Face the Nation* interview. "And that is about going back to where we were before the *Dobbs* decision."

Trump's position is more hazy. He took credit for being the one to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, stating, "After 50 years of failure, with nobody coming even close, I was able to kill *Roe v. Wade*, much to the 'shock' of everyone." However, Trump has also advocated for the easing of restrictions on abortion: "Other than certain parts of the country, you can't— you're not going to win on this issue. But you will win on this issue when you come up with the right number of weeks."

Immigration

Harris has claimed that the country's border system is "broken," and she thinks most Americans agree with her on this

issue. "While we understand that many people are desperate to migrate to the United States, our system must be orderly and secure, and that is my goal," she claims. According to Politico, "Harris said she would surge resources to law enforcement agencies, including more personnel, technology and training."

While similar, Trump's plan goes a lot farther — he plans to heavily restrict both legal and illegal immigration. He claims that "we will carry out the largest domestic deportation operation in American history." He also plans to cancel the travel visas of foreign students who participate in pro-Palestinian protests. People who have been living in this country for humanitarian reasons would be forced to leave, as well, "including tens of thousands of the Afghans who were evacuated amid the 2021 Taliban takeover and allowed to enter the United States," according to the *New York Times*.

"Any activists who doubt President Trump's resolve in the slightest are making a drastic error: Trump will unleash the vast arsenal of federal powers to implement the most spectacular migration crackdown," said Stephen Miller, an "architect of Mr. Trump's first-term immigration policies who remains close to him and is expected to serve in a senior role in a second administration." Miller continues, "The immigration legal activists won't know what's happening."

Climate Change

The current vice president is a strong supporter of environmental justice, "a framework that calls for policies to address the adverse effects that climate change has on poor communities and people of color." She helped pass President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, which she called "the largest climate investment in America's history."

"It is clear the clock is not just ticking, it is banging," she said in a speech in 2023. As part of the Biden Administration, she helped pass hundreds of billions of dollars in tax credits and rebates for new electric vehicles and new sources of renewable energy.

Former President Trump completely denies that climate change exists, saying, "It'll start getting cooler, just watch," and, "I don't think science knows, actually."

"The approach is to go back to all-out fossil fuel production and sit on the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency]," said Steve Milloy, a former Trump transition team adviser.

When asked how Trump would lower food and gasoline costs, he simply responded with, "Drill, baby, drill," referring to oil.

Democracy

Something that both liberals and conservatives agree on this year is that the opposing candidate is a threat to democracy. But what does that mean when both sides say the same thing about the other?

As vice president, one of Harris's jobs under Biden was to

Continued onto next page

work with Congress to pass new voting rights legislation. The Freedom to Vote Act was introduced to the House of Representatives in 2019 but failed to pass the Senate. Harris has vowed to pass the bill if elected.

She also has stated her intent to protect poll workers and to resist Republican efforts to restrict voting following Trump's loss in 2020.

Donald Trump's campaign has been characterized as making violent and authoritarian statements and is believed by some to be doing so intentionally. He has vowed to expand the power of the president and the executive branch into every aspect of government, and plans to use the Department of Justice to "investigate and arrest" his rivals and those involved in his criminal trials — who he claims are a greater threat to democracy than countries like Russia, China and North Korea.

He wants to use the United States military to fight the "radical left lunatics" who he claims are "the enemy from within."

The Economy

Harris has said that she's running on a very pro-union platform. She has touted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law as an accomplishment under Biden, and the New York Times has described her economic policies as supporting "the idea that the federal government must act aggressively to foster competition and correct distortions in private markets."

She wants to raise taxes on corporations and high-income earners to fund services for the lower and middle classes and to reduce the country's deficit. She wants to ban corporate price gouging to "help the food industry become more competitive."

She supports increasing student debt relief and raising the minimum wage.

Trump has proposed expanding upon his 2017 tax cuts, which "clearly raised federal debt and increased after-tax incomes, disproportionately increasing incomes for the most affluent," according to the Journal of Economic Perspectives.

He claims that he will reduce regulation of business through the use of a committee headed by Elon Musk, the CEO of X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter. He has also claimed that deporting millions of immigrants will bring housing prices down. Both Trump and Harris support not taxing tips for service and hospitality workers.

Trump's trade platform states that he wants to separate the U.S. from the global economy and depend on exerting power through individual trade deals, which will be accomplished by putting 10 to 20 percent tariffs on all imports.

The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy claims that Trump's plan would only benefit the top 5% of all income earners in the country.

Foreign Policy

Harris has claimed that she will follow Biden's lead when it comes to NATO and Ukraine, but she is widely seen as more sympathetic to Palestine than Biden. She supports a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and was the first member of the Biden Administration to call for a cease-fire in March. She has called the situation in Gaza a "humanitarian catastrophe."

Trump's foreign policy follows an isolationist, "America First" outline. He has promised to "fundamentally reevaluate" NATO's purpose and position in the world, and has stated that he would tell Russia to "do whatever the hell they want."

He wants to deport pro-Palestinian demonstrators, and has said that he will "set the [pro-Palestinian] movement back 25 or 30 years." In April, he said that Israel should "get it over with ... get back to peace and stop killing people," but has also said that Israel "has to have a victory."

LGBTQ+ Rights

Harris strongly supports LGBTQ+ rights. She has denounced Republican efforts to ban transgender health care, while Trump has promised to "roll back" Democratic-led efforts regarding transgender people. He has said he will remove President Biden's Title IX regulations "on day one" for transgender students using personal facilities that correspond to their gender identities.

He has also stated that he will enact a federal law that will recognize only two genders and that being transgender is a concept made up by "the radical left." He has said there would be "severe consequences" for teachers who "suggest to a child that they could be trapped in the wrong body."



Photo provided via www.npr.org.

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Unify America fosters political discussions among opposing students

ALEX BUCKNAM
Asst. News Editor

Every year, students can choose to participate in The Unify Challenge College Bowl, or the recently added Deep Dive, both of which are hosted by Unify America.

Unify America is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization founded in 2020 by Harry Nathan Gottlieb, the founder of Jackbox Games.

Both events are hosted over a Zoom meeting and have a list of dates and two different times during the day that students can choose between so they can fit it into their schedule. The event happens twice a year, once in the Fall semester and once in the Spring semester.

Each event lasts approximately one hour, but the length of time may vary depending on what each student wants to do. “The one hour is an estimate. Each group moves to different topics at a different pace. We have had groups of students go for three hours,” according to Arielle Mizrahi, the partnership manager for Unify America.

When a student decides to sign up for an event, they will answer a list of questions to find out what side of the political spectrum they are on, according to Mizrahi.

“Students answer these questions so we can pair them up with someone with different views,” she said.

Since the year 2020, when Unify America started the College Bowl, over 15,000 students have participated and a total of 205 different colleges and students from 40 states have participated in the events.

The College Bowl and The Deep Dive are different. According to the Unify America website, The College Bowl is where students have a list of 16 hot-button topics like mental

health, gun laws, immigration and free speech on campus.

Students can move about the list however they please and spend however long they want on each topic. “Each group spends a different amount of time on each topic. Some groups may start a topic then move on to the next one really quickly because they realize they agree,” Mizrahi stated.

The Fall College Bowl took place from Sept. 24 to Oct. 9, with the Spring College Bowl scheduled to take place from Feb. 25 to Mar. 25.

The Deep Dive is where students only talk about one specific topic that changes daily. This year, on Oct. 27, the topic is on gun ownership and violence. On Oct. 24, it’s on voting in America and on Oct. 29, its focus is freedom of speech and hate speech.

During students’ discussions with their partner, they will describe their personal experience with a particular issue, listen to and summarize their partner’s point of view, differentiate between their own and their partner’s points of view, and review and discuss researched facts on the issue, according to the Unify America website.

According to Mizrahi, if students choose to participate in either The College Bowl or The Deep Dive, they will take away important life skills from their experience such as “critical thinking skills, problem-solving skills and active listening skills.”

After students finish The College Bowl or The Deep Dive, they will complete a short post-event survey. 84% of the students who have participated in the event have rated the experience an eight or higher on a one to ten scale, according to the Unify America Website.

A list of dates and topics for The Deep Dive are not yet available.

Chautauqua County's League of Women Voters works to inform citizens

ABIGAIL JACOBSON
News Editor

As Election Day approaches, many students will be voting for the first time. With many important issues being brought up in the presidential debates, casting your vote is important. Being informed of the presidential candidates' choice on those issues is just as important.

In Chautauqua County, a nonpartisan political organization called the League of Women Voters (LWV) is there to do just that. Nonpartisan means they do not support candidates or certain political parties.

LWV chapters exist throughout the United States and here in New York, specifically in Chautauqua County. Mary Croxton, president of the Chautauqua County LWV and on the board of New York State LWV, discussed the history.

"In 1920, when the 19th Amendment was passed, the League of Women Voters in Chicago organized [itself] as a ... league... basically to help women with their new ability to vote," Croxton said.

Croxton mentioned that this helped women learn how to register to vote, how to get information about voting and much more. The Chautauqua County LWV focuses on supporting legislation, ranging from child care to women's health to climate issues, and tries to inform the surrounding community about these legislations.

LWV also used to do candidate forums. Croxton mentioned, "candidate forums [are in reference to] the old-fashioned debate ... The League of Women Voters on a national level, up until, I do believe it was Reagan, we used to conduct all the debates on TV.

"...Apparently, they stopped doing it because the candidates themselves were trying to influence what questions could be



Logo provided via www.lwv.org

asked, and the league just said, 'No, this is a ... nonpartisan group ... We don't want to be biased or be told that ... we have to conduct this forum in a certain way.'"

Because of this, Croxton mentioned how they now do this locally, countywide and statewide. However, according to Croxton, some candidates have said no to these candidate forums.

LWV also likes to help out school boards in Chautauqua County and talk about county issues, such as the "effort to make roads, streets, sidewalks available for [not only] all modes of transportation, but to make them safe."

According to Croxton, the LWV's main focus is on voter registration. "We've done many voter registration drives on the campus [and] working with the American Democracy Project, which is a nonpartisan group as well," she said.

LWV goes into areas of Chautauqua County that may need to be informed about certain issues. LWV also has Spanish-speaking individuals who distribute information to the Spanish-speaking population in Chautauqua County.

Croxton wanted to tell students who live on campus to go out and vote early. Early voting starts on Oct. 26 if you are registered in Chautauqua County.

LWV will be on campus from Oct. 21 to Oct. 25 in the Cranston Marché and in University Commons with voter registration.

For more information regarding LWV of Chautauqua County, you can visit their website: <https://my.lwv.org/new-york/chautauqua-county/about>.



Photo provided by Mary Croxton, president of Chautauqua County LWV.

Fredonia's American Democracy Project entices students to exercise their right to vote

ALEX BUCKNAM
Asst. News Editor

Students may have seen signs and posters all over campus either in academic buildings, dorm halls or in the dining halls advocating for students to register to vote, but they might not have realized who's behind these signs.

The American Democracy Project (ADP) is putting these signs up. ADP is an American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) initiative. Colleges can choose to participate in these different campaigns that AASCU runs. Fredonia has been officially a part of ADP since 2017, but it was active on campus before then.

Since 2017, communication professor Dr. Angela McGowan-Kirsch has been the chairperson of ADP at SUNY Fredonia and has helped try to achieve ADP's mission to get students civically engaged.

Putting up signs is not the only way ADP helps achieve its mission; they also host events and panel discussions year-round and do voter registration drives.

Since McGowan-Kirsch's beginnings with ADP, she has hosted many events such as Constitution Day, which featured a keynote speaker. Other events which McGowan-Kirsch has

headed revolved around a key issue emerging from the elected presidential administration in election years.

McGowan-Kirsch decided to take up this role because she was already heavily involved in ADP at the other university she works at. Additionally, she is the first recognized chair of the Fredonia ADP chapter.

ADP has hosted several events this Fall, including Constitution Day with Bob McCarthy on Sept. 18 and a panel discussion on the Equal Rights Amendment on Sept. 30. Additionally, ADP has organized a series of voter registration drives, with a notable event on Sept. 17 where members set up a booth outside the Cranston Marché from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., offering free frosted cookies thanks to FSA sponsorship. Looking ahead, there's an upcoming panel on misinformation scheduled for Oct. 23.

ADP helps get students to register to vote and helps them get informed, but their efforts don't stop there. They even offer a free bus to take students to the voting booth on Election Day, and have been doing so since the 2016 election. Students interested in this service should meet at the bus stop on the side of the Williams Center that faces Dods Hall. The bus loop will run from 2 – 5 p.m. and will take students to the Wheelock Primary School on Nov. 5 to help students with transportation concerns.

County health department declares Lena's Pizza safe after YikYak scare

DAN QUAGLIANA
Managing Editor

Warning: This article contains strong language.

About three weeks ago, a Facebook post by a Fredonia community member was shared on the social media platform YikYak that detailed a health concern at Lena's Pizza, Subs & Wings, a popular eatery in downtown Fredonia.

The post explained how a friend who was employed at Lena's told them that, "[F]or the last month or more at my job (restaurant) we've been smelling something nasty and we finally realized about 2-3 weeks ago that it was coming from the basement ... My coworker goes to check it out... and this is what she finds today ... That is, in fact, shit. Literal human feces, and not anything rotten food[-]related."

The post claims that "...our manager has known and has been lying to us for nearly a month. He's continued to have the restaurant open the entire time, with shit coming up through the vents."

The Leader reached out to Lena's, and they offered an explanation.



Photo by DAN QUAGLIANA | Managing Editor

Continued onto next page

“It was a miscommunication of what it was,” the manager at Lena’s said. “It wasn’t what they posted about. We were open through the whole process. The health department came down — it was water and grease. They checked it out themselves.”

The original post on YikYak said that the “Maintenance man says it’s just the grease trap and what we’re smelling is rotten food. SO, now, 3 weeks later, Eddy [who the post names as the manager] and the maintenance guy have done nothing to fix it... and my coworkers cannot breathe because it’s unbearable.”

But Lena’s manager explained the situation as, “It was the grease trap ... because it’s 20 years old, it was not working properly. It was backed up, so we had to order a [replacement], and then it solved the whole problem.”

They further explained that they snaked out and cleaned all their sewage lines and cleaned up the building, so the “entire thing was taken care of.”

Students on campus, however, are still wary about returning to eat at Lena’s. One student responded “f*ck no” in response to a post on YikYak asking if students thought it was safe to eat there.

Lena’s said the Chautauqua County Health Department came down and confirmed that the building was only affected by water and grease. They said that the establishment could stay open as it was cleaned.

The establishment had ordered a new grease trap prior to the YikYak post and the concern around it, but, “It just took time to get in because it’s not something you could just get from the store. They had to ship it in from somewhere else,” stated the manager.

The manager of Lena’s further said that there was a decrease in service for “a brief period, I would say about two weeks.” Service volume has since returned to normal.



Photo of the inside of Lena's posted anonymously alongside the original YikYak post.

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

In The Leader Office!
S206 Williams Center



Life & Arts

What will happen to freshmen who are attending Fredonia with a discontinued major?

ALEX BUCKNAM

Asst. News Editor

SUNY Fredonia is offering a teach-out option for students who were enrolled in a major that was discontinued last Spring. This teach-out initiative will continue for four full years.

Majors were officially deactivated on June 5 of this year, according to an email sent out on Mar. 18 by Fredonia's Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. David Starrett. According to Starrett's email, Fredonia will no longer recruit or admit any new students in the 13 programs on the initial major discontinuation list after June 5.

This means that incoming students could still enroll in these programs if they paid their deposit before that date.

Dr. Naomi Baldwin, the interim chief of staff and executive assistant to President Stephen Kolison, said that every freshman coming to Fredonia who applied with a major that was going to get discontinued was made aware of the situation. "We sent out emails, and we can track when they open them," Baldwin stated.

Travis Bernhard is a current freshman with a visual arts and new media (VANM): photography BFA. He got accepted into the VANM program on Feb. 5.

Bernhard was informed about the program cuts initially by Admissions Advisor Michael Banko and was kept informed by photography Professor Stephen Komp via email.

Bernhard was nervous and frustrated when he heard the news that his major was being discontinued. "I was frustrated when I heard [about the cuts]. Fredonia is known for being a liberal arts school so for them to start taking away a bunch of arts, education and language [majors], you aren't really making yourself a liberal arts school," he stated.

Bernhard was also filled with questions, as he was unclear of the complexities of the ongoing situation. "I sent a list of questions over to Stephen Komp asking if I was still going to be able to complete the program," Bernhard said.

Even though Bernhard knew that his program was going to be deactivated, he paid his deposits so that he could have a spot in the program.

There is another first-year student who is attending Fredonia in a discontinued major; Alex McBeth is a ceramics major who was accepted into the program after it was announced that the ceramics major was going to be discontinued.

McBeth first found out about their major through the news when they were looking at colleges to attend, and then became

fully aware when administration offices were emailing them to inform them about their major.

McBeth still chose to attend Fredonia because of the professors here. "I got to meet [Professor] Hide and he was awesome," they said. Hide Sadohara is a ceramics professor at SUNY Fredonia.

Another reason McBeth chose to attend Fredonia was because they were promised by an administrator that they would be able to complete a four-year degree on time and still graduate with a ceramics major. "I [told the administrator that] I would be committed to Fredonia if it wasn't for the major hiccup. [I asked] 'if I attend Fredonia, would I still get my degree in four years?'," and she said she would get back to me on that. A week later she sent me a voicemail, and said yes, I would be able to," McBeth stated.

During their time at Fredonia, McBeth has felt lonely. They are the only freshman ceramics major and are going to be the last one. "To my knowledge, there are only five upperclassmen and me [in the ceramics program], so it's been lonely," they stated.

For other majors at Fredonia, two students are in the Spanish program, according to the Spanish Department coordinator, Juan De Urda Anguita. These names were kept anonymous for privacy reasons.

Kolison and the administration have claimed that each student in these programs would still get the teach-out option and receive a degree in their program.



Rockefeller Arts Center, one of the buildings where classes of the discontinued majors take place.

Photo by DREW PALUCH | Photo Editor

TADA to perform "Legally Blonde: The Musical"

AMARAH GHORI
DEI Chair & Asst. Opinion Editor

This fall, the courtroom is coming to Fredonia.

"Legally Blonde: The Musical" will be performed by SUNY Fredonia's Department of Theatre and Dance at the Robert W. Marvel Theatre, inside Rockefeller Hall. Performances will be held on Oct. 25, 26, 27, 31 and Nov. 1 and 2.

According to the director, Dr. Jessica Hillman-McCord, the production is "...one of the largest shows we've done in a long time. [It has a large] cast of 35 students, a lot of big dance numbers, a big pit band and huge design elements that will look really impressively professionally scaled."

There will even be two real dogs for the roles of Bruiser and Rufus at these performances. Hillman-McCord said that having real animals is not usually something recommended for live shows but, "So far it's been fun, and the dogs have been doing a great job!"

"Legally Blonde," the movie, starring Reese Witherspoon, made its way to theaters in 2001. The film was a true hit during its time because it portrayed themes of empowerment, resilience and challenging societal norms.

The movie lives on as a legend in pop culture and was nominated for over 13 awards.

As the movie is about a young college girl wanting to do more for herself, it resonates deeply in college productions. The message of this musical remains relevant, even in 2024.

"Legally Blonde: The Musical" opened on Broadway in April 2007. According to the Playbill website, the original Broadway show had 595 performances and 30 previews before closing in 2008.

The show had seven Tony nominations: Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Score, Best Actress in a Musical, Best Featured Actor in a Musical, Best Featured Actress in a Musical, Best Choreography and Best Costume Design of a Musical.

Hillman-McCord continued to share her excitement for getting the opportunity to put this amazing show on. "It was the students' suggestion to do 'Legally Blonde,' and once they pitched it, I realized how fitting it was for our program this year," she said.

Hillman-McCord also highlighted the pre-professional training this show offers the students. "The tech process, where we get all the set changes, light cues, costumes and the band working together, is going to be painstaking, but it's such a valuable learning experience," she said. "I think this show showcases not only the talent of our students but also their hard work and dedication."

The show encapsulates themes that will remain prevalent in the thoughts of many audience members.

The main idea is having a deeper connection with yourself and developing self-worth beyond just your appearance. You can do anything you put your mind to and this show makes that idea possible. "The idea of a woman realizing she can be valued for more than her looks is incredibly empowering," Hillman-McCord emphasized, noting the show's relevance in

today's #MeToo era.

Alina Wiley, a senior BFA musical theatre major, is taking on the incredibly complex role of the protagonist, Elle Woods.

Wiley expressed her initial worries about playing a character who seemed so different from who she is. However, Wiley was able to find herself within the character due to Hillman-McCord granting her a lot of creative freedom.

Wiley feels very passionate about playing this character. "Elle is the most resilient woman I've ever had the pleasure of playing. She faces so much ridicule, but she never lets it stop her," she said.

"I've had moments in my life where people told me I wasn't good enough, but Elle's journey has taught me the importance of staying true to yourself and pushing through. I hope the audience walks away understanding that you should never underestimate someone based on their appearance."

Another cast member, senior Talia Mobley is playing Pilar.

Pilar is one of Elle's best friends in the musical and Mobley has had the fun challenge of getting to know this character, along with also being an ensemble member.

Mobley spoke about the idea of closeness within the cast. "There are no small parts in this show," she said. "Even as part of the ensemble, the energy is so high that we all have to bring our A-game. I'm excited for people to see the hard work we've all put into it and to leave the theater feeling energized."

Hillman-McCord spoke more about the current relevance of "Legally Blonde," stating, "This musical touches on issues that are very current, like workplace sexual harassment, especially in the #MeToo era. The idea that women can be more than what society tells them is incredibly empowering. It's a fun, lighthearted show, but it also tackles important themes in a way that's accessible to all audiences."

As Mobley said, "We've all worked so hard, and I think people are going to leave feeling happier and more energized than when they came in."

Get your tickets in person at the campus ticket office in the Williams Center or online at: https://gp1.glitnirticketing.com/gpticket/web/ev_list.php.



Graphic by ROEN CLOUTIER | Staff Artist

The Fredonia Department of Theatre and Dance
presents a Walter Gloor Mainstage Series event:

Legally Blonde

Music and Lyrics by

Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin

Book by Heather Hach

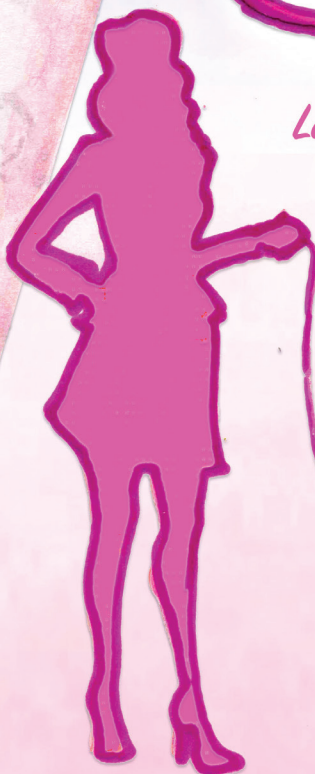
*Based on the novel by Amanda Brown
and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture*

Fri., Oct. 25 at 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Oct. 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Oct. 27 at 2:00 p.m.

Thurs., Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 1 at 7:30 p.m.
Sat., Nov. 2 at 7:30 p.m.

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Tickets

RHA and RAAB host activities for students staying over Fall Break

IZZIE INZINNA

Staff Writer

If you found yourself stranded on campus over Fall Break, SUNY Fredonia had something in store for you.

On Oct. 11, the Residence Hall Association (RHA) and the Resident Assistant Advisory Board (RAAB) hosted Fall Fest.

Students were able to spend part of the day soaking in the warm weather with games and snacks. Games that were set up around the Williams Center patio included a giant set of Jenga, Halloween tic-tac-toe and even apple bobbing.

Fall Fest also featured a self-published author selling his books. Zachary D. Ayers was set up with hardcover and paperback versions of all four of his books.

Whether it's a female serial killer romance or a collection of horror stories, Ayers has what you're looking for. He said that all the covers are his own works as well. If it's not a picture of him, it's his cousin or girlfriend posing for a cover. You can find Ayers' works on Amazon.

Attendees were able to pick up a free bag of kettle corn courtesy of Franklin's Kettle Corn, based in Dewitt, New York. Aside from kettle corn, the Faculty Student Association (FSA)

provided snacks and drinks for the event. There were fall classics such as apple cider and snickerdoodles for students to enjoy at no cost.

If you were looking for fresh apples or pumpkins, Richard Feinen Farms had a table with lots of options. There were a variety of apples, pumpkins and gourds with most prices under \$5.



Photo by IZZIE INZINNA | Staff Writer

This is the second year that Fall Fest has occurred. Heather Williams, Nixon Hall's resident director, said Fall Fest started "to get students more engaged on campus. It would also allow students to participate in something fun since no classes are in session during this time."

Williams mentioned that many students had smiles on their faces as they painted pumpkins.

She said she was happy with how the event went, but that there are hopes for some changes next year. The possibility

of more student vendors seems to be on the table — the amount seems to have dropped significantly since last year. Williams is hoping to boost that number, allowing more students to showcase their art.

As Fall Fest came to a close, students are left with smiles, full bellies, and a sense of community, all while looking forward to the potential for even more engaging activities and student involvement next year.

Peppermint from RuPaul's Drag Race visits SUNY Fredonia

GRACE GALIPEAU

Special to The Leader

On Oct. 17, former drag queen Peppermint, the runner up on season nine of "RuPaul's Drag Race," visited SUNY Fredonia.

She held a masterclass in Rockefeller Arts Center called "Starting From Scratch: Navigating the Entertainment Industry," followed by a free public lecture. She spoke about the drag community and the theatre industry, as well as her experience of being a Broadway star and businesswoman involved in the television and film industries.

Peppermint's visit was primarily focused on the theatre department at Fredonia. She is a transgender woman who came out in 2012 after moving to New York City from Wilmington, Delaware. Five years later, in 2017, she would compete on "RuPaul's Drag Race." In 2018, she made her Broadway debut, playing the lead in the musical "Head Over Heels."

Today, she is an active participant in the M.A.C. Cosmetics AIDS Fund and HIV vaccine trials, and uses her platform

to support the National Center for Transgender Equality. In a 2020 episode of LGBTQ&A titled "Peppermint: The Drag Race Star Has Literally Done it All," Peppermint states, "It is so important to be able to destigmatize the relationships between trans people and their partners."

Fredonia's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Chair Dr. Vicki T. Sapp helped to coordinate this event. "I believe that bringing Peppermint here, and all the advocacy work she has done for the black, queer, transgender community... could couple with what [students] are learning in class," she stated.

According to Dr. Sapp, this event is important because it brings a sense of advocacy to so many relevant issues.

Dr. Sapp also spoke on how influential having diverse speakers at Fredonia has been. These talks serve to foster a sense of community within our society. "[Peppermint's done] it all. She's done music, acting, Broadway, singing... performing. We are really excited because of the legacy here at SUNY Fredonia with the music, dance and theatre departments. We have students in all three of those areas which she has experience in."

SPORTS

A Gen(s)erational Tennis Legacy

AMARAH GHORI

DEI Chair & Asst. Opinion Editor

In the world of college athletics, it's normal for a coach to act as your mentor in life and as someone who will help you invest in your future.

For Fredonia State women's tennis player Bernadette Gens, her coach happens to be her mother, Jane.

Jane Gens is the head coach of the women's tennis team. This mother-daughter relationship has created a unique dynamic between college, home life and competitive tennis.

Their journey is not just about the sport of tennis and winning matches, but it's also about a legacy that has deepened their connection.

This legacy has helped Fredonia's tennis team reach levels of success that they haven't seen in several years.

The team finished the fall season 5-7, which may not exactly jump off the page.

But it looks better than a combined record of 3-25 over the previous three seasons.

To make matters worse, the team went from April 25, 2021 to September 11, 2023 without a single win, a stretch of 21 straight losses.

Jane was hired as the head coach in April of 2022, and she began to build a program that has slowly improved during her tenure.

Part of the improvement is thanks to a player who Jane is very familiar with.



Bernadette Gens gets ready to return a serve.

Photo by BECCA TORNCHELLO | Sports Photographer

Bernadette was the team's top player this past season, playing first singles and first doubles alongside Lucy Prevet.

The Prevet/Gens first doubles team went 5-3 on the season, while Bernadette was 4-4 on first singles.

Bernadette's talents and Jane's coaching have helped to stabilize a program that sorely needed it before they arrived.

Their story encapsulates their strong relationship and how shared passions can bring families together. Tennis has shaped their lives, individually and collectively.

Jane's tennis journey began in the 1970s.

"I grew up during a time when girls' sports were limited, but my brother and I became instant hitting partners," she said. "Tennis has always been a part of my life — it's a lifestyle for me," she said.

Jane played competitively in high school and college, playing during her undergraduate years at the University at Buffalo before transitioning into coaching, where she has been able to share her passion for the sport with her family.

Bernadette followed in her mother's footsteps, as she delved into tennis at a young age. "I started playing tennis when I was three," she said. "I wouldn't say I ever loved playing, but it was something I was passionate about and enjoyed progressing in."

Her early exposure to tennis was organic and wasn't a result of her mother playing, but it stemmed from being around the sport a lot. Jane brought her to the tennis lessons she taught at Delaware Park in Buffalo when Bernadette was only three.

Tennis has always been a part of Bernadette's life, but her choosing to play tennis in college wasn't always the main goal.

In middle school and high school, Bernadette struggled with chronic kneecap dislocations which impacted her ability to play.

"I had accepted that I wouldn't have the opportunity to play," she said, reflecting on the physical setbacks she dealt with. It wasn't until after undergoing knee reconstruction surgery at 19 that she saw a path back to tennis. "Since I got it fixed and enrolled at Fredonia, I developed a second wind to play again," she said.

Jane being the head coach of the women's tennis team here at Fredonia wasn't exactly what led Bernadette to come to Fredonia.

"I chose Fredonia mainly because of the exercise science program," Bernadette explains. "My mom coaching me in college was in some way a coincidence."

The two found themselves working together in tennis after all.

The idea of a mother being the coach of her daughter might seem like it brings its challenges, but Bernadette says it feels natural.

"Since she has always been my coach, it really hasn't changed our dynamic or [our] relationship at all," Bernadette said.

Jane feels the same, saying that their connection on the court

Continued onto next page

Continued from previous page

is nothing out of the ordinary and has always been a part of their lives. "I've never thought about it much because I've included Bernadette in the process of a tennis lifestyle," Jane said.

The mother-daughter relationship, while unique within their team, hasn't affected the team.

"I don't think it really impacts my teammates because my mom treats me the same as everyone else," Bernadette explains. "Besides me calling her 'Mom' during practice and matches, that's really the only difference."

The journey of coaching and playing together has deepened the bond between Jane and Bernadette. "The shared experience is priceless," Jane reflected. "She was the one who wanted to coach, and I wouldn't be doing this if it weren't for her."

Jane also reflects on how incredible it was to see her daughter come back from her knee surgery, ready to take on tennis again.

"She needed knee reconstruction in the fall of 2022 after her first season, came back to coach the next year and then decided to play the following year," Jane said.

Looking toward the rest of the season, Jane hopes that Bernadette's game and knowledge will continue to grow and that she has fun finishing out her college tennis career.

Bernadette has her own goals for the rest of the year. "I want to create long-standing traditions and set the tone for the team moving forward so that when I graduate, they have a strong foundation."

While the fall tennis season has come to an end, the team does have a few matches in the spring before the SUNYAC Championships at the end of April.

The spring season, when it begins, will provide one last chance for the Gens mother-daughter duo to shine for Fredonia tennis.



Graphic by LILIAN HOLLMAN | Special to The Leader

5th Quarter Column: Coop, there it is

MITCHELL HORUCY

Asst. Sports Editor

After a two-game skid, the Bills got back into the win column with a 23-20 win over the Jets.



New Bills receiver Amari Cooper runs routes during practice on Oct. 17, 2024. **Image property of the Buffalo Bills.**

Before I get started, I want to preface this column by saying that it was written before the Bills-Titans game on Sunday.

Due to The Leader's editing and print schedule, I wouldn't be able to write about the game in time.

Now back to our regularly scheduled programming.

The team lost in a 35-10 blowout to the Baltimore Ravens on Sunday Night Football in week four, then followed that up with a 23-20 loss to the Houston Texans to make it two in a row.

However, the team was able to get back on track with an ugly, but statement win.

As far as the Ravens game, it was a good, old-fashioned butt-kicking.

The Bills came out flat and didn't have it early in the game, which you can't do during a night game in The Bank, or M&T Bank Stadium, where the Ravens play their home games.

As far as the Texans game, that is way more important in terms of assessing the team.

Despite the score being close and only losing by a last-second field goal, the game was much worse for the Bills.

Josh Allen had one of his worst games since his rookie season, going 9-30 for 131 yards and one touchdown.

The defense kept them in the game with two second-half turnovers, especially one that gave the Bills offense the ball in



New Bills receiver Amari Cooper steps onto the field before practice on Oct. 17, 2024. **Image property of the Buffalo Bills.**

the Texans' red zone.

However, I think the biggest talking point of this game is the lack of wide receiver production.

As we've heard the phrase "everybody eats," it's starting to look like "nobody eats."

The Bills were missing leading receiver Khalil Shakir for this game, but that's not an excuse for the offense to look like this.

With Shakir going down, this seemed like the prime opportunity to start showcasing the new edition, Curtis Samuel.

That wasn't the case.

Samuel finished the day with one carry for -1 yards and was only targeted once.

After signing him to a three-year deal worth \$24 million in the offseason, he has had a disappointing start to the season.

Dawson Knox is also under a \$52 million contract, making about \$13 million a year.

He currently has three catches for 30 yards.

While Mack Hollins is only making roughly \$2.5 million this year, he is on the field way too much for a team that wants to push the ball downfield.

In the Texans game, Hollins was tied for most on the team with six targets.

He's also second in terms of pass catchers in snap percentage at about 63%.

When the team traveled to East Rutherford this past Monday to take on the Jets, they looked much better, but still not great.

Josh Allen looked very good, as he finished with 215 yards and three total touchdowns.

The defense made plays when needed, but none more important than an almost game-sealing interception by Taron Johnson.

Ray Davis Jr. also looked tremendous filling in for James Cook. He finished with 152 total yards, the most in a game by a rookie this season.

On top of the game, the Bills made a move on Tuesday after the win, picking up five-time Pro Bowl receiver Amari Cooper via trade.

I'm a huge fan of this move.

Cooper is 30, but he can still be a huge contributor to this team.

He's only a year removed from having over 1,200 yards and five touchdowns despite playing with five different starting

quarterbacks.

He hasn't had a great start to his 2024 campaign, but I believe that's more a result of the horrendous, and I mean horrendous, quarterback play of Deshaun Watson.

Not to get sidetracked, but of the 566 QBs to throw a pass since the 2007 season, Watson currently ranks 558th in QBR, 565th in yards per dropback and dead last in first down rate.

Back to Cooper, he's a great route runner and is among the best in the league when it comes to beating man coverage, something we've seen the Bills struggle with this season.

Another aspect of Cooper's game that can really help "revive" the team's passing attack is his ability to stretch the field.

Cooper finished third in the league last season in yards per reception, a stat that only two Bills are top 50 in.

While Cooper may not be the alpha receiver he was in years past, he can contribute nonetheless to a Bills offense still searching for their true passing identity.

As far as a prediction for the Bills-Titans game, which will have already taken place by the time you read this, I think the Bills will win easily.

The Titans are one of the worst teams in the NFL as they start to see what the post-Mike Vrabel and Derrick Henry era looks like.

Will Levis has turned the ball over in every game so far this season, even having multiple turnovers in three of those six games.

I don't imagine this trend changing against a Bills defense that currently ranks ninth in the league in takeaways.

I think the offense cruises as well and puts up 30+ points fairly easily.

Despite only being on the team for less than a week, I think Cooper and Allen find a connection early, which leads to Cooper finishing the game with 50+ receiving yards.

No game in the NFL is easy, but if the Bills come prepared and play how they should, I think they go into Seattle at 5-2.

PREDICTION: Bills 33-Titans 10



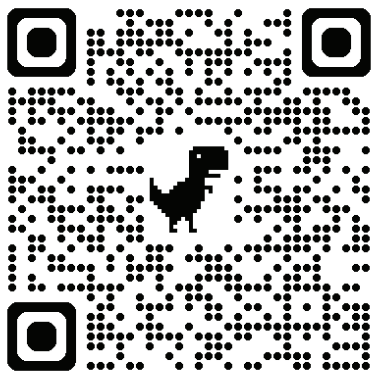
Head Coach Sean McDermott. **Image property of the Buffalo Bills.**

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Plight of the small-town fan: The heartbreaking reality of losing your team

MATT VOLZ
Sports Editor

It's no secret that sports fans form significant emotional attachments to their favorite team.

Being a fan can be a huge part of someone's identity, especially if it's their hometown team.

But what happens if their team leaves their hometown?

Indeed, when a team moves to a new city, they're not just moving on to the "greener pastures" of a different place.

They're also leaving behind their previous home and often a trail of broken hearts, too.

So, it begs the question: Why would a team relocate?

Sometimes, it all comes back to some sort of issue with the home city not wanting to foot the bill for a new stadium or arena.

This was the case for the Arizona Coyotes, who moved to Utah this past offseason in the NHL's most recent relocation.

The Coyotes had been dealing with housing issues for several years. When the franchise moved to the desert from Winnipeg in 1996, they originally played their home games in Phoenix, sharing an arena with the NBA's Phoenix Suns.

In 2003, the team moved to the nearby city of Glendale, which also houses the Arizona Cardinals of the NFL.

However, after a dispute with the city that spanned several years, the city terminated the team's lease on the arena following the 2021-22 season and the Coyotes were literally evicted from their own arena.

They then played two full seasons at Mullett Arena, a 5,000-seat college hockey arena at Arizona State University in Tempe.

Despite owner Alex Meruelo's ambition to secure a \$68 million plot of land in Phoenix for a new arena, the NHL didn't like that uncertainty.

The team was sold to the Utah-based Smith Entertainment Group, a group owned by billionaire couple Ryan and Ashley Smith who also own the NBA's Utah Jazz.

The last game at Mullett Arena more closely resembled a funeral than a hockey game.

Despite a happy outcome for the Coyotes fans, a 5-2 win over the eventual Western Conference Champion Edmonton Oilers, there were more tears than cheers in the stands.

Fans watched with heartache as the team they loved skated off their home ice for the final time, never to return.

It was a similar scene at the Oakland Coliseum on Sept. 26, as a different team in a different sport experienced the same fate as the Coyotes.

The Oakland Athletics, often referred to as the A's, played their final home game in the Bay Area after 66 years and a lifetime of memories.

The A's had also been struggling with stadium issues, as the Oakland Coliseum has fallen into a decrepit state of disrepair over the last several years. Not only that but the A's had been at

or near the bottom of the league in payroll for decades.

This led to many fans referring to owner John Fisher as a "penny pincher" and a "cheapskate," among other things.

After it was official that the team would be starting the move to Las Vegas, an international entertainment hub that has quickly evolved into a major sports market, Fisher penned a letter to the Oakland faithful with a simple message:

"We tried."

The letter was seen by many fans and former players as a slap in the face to the entire fanbase. Many felt that Fisher had been intentionally keeping payroll low as a means to manufacture fan discontent and therefore have an excuse to move the team.

It almost seemed like the plot of "Major League," a 1989 comedy film in which the fictitious owner of the Cleveland Indians tanks the roster in an effort to drive down fan support and force a move to Miami.

The idea of an owner intentionally sabotaging the city that houses their team may seem far-fetched, but one spurned city recently took their former team owner to court and won big.

In 2016, the St. Louis Rams moved to Los Angeles, a city they had previously called home before moving to the Gateway City in 1995.

In turn, the city of St. Louis sued Stan Kroenke, the owner of the Rams, and the NFL, alleging that the league "violated its own relocation guidelines and enriched itself at the expense of the community it left behind."

The city won big, as the courts awarded St. Louis \$790 million of Kroenke's and the NFL's money.

While the region got a decent payday, no amount of money could change the fact that the team was gone and fans were left heartbroken.

The fear of your team uprooting and leaving for the brighter lights of a bigger city is something Buffalo fans are all too familiar with.

In 2002, Buffalo Sabres owner John Rigas was indicted on fraud charges related to embezzling money from Adelphia, the cable company he owned.

The NHL stripped Rigas of his ownership of the team, and with uncertainty around who might buy the franchise, fears of relocation ran through Buffalo.

However, the Sabres were saved at the eleventh hour. Rochester-based businessman B. Thomas Golisano bought the team and ensured that they wouldn't be going anywhere.

Golisano eventually sold the team to Terry Pegula in 2011, further ensuring the team's long-term future in Buffalo.

The Bills also experienced relocation threats in the recent past, which is something that much of the Bills Mafia won't soon forget.

Following the death of team founder Ralph Wilson in 2014, multiple bidders lined up to purchase the team.

One of them was Pegula, whose bid seemed to be the most likely to be accepted due to his existing ties to the city.

The other two were both unlikely characters: rock star Jon Bon Jovi and then-future U.S. President Donald Trump.

In fact, Bon Jovi soon became public enemy number one in Western New York, as it was heavily rumored that he had plans to move the team to Toronto.

A 2017 report said that Trump may have actually been the driving force behind the anti-Bon Jovi movement in Buffalo.

Whether that's true or not, it didn't end up mattering to the Bills, as Pegula bought the team and ensured that they'd stay here.

Today, there's no imminent possibility of either the Bills or Sabres leaving Buffalo with the Pegula family at the helm.

But with any small market, the fear always exists in the back of fans' minds.

I can remember back to 2014 when my 10-year-old self was terrified I'd lose my beloved Bills. It's a feeling I wouldn't wish on any young fan, a feeling far worse than any regular season or playoff loss could ever cause.

Whenever I hear that a team is going to relocate, I think back to that time.

I think about all the young fans who now have to grow up without something they've grown so attached to. My heart breaks for them, and it breaks for all the fans who have been left behind for the brighter lights of a new city.



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An English minor's top ten books

OWEN ROSE

Special to The Leader

As a future librarian as well as an ethnic and gender studies major with an English minor, I spend more time reading than not. That being said, here is a carefully crafted list of 10 books I believe everyone should read at least once!

“Scythe” by Neal Shusterman

Anyone who's ever met me knows “Scythe” by Neal Shusterman is my favorite book of all time. Neal Shusterman is a New York Times bestselling author who frequently writes young adult sci-fi/speculative fiction. “Scythe” itself was published in 2016 and let me say, when I found this book at the ripe age of 11, I devoured it. Since then, I've read it four times.

The book follows a young Citra Terranova and Rowan Damisch who navigate a futuristic, seemingly utopian world in which the methods of curbing overpopulation is a profession called Scythes.



Graphic by ADELIZ GOTTINGER | Staff Artist

“The Bacchae” by Euripides

A classic. Literally. “The Bacchae” follows the deity Dionysus and the King of Thebes, Pentheus, and how their conflicting ideals cause a tragedy. Euripides doesn't personally have any New York Times bestseller awards, but being one of the oldest playwrights is a title enough!

This play was written roughly in 407 B.C.E. so it's safe to say the work has had time to age like fine wine. When picking up this play for yourself, I recommend you imagine yourself as an Ancient Greek citizen, watching the premiere at a Dionysiac festival.

“Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson

Not as well known as the two above, Rachel Carson dominated environmentalism in the 1960s. Her book “Silent Spring,” published in 1962, is about the indiscriminate use of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT), an insecticide, as a way of combating the spread of illnesses such as malaria and typhus through mosquitos.

Chapter by chapter, the book describes the environmental effects of different aspects of our world: “The Realms of the Soil,” “Surface Waters and Underground Seas” and so on and so forth. Reading this book not only informed me about DDT but also changed my perspective on how I walk the Earth. If that isn't reason enough, I don't know what is.

“1984” by George Orwell

Ah yes, the book most of us had to read in high school. Listen, I get it, it's old and boring and Winston is weird. But it is still so applicable to what we see today. The book was published in 1949, and it was the final novel Orwell completed.

George Orwell has not only influenced me as a writer but also as a person navigating the world we live in. If you haven't ever given this book a read, you're missing out on so many pop culture references, as well as an extremely important classic!

“Ishmael” by Daniel Quinn

Another environmental book, I can't help myself. Except in this one, the gorilla talks — with his mouth, or telepathically. Pick your poison. If you ever wanted a story in which a man and a gorilla discuss key environmental philosophies, I have the book for you.

Before reading this book, I was told it would completely change the way I view the world and I can confirm — it did. As corny as it sounds. If you can get past the talking gorilla, then picking up this book is a must.

“Klara and the Sun” by Kazuo Ishiguro

Artificial intelligence (AI) was scary until I was placed in the point of view of it. Kazuo Ishiguro is known for his riveting works of speculative fiction, and while this isn't his most well-

known book, it certainly lives up to his legacy.

“Klara and the Sun” gave me a new perspective on this terrifying AI feud that’s been going on by showing me differing perspectives of love, loneliness and faith. The book was published in 2021 and has made an impact on the diverse world of speculative fiction.

“Genderqueer” by Maia Kobabe

This book is a gorgeously written and illustrated graphic novel and autobiography detailing how it feels to grow up as a genderqueer person. Maia Kobabe, in less than 300 pages, accurately describes eir nonbinary experience and all of its nuanced facets.

The book, published in 2019, is the #1 Most Challenged Book of 2023, a statistic by the American Library Association (ALA), with 106 challenges. Kobabe received the honor of the Stonewall Honor Book as well as an Alex Award from the ALA itself.

“Ajax” by Sophocles

“Ajax” by Sophocles, estimated to be written around 440 B.C.E., details the life of the warrior Ajax, and his tragic fall due to pride, jealousy and the goddess Athena. Just like “The Bacchae,” this play has no fancy accolades like some of the more recent books, but it has withstood the test of time, as well

as the burning of the Library of Alexandria. This play defined my senior year — maybe it’ll define yours.

“UnWholly” by Neal Shusterman

This is technically the second book in “The Unwind Dystology,” but nonetheless deserving of its place on this list. The book was revealed in 2012 and was clearly a hit, as three more books came after it. I won’t spoil too much, but if you’re looking for a dystopian series about the fight on abortion with love triangles, cults and Frankensteins, look no further!

I know a Shusterman work is already on this list, but he is truly an outstanding author. With a double degree in theatre and psychology, he has a cultivated knack for writing complex stories about people! Give it a try!

“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” by William Shakespeare

Hear me out. I know sometimes the language can be tricky but magic, fairies and a love square between two men and women! Shakespeare walked so contemporary romantasy could run. First performed between the years 1594 and 1596 in what’s assumed to be the London Theater, Shakespeare created a piece that would have future English teachers scrambling to understand... Was the blue curtain purposeful? Nonetheless, it is still a beautiful play that I’ve both read, seen and performed!

Register for Advising!



For any questions, email

advising@fredonia.edu

The impact of the war in Gaza on the 2024 election

ABBIE MILLER
Editor-in-Chief

The American people are currently in the midst of what many call one of the most influential elections in the nation's history.

Between threats of dictatorship, an economy that is still recalibrating from the impacts of COVID-19 and racial tensions that are escalating at record rates, there is no doubt that this upcoming election will be one for the history books.

Amidst all of these policy concerns, war rages in the Middle East as the first anniversary passes since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

As indicated by continuous nationwide university protests in support of Palestinians, many American college students will at least partially base their vote on how the presidential candidates view this war in the Middle East.

While it remains to be seen whether Kamala Harris or Donald Trump will secure the presidential victory in this upcoming election, one thing is for certain: the fate of America's relationship with foreign countries and the lives of millions of Palestinians hangs in the balance.

To understand the full extent of the genocide that continues to plague Gaza, one must first conceptualize all that is going on today using the complex history between Palestine and Israel in the past.

While the Israel/Palestine region has a long history dating back to before the birth of Christ, tensions between the Jewish and Arab populations in the area started to become especially heightened in the somewhat recent past.

The Partition Plan of 1947 divided what was known as the British Mandate of Palestine into Israeli and Palestinian territories. This preceded the first Arab-Israeli War, which resulted in victory for the Israelis and the division of the land into the State of Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Following another Israeli victory in the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel gained territorial control over land that was previously owned by the Palestinians. This included the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

The various intifadas that followed culminated in repeated band-aid solutions, the deaths of countless Israelis and Palestinians and tensions that never seemed to fully dissipate.

In 1993, the Palestinian government gained control over Gaza and the West Bank. Hamas, elected in 2006 to serve as the executives of the Palestinian government, claims authority of Gaza, while the West Bank is still controlled by other members of Palestinian higher authority.

Present-day war within Gaza was precipitated in the long-term by rising tensions between the Jewish and Arab populations within the State of Israel and its neighboring Palestinian territories, and in the short-term by the Oct. 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attack that resulted in over a thousand Israeli casualties and the taking of hundreds of hostages.

This attack from Hamas was precipitated in part to inflict terror upon Israelis and in part as a reaction to Israel Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's electoral victory in December of 2022. Among Netanyahu's campaign goals was the prioritization of colonizing Palestinian land by building Israeli settlements in the Palestine-owned West Bank.

Since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, strike, Israel has responded by repeatedly bombing the Gaza Strip with the stated purpose of "dethroning and ending Hamas." Palestinian authorities have used their military to fight back, but Israel has sustained relatively minimal damage and casualties due to its more powerful military.

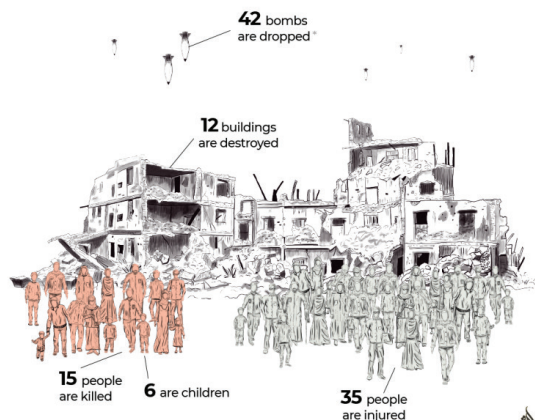
Israel's military, made even stronger with the addition of United States aid, has been responsible for the deaths of at least 41,615 Palestinians, including nearly 16,500 children, since the Oct. 7, 2023, attack. In addition, more than 96,359 Palestinians have sustained injuries as a result of the bombings and starvation that has plagued the region of Gaza.

In comparison, the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas has resulted in the death of 1,139 Israelis and the injury of approximately 8,730 Israelis. These statistics include the Israeli deaths and injuries that resulted from Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

The power imbalance that exists between the militaries of the State of Israel and the Palestinian authorities is something that bears substantial significance. If the military equipment of each side was equal, this conflict could be termed a "war." But the Israeli military, coupled with billions of dollars of American-funded equipment, can inflict damages that result in Palestinian deaths at a rate that is several times larger than that of the Palestinian military.

Thus, this "war" is, in some ways, not even a war at all. It is a genocide. In order to "weed Hamas out of the civilian population they are hiding amongst," the Israeli government has authorized the mass slaughter of Palestinian civilians who had nothing to do with the Oct. 7, 2023, attack in particular or Hamas in general.

What happens in Gaza every hour?



Based on first six days of the war - Israeli army
Source: OCHA | November 1, 2023

@AJLabs ALJAZEERA

Graphic provided by www.aljazeera.com

Among the targets of the brutality are children who have not yet turned one year old, entire bloodlines that have been discontinued because every family member is no longer alive, and grieving elderly community members who have no means of escape and are forced to watch as everyone around them either starves to death or is the victim of bombings.

With the U.S. federal government continuing to spend billions of dollars to maintain its status as Israel's top weapons supplier, this genocide has begun to seep more directly into American politics.

Coupled with the fact that the United States is often seen as a country that prides itself on stepping in during morally wrong foreign conflicts, many prospective voters of the 2024 election expect to receive answers about the exact position of the presidential candidates on the genocide.

The 2024 presidential debate between Kamala Harris, for the Democratic Party, and Donald Trump, for the Republican Party, showcased the divide in political stances.

When asked about the Israel-Hamas conflict, Harris responded by stating, "Israel has a right to defend itself. We would. And how it does so matters." Harris, as the current vice president of the United States, continued to state that she has been working in conjunction with President Joe Biden to sign a ceasefire deal with Prime Minister Netanyahu that involves an end to the war in Gaza and a return of the hostages taken by Hamas during the Oct. 7, 2023, attack.

Harris further mentions a two-state solution, which is the idea that Palestine and Israel can exist as separate, neighboring states that are governed by only members from their respective citizenry. While this response seemingly breaks the black-and-white mold that is characteristic of the polarized American political landscape, Harris seems to have implied her true stance on the topic by assuring voters that she will "always give Israel the ability to defend itself."

She later commented on how she has supported Israel and the Israeli people throughout the entirety of her career and life. While Harris has yet to make a definitive statement showing support for one country over the other, I believe that her comments towards Israel may imply that she is willing to cut the Israeli government a break for the genocide that they are

inflicting.

On the other hand, Trump made his opinion on the war quite apparent during the 2024 debate with President Biden. Calling Biden a "bad Palestinian," Trump claimed that Biden should "let [Israel] go and finish the job." It is implied that by the phrase "finish the job," Trump means that Biden should allow Israel to kill the remainder of the Palestinian people and therefore complete the genocide in Palestine by means of ethnic cleansing.

Trump also stated "I will protect Israel" in a Time Magazine article published this past April. It seems apparent that, while

less covert about it than Harris, Trump supports Israel and Prime Minister Netanyahu in his continuation of the war on Gaza, which continues to kill thousands of Palestinian civilians every month.

While Harris' comments regarding her support for Israel are distressing, to say the least, I still believe her to be the better presidential candidate if we ever wish to see any sort of American-brokered peace within the State of Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Comparatively, Trump's remarks calling for the complete decimation of the entire Palestinian population give no hope to anyone who disagrees with the ongoing genocide occurring at the hands of the Israeli government. If Trump were to be elected once more, the United States would likely continue its historical pattern of neglecting foreign populations facing violence, and exacerbating the genocide of millions.

bating the genocide of millions.

SOURCES:

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Graphic provided by www.aljazeera.com

Lovecolumn: The Transgender Experience

THE QUARTERBACK
Executive Producer of Lovecall

THE MUSICIAN
Lovecall Producer

RADIO REBEL
Lovecall Producer

Hello!

We are The Quarterback, The Musician and Radio Rebel: producers and hosts of the radio show Lovecall, right here at Fredonia. Lovecall 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 Lovecall 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 WDWL 89.5 on www.fredoniaradio.com.

This column runs in conjunction with Lovecall and can be found in print and online at 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, you and your partner are going to be having a themed movie night!

This has all the same hallmarks of a regular movie night: snuggling up under a blanket with some popcorn or maybe some other snacks, whatever you like best.

But, this movie marathon has a little twist to it.

All of the movies will follow some sort of theme that you and your partner get to decide on.

The theme can be anything, such as movies that feature a

certain actor or movies focused on a certain topic.

If you wanted to follow our main topic, you could also have a marathon of movies centered around the transgender experience!

An article published by Cosmopolitan in May recommends 12 different movies that highlight the highs and lows transgender people go through, so maybe a couple of these could make the list!

Also, the beauty of this date idea is that it doesn’t have to be done in a romantic setting.

You could always have a themed movie night with a group of friends; maybe each person picks a movie and that’s how the marathon schedule is decided!

If you want, you could even do this by yourself and pick out the movies you want to watch!

The middle of the semester can be very emotionally taxing, so what better way to unwind than throwing on a few of your favorite comfort movies?

Regardless of who you enjoy them with or what you choose to watch, the idea of this is for you to sit back, relax and enjoy some quality time provided by the silver screen!

The Transgender Experience

This week’s episode was focused on transgender experiences. Including the hosts and guests, there were two cisgender men, one cisgender woman, one gender-fluid person, one transgender woman and three transgender men on the episode.

We also discussed some key terms and things to know as they relate to transgender lives.

First, it’s important to remember the differences between sex and gender.

Sex has to do with a person’s biological characteristics, while gender is a social construct. Gender is often defined as the way society deems a person should act and express themselves based on their identity.

Gender is different from gender identity, too. While gender comes from society, gender identity comes from the individual person, as this refers to how people choose to express their own gender.

It’s also important to know that gender is a spectrum. No two people express their gender in exactly the same way.

Gender dysphoria and euphoria can also be part of trans people’s experiences, though not every trans person experiences these things.

Gender dysphoria is a disorder defined as “psychological distress resulting from an incongruence between expressed gender and gender assigned at birth.” This can show itself when a person feels they want to change their appearance to fit the norm of a different gender, be addressed as or perceived as a different gender, or feel sad or uncomfortable with themselves or have low self-esteem.

Meanwhile, gender euphoria is just the opposite. This is the term for the feeling of relief or joy that comes from a person’s gendered experience aligning with their gender identity.

Gender euphoria could feel like a confidence boost, having peace or comfort with oneself.

A clarification to know is that trans people do not ‘choose’ what gender they are, the same way cisgender people do not ‘choose’ to be cisgender — they just are. The only difference is that transgender people have to figure that out about themselves, whereas cisgender people already know and usually don’t question it.

We talked on the show about some experiences with going on hormones, how it can make someone feel at peace with themselves, helps with ‘passing’ (being perceived as the gender you want to be associated with), lessens dysphoria and increases euphoria.

Some of our guests celebrate their first day of hormones every year like a birthday, congratulating themselves on their accomplishments of self-discovery and self-love.

Another action to feel less dysphoric that was mentioned was binding, which is flattening one’s chest with binders or trans tape, and how it can be unsafe to wear it excessively. Be safe about wearing a binder and do research on how to safely bind based on your binder and body type.

Another perspective of the transgender experience is people who watch their loved ones go through the journey of self-discovery. Watching a loved one discover who they truly are and seeing how they grow into themselves is a very beautiful thing, and it’s a perspective that is sometimes not talked about but valid nonetheless.

Lovecall Calling...

Every week on Lovecall 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.

We got a Lovecaller this week who asked, “When a conversation is brought up about being transgender, how can someone who is not transgender look in and approach that even if it might be an uncomfortable conversation?”

Well, it depends on the person and on the situation. Make sure you are comfortable enough with the person to have that conversation, and make sure the other person is comfortable talking about it.

It’s also important to remember that transgender people are not a search engine. If the question could be answered by a quick Google search, then maybe think twice about asking a trans person the question, but if a trans person opens the floor for questions, ask away — as long as you stay respectful. Many openly trans people are willing to share their own experiences, but none can speak for the entire trans community.

A lot of times people are unaware of trans people or trans experiences because of their upbringing (this can include trans people too!), and many trans people are understanding of this, so asking questions is better than assuming something misleading or transphobic. All in all, be respectful, be kind, ask Google for the definitions and ask trans people about their experiences when the conversation is appropriate. Remember that trans people are people and are trying to get by like everyone else.

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

Interested in being a guest on Lovecall? Email wvdylonair@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 Lovecall.



Ten horror movie recommendations

NOAH GIBB

Special to The Leader

Halloween is just around the corner. So here are 10 horror movie recommendations for your viewing pleasure as you welcome the falling of the leaves and the socialized receipt of candy from strangers!

The Thing (1982)

“The Thing” is a fantastic horror movie full of practical effects and shocking gore. If you are someone who appreciates makeup and practical effects, then this one’s for you. The film follows a group of researchers in Antarctica as they realize that an alien has disguised themselves as one of them. They must stop the alien before it reaches the general population.

An American Werewolf in London (1981)

“An American Werewolf in London” is, in my opinion, the greatest werewolf movie ever made. The practical effects for corpses and the transformation scene were revolutionary at the time and they still hold up today. The film follows David and Jack as they are on a college trip. They travel through the British countryside, where they are attacked by a werewolf. Jack is killed and walks the Earth in limbo to warn David that he will become a werewolf during the next full moon.

Night of The Living Dead (1968)

This is a classic black-and-white horror film that follows a group of characters who are held up inside of a house while zombies surround them. It is the beginning of the zombie genre that so many have come to enjoy today. If you are looking for a cult classic, this film is for you.

VHS94 (2021)

This is a found footage film that includes multiple short films within, but its best is Raatma. When a news reporter hears rumors of a ratman living in the sewers, she and her cameraman decide to investigate for themselves as they enter the sewers to make a shocking discovery.

The Poughkeepsie Tapes (2007)

This film is a mockumentary about a series of tapes left behind by a serial killer in Poughkeepsie, New York. The tapes left behind document the murders and are filmed by none other than the killer himself. While some moments of the film are comedic in how it mocks murder documentaries, a lot of the film shows shocking tapes of the killer torturing and disposing of the bodies of his victims.

Talk to Me (2022)

When a group of friends receives an embalmed hand that allegedly allows them to speak to the dead, Mia takes it too far when she tries to contact her dead mother and lets something out that should’ve never seen the light of day.

Evil Dead 1 (1981) & 2 (1987)

“Evil Dead” has been a franchise for many years, resulting in a TV show, spinoffs and remakes. The first two films follow a

small group of friends who go camping in a cabin in the woods. Upon discovering a group of tapes, they release evil into the world that attacks them and prays on them, attempting to turn them into Deadites.

Nefarious (2023)

When his successor takes his own life, psychologist James Martin must go to a prison to determine if a prisoner must complete his place on death row and be executed. However, the prisoner says that he is possessed by a demon. James must determine whether or not he is lying. This film has a shocking twist ending and even has the viewer guessing whether or not the prisoner is lying.

Dark Skies (2013)

This film follows an ordinary family in the suburbs that is being frequently visited by aliens called the Greys. It is a different take on an alien film, as it centers around an alternate idea of aliens — not the idea that they will invade and steal our natural resources but that they’ve been here and they’ve been experimenting on us without us knowing.

The Witch (2015)

This film follows a family as they are kicked out of their village for having different religious views. Now on their own, something is watching them — something wicked — and they must understand what. This is a period piece, meaning that it is very accurate to the time it is set in. The language can be hard to grasp but it is enjoyable to watch.

Honorable Mentions:

Shaun of The Dead
The Blob
The Shining
The Lighthouse
LONGLEGS

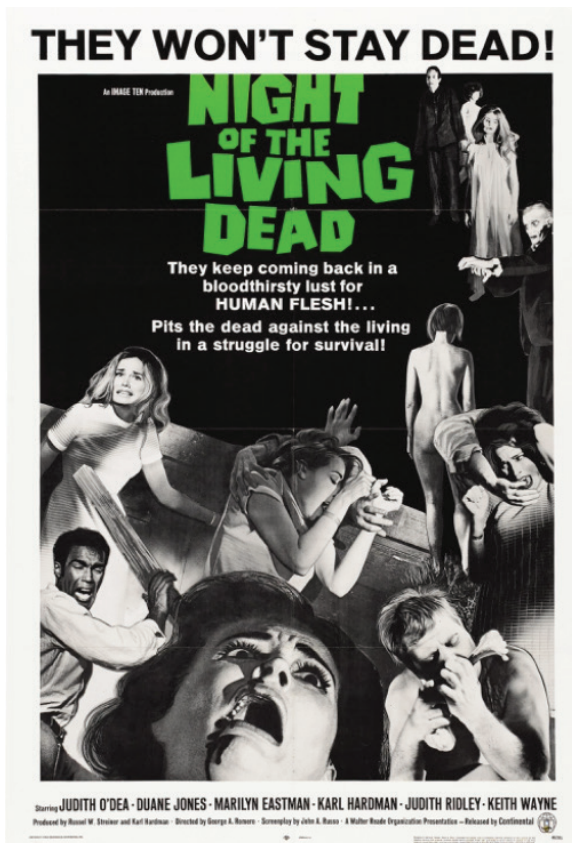
So there you have it, enough horror movies to last you until Halloween, ranging from comedy horror, to jumpscare horror to body horror.



Movie poster of "Dark Skies" | Photo via IMDB



Movie poster of "Talk To Me" | Photo via IMDB



Movie poster of "Night Of The Living Dead" | Photo via IMDB



Movie poster of "The Poughkeepsie Tapes" | Photo via Amazon

THE SCALLION



Satire and parody for Fredonia

Ranking Politicians' Merch

GEORGIA MORTILLARO

Special to The Leader

As we all very well know, fashion is one of the most important aspects of the political landscape.

Just mere weeks from the Election Day itself, I'll be rating the merchandise of the 2024 political candidates.



Photo provided by merch.mahanow.org.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

Designs: When you look at Kennedy's website, the first thing that comes up is the multitude of hats displaying "Make America Great Again." Oh, wait, sorry. I mean, "Make America Healthy Again." When you look deeper on the website you don't really see an original idea. "Make Love Not War" and "Make America Healthy Again" are plastered in green text on white shirts. There are also a few "Kennedy Jr. 2024" shirts. (Does he realize he dropped out of the running?)

There are some exceptions like a few tie-dye shirts and shirts with American Sign Language (ASL) on them. My personal favorite would be the tie-dye "Make America Healthy Again."

Qualities: All the shirts are mostly cotton and run from sizes small to 4XL. The website showcases a multitude of tops like crop tops, tank tops, hoodies, baseball tees and more. There are a few pairs of bottoms like sweatpants, athletic shorts and leggings.

Prices: The most popular products on the website are shirts, hoodies and hats. A basic shirt ranges from \$30-\$35. Hats go from \$28-\$30. Classic hoodies go from \$60-\$77.

Rating: 2 stars out of 5. Nothing really interesting. Points deducted because he's not even running anymore. Why does he still have "Kennedy Jr. 2024" stuff?

#Droppeditlikeitshot.



Photo provided by store.kamalaharris.com.

Kamala Harris

Designs: The first thing you notice when you look at the apparel section is the multitude of designs: floral, camo, shirts with young photos of her, signatures and more. There's a shirt for every type of person, even the people who want to quietly rep her brand without ruffling feathers at the family reunion. The shirts do seem to represent more of her ideology than the fact that she's running — out of the 32 items of apparel, only 11 items mention her and Walz running. The 11 "Harris &

Walz” items include hoodies, shirts and baby onesies. A percentage of money from the “Harris & Walz” shirts is donated to the Harris victory fund.

Qualities: There is a notably smaller section of clothing with only 32 pieces, all of them 100% cotton and ranging from small to 3XL. The clothing line carries shirts, hoodies, tank tops, onesies and a pair of socks. She features different designers’ and artists’ works on her clothing.

Prices: The prices of a basic shirt range from \$30-\$55. Hats go from \$40-\$47 and classic hoodies go from \$75-\$85.

My personal favorite item would be the “Harris pride tee” featuring Kamala Harris waving a pride flag.

Rating: 4 stars out of 5. The line features interesting and unique designs and a smaller selection but pretty designs overall. It is not too loud and not quiet (similar to her politics). However, it has the highest prices out of all three.



Photo provided by secure.winred.com/trump-national-committee-jfc/storefront.

Donald Trump

Designs: Ah, it's time. When you stumble upon this website the first thing that hits you is the barrage of colored hats. The red “Make America Great Again” tends to be the first one. When you look more, you see a few more hats and a few shirts — the one that caught my eye the most was the Donald Trump Eras Tour shirt. Copying the design of a popular musical artist who has openly denounced you, hey, it's a choice. I will say, he has the most diverse section, whether you're Black, white, Catholic, Jewish or Latino, there is a specific special shirt waiting for you. I do appreciate how the website has separated all the specific types of shirts. There's a section for the “fight fight fight” apparel, then for the “official Trump-Vance 2024” and the “never surrender.” Most of the apparel is the classic “Make America Great Again.”

Qualities: This is the largest section out of the three but has the smallest range of shirts, only having golf shirts, t-shirts, hoodies and long-sleeve shirts. They also have the smallest size selection, only carrying small-2XL. All 100% cotton shirts.

Prices: The price of a basic shirt ranges from \$26-\$36, hats are all \$40 and classic hoodies are \$35.

My personal favorite would have to be the bright pink “Women for Trump.” We may have our rights taken away but we get a shirt!

Rating: 2 stars out of 5. There is barely any variety in the type of apparel and the smallest size selection of all three. But there’s a shirt for most types of people which is nice? But who cares what I say. As Trump says, “You know, it really doesn’t matter what the media writes as long as you’ve got a young and beautiful piece of *ss.”

HOROS

ABBIE MILLER

Editor-in-Chief

As the leaves change and my body begins to resist doing anything that resembles schoolwork, I know one thing: it is time. Dust off those black glittery stilettos that you only wear once a year. Dig out the costume you've been reusing since freshman year from the back of your closet. Search for the cheap expired makeup that causes facial rashes. It's Halloween time.

If you're like me, that means you've waited until the very last minute to plan out what Halloween costume you're going to wear. Well, you're in luck because I'm here to tell you exactly what your sign should dress up as for Halloween.



Aries

Hercules

You know I had to include some couples costumes in my suggestions. And what can I say? You're the Hercules to my Meg. Get yourself a gold chest-plate and matching skirt with a chunky brown belt and you're all set. Besides, you're already my hero.



Taurus

Superbad

Whether you're Seth, Evan, or McLovin' himself, this look won't take much effort. Spill some Kool-Aid on your pants or get a red shirt to recreate the fake driver's license and you'll find yourself gravitating to the nearest empty laundry detergent container.



Gemini

Zack & Cody

Tap into your inner childhood by donning cargo pants and those cringey nerd shirts. Extra points if you get red sweatshirts and reenact the Danimals sweepstakes commercial. Extra points also apply if you say every so often "Going up! Going down!" to mimic their Disney "Tipton Trouble" game.



Cancer

Sabrina Carpenter

There are few popstars that I could name that are currently getting as much attention as Sabrina Carpenter, except for Chappell Roan. Luckily, you have the option of teaming up with the Virgos to make interpretations of both of these queens a reality. Get a super-short sparkly dress and platform high heels. Hair that looks as close to perfection as possible and lipstick marks in various places will take this look to the next level.



Leo

The cast of Until Dawn - Remastered

If you're anything like me, you've seen the hype surrounding the rerelease of this classic horror video game. With the increased success of YouTuber Berleezy's playthrough of the game, you can be reminded of just how classic the game really is. There's a plethora of characters to choose from, but I recommend going as the icon herself — Sam. Grab gray leggings, a headlamp and some running sneakers to become one of the most universally-loved characters in video game history.

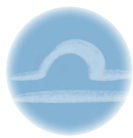


Virgo

Chappell Roan

One of the most vital parts of resembling Chappell Roan is the makeup, so if you're not well-versed enough to be a YouTube beauty guru, this costume may not be for you. For all the could-be Michelle Phans, this is your time. Take inspiration from drag queen makeup to create a look with bold features, bright colors and as much glitter as humanly possible. Top with a curly red wig, a tiara and a blue prom dress and you're hot to go.

COPES



Libra

Frat bros

Fair warning: this look is more than just its costume. This requires dedication. For one night (and no more, please) you must talk in the lowest possible voice you can. It is essential that you muster all of the confidence of a man who has a 1.5 GPA and has never experienced hardship. And finally, you mustn't forget the vital levitating hat, perched precariously enough so that it gives the illusion that you are Jimmy Neutron but not haphazardly enough so that it actually ever falls.



Scorpio

Cowgirl/Cowboy

Out of all of the costume recommendations here, this is no doubt the most versatile. Change it up to however you wish to be presented, just don't forget your cowboy hat and boots! Extra points if you theme your costume around Glen Powell from the new "Twisters" movie.



Sagittarius

The Jonas Brothers

This costume idea is elite because it can fit friend groups of several sizes. Only have one friend? Go as Nick and Joe — unfortunately, Kevin is usually left out anyway. A group of three makes the golden trio of Nick, Joe and Kevin. If you have a four-friend ensemble, this costume can still be for you. Please get representation for all of the Frankie Jonas' of the world — often forgotten, but never by me.



Capricorn

Axel Foley

A beloved character played by a beloved actor gives you the perfect opportunity to embrace your inner charisma. Pair a varsity jacket with blue jeans and a smile that no one can resist and you'll have everyone around you whistling to your theme song. Younger generations will know you from the newest movie and older generations will recognize you from the original trilogy.



Aquarius

Disney prince/princess

Being a Disney prince or princess is always a go-to costume option because you can decide which character you'd like to be based on how you identify in real life. From Tiana to Moana, Eric to Shang and Mulan to Cinderella, your options are plentiful.



Pisces

The Hex Girls

Anyone who's anyone has seen "Scooby-Doo and the Witch's Ghost." And anyone who has an ounce of fashion sense knows that the Hex Girls are among the franchise's most iconic characters. Gather a group with a blonde, redhead and black-haired baddie and pick up the discarded Rock Band set from your nearest thrift store and you're ready to perform to the masses.

